

## PR Councillor

Your ref: Letter to the Acting City Manager

Our ref: Cable Stock Theft Crisis

Date: 10 September 2024

Who deals with this: OH Kepe

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**The Acting City Manager**  
**Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality**

Dear Acting City Manager,

### **RE: Request for Urgent Intervention Regarding Security at the NMBM Cable Storage Warehouse**

I am writing to urgently request your immediate attention and intervention in addressing the ongoing theft and security challenges at the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality warehouse, which stores essential cables for the metro.

Over the past year, there has been a consistent failure to adequately secure this critical facility, resulting in significant losses. This has had direct implications on the metro's ability to maintain and service its electrical infrastructure, which, if left unaddressed, will continue to jeopardize our ability to prevent power outages across the city. The cumulative losses sustained at this site have cost the city millions of rands, an untenable situation that calls for an immediate and comprehensive response.

I wish to bring to your attention the recent incidents of theft over the past three weekends alone, which have compounded the problem:

- **27 August 2024:** 159 meters of cable stolen, valued at **R49,046.35**
- **02 September 2024:** 1086 meters of cable stolen, valued at **R97,520**
- **09 September 2024:** 887 meters of cable stolen, valued at **R104,034.67**

In addition to these losses, there have been alarming reports of daylight robberies at gunpoint, further endangering municipal employees. It is disheartening to note that despite these serious incidents, there has been little to no urgency from the political and administrative leadership to address this ongoing crisis. The lack of an inter-directorate plan to permanently secure the warehouse and prevent further losses is a failure that needs immediate rectification.

As the Democratic Alliance, we urge your office to lead a coordinated response to this matter, ensuring the implementation of robust, long-term security measures. Specifically, we recommend the following actions:

1. **The erection of a new and stronger brick wall** around the perimeter of the warehouse. The current wall, constructed from slabs, has proven insufficient, having been repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt over the past year.
2. **Reinstallation of an electric fence** that is functional and the installation of CCTV cameras on the premises to enhance monitoring and deterrence capabilities.
3. **Deployment of armed security guards** to patrol the property 24/7, ensuring the safety of municipal assets and employees.

The persistent losses and risks associated with this issue demand decisive and swift action. We trust that you will prioritize this matter and implement the necessary measures to protect municipal resources and safeguard the metro's ability to deliver services to its residents.

We look forward to your prompt response with a plan of action, coordinated by your office, to address this urgent concern.

*Yours sincerely,*  
**Cllr OH Kepe**  
**Democratic Alliance Spokesperson for Electricity and Energy**