

R600,000 copper cable theft in Thabazimbi – a town already left in the dark

Platinum Bushvelder newspaper | Thabazimbi

– If you phone someone in Thabazimbi, chances are the conversation will start the same way: "We don't have electricity... There's no water again." Speak to a friend who lives there and you're likely to hear a warning rather than an invitation. It is against this already fragile backdrop that news has emerged of a R600,000 copper cable theft from an Eskom technical office in Marakele — a blow that feels less like an isolated crime and more like a cruel continuation of an ongoing crisis.

A town already stretched to breaking point

At the start of the year, Thabazimbi residents endured a major changeover to a new electricity system, a process that left many households and businesses without power. Shops struggled to trade, food spoiled, internet connections failed and families sat in darkness, waiting for answers that often did not come. For many, the disruption was not a temporary inconvenience — it compounded months of instability, uncertainty and frustration.

And now, on top of all of that, comes the revelation

that copper cable worth more than half a million rand was stolen from infrastructure meant to serve the very same community.

A crime with real consequences

Copper theft is not a victimless crime. It translates directly into:

- Longer and more frequent power outages
- Delayed repairs
- Increased costs passed on to the public
- Further strain on an already overstretched electricity system

According to brigadier Hulani Mashaba, a coordinated tactical operation conducted on Tuesday, 13 January 2026, involving Thabazimbi detectives, Visible Policing units and the Thabazimbi Rural Safety team, led to the arrest of two foreign male suspects in Thabazimbi and Regorogile. Police have

linked the suspects to a business robbery at the Eskom Technical Office in Marakele, where copper cable with an estimated street value of R600,000 was stolen.

In a town where electricity and water interruptions are already part of daily life, this theft deepens the sense that residents are paying the price for failures beyond their control.

Uncomfortable questions that won't go away

The timing of the theft raises troubling questions — questions many residents are already asking openly: How did the perpetrators know what to steal and when to steal it? Was the infrastructure left vulnerable during the system changeover? Are criminal networks exploiting moments when communities are already in the dark — literally and figuratively?

While police have arrested suspects linked to the theft, the broader issue remains: why does essential infrastructure seem so easy to target at the very moment it is most needed?



Copper cable recovered by police following a business robbery at an Eskom technical facility — a theft that struck a town already battling power and water shortages.



REPORT ARSON!

If you have information about suspected arson, report it to SAPS. Remember, you'll need to provide a sworn statement and possibly testify in court. Arson is a serious crime, involving the intentional burning of someone else's property.

To remain anonymous, call Crime Stop at 08600 10111.

Firearm negligence case postponed to February 2026

Platinum Bushvelder newspaper | Thabazimbi — The Thabazimbi community continues to grapple with the aftermath of a tragic farm accident that claimed the life of a worker and left a young child traumatised.

Police confirmed that the 43-year-old father charged with negligent handling of a firearm appeared in court on 12 December 2025. The matter was postponed to 18 February 2026 for further investigation, and the accused remains out on R3,000 bail.

The charge relates to a heartbreakin incident that occurred on 11 October 2025, when an 11-year-old child accidentally discharged a firearm on a farm, fatally wounding a worker believed to have been in his thirties. The child is not facing any charges.

From the outset, authorities have described the incident as an accident involving a minor, making it an exceptionally sensitive matter. A life was tragically lost, a family is mourning, and a child must now live with the emotional consequences of an event no child should ever experience.

Police have reiterated the importance of responsible firearm ownership, stressing that firearms must be securely stored and kept out of reach of children at all times.

Out of respect for all those affected, and particularly the minor, Platinum Bushvelder will continue to withhold the identities of everyone involved. As the legal process continues, the hope within the community is for accountability, understanding, and ultimately healing after a tragedy that has touched many lives.

Police Intercept Illegal Gun Sale in Thabazimbi

Platinum Bushvelder newspaper | Thabazimbi — A 30-year-old man appeared before the Thabazimbi Magistrate's Court on Thursday, 8 January 2026, after being arrested for possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition in Thabazimbi.

