

8. Community Issues

From 1-12 November 2006 the Executive Mayor, Cllr Zintle Peter, embarked on the Mayoral Izimbizo throughout the municipal area. The purpose of the Mayoral Izimbizo was to:

- listen to the issues facing communities in Buffalo City, in order for BCM to be more responsive to their needs;
- reach the majority of BCM residents, in particular those who are poor;
- clarify and respond to issues raised by the public;
- afford the Executive Mayor an opportunity to share many of the positive developments that communities could expect in the next six to eighteen months.

The table below summarises the issues that were raised by the people of Buffalo City during this Mayoral Imbizo:

ISSUES	No of meetings where issue was raised:
BASIC SERVICES	
Roads & Transport	17
Water & Sanitation	17
Electricity	17
Waste Management	9
COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES	
Community Facilities & Services	17
Primary Health	9
Education	6
Safety & Security	5
Special Programmes	7
HOUSING, LAND, ENVIRONMENT	
Housing & Land	16
Development Planning	1
Environmental Health	0
River	0
Conservation	1
JOB CREATION & LIVELIHOODS	
Economic Development & Job Creation	13
MUNICIPAL ISSUES	
Municipal Accounts	10
Budget & IDP	10
Government Grants	2
BCM's commitment & communication	9
Total number of meetings held	17 Meetings

Issues raised by community members during the Mayoral Izimbizo did not significantly deviate from the issues that emerged from a ward survey undertaken in September 2004. This indicates that the outcomes of the ward survey undertaken in 2004 still remain relevant and thus, these issues continue to inform BCM's IDP.

With respect to the ward survey held in September 2004, all ward councillors were requested to meet with their ward committee to discuss, identify and prioritise the five key issues for their wards. The survey sheet requested each of the wards to list the issues in order of importance and to provide a brief description of the particulars relating to the issue. Submissions were received from all 45 wards.

The table below summarises the consolidated outcomes, which were derived by the allocation of a single point for every issue raised (only one point was allocated for each issue, whether the highest or lowest priority for the ward). Where more than one issue was raised, within the five priorities, points were allocated for these.

Table B.20: Consolidated Outcomes of the BCM Ward Survey - September 2004

ISSUE	POINTS	ORDER OF PRIORITY
Roads & Transport	46	1
Unemployment, Job Creation & Livelihoods	41	2
Housing & Land	40	3
Electricity	24	4
Water & Sanitation	22	5
Community Halls & Multi-Purpose Centres	20	6
HIV/Aids Treatment & support	11	7
Sports Facilities	8	8
Cemeteries	7	9
Education	5	10
Environment	4	11
Waste	4	11
Health Care	3	12
Safety & Security	2	13
Ward Office	1	14
Libraries	1	14
CLUSTERED ISSUES	POINTS	TOTAL
JOB CREATION & LIVELIHOODS		41
HOUSING & LAND		40
BASIC SERVICES		96
Roads & Transport	46	
Electricity	24	
Water & Sanitation	22	
Waste	4	
COMMUNITY FACILITIES/ SERVICES		61
Community Halls & Multi-purpose Centres	20	
HIV/Aids Treatment & support	11	
Sports Facilities	8	
Cemeteries	7	
Health Care	3	
Libraries	1	
Education	5	
Safety & Security	2	
Environment	4	

According to the consolidated outcomes, service delivery, housing and job creation remain the top priorities for the residents of Buffalo City. It is interesting to note that 'roads and transport' emerged as the 'top' issue. It is assumed that this is because of the importance of mobility for accessing services and opportunities. Similarly, during the Mayoral Izimbizo of 2006, roads and transport, water and sanitation, electricity, community facilities and services were raised as key concerns in all the communities.

Whilst the above table consolidates the broad outcomes, the details specific to a particular area are also important and need to be taken into account. In response to this, Directorates were requested to consider the detailed issues raised in the ward survey and at the Mayoral Imbizo, when identifying projects for implementation over the next three years.