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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

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City of Johannesburg Moves to Restore Order and Regulate Informal Trading in Midrand CBD

The City of Johannesburg has intensified its efforts to restore order, enforce compliance, and regulate informal trading in the Midrand Central Business District, following a targeted Informal Trading Blitz focused on long-standing problem areas, particularly around the Midrand Taxi Rank, located opposite Boulders Mall.

The operation forms part of a broader programme to reassert municipal control over public spaces, protect infrastructure, ensure public safety, and create a lawful, fair, and well-regulated informal trading environment. These efforts are being actively led on the ground by the City Manager, Dr Floyd Brink, underscoring the seriousness with which the City is addressing these challenges.

Findings from the Midrand CBD Informal Trading Blitz

The blitz revealed widespread non-compliance and infrastructure decay, including:

- Illegal trading structures obstructing pedestrian movement;
- Illegal electricity connections and water leaks posing safety and health risks;
- Toilets in a state of disrepair, operated unlawfully; and
- Extensive deterioration of trading infrastructure requiring urgent refurbishment.

It was further established that:

1. A significant number of shops are no longer operated by original lessees, pointing to illegal subletting, with several shop owners closing premises and evading inspection.
2. The Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) impounded goods belonging to traders operating in non-permitted areas, although many traders vacated the area prior to enforcement.
3. The taxi industry has unlawfully assumed control of the taxi rank, including the illegal collection of rent from traders, without any authorisation from the City.
4. The taxi rank and trading stalls are in poor condition, largely due to lack of lawful management and maintenance.
5. Illegal pavement parking by taxis and private vehicles is prevalent, posing a serious risk to pedestrian safety.
6. Traders have stopped paying rental fees, negatively affecting the Johannesburg Property Company's ability to maintain the facility.

Environmental Health Compliance

Environmental Health inspections confirmed that while some food traders possess Certificates of Acceptability (COAs), compliance with health standards remains inconsistent. Despite education and awareness interventions conducted within the past three months, many traders have failed to implement corrective measures.

Additional findings included:

- Poor adherence to food-handling and hygiene requirements;
- Traders unable to produce COAs on site, citing loss or misplacement; and
- The need for further education and enforcement to protect public health.

Environmental Health inspectors provided on-site guidance, demonstrated proper food-handling practices, and issued clear instructions on corrective actions required to achieve compliance.

City Interventions Going Forward

The City has committed to the following actions:

1. Finalising the verification of eligible traders authorised to operate within the facility and reallocating vacant shops to traders on the approved database.
2. Engaging the taxi associations operating in the area to address unlawful control, facility management, and maintenance responsibilities.
3. Conducting food-handling workshops, led by Environmental Health, to improve compliance and prevent food contamination risks.
4. Maintaining a visible law-enforcement presence to ensure that only authorised traders operate within permitted areas.

A Clear Regulatory Message

The City of Johannesburg wishes to make it clear that informal trading is recognised as an important economic activity, but it must occur within a regulated, lawful framework. Public spaces cannot be allowed to deteriorate into disorder, unsafe conditions, and unlawful control by unauthorised parties.

“This intervention marks a decisive step toward sustained regulation, not a once-off operation. The City will continue to enforce by-laws, regulate informal trading, and restore municipal authority, particularly in key economic nodes such as the Midrand CBD,”

said City Manager Dr Floyd Brink.

Formal Requirement to Trade as an Informal Trader

The City emphasises that informal trading is permitted only within a regulated framework.

In terms of City policy, any person wishing to carry on business as an Informal Trader within the City’s jurisdiction must apply for and be registered as an Informal Trader with the City. Registration must be renewed annually.

Qualifying Criteria for an Informal Trading Permit

An applicant must:

- Be a South African citizen, or be authorised to conduct business in terms of the Immigration Act 13 of 2002
- Be or intend to become an Informal Trader
- Be and remain registered as an Informal Trader for the duration of the permit
- Not hold another valid trading permit (or must surrender it)
- Act lawfully and comply with City policy and regulatory directions at all times
- Apply for a permit for a suitable, demarcated trading space and appropriate business activity
- Be willing to pay rental or trading fees as determined by the City

Informal Trader Registration Process (Online Application)

Step 1: Search: Informal Trader Application or follow this link: <https://informaltrader.joburg.org.za/>

Step 2: Click Register or Create Account

Step 3: Complete all required fields (marked *)

Important: Where an email is requested, applicants may use their ID number

Step 4: Create and confirm your password

Step 5: Click Submit

Once information is synchronised, a confirmation SMS is sent to the applicant.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to comply with municipal by-laws and report illegal activities through official City channels:

- **Anti-Fraud and Corruption Hotline:** 0800 025 87
- **Email:** Whistle@joburg.org.za
- **Walk-in:** 48 Ameshoff Street, SAPPI Building, Braamfontein
 - 6th Floor: Fraud, Corruption, Theft and Maladministration
 - 7th Floor: Property Hijacking and Compliance Investigation

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

For all media enquiries, email: mediaqueries@joburg.org.za