



a world class African city

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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Date: 18 November 2025

Statement regarding the urgent high court application instituted by Solidarity relating to the removal of its illegally erected banner along the M1 motorway

Incorrect messages have been propagated over the past few days regarding the reasons for the removal by the City of Johannesburg of a banner illegally erected by Solidarity or its agents along the M1 motorway in Johannesburg. The City reaffirms its constitutional obligation to uphold the rule of law and to ensure that all matters under its administration are managed in accordance with its by-laws, policies and other applicable legislation and regulations. Adherence to these prescripts is essential to the effective and orderly functioning of the City.

In terms of the Outdoor Advertising By-Laws, 2009, any party seeking to erect, install, or display an outdoor advertising sign on City-owned property must make an application and obtain formal approval from the City. No such application was submitted in relation to the banner in question. Instead, the banner was erected unlawfully, in direct contravention of the City's by-laws. This is the sole reason for the banner's removal by City officials, who acted strictly within their power and authority to enforce the law. The G20 had no bearing on the City's decision, and any insinuation of bias or ulterior motive on the City's actions is categorically rejected. The City simply cannot stand by without acting to stop the flagrant disregard of its by-laws.

Despite this clear breach of the by-laws, Solidarity has instituted urgent legal proceedings before the Gauteng Division of the High Court, seeking the reinstatement or return of the banner.

In order to avoid protracted litigation and unnecessary expenditure of public resources, the City — following consultation with its legal representatives — has offered to return the banner to Solidarity on the condition that it is not re-installed anywhere in the City until Solidarity complies with the applicable by-laws. This pragmatic and sensible offer was rejected by Solidarity and it further demanded a concession from the City that its conduct was unlawful. This proposal was categorically rejected by the City.

After the City had filed its answering affidavit which exposed a host of problems with Solidarity's ill-advised application, Solidarity approached the City late on 17 November 2025 to conclude a settlement that the application be removed from the roll and the banner be collected from City's offices. Solidarity also abandoned its baseless request that the City concede to unlawful conduct.

The City accepted this belated proposal which was practically identical to the offer it had made on Friday, 14 November 2025.

The City reiterates its unwavering commitment to ensure the enforcement of its by-laws, consistently and transparently, regardless of the identity of the perpetrators of such illegal conduct. The rule of law enjoins the City and everyone, including Solidarity, to act in accordance with the law at all times.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

For all media queries, send an email to mediaqueries@joburg.org.za