

BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY

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**Buffalo City
Municipality**

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**For immediate
release**

BCM Executive Mayor to hand over 373 houses to villagers

In one of her first official public appearances, Buffalo City Municipality Executive Mayor Zukisa Faku will be handing over houses to villagers at Tyutyu village on February 27.

Up to 373 families will be getting a roof on top of their heads as the City together with the Provincial Housing Department will be launching the phase two low cost housing project near Bhisho.

This event will start at 14h00.

The Executive Mayor together with MEC for Housing, Safety & Liaison Thobile Mhlahlo will be delivering addresses and handing over the keys to the beneficiaries of the project.

Tyutyu Village mainly consists of muddy houses which the villagers built for themselves. It was originally planned by the former Homeland Ciskei Government as an agricultural rural village settlement.

The City has spent nearly R18 million on the project and plans are on track to have over 670 Tyutyu families living on decent houses by July 2009.

The 40 square meters houses have two bedrooms with an open plan lounge and kitchen plus an ablution consisting of a shower, toilet and a washing basin.

The houses will have running water and electricity and the new home owners will be able to benefit from various Municipal services like the Indigent Subsidy Scheme which provides free basic services to the underprivileged.

An extensive consultation process with the villagers has led to the development of a comprehensive database and it is still an on going process with more beneficiaries being added to date.

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"It is important for the City to not only bring back the dignity of our people who were disadvantaged by history in providing decent houses but ensure that as fully fledged citizens, they have access to service delivery," said City spokesperson Samkelo Ngwenya.

Ngwenya added: "It is part of our vision as the City that our people must live in a safe, healthy and sustainable environment. We sincerely hope that this will make them proud and appreciate our efforts to create a better life for all and ensure a lasting victory over poverty and hunger."

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