

# PROJECT: THE THEFT OF SOLAR PANELS

In recent years, the theft of solar panels in South Africa has surged to alarming levels, posing a significant challenge to the renewable energy sector and sustainable development.

Solar panels play a crucial role in harnessing clean and renewable energy, contributing to a greener future and reduced carbon emissions. Needless to say, the ever-increasing levels of loadshedding has led the public to invest in these expensive alternatives.

However, the escalating theft of solar panels threatens to undermine the progress made in sustainable and renewable energy adoption.

- shed light on the issue of solar panel theft,
- provide valuable safety measures to individuals and businesses,
- and encourage collaborative efforts to curb this concerning trend.

### **POSSIBLE SAFETY MEASURES FOR INDIVIDUALS:**

- Ensure that your solar panels are correctly and securely installed.
  - Use tamper-resistant mounting systems.
  - Secure the panels to prevent easy access for thieves.
- Trim any overgrown vegetation around your property that could provide cover for thieves.
  - Enhanced visibility makes it harder for thieves to approach your panels unnoticed.
- Erect a fence around the perimeter of your property, and if possible, enclose the solar panel area separately.
  - Install locks on access gates and any enclosures to deter unauthorised entry.
- Install motion-sensor lights around the solar panel installation area.
  Adequate lighting can discourage thieves from attempting
  - theft during the night.
- Install security cameras with suitable coverage of the solar panel area.
  - Visible cameras can act as a deterrent while recording footage can aid law enforcement in identifying culprits.
- Collaborate with neighbours to establish a neighbourhood watch program.
  - Increased vigilance in the community can help deter criminal activities.
- Mark your solar panels discreetly with a unique identifier.
  - This could aid in tracking stolen panels and identifying them if they resurface in the market.
- In a recent interview with a Solar-Installation company, it was said that one method to deter thieves is to cover the solar panel screws with "Pratley-Putty".
  - This slows down the speed at which criminals operate.
- Another method that may be implemented is to replace normal bolts and screws with "Anti-Theft Screws" (Break-off Bolts).

### **POSSIBLE SAFETY MEASURES FOR BUSINESSES:**

- When planning solar installations for businesses, consider placing panels in visible areas.
  - Avoid isolating panels in remote locations where thieves can operate undetected.
- Hire experienced and reputable installers who understand the importance of security measures during installation.
- Integrate alarm systems that trigger alerts in case of unauthorised access or tampering with the solar panels.
- Depending on the scale of your solar installation, consider hiring security personnel to patrol the area during non-operational hours.
- Utilise remote monitoring systems to keep an eye on your solar panels' performance and security in real time.
- Establish connections with local law enforcement agencies.
  - Provide them with information about your solar installation and the security measures in place, enabling quicker response times in case of a theft.
- Educate your employees about the importance of solar panel security and encourage them to report any suspicious activities.
- Review your insurance policies to ensure coverage for solar panel theft.
  - Adequate coverage can help mitigate financial losses in case of theft.

By following these safety measures and fostering a collective sense of responsibility, individuals and businesses can contribute to reduce the rate of solar panel theft in South Africa.

## ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENTIALITY AND EVERY IDENTITY WILL BE PROTECTED.

#### You may forward this document.

Regards,

Mike Bolhuis Specialist Investigators into Serious Violent, Serious Economic Crimes & Serious Cybercrimes PSIRA Reg. 1590364/421949 Mobile: +27 82 447 6116 E-mail: <u>mike@mikebolhuis.co.za</u> Fax: 086 585 4924 Follow us on Facebook to view our projects https://www.facebook.com/MikeBolhuisOfficial

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** All potential clients need to be aware that owing to the nature of our work as specialist investigators there are people who have been caught on the wrong side of the law - who are trying to discredit me - Mike Bolhuis and my organisation Specialised Security Services - to get themselves off the hook.

This retaliation happens on social media and creates doubt about our integrity and ability. Doubt created on social media platforms is both unwarranted and untrue.

We strongly recommend that you make up your minds concerning me and our organisation only after considering all the factual information - to the exclusion of hearsay and assumptions.

Furthermore, you are welcome to address your concerns directly with me should you still be unsatisfied with your conclusions. While the internet provides a lot of valuable information, it is also a platform that distributes a lot of false information. The distribution of false information, fake news, slander and hate speech constitutes a crime that can be prosecuted by law. Your own research discretion and discernment are imperative when choosing what and what not to believe.

**STANDARD RULES APPLY:** Upon appointment, we require a formal mandate with detailed instructions. Please take note that should you not make use of our services – you may not under any circumstance use my name or the name of my organisation as a means to achieve whatever end.

**POPI ACT 4 of 2013 South Africa:** Mike Bolhuis' "Specialised Security Services" falls under Section 6 of the act. Read more here: <u>https://mikebolhuis.co.za/popi-act-4-of-2013-section-6-mike-bolhuis/</u>

SSS TASK TEAM: https://mikebh.link/Task-Team-2023



### 🜓 f 🥝

Copyright © 2023 Mike Bolhuis Specialised Security Services, All rights reserved. You are receiving this email to inform and keep you up to date with violent and/or economic crimes. So that you can inform and protect your loved ones and everyone you know.

#### Our mailing address is:

Mike Bolhuis Specialised Security Services Po Box 15075 Lynn East Pretoria, Gauteng 0039 South Africa <u>Add us to your address book</u>

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe from this list</u>.

This email was sent to mike@mikebolhuis.co.za

why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences Mike Bolhuis Specialised Security Services · Plot 75 Leeuwfontein · Pretoria, Gauteng 0039 · South Africa