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Mdantsane Residents to Name Their Streets and Neighbourhoods

The Buffalo City Municipality's Mdantsane Urban Renewal Programme is set to launch a competition for residents of the second-largest township in South Africa to name their neighbourhoods and streets.

The competition will officially be launched in Mdantsane at the Highway Post Office on 28 February 2009 at 10h00.

Councillor Luntu Bobo of Buffalo City Municipality states that it is important for Mdantsane to get rid of its present address system, which consists of Neighbourhood Units (NUs) and house numbers; only a few streets have names at all.

The new system will mirror those that exist elsewhere in Buffalo City: each neighbourhood and street has a name and houses are numbered consistently.

Besides assisting emergency services, businesses and the general public to locate addresses more easily, said Cllr. Bobo, the renewal of Mdantsane as a systematically-named area will give residents a better sense of place, belonging and pride in Mdantsane.

“We want as many people as possible to be able to enter the competition,” said Cllr Bobo, “so that we can be certain that the names come from the people of Mdantsane, and are not allocated by a few, which was the case with the street names that presently exist in Mdantsane.”

The competition will run from Saturday 28 February to Saturday 14 March 2009. Residents will be able to submit suggestions in two categories: neighbourhoods and streets.

Names for the six proposed Mdantsane neighbourhoods and higher-order streets will be chosen from proposals by residents of people they think have made a great impact on Mdantsane.

Residents of Mdantsane will be able to enter by completing a competition entry form, delivered to each house in Mdantsane, and by placing it in boxes provided at each rent office in Mdantsane and at the Mdantsane City Mall. The competition can also be entered by SMS and online, at the website of the Buffalo City Municipality. A Colouring Competition for school learners between the ages of 9 and 12 will also be run at the same time at the Mdantsane City Mall.

The winner of the street and neighbourhood competition will each win a R5000 Mdantsane City Mall shopping voucher. The two winners in the colouring competition will each win a R500 shopping voucher.

A prize-giving function will be held at the Mdantsane City Mall on Saturday 21 March 2009 at 10H00, where a final draw for the prizes will be held. Only people present at the prize giving function will receive prizes. There will also be many spot prizes for people present at the function.

For more information, please feel free to contact Christo Theart at (043) 722 0771 or christo@intengu.co.za.

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