



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 October 2023

## ACTION-FOR-ACCOUNTABILITY COMMUNITY FORUM INSPIRES A CALL FOR ACTION

The Makhanda Action for Accountability (A4A) Civic Action Team, represented by Lelethu Zono, Ntombentsha Yamiso, Ntuthu Blow, Asive Mzizi, Phila Nombombo and Karen France, gave an emphatic delivery, reflecting the realities of socio-economic issues in Makhanda and the strides for change that the local A4A project continues to make. This was during the A4A Community Forum (People's Council) held at the Lido Hotel in the South of Johannesburg on Wednesday 18 October, where the Makhanda Civacts, supported by Project Co-ordinator Lungile Penxa, Community Facilitator Andile Nayika and Research and Advocacy Analyst Lindokuhle Vellem, were amongst their counterparts from Mondeor, Lenasia and Finetown. The local CivActs members highlighted the crucial need for public participation in engaging with local government for positive outcomes, exemplifying the local A4A's civic action, media activism/advocacy and direct data-collection.

The Community Forum was attended by Gauteng residents, ward councillors, ward committee members, private and public stakeholders including representation from the offices of the speaker in the City of Johannesburg and the Auditor General of South Africa. Audit AGSA Senior Manager Modiehi Skosana demonstrated the essential roles of accountants and auditors in protecting the interests of the public. Skosana emphasised that efforts from all spheres are crucial in strengthening democracy, which is currently under threat due to poor service delivery.

WaterCAN Executive Manager, Dr. Ferial Adam who has been an advocate on the ongoing water crisis in the City of Johannesburg, called for national government and utility entities such as Rand Water, Joburg Water, the City of Johannesburg (COJ), and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to engage in collaborative discussions. In her presentation, Dr. Adam stressed the importance of involving affected communities in these dialogues, recognising that those on the ground have valuable insights into the situation. She described the water crisis as 'a matter of life and death', emphasising that access to water is a fundamental need. Projects like A4A and WaterCan, according to Dr. Adam, should transcend being merely local initiatives and evolve into a nationwide movement.

The stories and experiences shared by each of the four communities represented at the forum served as a powerful testament to the potential of coming together to drive change through acquiring accountability skills and calling for accountability in service delivery. The success of the A4A Community Forum has highlighted the urgent need for more residents and stakeholders to join this cause and **make it a national movement**. It is a plea to government bodies at all levels **to become allies in the joint**

A partnership project  
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**AHMED KATHRADA  
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**PUBLIC SERVICE  
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effort to establish a culture of accountability and good governance across the nation.

The A4A project is initiated by the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) in Makhanda, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation (AKF) and Accountability Lab SA (ALSA) in Johannesburg. It is co-funded by the European Union and the Social Justice Initiative. The A4A is determined to continue its mission to empower South African communities to build a culture of accountability. This would ensure that the voices of citizens are not just heard but actively shape the governance landscape. Through strategic partnerships and community-driven initiatives, A4A remains dedicated to driving positive change in the pilot sites while advocating for accountability and participatory governance in communities across South Africa.

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*Makhanda CivActs members presenting at the A4A Community Forum held in Johannesburg-South recently  
Pic: Ntombentsha Yamiso (A4A Makhanda Media Activist)*

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