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Newsletter - June 2026

Dear Residents and Stakeholders,

This month has seen extraordinary community mobilization as we step up our efforts to preserve the character, infrastructure, and values of our beautiful uMhlanga. Below is an update on the critical developments, legal steps, and community initiatives from June 2026.

1. Bingo Hall Development Appeal & Public Meeting Recap

Following the eThekweni Municipality's controversial approval of a high-intensity gaming facility at **4 Lagoon Drive** (approved for up to 150 electronic bingo machines and 30 limited payout terminals), the Urra has formally launched a comprehensive legal appeal.

On **Wednesday, 10 June 2026**, the Urra convened a public objection meeting at the **NG Kerk Church**. The hall was filled to capacity with residents united in protecting our town's family-friendly and tourist-oriented identity. Urra Chairperson **Terri MacLarty** emphasized that uMhlanga is at a critical tipping point, stating, "We cannot allow developments that fuel social harm, traffic chaos, loitering, and area decay. The message from the community is clear: residents reject a development that threatens our suburb's character."

Technical & Legal Backing

To ensure a robust appeal process, the URRA has formally engaged independent specialists:

- Kavi Soni (Town Planner) to address land-use compliance and parking deficits.
- Mohamed Mota of Cox Yeats Attorneys to spearhead structural legal filings.

Ward 35 Councillor Bradley Singh reaffirmed his opposition, noting that the city's process ignores how significantly uMhlanga's dynamics have shifted from a village framework.

R28,000

Raised to Date for Appeal Fund

The legal fund received an immediate boost during the meeting, with Saul Basckin (ActionSA) and Rory Macpherson (DA) each pledging R5,000 toward the appeal costs. We appeal to all residents, corporate stakeholders, and bodies corporate to contribute generously to support these independent expert reports. **We would like to thank those who have already donated.**



2. Herrwood Drive Litigation: Upcoming High Court Date

The URRRA remains firmly committed to ensuring that major public infrastructure works follow lawful, transparent, and meaningful public consultation frameworks. Our ongoing legal challenge against the unconsulted four-lane expansion of Herrwood Drive continues to move through the judiciary system.

Following the interim protection order previously secured in the High Court of South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal Local Division), which successfully halted aggressive developer excavations, a definitive court date has now been allocated for **27 July 2026**.

Our legal team is fully prepared to advocate for affected property owners whose property values, access points, and safety are directly impacted by this intrusive project. We will keep the community closely updated as this pivotal date approaches.

3. SARS Updates: URRRA Attains Section 18A Status

We are proud to share a landmark financial update regarding the South African Revenue Service (SARS). The URRRA has officially secured **Section 18A tax-exempt status**. This is a massive milestone for our civic advancement, as it fundamentally transforms how our ongoing advocacy work can be funded.

Under our new Section 18A status, all financial donations and legal fund contributions made to the URRRA by corporate entities, bodies corporate, or private individuals are now **fully tax-deductible**. The URRRA will issue compliant Section 18A tax certificates for all qualifying donations, enabling our financial contributors to claim deduction benefits directly against their taxable income. This status drastically expands our collective ability to fund top-tier expert town planners and senior legal counsel to protect the precinct.

BECOME A MEMBER

Sign up now for a better and more transparent future!

OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Municipal service delivery issues
- Environmental
- Crime and security
- Challenging property valuations, rates, and service fees.

Thank You for Your Support – URRRA Membership Update

A sincere thank you to all members who have already paid their URRRA subscriptions. Your ongoing support allows us to continue representing the interests of Umhlanga residents and ratepayers, and to engage meaningfully on issues such as service delivery, infrastructure, environmental concerns, and community safety.

If you have not yet renewed or joined, we encourage you to do so. Membership strengthens our collective voice when engaging with the Municipality, SAPS, Metro Police, and other key stakeholders.

As a member, you receive:

Representation and advocacy on matters affecting your property and quality of life

Regular updates via our newsletter and WhatsApp community

Access to structured reporting and engagement channels

The benefit of being part of a unified, proactive community

Your contribution directly supports the work we do on behalf of Umhlanga.

Please renew or join via our [website](#) or contact admin@urra.co.za

Together, we can continue to build a well-managed and accountable community.