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SECTION: **Communications** | DEPARTMENT: **Office of Municipal Manager**

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE : July 14, 2021

RE : **THERE IS MORE THAT UNITES US AS A PEOPLE, A MUNICIPALITY AND AS A COUNTRY**

For a few days running now every freedom loving South African has been watching with disbelief how our country's hard work is going up in flames. The Executive Mayor and Council of JB Marks Municipal joins all patriotic voices of reason against the ongoing riotous behaviour. We condemn the distrustful and distasteful acts of hooliganism and extend condolences to families that may have lost loved ones through these acts.

We note with deep concern the wanton destruction of public and private property as well as the grave threats to people's lives and livelihoods largely in parts of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng Provinces. In particular, trucks, shopping malls, small and big businesses are being looted and set alight.

There are ongoing fears that the mayhem and lawlessness may spread to other areas in the country. In the midst of the Covid19 pandemic currently wreaking havoc in our country we certainly do not need another chaos and pandemonium in the scale that is currently being seen.

It is for this reason that we believe that law enforcement agencies should do everything in their power to urgently stop the wayward looting and vandalism in its tracks. We also welcome President Cyril Ramaphosa's deployment of the South African National Defence Force to support the response of the South African Police Service.

We are grateful that our jurisdictional area is for now saved from these ongoing threats and we pledge our support to the local police and all security forces who stand proactively watchful.

#STAYHOME

 www.jbmarks.co.za
 JB Marks Local Municipality

Municipal hotline:
018 299 5347



We are also encouraged by the statement released by the SANTACO taxi body in our Dr KK district who have taken a stand against any similar incidents. We call upon all other civil society organisations and political parties in our towns of Potchefstroom and Ventersdorp to unite and stand together against hooliganism.

We have the capacity to rise to the occasion and confront the threat together as one united people. All for one and one for all.

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ISSUED BY : The Communication Unit – JB Marks Local Municipality

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