

# EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S FOREWORD

It is a privilege for me as the Executive Mayor once again to introduce this annual review of our Integrated Development Plan to our public, our partners and our many and various stakeholders.

I believe that Buffalo City's vision of being a place of opportunity for all is slowly but noticeably being realized in the tangible strides that we are making to pull down the developmental barriers that our past bequeathed to us.

No doubt much still needs to be done to alleviate poverty, to create an environment that is conducive to economic growth and to bring meaning and dignity to the lives of the diverse communities of Buffalo City. However, our efforts as the municipality have resuscitated our people's hope in the future and their confidence in our development programmes.

It must be said that we could not have come this far if it was not for the active and sustained participation of our communities in setting the direction and pace of our development programmes and strategies. In this regard, the people of Buffalo City must be commended for heeding the call to come forward and play their rightful role in becoming authors of their own development, in making direct input into the Integrated Development Plan for the city.

This IDP Review is a direct result of yet another extensive consultation process to reposition our development and service-delivery objectives and programmes to ensure that they address the actual needs of our stakeholders and communities as influenced by changing and shifting socio-economic dynamics.

We have stuck to our guns as far as ensuring extensive participation is concerned because we believe that as the sphere of government that is closest to the people, we carry an obligation to respond directly, positively and immediately to the needs and frustrations of our communities.

I am happy to report that this partnership between the Municipality as the facilitator and our communities as the beneficiaries of services has been very successful in ensuring that we continue to address the development aspirations of our people in a manner that is inclusive, and that meets their expectations.

I trust that this IDP Review will prove to be one more meaningful step towards making Buffalo City a place where all of us can live fulfilled lives and achieve our full human potential.

**N.C. PETER**  
**EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

