

Theft, mugging on the rise due to power outages, says NKATI

Regular power outages at night in North Karachi Industrial Area have resulted in rising theft and mugging as almost 40 industries lost electric cables. Leaders of NKATI Capt A Moiz Khan and Syed Tariq Rashid have asked K-Electric and Karachi police chief to take required action in this regard. The issue has adversely affected the production process of New Karachi industrial area's industries.

They demanded K-Electric to install cables in the affected industries and end power load-shedding on priority basis. Additionally, they demanded Karachi police chief to take notice of theft and mugging by deploying cops during day and night shifts. Muggers and thieves see no check on them due to darkness of nights and they rob people or steal cables away from the industries.

NKATI officials said in a statement that industries suffered due to power outage from 12:30 am to 6.30 am. Due to that thieves sneaked and took away electric wires from almost 40 industries. The cables connect industries meters to the main electricity supply line. They noted that affected industries had spent past week amid power cuts that encouraged cable thieves to perpetrate their crime during blackouts without fear of electrocution.

They said that suspended production process would also delay completion of export orders also. Moiz Khan, patron-in-chief of North Karachi Association of Trade and Industry (NKATI), Syed Tariq Rashid, president, Muhammad Naseem Akhtar, chairman Sub Committee and members of the Executive Committee and members of the industry, expressed their serious concern over theft of industries' electricity wires.

They have requested law enforcement agencies to immediately beef up the patrolling at nights. Addressing the meeting of affected industrialists, NKATI leaders said that the continuous acts of cable theft had adversely affected the production activities and process. They said industrialists are suffering financial losses as the K-Electric does not provide any wire for free and they have to pay for it in addition the burden of production delays and expiry of export orders.

They demanded that K-Electric should exempt industry from load-shedding ensuring uninterrupted power supply and install the affected industries' wires connecting meters with supply lines on priority basis so that production activities in export industries could be resumed. The NAKTI leaders also asked city police chief Dr Amir Shaikh to ensure safety and security of industrialist by taking all out necessary measures.

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