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15 February 2006

Mr Mike Sutcliffe
City Manager
eThekweni Municipality
Fax: (031) 311-2170

Dear Mr Sutcliffe

Re: Proposed march by Abahlali Base Mjondolo

The shack dwellers' movement, Abahlali Base Mjondolo, handed in an application on the 25th January 2006 to The Chief Director of the Metro Police, notifying eThekweni authorities, in terms on the Regulation of Gatherings Act, of their intention to hold a march on the 20th February 2006. Their application was well within the minimum 14-day notice period.

It is unfortunate that by 16:00 today (15th February 2006), the organisation has still not been informed by your office about your decision regarding their proposed march. You will appreciate that any such gathering / event requires an enormous amount of preparation: fundraising; arranging transport; choosing, briefing and training marshals as well as meetings with police and other local authorities to set up liaison for the day, etc. We are sure that no party will want a situation where either the marchers or members of the local authority and police are ill-prepared for the gathering.

We have been informed by your secretary that you are still considering the application by Abahlali. We want to urge you to treat this matter with a great deal of urgency, especially since the march is due to take place in five days time.

Yours truly,

Na'eem Jeenah
Anti-Censorship Programme