

## Buffalo City's Vision ~ The Core of the IDP

Section 26 of the Municipal Systems Act lists those components of an Integrated Development Plan that are legally compulsory. The first and foremost of these is the inclusion of the **municipal council's vision** for the **long-term development** of the municipality with special emphasis on the municipality's **most critical development** and **internal transformation needs**.

Buffalo City interprets section 26(a), read with the Constitution, as requiring that a municipal vision must be informed by an analysis of the socio-economic, spatial and infrastructural realities of the newly-demarcated local area, including an assessment of where gaps exist in the provision of basic services. Also, the municipality is required to assess its own capacity to redress inequities and to meet basic needs, and to gear itself towards institutional transformation with a view to improving its organisational efficiency and effectiveness in meeting these needs.

A process has taken place over some time to draft a vision for the municipality, leading to a draft proposal. Using that proposal as a starting point a further refinement has taken place during the IDP process trying to arrive at a vision statement that **distils the essence** of its more extensive and elaborated vision into a brief statement that seeks to **encapsulate the desired long-term future**, and which will enable the municipal community to orientate itself towards a "guiding star". Buffalo City believes that its vision statement should therefore serve to:

- be an inspiring expression of strategic intent
- mobilise to action and focus energies
- represent an ambitious goal, but not an unachievable dream
- be the product of collective thought and consensus
- be relevant to real issues.

The **vision** has been formulated as distinct from the **mission** of the municipality, which implies more the **WHAT** and the **HOW** of service delivery at an operational level, rather than the ultimate goal of those operations.

The key objectives that have emerged out of the IDP process and which are presented in the next chapter of this IDP, have been guiding the formulation of the vision.

With due regard to the above points, it is proposed that the following vision be adopted as a statement of the essence or strategic core of the IDP:

*BUFFALO CITY -  
A PEOPLE-CENTRED PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY  
WHERE THE BASIC NEEDS OF ALL ARE MET  
IN A SAFE, HEALTHY  
AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT.*