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City of Johannesburg  
Johannesburg Roads Agency

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## Media Statement

### JRA APPLAUDS THE ARREST OF TWO SUSPECTS FOR THEFT AND VANDALISM

21 January 2014

For immediate release

The **Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)** has welcomed the arrest of two suspects for stealing and vandalizing the JRA's Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) at one of the city's busy intersections. The two suspects were arrested by the JMPD after they were observed dismantling and stealing the traffic signal UPS equipment on the corner of the M1 and Booyens off-ramp earlier this month. The case is being investigated by the Booyens Police Station.

The UPS is a large bank of batteries which stores sun energy from solar panels, and this supply is used to power traffic signals when power outages occur.

Responding to climate change, the JRA implemented greening technology a year ago by installing 200 UPS and 20 solar panels at intersections within the City. The technological advantages for the community, by limiting the number of faulty signals due to power outages, include a reduction in traffic congestion and improved road user safety and traffic flows. However theft and vandalism has severely impacted the initiative.

“The deliberate sabotage of the UPS and solar power equipment at traffic signals is a new tendency which has escalated over the past few months” says **Mr Skhumbuzo Macozoma, Managing Director, JRA explaining** “Out of 200 panels, only 52 are operational and the total removal of one solar panel installation was necessitated following its repairs on three occasions. With this latest spate of vandalism, the on-going viability of providing an alternate power source for traffic signals is currently being investigated.”

“Theft and vandalism of road infrastructure is costing the City millions and is negatively impacting on the service delivery process. Repeated theft of road infrastructure threatens the safety of road users. Technological equipment enhances public safety, and any interference with the infrastructure is a criminal

Directors:  
Chairman: K Shubane, Managing Director: DS Macozoma, Non-Executive Directors:  
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Company Secretary: Adv. TP Bokako

Registration No. 2000/028993/07

offence as it is deliberate and with malicious intent. The end result is frustrated commuters, traffic congestion, and a possible increase in traffic collisions which may even result in damaged road infrastructure and road fatalities when traffic lights fail as a result of power outages.”

The JRA is in the process of creating an Infrastructure Protection Unit to ensure a more effective response to vandalism and theft through closer institutional relationships with JMPD, SAPS and other security organisations. In addition the JRA will launch a community based anti-vandalism project to get communities involved in curbing this deliberate sabotage of the city’s infrastructure assets.

Members of the community are requested to report all acts of vandalism and theft of the road infrastructure and City’s street furniture to the City of Johannesburg’s Call Centre 0860 562 874, SAPS or JMPD.

**ENDS**

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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. ***The JRA encourages residents to report road and storm water issues to 0860 562 874/ [hotline@jra.org.za](mailto:hotline@jra.org.za) / twitter @MyJra so that we may be of service.***

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