

8th September, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Theft of copper cables in the CBD of Johannesburg

The Metal Recyclers Association of South Africa unequivocally condemns the theft of copper cable from the CBD of Johannesburg earlier this week, affecting City Power's electricity network and plunging the city into darkness for days, with attendant disruption to social life and economic activity.

It is apparent that this copper cable theft is linked to the metal recycling trade, since the illegally obtained metal must either be sold or re-used (for illegal connections) and in this instance, it appears that the cables' plastic insulation has been burnt, thus rendering it useless for the latter. We are also aware that police have raided various scrap yards in and around the City of Johannesburg in connection with the CBD theft, making a number of arrests. We played an integral part in assisting the authorities to design the Second Hand Goods Act of 2009 and remain committed to assisting them to combat the problem.

We represent formal, established, metal recyclers in South Africa. As such our members are obliged to abide by our code of conduct, available for inspection on our website (www.mra.co.za), including adherence to all relevant legislation. As a SAPS accredited association, the MRA checks members annually for compliance and SAPS in turn annually audits the MRA. Action would be taken against any member found guilty of criminal activities such as trading illicit copper.

ENDS

For inquiries please contact Mr Peter Draper (082 786 7983).