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Media Release

For Immediate Release

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City of Johannesburg executes multidisciplinary enforcement operation at Van Der Bijl Road (K60) to unlock critical infrastructure project

The City of Johannesburg today conducted a coordinated, multidisciplinary enforcement operation at the Clayoven Informal Settlement along Van Der Bijl Road (K60), commencing at approximately 03:30am.

The operation forms part of the City's sustained programme to restore lawful order, protect critical public infrastructure, and advance service delivery in areas affected by illegal utility connections, unauthorised structures, and unlawful occupation of government-owned land.

The affected site falls within the road reserve of the Van Der Bijl Road (K60) provincial road project — a key infrastructure initiative whose implementation has been significantly delayed by unlawful land occupation. Today's operation represents a decisive step towards unlocking this project and accelerating the delivery of infrastructure that will benefit all residents of Johannesburg.

City Manager, Dr Floyd Brink, was present on the ground throughout the operation, providing direct oversight and ensuring real-time coordination across all participating entities. His presence reflects the City's commitment to accountable, visible, and responsive leadership at every level of operation.

The operation brought together a coalition of City entities, including the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD), Johannesburg Water, Community Risk and Urban Management (CRUM), and Pikitup Johannesburg demonstrating a unified, whole-of-government approach to enforcement and service delivery.

As part of the intervention, a full-scale environmental clean-up was undertaken to restore environmental health, improve public safety, and reclaim public space for lawful use. Law enforcement authorities arrested 50 undocumented persons during the operation. No firearms or contraband were discovered.

While Van Der Bijl Road (K60) falls under provincial jurisdiction, the City acted in the interest of its residents, intervening to protect infrastructure integrity, secure public land, and prevent further delays to a critical development corridor. The City will continue to engage the provincial and national government to ensure a coordinated, sustainable response that balances infrastructure delivery with social considerations.

“We are committed to building a cleaner, safer, and better-functioning Johannesburg. Our teams are on the ground every day, and we will not allow unlawful activity to undermine the safety, development, and service delivery that our residents deserve. This operation is part of a broader, sustained drive to restore order and reclaim our city for all who live in it,” said Dr Brink.

The operation is continuing in a controlled and coordinated manner. Further updates will be issued as the situation develops.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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