

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

9 May 2020

Mr. Mododa Khathide  
Municipal Manager  
Msunduzi Municipality

Cc: Mayor Mzimkhulu Thebolla

Dear Mr. Khathide

### **Imposition of proposed rates tariffs**

I hope this email finds you well and are safe.

It has been brought to **MARRC**'s attention that there will be a full council meeting on Wednesday 13 May 2020 to consider and adopt the recently tabled budget, inclusive of the recently proposed rates increases.

Please would you be kind enough to confirm if this is correct.

If so, **MARRC** would like to object to the timing of this scheduling and the imposition of the proposed tariff. **MARRC** and others made input to the proposed changes and, as yet, have not had the courtesy of a reply to our various requests in this regard. (see letter attached)

As a body representing residents and ratepayers of this municipality, we would like to believe that the municipality is sincere in its efforts to consult with the public and to consider their input. If the municipality simply goes ahead with its own agenda and we are not afforded this dignity and respect, then we are left wondering if there is an agenda which is not inclusive, and, furthermore, securing the co-operation of the citizens of Msunduzi is likely to meet with resistance.

We would like to submit that the proposed rates be reconsidered and justified in line with projected CPI and inflation indices, as well as taking cognisance of the severe economic hardships being faced by many of our citizens in the upcoming year due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Our request included an appeal for an extension to the time for input as we are of the view that not all citizens, under the current lockdown, have had sufficient opportunity to engage with this process.

The call for comment was posted during lockdown, meaning that the general public, who largely do not receive the newspaper, could not go in to the rates department to read and absorb this 68-page document and object. **MARRC**, therefore, has objected on behalf of those who have, procedurally been disempowered.

We submitted a letter of objection within the timeframe specified by the advertisement calling for comment on the proposed tariffs, but, to date, have received no feedback or comment. This is unacceptable.

We request a comprehensive and detailed reply to our letter as well as an extension of time allowed for public input in order for the residents and ratepayers to give their feedback on the merits and defence of the increases proposed.

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

Your urgent attention to this is appreciated.

Yours sincerely



---

**Anthony Waldhausen**

**Chairperson**

**Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (formerly MARR)**

**Tel: 072 536 2978**