In commemoration of Mandela Month, help the Joburg Ombudsman, Adv Sdu Gumede and his office to "cover soles and inspire souls" in Poortjie!

ADVERTORIAL

Joburg Ombudsman calls on residents to donate socks and books for dignity and development.

This Mandela Day, the City of Johannesburg's Office of the Ombudsman invites residents, businesses and organisations to partner in a meaningful act of service by bringing warmth and opportunity to the resilient community of Poortjie in Region G through the donation of new socks and books.

While Mandela Day reminds us that "it is in your hands" to build a better country, the Office of the Ombudsman remains grounded in its daily mandate, to promote administrative justice, uphold citizens' dignity and ensure fair treatment by the

"Our role goes beyond handling complaints. We advocate for systemic fairness and human dignity and this Mandela Day, that means prioritising overlooked communities like Poortjie," says Advocate Siduduzo Gumede, Johannesburg Ombudsman.

Why Socks and Books?

- 1. Socks are often taken for granted provide warmth, protection and a sense of dignity. 2. Books ignite learning, encourage self-worth and inspire dreams.
- These small items have a big impact, especially in communities where access to such basics remains a barrier to development and opportunity. As part of the Ombudsman's commitment to responsive governance and social equity, this drive brings the City's values closer to the people.

"Every book says, 'You matter,' Every pair of socks says, 'You are seen.' These are powerful messages for a child or adult living in underserved areas," Advocate Gumede adds.

Building Trust, One Act of Care at a Time

According to the Office of the Ombudsman By-law, the office is tasked with investigating complaints, promoting accountability, and improving public administration. But often, the issues residents face often go beyond paperwork, they are about everyday survival, access and feeling heard.

This Mandela Day initiative represents a proactive approach to this mandate, offering both symbolic and practical relief to those who need it most.

How You Can Help Donate:

- · New socks (all sizes)
- New or gently used books (for ages 5- 60, any official South African language)

Deadline:

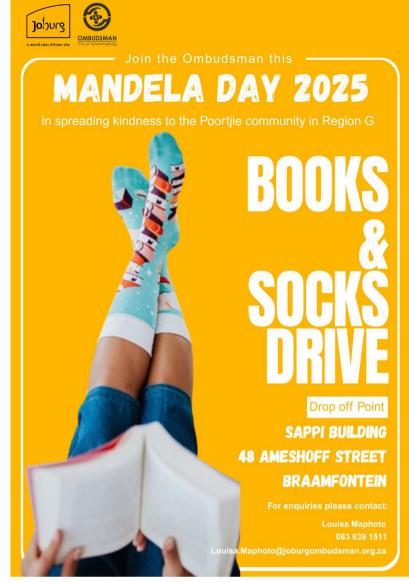
- Drop off donations by Monday, 28 July 2025
- · Distribution to the Poortjie community: Friday, 31

Contact:

Corrine Lekhoane on 081 309 8360 or email corrine.lekhoane@joburgombudsman.org.za

Let's Cover Their Soles and Inspire Their Souls

Your small act of giving aligns with a broader mission: restoring trust between the city and communities, advancing development, and reaffirming the Ombudsman's role as a champion of fairness, humanity and hope.





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