



4 January 2021

To: The Msunduzi Mayor
Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla
Per email: Mzimkhulu.Thebolla@msunduzi.gov.za

From: MARRC

CC: Hon Sipho Hlomuka
MEC for COGTA
KZN Legislature
Pietermaritzburg
Per email: hlomukas@kznleg.gov.za

Mr. Mododa Khathide
Municipal Manager
Per email: Madoda.Khathide@msunduzi.gov.za

Mrs Nelisiwe Ngcobo
Chief Financial Officer
Per email: Nelisiwe.Ngcobo@msunduzi.gov.za

BS Duma
Ministerial Representative
Per email: scelo.duma@kzncogta.gov.za

The Speaker Cllr Eunice Majola
Per email: nonhlanla.mkhize@msunduzi.gov.za

Dear Mayor Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla

OBJECTION TO THE AWARDING OF R48 MILLION TO MARITZBURG UNITED

MARRC is a progressive, inclusive and “umbrella” organisation comprising various resident, ratepayer and civic associations in and around the city.

The vast majority of our members (and their affiliates) comprise law abiding ratepayers and consumers who contribute diligently to the city’s finances through the timeous payment of rates and municipal services.

We note with extreme concern the intention by the Msunduzi Municipality to provide a significant amount of funding to Maritzburg United, during a time when the city is suffering from collapsing infrastructure and lack of service delivery. This was discussed at a full council meeting held on the 15 December 2020 via MS Teams, where MARRC representatives were in attendance.

Tel: 072 536 2978 | E-Mail: msunduziarrc@gmail.com

P.O. Box 100969, Scottsville, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3201

At the meeting, it was proposed that:

1. Council revisits the awarding of R48 million to Maritzburg United Football Club and to add it back to the agenda for future discussion at council meetings.

We understand that the municipal challenges which impede service delivery are due to a lack of financial resources and find it ironical and disingenuous for the city to even table this as an agenda item for discussion

MARRC is totally opposed to such a proposal and calls on the Council to revoke such a decision and to reinstate the initial resolution not to support the funding of Maritzburg United Football Club.

Under the current dire financial situation prevailing in the Msunduzi Municipality, despite being under administration for some years, a decision to fund the club and spend R48 million that could be put to good use in repairing the multitude of water leaks, electrical substations, potholes, upgrading infrastructure, fixing the SAPS system or providing relief to families hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown, is considered extremely irresponsible. Such issues should be handled as extremely urgent and given priority.

We further request information on:

1. the budgetary source for the proposed funding of the Maritzburg United Football Club.
2. kindly may we have a copy of your report which informs this funding decision. Once we educate ourselves on the basis and rationale of this proposed funding, we will be in a more informed position to understand the merits of this matter; after which we will revert to you with an appropriate response.

Given our past engagements, we would like to believe that information of this nature is of public interest and trust that the report will be made available to us as speedily as possible.

3. whether there would be any return on investment should funding be made funding Maritzburg United Football Club?
4. whether the owners of Maritzburg United Football Club have attempted to source other sponsorships and if not why not?

The Mayor and Council need to ensure that the city makes prudent financial decisions, such as not to fund non-essential items such as the Football Club, or be held accountable for dereliction of duty.

MARRC, as representatives of residents and ratepayers, strongly object to Council's consent for the allocation of Municipal funding for Maritzburg United Football Club and urge Council and our Honourable Mayor, Cllr Mzimkhulu Thebolla to prioritize more urgent items to ensure service delivery to residents of Msunduzi who pay for such services.

If the Executive and Council goes ahead to approve this funding, then we have no option to appeal to the MEC of COGTA to rescind the decision and if need be to also take legal action too.

We look forward to a comprehensive response to the above questions and request a response within 14 working days.

We also kindly request written acknowledgement of receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Waldhausen

Chairperson

Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC)

Tel: 072 536 2978