



PRESS RELEASE

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EC MUNICIPALITIES TO RALLY BEHIND BAFANA DURING SALGA GAMES

With just days to go till the soccer world cup, Municipalities in the Eastern Cape will this week converge to rally behind as part of the South African Local Government Association (Salga) Soccer Tournament.

The Salga Games will take place in Buffalo City from June 03 – 05. matches will be played at the Jan Smuts Stadium in East London.

The games will feature a category of teams from Local Municipalities, the Metro and District Municipalities at under 21 level. There will also be teams comprising of Municipal councillors and officials. The games will also feature a netball competition.

The tournament will be promoting the role of sport, specifically male and female soccer, as part of a developmental local government agenda.

The official Opening ceremony will take place at the East London City Hall on June 03 from 19h00. The programme will feature the Provincial Sports, Arts and Culture MEC Xoliswa Tom, BCM Executive Mayor Zukisa Faku and Salga PEO Chris Mangwangqana.

Other dignitaries will include various Mayors and Municipal Managers.

According to tournament organiser Khosi Msimka (from Salga EC Community Development Directorate) the timing of the staging the tournament couldn't have been better.

"These games mean much more than just a game...it is going to be a united demonstration of support to our national team by all Municipalities of this province," she says.

"Sport has positive effects to human development as it enhances human and social capital; which can be converted to other forms of capital."

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Buffalo City Municipality has expressed gratitude in being chosen by Salga to host the games.

"It's an honour for us to have been given this enormous responsibility by Salga especially when it's on the eve of the Soccer World Cup. This will no doubt add to the hype and create an electrifying atmosphere around Buffalo City," City spokesperson Samkelo Ngwenya says.

The Objectives of the Games include:

- Encouraging collaborative engagement (team-building) among municipalities through participation & contribution in sporting activities.
- Maintain & sustain good-working relations among municipalities in the Eastern Cape.
- Cementing the chasm/gap among Municipal Employees (officials) & Councillors through sporting activities in the Eastern Cape.
- Raising the profile of sports, recreation, arts & culture in the Eastern Cape.

Ends

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