

eNewsletter No. 4

28 February 2013

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*Dear PACSA Friends*

*Welcome to our second edition of the PACSA eNewsletter for 2013. We have a lot of exciting announcements, newspaper articles and report backs in this edition! Read on...*

*The Editor*

**1. From the Director's Desk**

Dear Readers

After an extensive recruitment process the PACSA Council announced my appointment as the new PACSA Director on the 13th February 2013. I am extremely humbled by the trust placed in me and feel honoured to lead an organisation with such a rich history and continued engagement in working for social change.

I am also grateful for the many messages of congratulations and support I have received from people across a wide spectrum. My main task in the coming months and years is to work with PACSA staff and Council to continue our tradition of social activism and development, in a new context which brings new challenges, towards a society in which every human person lives with dignity.

In a message of support a founding PACSA member summed up our common hope when she wrote 'PACSA lives'. We hope to remain committed to that hope.

**Mervyn Abrahams, Director**

[New PACSA Director Appointed](#)

[Local Media Welcomes New PACSA Director](#)

**2. News**

● **Launch of the PACSA Archive Collection**

The launch of the PACSA 1979 - 1999 Archive collection on Saturday, 8th February brought together a number of people who were intimately engaged in the work of PACSA during these years. It felt like a reunion of activists, celebration of a task completed but also an inspiration to continue the work of social justice and ensuring dignity for all.

In a message read at the launch, Deborah Byrne, from the Foundation for Human Rights, said: "It is to be celebrated that PACSA and the Alan Paton Centre demonstrates so concretely a respect for and valuing of past struggles and victories, and blend it with a respect for and valuing of our current activists and actions for social justice."

The collection is housed in the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archive at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and is available to researchers and others interested.



To view the photo gallery from the launch, the exhibition itself (included in the gallery) and to read 3 Witness newspaper articles on the Archive, [click here...](#)

- **PACSA's Oral Submission on Tariff Increases in Pietermaritzburg**

The Msunduzi Municipality invited PACSA to make an oral submission, based on its earlier written submission on its proposed tariff increases on rates, water, electricity and sanitation. Mervyn Abrahams argued that PACSA is extremely concerned about the proposed tariff increases and that the city already faces a municipal services affordability crisis which is deepening inequality to access of municipal services. Instead, PACSA calls for changes to the tariff structure that could ensure that all poor households are able to access affordable services whilst ensuring no loss of municipal revenue.

[Link to Oral Submission](#)

[Link to Written Submission](#)

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### 3. Events and Invitations

#### PASTORS BREAKFAST

PACSA in collaboration with the Midlands Council of Churches is hosting a Pastors Breakfast in the second half of March (date and venue to be confirmed). The breakfast is to introduce the Midlands Council of Churches, a new formation of church leaders, to pastors in the Pietermaritzburg area and to discuss the state of ecumenical collaboration on issues of social justice. All pastors and church leaders are invited. For further details contact Thulani Mthlane at PACSA at [thulanim@pacsa.org.za](mailto:thulanim@pacsa.org.za) or 033-3420052.

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### 4. Features/ Debate

#### Affordability of Municipal Services - Time to Speak Up

A major focus of PACSA's research and advocacy work is related to affordability of municipal services. The following article written by Nalini Naidoo of the Witness explores this issue at a deeper level.

[Read this Witness article](#)

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### 5. Meet a PACSA Staff Member!



**SIBUSISO KHANYILE** is currently working as a Process Facilitator and Organisational Development Co-ordinator at PACSA.

Sibusiso has eighteen years work experience in the Non-Governmental Organization sector. He specialises and has particular competence in the field of human rights, specifically on issues of education, peace, democracy, health, land, economics and municipal service delivery. He has worked in urban, rural and informal settlements across KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State. Sibusiso joined PACSA in 2005 as a Project Organiser on water issues.

Sibusiso's core work involves engaging, facilitating and building capacity in community groups and local structures on socio-political issues as well as interfacing with local democratic and traditional structures at municipal and national level.

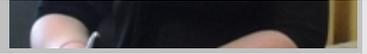
**NOLUTHANDO GASA** is currently Process facilitator and Training coordinator.

She has worked at PACSA for the past 3 years; she joined the organisation as a peer educator and then worked as a volunteer in the Gender and HIV/AIDS programme. She then worked as Project organiser in the Youth Conflict Transformation, then started her current position in 2012.

She has Certificate in Counselling and is studying towards a Bachelor of Social Sciences with Psychology and Sociology as majors. Her main focus is on gender, HIV/AIDS, self-development, life skills, healing and



personal counselling.



**6. Please write to us!**

*Tell us your story to inspire or challenge us to action!*

*We look forward to hearing from you*