



Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Date: 18 February 2026

City of Johannesburg concerned about planned march by Inner-City traders

The City of Johannesburg has noted with concern a planned march by informal traders operating in the inner city, particularly within the City Improvement District. This follows a letter from certain trader representatives alleging harassment by officials and calling for the re-marking of trading bays, the issuance of permits to compliant traders, and for the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) to stop removing traders who assert that they are operating legally.

The City has assessed these claims and maintains that the consistent enforcement of by-laws throughout the inner city has been both necessary and appropriate to restore order, cleanliness, safety, and long-term economic stability. In recent months, these efforts have led to measurable improvements, despite attempts by certain external parties to sow confusion and division among traders for their own interests.

Concerns and Ongoing Interventions

- The City has not received a verified list of the traders allegedly affected, which limits its ability to determine the scale of any non-compliance.
- Most of the traders referenced in the complaint have already been verified and incorporated into the City's permit system. Several others have been contacted multiple times to collect their permits but have not responded.
- The Department of Economic Development is in the final stages of confirming the rollout schedule for the smartcard permit system.
- The City will continue to enforce by-laws decisively, particularly where traders operate outside designated trading areas.

Current Enforcement Controls

- Subletting or outsourcing a trading stall will result in the immediate revocation of the permit.
- Non-compliance with by-laws may lead to prosecution, as well as the impoundment or confiscation of goods.
- The sale of counterfeit or illicit goods is prohibited and will result in prosecution and the cancellation of the permit.

- Each trader is entitled to one stall and may hold only one permit.
- Permits will be issued on a priority basis to traders operating within officially approved and demarcated trading areas.
- The initial issuance of smartcard permits will be free of charge.
- Traders will have four weeks to collect their permits; failure to do so will result in automatic revocation and reallocation.
- Replacement of a lost permit will incur a fee of R350, and permit renewals will cost R200.

The City values the role of informal traders in local economic activity and remains committed to ensuring fair, safe and lawful trading conditions. Compliance with municipal by-laws protects both traders and the broader community.

Traders and residents are encouraged to continue engaging the Informal Trading Office at Jorissen Place for assistance and further clarification.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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