

# Carpenters accused of stealing copper cables

Allegedly stole material worth Dh358,000 from a site in Jebel Ali.

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Dubai: Three carpenters have been charged with stealing 700 metres of copper cable worth Dh358,000 from a construction site in Jebel Ali, a court heard on Monday.

Two of the North Korean carpenters appeared before the Dubai Court of First Instance and denied the charges.

Prosecutors accused the North Korean trio, 40-year-old C.M., 46-year-old K.J. and 41-year-old Y.R., with stealing the copper cables [belonging to Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (Dewa)], by using an iron cutter.

"No we did not steal the cables. We bought them from someone," argued K.J. when he defended himself before Presiding Judge Fahmi Mounir Fahmi.

Y.R. also pleaded not guilty.

Due to language difficulties, the court required a North Korean-English translator and an English-Arabic translator to communicate with the suspects. C.M., who is on bail, failed to attend yesterday's hearing.

A Pakistani taxi driver testified that C.M. and K.J. asked him to take them to Jebel Ali Industrial Zone more than once, carrying "huge bags".

An Emirati corporal testified that police prepared a sting operation to arrest the suspects following the driver's warning.

The corporal said they allegedly told him that they cut the copper cables which belonged to Dewa from a site. The trial continues.