

**MEDIA RELEASE  
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**Cover soles and inspire souls: Join the Joburg Ombudsman Mandela Day Initiative**

In commemoration of Mandela Day 2025, the Joburg Ombudsman warmly invites residents of the City of Johannesburg to open their hearts and extend support to the Poortjie community in Region G.

Aligned with the theme “It is in your hands”, the campaign calls on individuals, businesses and community groups to donate new or gently used books and brand-new socks to residents who face challenges, including limited access to basic supplies such as adequate footwear and educational resources, yet continue to show remarkable resilience and courage.

“We believe that even the smallest acts of kindness can create lasting change,” says Johannesburg Ombudsman Advocate Siduduzo Gumede. “A warm pair of socks speaks directly to someone’s heart: *‘You are seen and cared for.’* A book gently reminds them, *‘Your dreams are important, and your future holds promise.’* Through these donations, we offer more than material support but bring a renewed sense of hope and a reminder of a person’s inherent worth.

“Communities like Poortjie are often overlooked, which is why we have prioritised this area for our Mandela Day initiative,” adds Advocate Gumede. “Every pair of socks is a step forward and every book opens a world of opportunity. We urge all residents, businesses and organisations to join us in making a tangible difference - together, let’s cover their soles and inspire their souls.”

For more information on how you can partner with our office, please contact Corrine Lekhoane on 081 309 8360 or email [corrine.lekhoane@joburgombudsman.org.za](mailto:corrine.lekhoane@joburgombudsman.org.za).

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