BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY

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TO ALL MEDIA | **For immediate release**

Buffalo City Municipality

BCM embarks on free service delivery campaign

In an effort to ensure that the poorest of the poor also benefit from Municipal services, the City is embarking on a vigorous campaign to ensure that its communities especially in rural areas get free services.

Buffalo City Municipality is embarking on an Indigent Registration Campaign as from January 27 until March 30. The Campaign is titled *Operation: Xhamla!*

Our officials will be out in full swing throughout the City raising awareness and registering eligible consumers. The areas include Mngesha, Ndevana, Khwetyana, Pefferville, Mbekweni, New Rest, Qongqotha, Nompumelelo and Tolofiyeni.

Currently, the City has registered close to 60 000 beneficiaries on its database both from rural and urban areas. The main objective of this Campaign is to register more poor people from rural and urban areas eligible to receive municipal free basic services.

The City contributes R224, 94 towards the Municipal account of every registered indigent consumer. They receive full service (including rates, sewage, fire levy, water and refuse). This includes 6kilo litre of water worth R24, 88 and 50kwh of electricity worth R20, 25 free each month.

We also contribute R79 towards the accounts of those who use fewer services each month.

- More -

This indigent registration campaign is for people whose household income is less than R1 880 a month. Indigent beneficiaries do not have to collect application forms; instead we will be coming to communities to avoid the exclusion of qualifying indigents because they were not informed.

This campaign is about meeting the needs of our people. It's about service delivery and beyond. It responds to our vision that steers us to meet the basic needs of our people in a safe, healthy and sustainable environment. The creation of a better life for all and ensuring that there is a lasting victory over poverty and hunger.

With the economic crunch and various challenges that are troubling the lives of our people, we want to ensure that they push back the frontiers of poverty and are able to dignify and sustain themselves.

The requirements for qualification are as follows, viz

- The applicant must reside in a fixed property
- Have a valid South African Identity Document
- Have valid ID of Spouse if married
- Affidavit for the unemployed
- Pay slip if employed
- Meter box number
- Bank statement or pension card
- Signature for the councilor of the area.

Government officials, business people and people who earn more than R1 880 are not allowed to apply. To prevent people from defrauding us, we have BCM Indigent Investigative Officers who audit applications before approval.

As a City, we are committed to uproot corruption hence we also verify afterwards and double check the successful applicants and reverse the status of those illegally registered and recover every cent.