According to brigadier Hulani Mashaba, the arrest was made on Tuesday afternoon, 6 January, at approximately 15:00, next to the Thabazimbi Local Municipality.

Police were conducting Safer Festive Season operations in the Waterberg District when they received information about a man allegedly carrying an illegal firearm and intending to sell it to an unknown individual in the area. Officers proceeded to the location and identified a suspect matching the description provided.

The man was found carrying a school bag.



The unlicensed firearm and live ammunition seized by police during the arrest near the Thabazimbi Local Municipality building.

A search of the bag led to the discovery of an unlicensed firearm and a magazine containing eleven live rounds of ammunition. The suspect was unable to produce a valid licence for the firearm or ammunition and was arrested at the scene.

Police say investigations are continuing and no further details about the intended sale or possible accomplices have been confirmed at this stage.

TAR really needs your help

Thabazimbi — There is a special plea to the community of Thabazimbi to support Thabazimbi Animal Rescue (TAR), your local animal shelter. TAR needs donations of food. The facility is filled with animals that need your help. Please assist TAR to feed the animals in their care. Without donations they will not be able to feed, home and medically treat the animals.

The community has proven time and again how they can stand together and support this worthy cause and this time is no exception.

For more information, please contact TAR on 084 885 6487.



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CHAIRPERSON: ICT STEERING COMMITTEE,
CHAIRPERSON: RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND
MEMBERS OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

In accordance with Section 166 of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003, Thabazimbi Local Municipality seeks to appoint suitably qualified professionals that will serve as Audit Committee members.

REQUIREMENTS: A minimum NQF 7 qualification in Financial Management/ Accounting/ Auditing, Law/ Information Technology/ Engineering/ Town Planning/ Performance Management or Risk Management. 3 years' experience as an Audit Committee member within Municipalities or Municipal Entities with positive audit outcomes. Must possess dynamic leadership skills. Relevant and extensive experience in Corporate Governance, Financial Management, Auditing, Accounting, Risk Management and Performance Management. Must have a good understanding of the committee position in the governance structure and its role in the accountability ecosystem. Sound knowledge of Local Government legislations (MFMA/ DORA/ Treasury Regulations). Must currently not be serving in more than three Audit Committees

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES: Advice Municipal Council, the Political Office- Bearers, the Accounting Officer and the management of the municipality on the matters relating to- (i) Internal financial control and internal audits (ii) Risk Management (iii) Accounting policies (iv) The adequacy, reliability, and accuracy of financial reporting and (v) Performance management (vi) Effective governance (vii) Compliance with this Act, the Annual Division of Revenue Act and any other applicable legislation (viii) Performance evaluation; and (ix) Any other issues referred to it by the municipality. Review the annual financial statements of the municipality. Respond to the municipal council on any issues raised by the Auditor-General in the audit report. Report on quarterly basis, or more frequently if required, to the municipal council in a format outlined in the guidelines issued by the National Treasury. Conduct investigations into the financial affairs of the municipality.

REMUNERATION AND DURATION OF APPOINTMENT: Members shall be remunerated according to the tariffs approved by National Treasury. The term of office for the committee shall be for a period of three (3) years.

PLEASE NOTE: Please forward your signed application letter, copy of your Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Certified copies of academic qualifications to Attention:

Thabazimbi Local Municipality, Municipal Manager, Private Bag X530, Thabazimbi, 0380
or Hand deliver to Thabazimbi Local Municipality, Office of the Municipal Manager,
Attention: GC LETSOALO CA(SA), 07 Rietkloof Street, Thabazimbi, 0380.

Enquiries: 014 772 2295 (Human Resources)

Correspondence will only be entered into with short listed candidates. If you do not receive notification regarding your application within one (1) month of the closing date. Kindly assume that your application was not successful.

CLOSING DATE: 30 JANUARY 2026