

# MSUNDUZI ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS, RATEPAYERS AND CIVICS (MARRC)

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The Msunduzi Municipal Manager  
Private Bag X321, Pietermaritzburg, 3200  
333 Church Street AS Chetty Building, Pietermaritzburg

Dear Mr. M. Khathide

30 July 2020

## SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED AT LAND FILL SITE MEETING OF 24 JULY 2020

Thank you for meeting with MARRC on 24 July 2020 in order to discuss the ongoing Msunduzi Landfill Site Crisis. The main issues raised in the meeting are summarised for your convenience as follows:

### 1.0 The purpose of the meeting

The chairperson of MARRC stressed that MARRC is a residents, ratepayers and civic organisation that is non-political in form and content. The intent of the meeting was to:

- 1.1 To protect the health and safety interests of Msunduzi residents.
- 1.2 To assist in actions to remedy the landfill site crisis.
- 1.3 To record that MARRC has begun engaging with experts in the waste industry in order to assist in developing a possible permanent solution to the Msunduzi Landfill site crisis.

### 2.0 Immediate actions requested

The following was requested during the meeting:

- 2.1 Reports on the air quality indicating levels of toxic chemicals present in the air.
- 2.2 Urgent advice on evacuation of residents in areas most affected, and especially those located in old age homes. This needs to be done in consultation with experts and via a statement released on social media and not just in the newspaper, which many residents do not receive.
- 2.3 Assistance with securing a relaxation permit for certain COVID-19 regulations in order to allow for residents to evacuate their homes to stay with family or friends or elsewhere out of harm's way.

### 3.0 Management & Monitoring Information requested

- 3.1 Copies of the plans for the landfill site so that effective monitoring can take place.
- 3.2 Copies of the qualifications of the service providers managing the landfill site.
- 3.3 The contract details such as the process plan, contract budget awarded and the funds expended within the contract to date.
- 3.4 It is noted with appreciation, that service provider is taking some remedial action in order to address the required steps in the process. However, in order to monitor the process adequately, it necessary to secure:
  - 3.4.1 All the compliance directives issued when the landfill site was found to be non-compliant.

- 3.4.2 All the actual steps being taken to improve the situation to date.
- 3.4.2 The reasons explaining why the site is currently on fire.

#### **4.0 Management Monitoring Committee**

4.1 In re-convening a Landfill Monitoring Committee, it was requested that Dr Edith Elliott of MARRC join the committee. Dr Elliott has extensive experience in Environmental Monitoring, Waste and Toxicity management, and experience in recycling processes having managed a waste recycling facility for 6 years. She was a Medical Microbiologist for 15 years and lectured in Biochemistry for 25 years. As a research supervisor of postgraduate students studying carcinogens, cancer and the effects of human pathogens, Dr Elliot, has considerable experience and insight into human pathogenesis. She will be able to assist in these matters currently affecting residents exposed to toxic gasses and particles.

#### **5.0 Research into a new landfill site**

5.1 MARRC is aware that the lifespan of the current site is limited and that an alternative site is required. At least two possible relocation sites have been mentioned for the new landfill. Dr Elliott is well versed in EIA and Environmental Monitoring Processes. She may, therefore, be of assistance in the final selection of such a site.

#### **6.0 Funding & Diverse Stakeholder Team**

- 6.1 In establishing an extremely diverse team of all the stakeholders in waste recycling and the landfill site management, MARRC wishes to assist the Msunduzi Municipality with the immediate solutions, and, going forward, to assist in securing funds for the long-term solutions.
- 6.2 MARRC is appreciative of the extensive environment knowledge already available within the Msunduzi Municipality and will strive to facilitate solutions that secures sound management of e.g. the capping and closing of the old landfill site and the successful commissioning of the new landfill site.

#### **7.0 Conclusion**

MARRC is deeply concerned about the recurrent fires and toxic smoke engulfing the Msunduzi Municipal area. The immediate need for evacuation of our residents that are in danger is stressed.

MARRC looks forward to receiving the information requested above, as well as initiating immediate actions that are required to address the crisis stated in points 1 to 6 above.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Anthony Waldhausen  
MARRC Chairperson  
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