

Transnet closes the net on cable theft as seven suspects are nabbed

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[Johannesburg; 18 March 2021]: Transnet Freight Rail has intensified the fight against cable theft and continues to put pressure on criminals. Over the past weekend (14 March 2021), with the support of SAPS seven suspects were arrested with cables that have been cut near Haakdoring level crossing in Modimolle. In line with the Criminal Matters Amendment Act (18 of 2015) Theft of Ferrous or Non-Ferrous Metals forming part of Essential Infrastructure, a case of tampering and damaging essential infrastructure was opened at Mokgopong Police Station. The suspects appeared in Naboomspruit Court on Tuesday, 16 March 2021.

This latest arrest follows hot on the heels of a successful conviction and sentencing of Richard Sosha on 04 March 2021 at the Benoni Regional Court. He was charged with theft of 30 pendrols springs at the railway line in Sentrand in August 2020 and was sentenced to thirteen (13) years imprisonment. In summary, a total of 70 suspects have been arrested since the beginning of March 2021.

The series of arrests and successful convictions are attributed to the intensified efforts by the joint operations with law enforcement agencies that seek to break the necks of the criminal syndicates and to curb the theft and damage to essential infrastructure. The deployment of technology in the fight against cable theft is also beginning to yield fruit.

Transnet urges all its stakeholders including scrap metal dealers, foundries and smelters businesses to refrain from buying overhead cables from unregistered traders. Transnet also encourages members of the community to report any suspicious activities using the TFR's anonymous hotline number 0800 003 056 or email transnet@tip-off.com or to call the Crime Stop hotline number on 086 00 10111. The public is also reminded that they may remain anonymous and that all information will be treated with confidentiality.

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