

NEWSLETTER



MARRRC

Msunduzi Association of Residents,
Ratepayers and Civics

ON THE MARRRC

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The Msunduzi Association of Residents Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC) is a registered and constituted non-profit voluntary, non-political progressive and inclusive civil society movement.

MARRC is an umbrella body of constituted and representative of resident and ratepayer associations (RRA) and civic organisations from throughout Pietermaritzburg.

MARRC plays the catalytic role of uniting residents, ratepayers, and civic organisations to bring together a wealth of expertise, knowledge, and experience.

Together, our goal is to help address the challenges facing Msunduzi so that this provincial capital can become a prosperous place for all it's residents to enjoy, a place where individuals, families and communities can thrive.

MARRC's programmatic work will be organised into four programme areas, and these include community building through local action, advocacy through accountability, learning for innovation and policy reform.

MARRC's vision is a Msunduzi Municipal area in which all its people are accorded social justice, respect, and dignity by the provision of equitable services.

For more information about MARRC please view our strategy document:

<https://marrc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/MARRC-Strategy-June-2022.pdf>



Ramadan Kareem

Wishing all of our Muslim residents a blessed and generous month of Ramadan.



CITIZEN ISSUE OF THE MONTH: RATES & TARIFF INCREASES!

The Msunduzi Municipality called a public hearing on 16th March 2023 to review municipal rates and tariffs for 2023/2024. The meeting was lit! Thanks mainly to the MARRC affiliated residents' associations the council chamber was packed with people spilling over into the hall next door.

The mayor and the municipal manager had something more important to do so the meeting was chaired by the deputy mayor, Mxolisi Mkhize and the CFO, Nelisiwe Ngcobo

ITEM	Percentage Increase 2023/2024
Electricity	21,65%
Water	35%
Sanitation	35%
Rates	7%
Refuse	7%
Hire of municipal Halls	772,70%
Cemetery charges	325,70%
Swimming Pool	899%
Sports & Recreational Facilities	8500%

Rates are going up by 7%. Rates are not paid on the first R15 000 of the value of a property and people whose household income is less than R5 745 can apply, through a very complicated process – to not pay rates.

A trip to a swimming pool (when it is clean and open) will cost R140, using



sports fields will be unaffordable so the youth will have even less to do than they have now and turn to drugs. Community Policing Forums would not be able to afford to lease community halls for CPF meetings and crime would increase.

The CFO explained that these increases were implemented under section 74 of the Municipal Services Act no.32 of 2000 which says tariffs must reflect the costs reasonably associated with the rendering of the service.

Time was moving on and attendees' thoughts were starting to move from tariffs to their suppers.

The clear message from the meeting, other than that the residents are in for a nasty financial shock, is that there needs to be better communication between the municipality and it's residents.

As an active citizen your first step would be to join your local ratepayers' association.



SCOTTSVILLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INAUGURAL MEETING 15TH MARCH 2023

It was a humid Maritzburg late summer evening. A small group of Scottsville residents gathered at St. Alpheges Hall. The ceiling fans whirled lazily overhead creating a faint breeze.

Where were all the other residents, the ones who complained on the chat groups if a dog barked twice?

The meeting had been advertised extensively on social media. There had even been a minute notice in the Witness. An air of disappointment began to hang over the room.

Should the meeting continue? Kevin Beekrum from the Active Citizens Movement then said, "But

SCOTTSVILLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INAUGURAL MEETING (CONTINUED) - 15TH MARCH 2023



everyone we need is here – the MARRC committee, Anthony Waldhausen, Kantha Naidoo and Jacyn Fanner as well as all the people from Scottsville who cared enough to come out.”

The mood of the meeting lifted - **YES, WE CAN!**

How could we use this collective energy to communicate with the residents of Scottsville? Suggestions flowed. Go back to basics and go door to door. Try the chat groups again. Design a pamphlet.

Think how to involve the students who live in the area. Identify community centres like churches and mosques. The small group of Scottsville residents was now enthused. Everyone at the meeting agreed to be on the interim Scottsville Residents Association committee and a chat group for action not complaining was set up.

So, Scottsville residents, look out and turn out for the next meeting of Scottsville residents. Be an active citizen, not just part of the people complaining.



RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE MONTH - IMBALI RESIDENTS AND CIVICS ASSOCIATION

On the 1st of March 2009 the Imbali Unit 17 Residents Association was launched to negotiate with the ward

councillors and the municipality about the resident's local government needs.

As time has gone by residents in other areas of Imbali have seen what is being done in Unit 15 and asked to also be allowed to join.

On 7th of March 2002 the Imbali Residents and Civics Association was launched. With time each unit will have its own subcommittee.

The Imbali Residents and Civic Association faces many challenges. It seems that the municipality only pays attention when people burn tires.

There are child-headed households in the area and houses are sold as there are not proper title deeds. Some homes owe huge amounts in arrears which they cannot pay, and

they are threatened with repossession.

I asked Mr. Khoza what life was like in Imbali. He replied it depended on the section. Unit 13 had been a very peaceful place, but it was also starting to see an increase in the crime which had spread through the other sections.

The main cause was the increase in drug use, which was even happening in the schools now. There were sports fields, but they had been damaged by floods and only the soccer fields were in use now. the path going down to the bridge to get to the field was not maintained by the municipality, so the residents had started to do it themselves.

Despite the many problems Mr Khoza felt that people in the community still loved one another and were prepared to help and support each other.

