

MEDIA STATEMENT

City Power and law enforcement tackle illegal mining and infrastructure vandalism in major Kibler Park operation

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City Power, in partnership with multiple law enforcement agencies, conducted a significant multi-agency operation on Monday, 24 November 2025, to address illegal mining operations and infrastructure tampering that have caused persistent power outages in Kibler Park and Mondeor.

The comprehensive intervention brought together City Power, SAPS Mondeor, the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD), Gauteng Traffic Wardens, the Johannesburg Roads Agency, private security providers, and Ward 125 Councillor Matsobane Sekhu. A total of 54 personnel were deployed under the leadership of senior SAPS officials.

The operation uncovered extensive illegal mining activities powered by stolen electricity. City Power teams discovered illegally connected cables, unauthorised charging stations, and active mining equipment all drawing power from the municipal network without payment. Technical teams immediately disconnected and removed all illegal connections to restore safety and stop the theft. The operation also resulted in the confiscation of 120,000 kg of aluminium cable, worth approximately R180,000.

An inspection at Vineridge Academy revealed a fraudulent meter installation, which resulted in an immediate disconnection and a R28,000 penalty for infrastructure tampering.

Between October and November 2025, Kibler Park and Mondeor experienced seven separate vandalism incidents targeting substations, costing City Power over R7.8 million in just two months. These incidents have directly contributed to the intermittent outages affecting homes and businesses in the area.

Across Johannesburg, the challenge is even greater. In the previous financial year, 127 mini substations were vandalised or stripped, with each unit costing approximately R800,000 to replace.

Ward 125 Councillor Matsobane Sekhu, who participated in the operation, emphasised the link between these crimes.

“Criminal activities are often interconnected, and illegal mining can easily be related to the vandalism of our substations,” said Sekhu. He further highlighted the importance of this proactive initiative and expressed appreciation for the continued partnership between the community, City Power, security companies, and law enforcement.

This operation demonstrates our commitment to protecting critical infrastructure and ensuring reliable electricity supply for our customers. The scale of vandalism and illegal mining we’ve uncovered is alarming, with over R7.8 million in damages in just two months in this area alone. We cannot allow criminal activities to continue compromising service delivery to law abiding residents and businesses. We will continue working closely with law enforcement to hold perpetrators accountable and safeguard our network.

City Power is appealing to residents to play an active role in protecting shared infrastructure by reporting suspicious activity. Residents can report unusual behaviour around substations, illegal connections, or suspected electricity theft to City Power’s Security Risk Management Department on 011 490 7900/7911 or send a WhatsApp on 083 579.

City Power remains committed to safeguarding infrastructure and ensuring a reliable electricity supply for all Johannesburg residents through continued collaboration with law enforcement, local government, and the public.

ENDS

ISSUED BY CITY POWER

Isaac Mangena, General Manager

Department of Public Relations and Communications