

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the inception of Buffalo City Municipality in December 2000, the key challenge for the Council and its administrative components was to deliver on its Constitutional Mandate of a local authority. However, meeting community demands, budget constraints, staff shortages and other requirements have been an ongoing challenge for the municipality.

Buffalo City Municipality in 2002 formulated its first IDP (Integrated Development Plan) which was founded on the following vision. This vision continues to sustain the municipality's onward strife:

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

In order to fulfill its mandate of a local authority, Buffalo City Municipality is guided by the following objectives:

- OBJECTIVES:
- To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities.
- To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.
- To promote social and economic development.
- To promote a safe and healthy environment.

Meeting the basic developmental needs of the citizens of the area has been a key priority for the municipality therefore the Buffalo City Municipality IDP in its thematic objectives and strategies, identified a comprehensive list of key projects and programmes.

Billions of rands worth of capital projects were identified as potential priorities. With these priorities being beyond the conventional resources available to the Municipality, it highlighted a need for a more strategic approach in which core activities were prioritized.

The criteria used to prioritize the proposed programmes and projects were as follows:

- To address the basic needs of the citizens of Buffalo City.
- To uphold the Constitutional objectives, the developmental duties of Local Government and fundamental rights of citizens.
- Ensuring that programmes and projects are affordable.
- To ensure that all activities, programmes and projects are based on the principles of sustainable development.
- To operate within the national and provincial legislative framework and policies.
- To ensure the continued maintenance of existing infrastructure, assets and facilities.
- To focus the upliftment of the rural areas according to appropriate levels of service, within the means of the Council.
- The building of public/private partnerships, where appropriate.

Aligning with national and provincial development programmes and those programmes of other affected municipalities was also a priority for Buffalo City.

Furthermore, ensuring that Buffalo City Municipality's budget complied with these principles and addressed the basic needs of the citizens was another priority.

Buffalo City's Integrated Development Plan 2002 (IDP) and the commissioned Quality of Life Survey, identified the following:

- The unemployment rate throughout the municipality is approximately 53,11%.
- Only 28% of all households indicating that they have R0 income.
- 10% Who support households on their pensions, which creates a very high dependency ratio.
- More than 70% of households have incomes below R1500 a month.
- Only 35% of households have incomes above R2500.
- Only about 65% Citizens have access to adequate basic services.