

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Looking back, Buffalo City has a better base now from which to plan, achieve balanced development and economies of scale than we did 3 years ago. The city's development strategies, revitalisation plans, sectoral plans and key policies are all in place and in the final stage of implementation.

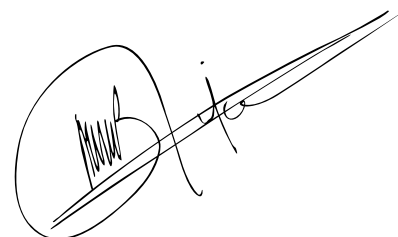
These have helped us to address the basic needs of the citizens of Buffalo City whilst still upholding our Constitutional objectives, and the developmental duties of Local Government. In order to preserve the fundamental rights of our citizens our programmes and projects have been tailor-made to be affordable and sustainable and complied with national and provincial legislative framework and policies.

The city has tried hard to ensure continuation in maintaining existing infrastructure, assets and facilities while still focusing on the upliftment of the rural areas according to appropriate levels of service. In order to ensure future sustainability, the building of public/private partnerships has become a necessary course of action, which the city has already embarked on through various local economic and performance related programmes and projects.

Although meeting external challenges was a key priority, our internal challenges were just as important. Creating an organization that was well oiled and ready to tackle the service delivery and development challenges has no way been an easy task. However, with the finalization of job descriptions, placements and other human resource necessities the organization was ready for the challenge. Staff shortages across the municipality still remain a key concern, but we hope to rectify this in the new year.

This has indeed been a memorable year for Buffalo City, one we will remember in years to come. I am grateful to the Executive Mayor Sindisile Maclean for his steadfast guidance and support. I would like to acknowledge the Mayoral Committee for their commitment to Buffalo City's vision of being a people-centred place of opportunity where the basic needs of all are met in a safe, healthy and sustainable environment. To my directors, general managers, managers and all other staff, thank you, without your dedication and enthusiasm for service delivery we would not have achieved the successes we have had this past year.

We still remain committed to all our partners in the private and public sector and will continue to render services of an acceptable standard to our communities.



MXOLISI TSIKA
CITY MANAGER

It gives me great pleasure to present Buffalo City Municipality's performance report for the past financial year. The 2003-2004 financial year has been a watershed one for Buffalo City Municipality.

Winning the prestigious Vuna Award for Municipal Performance Excellence, left the city reeling from the recognition and placed a huge spotlight on Buffalo City's administrative and political leadership. Further wins of the Social Housing Award, SALGA award for Ward Committees and other key recognitions meant that the city was on a road to great things.

For the rest of the year officials and politicians tried hard to meet the challenge of financial resources, systems and institutional architecture, community empowerment, local government transformation versus the long - term nature of sustainable development. Whilst the city wanted to meet all the challenges, the reality was that there was a need to prioritise so that we could deliver essential public goods and services in an effective, efficient, responsive, equitable and optimal manner to our communities.

