CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Councillor Thapelo Amad
Member of the Mayoral Committee
Community Development

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHANNESBURG CITY PARKS & ZOO AND INDRIVE

27 OCTOBER 2026

INDRIVE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JOBURG CITY PARKS & ZOO, INVESTS R6 MILLION IN PHASE 1 OF A MULTIFUNCTIONAL PARK IN NALEDI, SOWETO.

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ) and inDrive, the global mobility and delivery services company, have broken ground on a new multifunctional park in Naledi, Soweto. inDrive is investing R6 million in the first phase of the development, and JCPZ will remain the custodian of the park. A sod-turning ceremony took place today, Tuesday, 27 October 2026, marking the start of work on a welcoming space for recreation, exercise, and community life.

“A child’s opportunity to play safely should never depend on their postcode. This investment in Naledi recognises the dignity of our residents and the value of public spaces where families can gather with confidence. We thank inDrive for a generous contribution that will help turn that principle into a lasting community asset,” says the MMC for Communoty Development, Councillor Thapelo Amad.

“At inDrive, we believe fairer communities are built by creating opportunities and safe spaces that people can enjoy and take pride in. We will draw on local expertise and labour wherever possible, and we look forward to working hand in hand with JCPZ and Naledi residents to create a welcoming, inclusive and safe park,” says Ashif Black, country representative at inDrive South Africa.

Local opportunity and a park designed for confidence

Naledi is a prominent township in Soweto, best known for its foundational role in South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle—particularly the 1976 Soweto Uprising.

Implementing this world-class project will restore dignity in a predominantly vulnerable and marginalised community by improving access to quality recreation and a public environment residents can take pride in.

The development will incorporate innovative playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment, creating opportunities for active recreation across generations. Local expertise and labour will be utilised wherever possible, with a focus on benefiting Naledi residents and local service providers through appropriate project opportunities.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), an internationally recognised approach to safer places, will guide the park's design. Safety considerations will be integrated into the layout, landscaping and selection of installations from the outset, helping visitors see, navigate and use the park with greater confidence.

The design brief will prioritise clear sightlines across play areas, exercise spaces and connecting routes; visible entrances and exits; landscaping that limits hiding places; and lighting appropriate to the park's intended operating hours. Clearly defined routes, accessible layouts and legible signage will support orientation and natural surveillance, allowing people to see and be seen.

Installations will be designed using robust materials. Careful placement of equipment and provision for maintenance will help protect the investment and preserve visibility as the park matures. These measures are intended to reduce risk and support a reassuring visitor experience alongside responsible management and community stewardship.

JCPZ and inDrive's sod-turning event today, shares the vision for the park and the importance of protecting it as a shared community asset. Further details on implementation and local participation opportunities will be communicated once confirmed.

"On behalf of the over seven million residents of the City of Johannesburg, we thank inDrive for its generosity and commitment to Naledi. Investing in a world-class park affirms the dignity of a community facing vulnerability and marginalisation. Its lasting value will be seen in children playing, neighbours connecting and residents enjoying a public space they are proud to call their own," adds Executive Mayor Councillor Dada Morero.

ENDS

Issued by:

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