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## JRA joins forces with SAPS, other municipal entities to curb theft and vandalism of City's critical infrastructure and illegal mining



On Wednesday, 15 December 2021, the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) together with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and other City of Johannesburg (CoJ) entities including City Power and Johannesburg Water took part in a joint operation to curb the theft and vandalism of the City's critical infrastructure and illegal mining.

The joint operation was necessitated by the ever increasing and service delivery hampering theft and vandalism of the City's critical infrastructure and illegal mining. The operation was conducted at the Denver Hostel, Cleveland Informal settlement and at an illegal mine operating next to Denver Hostel.

During the raid at the first stop of the operation in Denver Hostel, the SAPS discovered and confiscated equipment used during illegal mining. Other than the uncovering of what appeared to be a sophisticated illegal mining operation, the JRA was also brought to the extent of the damage and theft of JRA infrastructure at the hostel. An example of the misuse of JRA infrastructure included the use of a (Kerb Inlet) that was reduced to flush the sewer in the area. The theft of manhole covers and the blockage of stormwater drainage and sewer systems in the area have since led to the flow of open sewer and unbearable smell.

An inspection of an illegal mine next to Denver Hostel, uncovered an operational illegal mining activity that resulted in the arrest of three illegal miners. Even after the heavy rainfall, the open excavations that are used as entry ways into the illegal mine were still open and used to get in and out of the mine. A search of two shacks at the Cleveland Informal Settlement uncovered a processing site with what appeared to be equipment used to process the illegally mined minerals.

According to Conel Mackay, an Acting Regional Operations Manager: Region E, today's operation will not be a once off occurrence but an activity that will be held on a regular basis. Mr. Mackay indicated that "the effects of theft and vandalism of JRA infrastructure have far reaching ramifications and cost the City a lot of money to repair and replace the stolen and vandalised infrastructure".