

Vandalism Arrests in the Western Cape



Wednesday 16 November 2011

VANDALISM ARRESTS

Metrorail is pleased to announce that yet another successful tip-off resulted in three arrests over the past weekend. This follows the three arrests made last week, bringing the total number of arrests over the past few months to eighteen.

On Sunday 6 November 2011 police reacted to an anonymous tip-off; resulting in the successful arrest of two people in Netreg and Bontheuvel respectively. One was charged with theft, the other being the owner of a local bucket shop which on-sells the stolen items. Track box covers, transformers and transformer housing worth R55 000.00 was confiscated.

Two days later on Tuesday 8 November 2011 another person was arrested in Maitland, still in possession of 35 meters of Metrorail-identified cable. The value of the stolen cable amounts to R20 000.00. Five points machines were also recovered. The next day Wednesday 9 November 2011 police arrested a man near Koelenhof; positively attributing eighteen incidents of theft of communication cable to him.

Up to 25 incidents of vandalism per week keep technicians busy around the clock. Some teams concentrate on repairs and rebuilding of vandalised equipment while others replace and repair in the field. Seventy percent of vandalism in the rail precincts can be ascribed to theft of items for resale. Western Cape commuters too have been bearing the brunt of thieves and vandals during the past year, many facing sanction by exasperated employers losing productive work hours due to staff arriving late at work.

Regional Manager Lindelo Matya said: 'We applaud the police and our security staff for their excellent progress in our fight against vandalism - the combined use of technology, an increased security presence and support from the community are beginning to pay dividends'.

Metrorail recently announced that all vulnerable assets are being data dotted and its security force was being supported by a specialist task team focusing on intelligence and revised operational tactics.

Members of the public and communities adjacent to railway lines are encouraged to report suspicious activity near railway facilities to any of the following numbers. A reward of up to R25 000 may be paid for information securing a successful conviction.

- **SMS Crime Tip-offs to 32211; or**
- **call Crime Stop 086 00 10111; or**
- **Metrorail protection Services (021) 449 4336.**

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