

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

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## **Press release: Makhanda High Court dissolves Makana Municipality: MARRC stands in solidarity and supports the Unemployed Peoples' Movement standing against the corruption**

After two administrative interventions and concerted efforts by the residents of Makhanda, the High Court ruled that the Makana Municipality has failed in its Constitutional duty to deliver services to its people and to meet financial obligations. The Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC) has learnt that Ayanda Kota leader of the Unemployed Peoples' Movement leading this case is in hiding after he has received death threats and condemn the cowardice of powerful beneficiaries associated with the Makana Municipality corruption.

MARRC supports and commends the Unemployed Peoples' Movement's stand against maladministration. Abuse of power, lack of transparency and corruption in many Municipalities throughout South Africa has to stop. MARRC demands protection for those who challenge power and standing against corruption and stand for good governance in municipalities. They represent the cause of many South Africans cheated by corrupt officials of the benefits of rates and tax revenues constitutionally allocated to specific services and infrastructural projects in their area.

During litigation, neither did the Makana Municipality nor the provincial respondents dispute this breach in Makana Municipality's constitutional obligations.

The people of the Msunduzi region face a similar situation as the people of Makana. The Msunduzi municipality has been placed under administration twice with no positive changes and is failing in service delivery to the same extent as before.

Anthony Waldhausen, chairperson of MARRC said "We support and stand in solidarity with Ayanda Kota and the Unemployed Peoples' Movement as they stand up to power in the Makana Municipality. Their victory in court recently is a precedent that we in Msunduzi will look at going forward if we do not see a rapid positive change in our municipality's governance soon.

Residents and ratepayers throughout South Africa are mobilising amongst themselves against the corruption and lack of accountability that has been rampant and become a serious threat to the stability of municipalities and to ratepayers, businesses and livelihoods over the last few years. We wish to demand the change in accountability that politicians have refused to bring. MARRC has increasingly witnessed resident and ratepayer associations in Msunduzi having to undertake the work that the municipality is paid to perform".

MARRC will work with the Unemployed Peoples' Movement to hold municipalities to account or ensure corrupt officials and underperforming Municipalities are removed.

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