



Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC)

Background

The Msunduzi Municipality has been placed under administration for the second time in the past five years and is characteristic of a municipality that is dysfunctional and bankrupt, this has resulted in the overall poor service delivery on many fronts, high rate of crime and grime and a sense of hopelessness felt by all residents and ratepayers.

The above situation has galvanised concerned residents and ratepayers to come together to establish resident and ratepayer associations in all areas of Pietermaritzburg which would culminate in the establishment of a united and solution driven resident and ratepayer umbrella body.

Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC) was established at a public meeting held on the 28 August 2020 that was attended by numerous organisations and concerned residents who decided to establish an interim committee to explore the process to establish a broad based resident and ratepayer umbrella body of likeminded and concerned residents and ratepayers to address the many challenges faced in our City.

MARRC is a constituted non-profit voluntary, non-political progressive and inclusive civil society movement, is solution driven, promotes active citizenry and holds the Msunduzi Municipality accountable.

MARRC plays a catalyst role of uniting residents and ratepayers and civic organisations to bring together a wealth of expertise, knowledge, and experience to address the decay and dying City and try as all means to save our wonderful and capital City.

The structure below will provide all those involved a role to play that would complement their interests and strengths. It is representative of their sectors and will bring about the changes and improvements that we want to see and realize as a collective for our City.

MSUNDUZI ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS, RATEPAYERS AND CIVICS (MARRC)



The Vision of MARRC is to promote and work towards a Msunduzi Municipal area in which all its people are accorded social justice, respect and dignity by the provision of equitable services.

The Mission of MARRC is to engage with the Msunduzi Municipality Sector Departments, and interested parties in accordance with our principles to promote services that are efficient, affordable, reliable and cost effective. We wish to ensure the transparent levying of justifiable, reasonable and agreed-upon rates that are not inflated. Enhanced public safety for all, is our vision, whereby citizens and business abide by the by laws and whereby Council shall enforce by-laws and the Municipal Systems Act (32 of 2000), including Section 16 which ensures equitable and transparent consultation; and enhance environmental protection, universal access, sustainability and cleanliness in accordance with NEMA and all its updates.

Achievements

In its short time of existence MARRC has managed to achieved the following:

- Increased media exposure on print media, radio and television
- Established 11 RRAs and includes five previously established RRAs and two Civic organisations with a total MARRC membership of 18 RRAs and civic organisations
- Completed case study on the billing issues and submitted to the MEC of COGTA and Mayor
- Submitted 10 letters to the municipality on various issues and submitted comments and proposals on the Integrate Development Plan (IDP) and 2020/2021 budget
- MARRC member serves on the landfill site committee
- Part of a coalition of organisations supporting the SA Human Rights Commission's bid to take the Msunduzi Municipality to court in violation of health regulations and Acts
- Active Facebook page with 1500 likes/supporters
- Received sponsorship from two local businesses to develop the MARRC website
- Partnered with the Witness to host a MARRC logo competition with R3000 worth of sponsorship

Projects

The following are potential projects that we seek funding for:

1. **Capacity Building** – MARRC assists and supports fledging resident and ratepayer associations with starting up, organisational development, drafting of their constitution, roles and responsibilities of office bearers, training, starter pack, linking and networking amongst all resident and ratepayer associations, project management, strategic planning, capacity building, workshops on various municipal Acts, legislation and policies.
2. **Litigation** – this would require possible legal actions against the Msunduzi Municipality for their dereliction of their duties as a municipality and on wasteful expenditure of the budget.
3. **Youth project** – Recently established, the purpose of the MARRC Youth Forum is to bring young people together through discussion and action while providing opportunities for growth and exploration. Our mission is to be an independent, NON political youth and volunteer-led platform, representing the youth across Msunduzi. We hope to work to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives, by representing and advocating for their rights and interests, as a collective. This forum aims to represent young people aged 16 to 23 in the Msunduzi area and meet the objectives of identifying issues of importance to the young people of Msunduzi and decide on priority actions for the forum. To promote and encourage equality for young people in the Msunduzi district. To promote a partnership working between statutory and voluntary organisations, schools, youth groups and communities.

Conclusion

MARRC efforts is to hold the Msunduzi Municipality accountable and to provide much needed support to the MARRC membership to develop their capacity, knowledge and skills. Provide support to possible legal action against the municipality and to provide youth in our City with opportunities and for them to develop tangible and workable solutions for our city.

List of contacts of MARRC EXCO				
Position	Contact person	Tel	Email	Facebook/Website
Chairperson	Anthony Waldhausen	0725362978	msunduziarrc@gmail.com	https://web.facebook.com/groups/506241673238313
Deputy Chairperson	Jacyn Fanner	0828630291	jfanner@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Nareshnie Maharaj	0845872660	nareshniem@gmail.com	
Secretary	Jaun-Jacques Williams	0728415646	Jayjay.jacobs3@gmail.com	

List of Resident and Ratepayer Associations (RRA)				
Organisation	Contact person	Tel	Email	Facebook/Website
Ashlyn Resident & Ratepayer Association (Ashburton&Linfield Park)	Edith Elliot	0824159435	elliott.edith018@gmail.com	https://web.facebook.com/Ashlyn-Community-Reporting-102566601571772
Athlone	Ruth Croeser	0828947719	ruthcroeser@icloud.com	
Bellevue	Candice Homan	0829673023	homancj@gmail.com	
Bisley	Nicholas Arokiam	0784382248	narokiam@gmail.com	https://web.facebook.com/search/top?q=bisley%20residents%20and%20ratepayers%20association
Blackridge/Boughton/Lenster Park	Dee Bedingfield	0845556830	deebed@gmail.com	https://web.facebook.com/Blackridge-Boughton-Lester-Park-Residents-Ratespayers-Association-111448334062273
Clarendon Community Association	Pam Read	0782079720	pamread@futurenet.co.za	www.clarendoncommunity.com https://web.facebook.com/ClarendonCommunity
Cleland/Meadows	Jacyn Fanner	0828630291	jfanner@gmail.com	https://web.facebook.com/search/top?q=cleland%20%2F%20meadows%20-%20pmb
Greater Edendale Resident Association	Dr Moses Hlatshwayo	0717451423	bongimha@gmail.com	
Hayfields	Wesley Greene	0767287761	greeneladder@gmail.com	https://web.facebook.com/groups/3185616964864624
Lincoln Meade	Kantha Naidoo	0677592908	kanthanaidoo29@gmail.com	https://web.facebook.com/groups/551913498698470
Montrose	Megan Nicol	0828535599	chairman@montrose-residents.org.za	https://www.montrose-residents.org.za
Pelham	Wendy McLuckie	0766488521	wendymac.pmb@gmail.com	
Scottsville	Peter Green	0827745477	greenjep10@gmail.com	
Sobantu	Terry Ntshangase	0843219429	mgazitet13@gmail.com	
Woodlands	Garth Rampaul	0845482268	garthrampaul@gmail.com lindamtshali@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/Woodlands-Ratepayers-Residents-Association-105127897935640/

Civic Organisations				
Organisation	Contact person	Tel	Email	Facebook/Website
Active Citizen Movement	Keith Wimble	0714819760	wimble@mweb.co.za	https://www.acm-pmb.co.za/
Msunduzi Economic Development Agency	Shabeer Hoosen	0713824601		