



**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Reclaiming the Dignity of Senior Citizens this Mandela Month**

On Friday 26 July 2024, the Office of the Ombudsman for the City of Johannesburg will host a Mandela Day event, under the theme “Reclaiming our Dignity” at the Reuven Retirement Village in Turffontein. In commemoration of Mandela Month, the office will spend the day at the village and continue in its efforts to advocate for the protection of the human rights of residents, this time within the elderly community.

The retirement village, which consists of 283 units, continues to experience a myriad of service delivery related challenges ranging from poor maintenance i.e., cracked floor tiles, broken windows, burst pipes, sewer and geyser leakages to limited access to recreational amenities, inhabitable spaces and the unlawful occupation of unauthorised individuals in some units.

As an office we have heeded the call and are honoured to lead a programme that is centred around the socio-economic emancipation of the most vulnerable of our society, by providing a day filled with physical activities, camaraderie, delightful treats, pampering and essential personal care items aimed at improving the mental and physical wellbeing of our senior citizens.

“As an office of last instance, we recognise that the City of Johannesburg cannot protect and promote the rights of older persons without the support, cooperation, and active participation of the community. We wish to therefore call on all city officials, private and business residents to help protect the rights of our senior citizens as contained in our laws”, commented Advocate Siduduzo Gumede, Ombudsman for the City of Johannesburg.

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