

22 October 2023

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Press statement for Immediate Release

## **MARRC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21 OCTOBER 2023**

MARRC held its first Annual General Meeting since the establishment of MARRC on Saturday, 21 October 2023.

The AGM was well attended by the MARRC affiliate members, and the chairperson Anthony Waldhausen presented a detailed progress report from 2019 to 2023.

MARRC is to shift to become a professional nonprofit organisation with an affiliate membership and that all affiliated members will form part of the Executive Committee. There would be an R200 affiliate joining fee.

The challenges of the decline of resident and ratepayer associations and civic organisations was discussed in detailed, and the challenges were highlighted in the progress report. It was suggested that more support needs to be provided to start-up RRAs and civic organisations, but it requires resources.

It was suggested in implementing an approach of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) that would assist RRAs and civic organisations to identify key community issues/problems and then engage communities to develop solutions and a way forward. This would be a more proactive approach and would get community involvement.

The meeting suggested that MARRC get involved with the 2024 elections and encourage voter registration and to partner with the IEC to support this initiative.

There needs to be a concerted effort to raise funds for MARRC's programmatic activities and to take MARRC to the next level.

MARRC lacks major resources including office space as it is a challenge to meet residents who need assistance with billing issues and other community issues. Mr Kevin Beeckrum a local businessperson has offered an office space at his company premises in the city. This would be a convenient location for residents to engage with MARRC.

The following were elected office bearers:

Chairperson – Anthony Waldhausen Deputy Chairperson – Kantha Naidoo Secretary – Jayon Fanner Treasurer – Kevin Beekrum The meeting was attended by representatives of various resident and ratepayer associations and civic organisations that are afflicted with MARRC.

Active Citizens Movement (ACM)
Brookside Corridor Civic Association
Imbali Residents & Civics Association
Lincoln Meade RRA
Mountain Rise RRA
Mountview RRA
Msunduzi Economic Development Association (MEDA)

The following affiliate members did provide apologies:

Bisley RRA Greater Edendale Residents Association Sobantu RRA Woodlands RRA

The following organisation were in attendance as observers and are still to submit the affiliate application form to MARRC:

Raisethorpe Business Forum SA Minority Rights Equality Movement Scottsville Interim Committee

## **ENDS**

## Issued by:

Msunduzi Association of Residents, Ratepayers and Civics (MARRC) MANCO

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