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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

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JMPD-led counter-offensive targets decay, reclaiming strategic inner-city nodes

The City of Johannesburg is this week intensifying its mayoral high-impact service delivery programme in Region F, launching a rigorous, multi-pronged counter-offensive to confront infrastructural collapse, rampant illegal dumping, and escalating urban decay in the strategically vital Wards 63 and 60.

This accelerated intervention focuses on the Hillbrow Health Precinct and the Braamfontein education/business corridor, two zones struggling with complex challenges ranging from the unchecked sprawl of informal settlements and widespread vandalism of municipal infrastructure to the prevalence of illegal car wash operations and hijacked properties.

The sustained campaign [designed to cultivate safe, dignified, and well-maintained neighbourhoods] will see multi-disciplinary teams, including By-law Enforcement Units, City Improvement Districts [CIDs], and senior departmental officials, conduct targeted operations alongside local stakeholders.

Immediate action across the targeted suburbs will include Infrastructure repair by the Johannesburg Roads Agency [JRA], the maintenance of the integrity of Joburg's water supply and the management of waste as well as sanitation.

Engineers have been moving swiftly to unblock critical kerb inlets along Esselen, Kotze, Hospital, Smit, and Sunderland Streets, a decisive move against localised flooding. This is coupled with the reinstatement of damaged pavements, the repair of malfunctioning traffic lights, and the urgent repainting of faded road markings to enhance road safety.

Operational teams are being dispatched to repair critical underground leaks and address the persistent theft of metallic assets by replacing stolen manhole covers, thereby securing essential water infrastructure.

A concerted effort involving 'skofelling' [intensive clearing] and litter picking has seen significant illegal dumping sites systematically cleared. This step is crucial for halting the degradation of public health standards in densely populated areas.

The Social Development Displaced Persons Unit is undertaking essential fieldwork, profiling and assisting the homeless community while providing critical information regarding available municipal support and services.

Regional Director for Region F, Irene Mafune, explains the strategic imperative behind prioritising the Hillbrow Health Precinct.

“The Hillbrow Health Precinct is a key national asset. It is not merely a service point but houses the Wits Research Health Institute, which generates globally recognised research. Government at all levels must collaborate to renovate and reconstruct this facility. Our intervention is essential to preserve and maintain this vital space, directly linking robust service delivery to economic and academic longevity.”

The mayoral programme is further reinforced by ongoing by-law education and public awareness campaigns, reinforcing the public-service mandate and appealing to residents and businesses to assume greater responsibility for their shared urban environment.

The City remains resolute in demonstrating its commitment to restoring infrastructure and uplifting communities across the Region.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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