

# MEDIA STATEMENT

## CITY POWER TARGETS SYNDICATES WHILE CONDEMNING ASSAULT OF CONTRACTOR

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City Power is intensifying its campaign against criminality threatening Johannesburg's power infrastructure, following two deeply concerning incidents this week: a violent hostage situation in Florida, Roodepoort, and the dismantling of an illegal electricity syndicate in Tshepisoong, Roodepoort.

On the morning of Thursday, 10 July 2025, a City Power contractor technician was held hostage and physically assaulted at a domestic property in Florida while conducting a meter audit and disconnection. The technician was performing duties in line with the City of Johannesburg's revenue recovery mandate when the customer, whose account reflected arrears of over R56,975, allegedly became aggressive after being informed of the disconnection. The suspect reportedly locked the gates, assaulted the technician and threatened him with a firearm.

Although the customer claimed to have signed an Acknowledgement of Debt (AOD) and paid R30,000, no proof of payment was available on-site. The technician was merely following protocol and should never have been subjected to such violence. While the contractor is yet to lay formal charges, City Power condemns the incident in the strongest terms and reminds customers to resolve disputes through official platforms, not unlawful behaviour.

This incident follows a major enforcement operation carried out a day earlier, on 09 July 2025, in Tshepisoong, Roodepoort, where City Power's Revenue Protection Unit, working with the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) dismantled an illegal electricity network run from a private property. Alerted by a vigilant resident, officials discovered the home was illegally feeding power to nearby households and a newly established informal settlement nearby via underground and overhead cables.

Upon inspection, City Power technicians found that live supply lines had been tampered with and diverted from a municipal pillar, posing extreme danger to human life and infrastructure. Around 250 kilograms of illegally installed cable were removed.

The homeowner, believed to be running a backyard micro-utility operation, allegedly charged neighbouring residents for access to stolen electricity. While the suspect is still at large, investigations are underway and the matter will be escalated for prosecution.

City Power views these incidents as symptomatic of the growing risks facing Johannesburg's electricity grid, whether through violent obstruction of lawful disconnection efforts or profit-driven illegal distribution schemes. Such acts compromise the safety of personnel, overload the network, and deprive paying customers of reliable supply.

City Power applauds community members who report suspicious or unlawful activity and urges continued public cooperation in safeguarding the city's electricity infrastructure. Any threats to technicians, tampering with infrastructure, or illegal connections will be met with zero tolerance. Our commitment to service delivery, revenue protection, and the safety of our personnel and infrastructure remains unwavering.

**ISSUED BY CITY POWER**

**Isaac Mangena, General Manager**

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