



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

**Councillor Dr Mgcini Tshwaku**

Member of the Mayoral Committee

Department of Public Safety

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: 03 NOVEMBER 2025**

**PUBLIC SAFETY MMC MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE COURT RULING ON STREET VENDORS AND BYLAWS**

The City of Johannesburg's MMC for Public Safety, Councillor Dr Mgcini Tshwaku, acknowledges the ruling handed down by Judge Brad Wanless regarding the City's management of informal trading. The judgment compels the city to undertake a swift, transparent, and lawful process to audit, register, and allocate trading spaces to informal traders, in full compliance with municipal by-laws and national legislation.

The court emphasised the principles of fairness, non-discrimination, and constitutional compliance in the implementation of this process. MMC Tshwaku reaffirms the department's unwavering support for street traders while underscoring the imperative of maintaining law and order. *"De Villiers Street had become a disaster waiting to happen due to uncontrollable crowds, escalating crime rates, litter accumulation, and the presence of undocumented foreigners posing a clear security risk,"* said MMC Dr Tshwaku.

The ruling recognises the vital economic contribution of informal traders to Johannesburg's economy and affirms the City's role as a regulator, not a prohibitor of this essential sector. MMC Tshwaku welcomes the opportunity to be part of the diligent implementation of the court order and to ensure that the City of Johannesburg fully upholds the legal framework governing informal trading. The Department of Public Safety

will ensure that a community outreach program, conducted through JMPD and EMS, is implemented to inform our community members so that their goods are not confiscated.

### **APPLICATION AND VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR INFORMAL TRADING PERMITS**

Those who wish to apply for an informal trading permit are invited to participate in the verification and registration process, which will be conducted as follows:

- Date: 04 November 2025
- Time: 09:00 to 16:00
- Venue: **66 Jorissen Place, Ground Floor, Opportunity Centre, Braamfontein**

To be eligible for a permit, informal traders must bring originals and copies of the following documents:

- a) South Africans: Green bar-coded ID or Smart Card ID (subject to verification by the Department of Home Affairs).
- b) South African and non-South African applicants (18 years and older): Valid Identification Document (ID), Passport, Asylum Seeker Permit, and/or Refugee Permit.
- c) Non-South African citizens: Must hold a valid passport with a visa issued in terms of section 10 of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No. 13 of 2002) authorising business operation; or an Asylum Seeker Permit issued in terms of section 22 of the Refugees Act, 1998 (Act No. 130 of 1998).
- d) Additional required documents (originals and copies):

Proof of residence (Municipal Bill or Landlord Affidavit), Lease Agreement issued by the Johannesburg Property Company (JPC), Proof of payment of rent to JPC, Certificate of Acceptability from Environmental Health, Fire Certificate issued by Emergency Management Services (EMS) Only applicants meeting all legal and regulatory requirements will be registered and allocated trading spaces in accordance with the court order and municipal by-laws.

Issued by:

Office of the MMC for Public Safety

City of Johannesburg