



a world class African city

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City of Johannesburg
Johannesburg Roads Agency

66 Sauer Street
Cnr. Jeppe Str.
Johannesburg
2001

P/Bag X70
Braamfontein
South Africa
2017

Tel +27(0) 11 298 5000
Fax +27(0) 11 298 5178
www.jra.org.za
www.joburg.org.za

MEDIA RELEASE

Repeated stealing of palisade fence is threatening the safety of almost a thousand pedestrians who daily commute from the Central Business District (CBD) to Braamfontein along the Queen Elizabeth Bridge

The palisade fence was erected after the improvement of the sidewalk which included widening of pedestrian space supported by lightning and monitoring of the area by private uniformed security guards. Despite various measures put in place to minimize safety risk to pedestrians, the palisade fence is being repeatedly stolen.

Items like these are there for safety reasons. Interfering with them is a criminal offence. Most importantly it impacts on the lives of innocent people and on the economy of the City which runs to millions of rand.

Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) has discovered that most of its assets are targeted for stealing and vandalism. Some of the assets constantly stolen include guardrails, street name poles, steel grid inlets, steel reinforcements inside kerb inlets (KI) tops and fencing posts, traffic lights cables, monitors and poles to name a few items.

Among key suspects in this criminal activity are vagrants sleeping inside the tunnels and under the bridges. They have also been fingered for stealing assets from motorists who leave their vehicles unmanned after experiencing a break down. Inside the bridge tunnels, vagrants make fires to keep warm during cold weather conditions and the repeated fire-making threaten the stability of the tunnel.

It has been discovered that these assets are often sold to illegal scrap yard owners. In an attempt to put a stop to this activity, JRA is working with JMPD in combating this crime. From December 2009 to January 2012 JMPD(JRA Unit) has made the following arrests:

- 2168 - tools and motor vehicles spares were impounded from street mechanics and contractors.
- 945 - motor vehicles were impounded for being repaired on our public roads.
- 85 arrests for vandalism and theft of the City's assets were made including 5 scrap yard owners.
- 2158 - summonses were issued for the violations of city by-laws.

In most cases suspects are released because of lack of evidence or witnesses.

It has however become much clearer that the long term success of bringing these illegal activities lie in a stepped up repeated joint-campaign between JRA and JMPD which should be supported by the communities.

Directors:
Chairman: K Shubane, Managing Director: DG Maseko Non-Executive Directors:
Adv. HWL Kugel, Dr WR Nyabeze, F Crowley, X Hloma, M Maimane, F Matabane,
L Brenner, M Simelane, K Mthimunye Company Secretary: Adv. TP Bokako

Registration No. 2000/028993/07

JRA is appealing to scrap yard owners not to buy assets of the JRA or the City of Joburg. When approached with these items, scrap owners are asked to report these incidents to the Metro Police or SA Police Service. This is important in that each time these items are stolen they are replaced, this will assist in reducing the increasing use of the tax payer's money on the same item. This money can be better-used to improve in other areas of great need. Anyone with information on the activities of vandalism and theft is asked to contact the City of Johannesburg's Call Centre at: 011 375 5555.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of the Johannesburg Roads Agency

For more information contact:

Adv Thulani Makhubela

Spokesperson: JRA

011 298 5145

082 371 9893