

MSUNDUZI ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS (MARR)

23 April 2020

Jayshree Seethal
Msunduzi Municipality

Municipal Rates and Tariffs for 2020 to 2021

1. Request for information on percentage increases chosen
2. Request for an extension of deadline in order to comment

We the undersigned are committee members of Resident and Ratepayers Associations within the Msunduzi Municipality. The Associations are all legal entities and have been established through public processes held in each ward, where residents were formally nominated to the respective Committees. The Associations are all members of the Msunduzi Association of Residents and Ratepayers

The proposed Municipal Tariff increases for 2020 to 2021 come at a time when many households are in extremely difficult financial positions *with any increase in monthly expenditure* placing them in further difficulty. For this reason, we request further information on the following issues:

- We take note that The SARB sees inflation averaging at 4.7% for 2020 and 4.6% in 2021. From the draft Msunduzi budget for the year 2020/2021 the average escalation factor used was 6%.
An explanation for the difference is requested.
- We take note that National Energy Regulator of South Africa, NERSA, in reviewing Eskom's Retail Tariff and Structural Adjustments Application for April 2020 to March 2021, approved a 6.90% increase for Municipalities from the 1 July 2020. In view of this please could you justify why Council set this increase at 8.1% for consumers within Msunduzi Municipality.
- Equally, what is the basis for the proposed 9% increase in the water tariff?
- Please provide detailed information on how the municipality intends to improve their process of revenue collection from all consumers.
- The current decrease in the cost of oil, which affects all aspects of delivery, and is likely to do so for some time to come, suggests that the proposed tariffs require further explanation.

The President's declaration of a National Disaster and the associated lockdown has been disruptive at multiple levels on community life and it has been difficult to adequately consult as ratepayers with one another on these issues. **We consequently request that Council extend the deadline for commenting on Municipal Tariff Increases.**

Your response to these issues by the 30 April 2020 is appreciated.

Yours sincerely
Anthony Waldhausen
Convener – MARR

Yours sincerely



Anthony Waldhausen
Convener
Msunduzi Association of Residents and Ratepayers
Tel: 072 536 2978

MSUNDUZI ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS (MARR)

Endorsed by the following Resident and Ratepayer Associations and Business

Ashburton-Lynnfield Park Residents and Ratepayers Association
Blackridge, Boughton and Lester Park Residents and Ratepayers Association
Claredon Residents and Ratepayers Association
Cleland/Meadows Residents and Ratepayers Association
Greater Edendale Resident Association Residents and Ratepayers Association
Lincoln Meade Residents and Ratepayers Association
Pelham Residents and Ratepayers Association
Scottsville Residents and Ratepayers Association
Sobantu Residents and Ratepayers Association
Woodlands Residents and Ratepayers Association
Msunduzi Economic Development Agency (representing the businesses downtown)