

Statement issued by the participants of the
Community Monitoring and Advocacy Project (CMAP)

September 2012 National Conference - Birchwood Conference Centre, Johannesburg

“Moving from CMAP as a project to a practice: insights, lessons and future plans for active citizenry”

We, the participants of this CMAP National Conference, members of the organizations listed below:

Recognize that accessible and quality public services are essential if we are to ensure a dignified life for all living in South Africa, and particularly for those in poor and marginalized communities.

Celebrate the work done by 480 volunteer monitors from over 300 community based organizations across all nine provinces who have empowered communities and educated people about their socio-economic rights, monitored public services and held government accountable for the urgent improvement of these public services.

Affirm the important role of independent civil society organizations who work to ensure that each person is valued and their significance recognized in our society, who provide space for active citizens to contribute to the development of our country and who, through this, deepen and defend the gains of our democracy.

Appeal to all CMAP monitoring organizations, the Black Sash, Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT) and other interested stakeholders, to work jointly to mobilize resources, to develop our partnerships and to refine our practices, in order to take forward our shared commitment to improved and accountable public services in South Africa.

Acknowledge the outstanding co-operation of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) at national and regional levels, and recognizing that CMAP data has already meaningfully contributed to the improvement of SASSA service delivery, urge the Agency to remain open to future community monitoring of service points, and to engage CMAP monitors as important stakeholders in the revision of the SASSA norms and standards for service delivery.

Call urgently upon other service departments of government, including Home Affairs, Health, Education, SAPS, Labour, Housing and Justice, as well as municipalities, to open their service delivery sites to community monitors and to meaningfully engage with recommendations to improve service delivery. We further urge traditional leaders to actively support community monitoring.

Urge the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency to engage with CMAP partners on their potential to make a significant contribution to independent, community-driven front line service delivery monitoring in South Africa, and request representation on national government structures that will take this forward. We are committed to bring the valuable experience, skills, materials, networks and practices that have been developed by and between CMAP partners over the past two years into the process.

Remain committed and inspired to build a culture of active citizenry in South Africa.

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Conference delegates are members of the following organizations:

The Black Sash
Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT)

North West Province
Reagile Advice Office
Letsopa Advice Office

Limpopo Province
Community Advice and Law Centre
Relomogile Advice Office

Mpumalanga Province
Simile Sonke Tjakastad Kwanda Project
Daggakraal Community Advice Centre

Gauteng Province
REHECAPRO Refentse Health Care

Free State Province
Free State SACBC Justice and Peace
Ficksburg Advice Office
Sekwele Centre for Social Reflection
Dihlabeng Dev initiative
Tshireletso People against abuse

Kwa Zulu Natal
Ondlunkulu Working Committee
Umzimkhulu Development Service

Western Cape Province
Bonteheuwel Advice Office
Sandveld Local Development Agency

Eastern Cape Province
Nonesi Legal Advice Office
Indwe Legal Advice Office

Northern Cape Province
Luvuyo Drop In Centre
El Shaddai Advice Office