



City of Johannesburg
Johannesburg Roads Agency

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MEDIA RELEASE

Swift Action by JRA Inspector Nabs 10 Cable Theft Suspects

The **Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)** together with **Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD)** have arrested ten suspects for illegally excavating and removing a seven-meter copper cable in Morningside, on 08 November 2017.

JRA Inspector, Steven Mamma was conducting proactive inspections in Morningside when he came across the illegal excavation on Rivonia Road between Outspan and Centre Roads. When he approached the group of men, he requested a wayleave permit for the excavation, however, they failed to produce any authorisation documents. Mamma subsequently informed the JRA Wayleave Department, which handles authorising excavations across the City, and JMPD were then requested to act immediately on the matter.

JRA Acting Managing Director, Goodwill Mbatha said: "We are pleased that the proactive measures put in place to address the spate of infrastructure theft and vandalism is bearing fruit. These acts of criminality are a direct sabotage of the City's efforts and services. We are grateful to Inspector Mamma for his efforts and quick thinking which led to the arrests. The suspects were taken to Morningside Police Station and the matter is pending further investigation by South African Police Services. We are appealing to the public to report criminal activity and we advise community members to request a valid wayleave permit from labourers working on state infrastructure. Failure to produce one, indicates the activity is illegal."

JRA will continue to work closely with JMPD as part of the City's infrastructure protection initiatives to combat crime. Scrap yard owners and community members have been cautioned not to purchase stolen road assets.

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About the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)

The JRA is a City-owned agency responsible for the maintenance, repair and development of Johannesburg's road network and storm water infrastructure, including bridges and culverts, traffic lights and signage. The organisation is committed to providing quality roads that are accessible, safe and liveable for our communities.

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