Postscript: Tragically 10 days after this interview Mr Khoza passed away suddenly on 22nd March 2023.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE MONTH - IMBALI RESIDENTS AND CIVICS ASSOCIATION (CONTINUED)

Mr Sithembiso Norman Khoza was born in Dalton in 1951.

His family moved to Ashdown in 1961.

He attended Ohlange High School in Inanda where he obtained his matric in 1971. He continued his studies at

Fort Hare University in 1972 but became involved in the turbulent politics of the time and had to leave at the end of 1973.

He eventually completed his studies and then went to work in various positions in local government.

ACTIVE CITIZEN OF THE MONTH - MEET THE MARRC MANCO MEMBERS



Anthony Walhausen - Chairperson

Anthony Walhausen is the founder and director of the Uthingo Network which he founded in 2003. He has been active in the NPO sector all his life and is co-founder and chairperson for the Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC).

He has a diploma in Personnel & Training Management and Business & Training Management, certificate in event management, Legacy Programme (Focusing on succession planning), Global Citizen Leadership course (USA - online), Social Enterprise Course (Middlesex University Business School UK - online), Becoming a change maker: Introduction to Social Innovation (UCT)



Jacyn Fanner - Deputy Chairperson

Jacyn Fanner is currently the Deputy Chairperson for the Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC), the Chairperson for the Cleland/Meadows Residents and Ratepayers Association, the EXCO Liaison for the Cleland/Meadows Neighbourhood Watch (CMNW) as well as a member of the

MANCO for the Cleland/Meadows Community Policing Forum (CPF). Jacyn Fanner holds a qualification in Public Relations, Media Studies, and Marketing from Varsity College, as well as a Diploma in Education from UKZN. She has been the director of a Performing High School in Pietermaritzburg since 2005.



Kevin Beekrum - Treasurer

Kevin Beekrum is an entrepreneur and community activist. He is CEO of the Xcelerate Group, a medium sized diversified organization that is involved in the credit, finance, insurance, legal recoveries & the property sectors. Each sector is represented by a separate company, brand, strategy & management team. He holds a business

administration degree, a post graduate diploma in management & is currently completing a dissertation in pursuance of a masters in commerce. He has a strong civic and community ethos and serves as an executive member on various organizations, including: Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers & Civics (MARRC), Active Citizens Movement (ACM), Midlands Hindu Society (MHS), PMB Gandhi Memorial Committee (PGMC).



ACTIVE CITIZEN OF THE MONTH - (CONTINUED)

MEET THE MARRC MANCO MEMBERS



Kantha Naidoo - Secretary

Kantha Naidoo is the in-house Attorney at Asmall & Sons (Pty) Ltd, Chairperson of Business Fighting Crime (a division of the Chamber of Business); Chairperson of Msunduzi Economic Development Agency (MEDA); Chairperson of Lincoln Meade Residents and Ratepayer Association; Treasurer of the Community Police Forum - PMB Central - Loop Street Station and MANCO member of for the Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC). She has LLB (UKZN - PMB).



Terry Ntshangase - Additional Member

Terry Ntshangase has a qualification in Waste Management & Waste Technology and a Diploma in Production Management & Diploma in Quality Management. Terry is currently the Chairperson: Sobantu Residents Ratepayers Association, Chairperson: uMgungundlovu District Religious Forum (Interfaith Religious Leaders), Deputy Chairperson: Town Hill Hospital Board Member and an activist in environmental groups in Ward 35.

BE AN ACTIVE CITIZEN - EPISODE ONE: HOW TO COMPLAIN!

STEPS TO COMPLAIN:

STEP ONE: Keep a record of when you

phoned (date & time), whether the call centre answered and your reference number.

STEP TWO: If the municipality does not

respond in a reasonable time, send the same information to your ward councillor, RRA to the manager responsible for the problem and to your area-based manager.

STEP THREE: If none of this resolves your problem, send the same information to

MARRC at info@marrc.org.za

WE CANNOT SORT OUT YOUR

TO LOG A COMPLAINT, YOU CAN FORWARD THE FOLLOWING DETAILS TO THE FOLLOWING CALL CENTRE NUMBER:

0800 001 868

OR EMAIL

callcentre@msunduzi.gov.za

NATURE OF FAULT
CUSTOMER NAME
TELEPHONE NUMBER
ACCOUNT / METER NUMBER
SUBURB
STREET NAME
HOUSE NUMBER

 **Msunduzi Municipality**

PROBLEM, but this information will give us an idea of what the main issues are in the municipality.

MARRC can use this information when advocating for better services from the municipality.

CURRENT NEWS:

A meeting was held in Shongweni outside Durban on Saturday 4 March 2023, with representatives from resident and ratepayer associations (RRAs) and civic organisations to discuss the formation of a broader group in KwaZulu-Natal.

The KZN RRA and civic group represents from across the province of KZN includes Pietermaritzburg, eThekweni, inland, and the North and South coasts. This also includes the eThekweni RRA, which is an umbrella body of 50 RRAs and civic organisations that covers Amanzimtoti to Hammarsdale,

The group added that while all members were part of a WhatsApp group, this was the first physical meeting of the group where they were able to share challenges, successes



and learn from each other.

It was agreed at the meeting to formalise the group into the KZN Civic Movement that will comprise all resident and ratepayer associations and civic organisations throughout KZN.

The group called on residents' and ratepayers' associations as well as civic organisations throughout KZN that were interested in joining the KZN Civic Movement to contact Anthony Waldhausen at info@marrc.org.za Call or WhatsApp 072 536 2978.

Contributions by: Dr Liz Thomson & Anthony Waldhausen

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