

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Municipality gears up for Metro status**

The stage has been set where Buffalo City Municipality will this week be engaged in the ward delimitation process in preparation for a Metropolitan City status.

To reach this objective, the City will undergo an extensive consultation process that will encapsulate a vigorous public participation campaign.

Wards in BCM will be extended from 45 to 50 as per The Municipal Demarcation Board.

The consultations with communities will take place from the 11-24<sup>th</sup> November. Wards in the City will be clustered in an equal manner that will encourage easy consultations between councilors, officials and residents.

The Municipal Demarcation Board has proposed for Buffalo City to have 100 councilors by 2011.

According to MBD Chief Executive Officer Hillary Monare, citizens must engage with their proposed ward boundaries and make recommendations.

Morane emphasizes: "We are here to support you and in order each consensus not impose."

A Metropolitan City has a common property rating and service tariff and also a single metropolitan budget. The municipality may also decentralize powers and its functions when it becomes a metro.

In Metropolitan areas there is also a choice of two types of executive systems; in one, the executive authority is given to the Mayor and in the other, collective executive powers are given to the executive committee.

The process was set to encourage service deliver and enhance the City's plan to become a metro.

In 2008, the MDB confirmed that Buffalo City would become a metro in 2011. The board's main function is to determine municipal boundaries in accordance with legislation and to advise municipalities on demarcation matters.

The board has proposed that Buffalo City has 100 Councilors by 2011. It now has 90.

**See:** Ward Committee dates and venues attached.

