



a world class African city

City of Johannesburg
Group Communication and Marketing Department

11th Floor A Block
Metropolitan Centre
158 Civic Boulevard
Braamfontein

PO Box 1049
Johannesburg
South Africa
2000

Tel +27(0) 11 407 7354
Fax +27(0) 11 339 1531

www.joburg.org.za

**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 28 December 2025**

The City of Johannesburg welcomes the Judge's decision on the informal traders matter

The City of Johannesburg welcomes the recent judicial decision regarding the informal traders' matter and acknowledges the Court's ruling referring the issue to mediation. The City respects the Court's call for dialogue and constructive resolution and confirms its commitment to participating in the mediation process.

The Head of Legal in the City, Mr Segala Malahlela explained that: *"Pursuant to submissions made by the City's legal counsel, the Court directed that the matter be referred to mediation before former Deputy Judge President Phineas Mojapelo, who has already been appointed to mediate a similar dispute arising from an application instituted by the South African Informal Traders Forum and other traders in October 2025. The City is encouraged by the Court's decision to refrain from interfering with the lawful exercise of the City's powers."*

The City's By-Laws regulate informal trading within its jurisdiction. While the City recognises that informal trading contributes significantly to the economic and social welfare of many residents, all informal trading activities must be conducted in compliance with municipal By-Laws. This is essential to maintaining law and order, as well as ensuring the safety and security of residents, traders, and visitors.

The legal proceedings of 23 December 2025 underscored the importance of adherence to municipal By-Laws and meaningful engagement. The City remains committed to working constructively with traders, forums, and other stakeholders through lawful and sustainable channels. Informal trading must be undertaken only by permit holders, in the stalls allocated to them, within areas designated for informal trading, and not in prohibited areas.

However, the City wishes to emphasise that lawlessness will not be tolerated in the Inner City. The City remains resolute in upholding the rule of law and will continue to intensify By-Law enforcement to ensure a safe, orderly, and secure environment. Decisive action will be taken against any unlawful activities.

City Manager, Dr Floyd Brink, said:

"Johannesburg is a city built on order and respect for the rule of law. While we are committed to engaging with our traders and supporting economic activity, we will not

compromise on the rule of law. We will continue to enforce By-Laws vigorously and ensure that our city remains secure and stable for all residents and visitors.”

The City encourages all informal traders to comply with municipal By-Laws and to participate in the City's processes to ensure lawful trading. The City calls on all stakeholders to respect legal processes and to work collaboratively towards solutions that benefit the city, its residents, and those who wish to trade lawfully in the Inner City.

ENDS

Issued by the City of Joburg

For enquiries, kindly send to mediaqueries@joburg.org.za