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## Media Statement

### For Immediate Release

**Date: 30 January 2025**

### **City of Johannesburg seeks Transport Ministry intervention over Booyens informal settlement land**

Acting Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Mlungisi Mabaso, has initiated discussions with Deputy Minister of Transport Mkhuleko Hlengwa, seeking intervention regarding the land on which the Booyens informal settlement is built.

On Monday, 436 households were left destitute after a fire tore through the Booyens informal settlement. Fortunately, no fatalities or injuries were reported. This marks the fourth fire incident in the area within five years.

The settlement is located on land owned by PRASA and Transnet, complicating the City of Johannesburg's ability to provide services or implement long-term solutions.

"We have engaged with the Department of Transport. I've had a telephonic conversation with the Deputy Minister to find a permanent solution for this area. Since the property is owned by PRASA and Transnet, our hands are tied as a municipality until we receive their consent," Mabaso explained.

"Previous engagements about this land did not yield results, which is why I've escalated the matter to the Deputy Minister. We aim to prevent recurring fire incidents and work with the Department of Transport to find a lasting solution.

"Any action we take here requires consultation with PRASA and Transnet, as they own the land. We must avoid a situation where providing infrastructure leads to legal challenges. It's imperative that the property owners are part of any decisions we make," Mabaso added.

The Booyens informal settlement has expanded over the years, built directly on rail infrastructure used by PRASA and Transnet. The lack of proper access roads hindered firefighters' ability to respond effectively to the blaze.

The City's Disaster Management team has begun assessments in the area to address immediate needs and plan for future interventions.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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