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City Power Johannesburg

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City Power condemns violent attack on its contractors in Alexandra 05 June 2024

A City Power contractor was attacked and badly assaulted by a group of people in Alexandra on Tuesday, while he was on duty repairing a faulty cable that caused an outage in the area. The team was ambushed on corner Ruth and 13th Avenue, by a mob of angry residents. The group pelted stones, injuring one of the contractors and landing him in hospital.

Other technicians managed to escape unharmed, but their tool-boxes were stolen in the process. Cables and joints that were going to be used for the repairs were also taken. A case has been reported to the police. City Power was forced to immediately pull out all of its resources from the township over safety concerns. By this morning only skeletal service was provided as the technicians are scared to respond to Alexandra outages.

"We strongly condemn these violent attacks on our contractors and technicians who were assigned to address the very same outage concern that residents are complaining about. It's deeply disappointing that our attempts to restore supply were met with such brute violence." Said City Power CEO, Tshifularo Mashava.

She emphasised that City Power will not hesitate to permanently withdraw its employees and contractors from areas where their safety is compromised.

"We urge councillors and community leaders in the area to speak to their fellow residents to refrain from such counterproductive acts, because if this continues unabated, we will be left with no choice but to completely halt our services in order to protect lives. We will be engaging the community leadership and Cllrs to express our concerns and request their intervention," The CEO added.

City Power is having capacity challenges in the township due to the multiple faults and overloading of the network due to heightened demand. This risky situation has forced us to embark on load rotation to alleviate the pressures on the system.

The Twentieth Avenue distributor has been off due to multiple cable faults. That outage is affecting customers in Alexandra from 12th Avenue to 20th Avenue between Roosevelt and Hofmeyer Streets. The outage will remain prolonged due to disruptions encountered yesterday during the vicious onslaught on our contractors. City Power will only allow its full complement of employees and contractors to return to site when it deems it safe.

The matter has been reported to the police and those who are responsible, will be held accountable. We call on residents with information to come forward and assist in rounding up those who were involved, in order to discourage this kind of outrageous conduct.

ENDS

Issued by City Power

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