

SOL PLAATJE MUNICIPALITY



COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

KOMMUNIKASIE EENHEID

UNITI YA TLHAELETSANO

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MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

EMBARGO: NONE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2024

RE: ELECTROCUTION OF ENDEAVOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNER

The Sol Plaatje Local Municipality joins broader society in expressing its shock following the electrocution of an 8-year-old Grade-2 learner of Endeavour Primary School outside of the school's premises yesterday.

In extending its commiserations, the municipality has reached out to the parents of the learner and to the school's educators and members of the School Governing Body.

We are relieved that the learner is out of danger and recuperating well. Our Health and Safety Officer will stay in contact with the family and school.

Circumstances surrounding the incident

The incident happened next to a metering kiosk, also known as a pillar box, that was tampered with as a source of electricity theft.

Amid the occurrence of this unfortunate and sad incident, a technical team headed by an electrical engineer reported to the scene shortly after the learner was rushed to the hospital.

Their immediate findings pointed to tampering with an electrical distribution board at one of the houses next to the municipal metering kiosk. The distribution board's circuit breaker was not in place, leading to its live wire being exposed to the bare earth wire.

Consequently, the illegal connection rendered the kiosk and its surroundings to be live. The circuit breaker at the metering kiosk was immediately switched off for safety reasons yesterday. In enforcing a complete disconnection from the electrical network, the underground cables on the premises were removed this morning.

In executing the immediate disconnection yesterday, the municipality sought law enforcement intervention after the occupant of the house, a Nigerian national, displayed aggression, prohibiting the team from undertaking a thorough assessment.



Whilst charges of tampering with municipal infrastructure and theft of electricity are to be pursued against the tenant and the owner of the property, we are appealing to residents to report illegal connections and theft of electricity to the police by calling 10111 and to the municipality at 080 122 9010 or 053 830 6111. **//END**

Issued By: Communications Unit
Sol Plaatje Local Municipality

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