



Bela-Bela Local Municipality

Chris Hani Drive, Bela-Bela, Limpopo. Private Bag X1609
Bela-Bela 0480

Tel: 014 736 8000 Fax: 014 736 3288

Website: www.belabela.gov.za

Office of the Municipal Manager

Immediate release

To: News Editors/ Municipal reporters
From: Office of the Municipal Manager
Date: 20 April 2009
Subject: Statement on illegal connections

Municipality to crackdown on Illegal Connections

The Bela Bela Local Municipality has noted with concern the illegal practice by some residents, who illegally connect to the municipal water and electricity networks.

This unlawful practice results in unnecessary power outages, overloading and damage of the electrical network, loss of revenue as well as inconveniencing those businesses and households paying for their services.

It is also important for the public to note that illegal connections, not only threatens the safety of the entire community, especially children, but impact negatively on the municipality's ability to collect revenue meant to deliver improved services.

Critical to note is that illegal connections are punishable by law as outlined in the Credit Control Policy of the Bela Bela Council.

If a consumer is found to have continuously performed illegal connections, bypass, tamper with or reconnected illegally after cut action, the consumer will be prosecuted and the connection to the premise will be removed.

In this regard, the municipality wishes to further inform members of the community that it has since appointed a private firm to audit and investigate all consumer connections.

To this end, all connections will be revisited to establish if illegal reconnections were performed. If found to be, swift legal actions will immediately be taken against offenders.

Report offenders

The municipality calls on all residents and ratepayers to report any suspicious circumstance, action or anyone including municipal officials, who might be involved or engaged in this illegal activity.

Residents are encouraged to call 014 736 **8000** and provide the physical address, time of the day, vehicle registration and description of persons involved.

The municipality however assures you that your identity will be protected and that all reported cases will be monitored and appropriate actions taken immediately.

Residents are also urged to report all meter or electrical equipment expose, opened or unprotected.

How to identify illegal connections

Illegal connections are mainly the result of fraudulent reselling of electricity by some residents.

In most cases, these fraudsters connect illegally to the bus bars of a metering cubicle or meter installation, tamper with or bypass electrical supply.

Warning

Residents are however warned against paying any official or individual claiming to represent the municipality.

All payment must be made at cashier cubicles at municipal offices.

NB: It is important that all residents are on the alert at all times and do take their civic responsibilities seriously. This including legalizing their electricity and water connections as well as paying for services at designated areas ONLY.

For inquiries contact:
Spokesperson for the Bela Bela Local Municipality
Matome Sebelebele
083 383 7917
014 736 8005
matome@belabela.co.za
www.belabela.gov.za