

MEDIA STATEMENT

Demolition of unlawfully erected structures and dwellings on Portions 8, 9 and 22 of the Farm Leliefontein and Erf 67 Thornville, Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal

Thursday, 26 March 2026: The National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) deeply regrets the circumstances that have resulted in the demolition of unlawfully erected structures and dwellings. Despite repeated efforts to resolve the matter amicably, the NTCSA was ultimately left with no choice but to act in accordance with the law and the final court orders issued by the Pietermaritzburg High Court on 11 September 2025, 11 November 2025 and 14 November 2025.

These servitudes are critical to the safe operation and future expansion of South Africa's transmission grid. Unauthorised occupation not only poses significant public safety risks, but also delays implementation of the Transmission Development Plan (TDP), which is essential for strengthening the country's power supply. This unlawful occupation is one of several challenges that the NTCSA faces in fulfilling its mandate to expand and secure the national grid.

The affected land adjoins NTCSA's Ariadne Substation and forms part of servitudes that carry major transmission lines, including:

- Ariadne–Venus 1 & 2 (400kV)
- Ariadne–Eros 1 & 2 (400kV)
- Ariadne–Riverdale 1 (132kV)
- Ariadne–Hector (400kV)

Investigations found that portions of the NTCSA land had been unlawfully allocated and sold by individuals, including Mr Smagliso Zulu, and subsequently occupied by additional known and unknown parties. Despite multiple attempts to address the matter without litigation, no resolution was possible. The NTCSA therefore sought urgent legal intervention to protect its property and safeguard critical infrastructure.

As the registered owner of the land, the NTCSA is legally obligated to secure its assets and ensure that servitudes remain clear for current operations and future expansion. While we empathise with the individuals affected, the NTCSA must prioritise public safety, the integrity of the transmission network and the long-term interests of all South Africans who depend on a stable electricity supply.

We urge the public to refrain from occupying the NTCSA servitudes unlawfully. Such actions are illegal and place lives, property and the country's energy future at serious risk.



Report any encroachment or illegal occupation of the NTCSA servitudes to **the Crime line 0800 11 27 22 or SMS 32211.**

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