

MEDIA RELEASE

Keith Ngesi
082 6011 492
084 600 3840

keithn@buffalocity.gov.za

www.buffalocity.gov.za



Communications Department

Samkelo Ngwenya
Spokesperson
082 653 3593
073 557 4707
043 705 1170

samkelon@buffalocity.gov.za

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City to re-inaugurate historic statue with Italian rugby team

The City will re-inaugurate the historic Multicultural Man statue at the Heroes' Park memorial complex on Thursday 24 June 2010.

The event will take place at the Heroes' Park on the East London Esplanade from 12h00 – 14h00.

The statue - donated by the Italian consul on behalf of the Nereto Municipality early in 2006 - is the only one on the African continent.

Brazil in South America, Canada in North America and Sydney in Australia are just some of the other places to have received such a statue. Heroes' Park has been identified as the home of Africa's one.

Other versions of the Multi-cultural Man can also be found in Toronto in Canada, Sarajevo in Bosnia, and Changchun in China.

The event will be attended by Buffalo City Municipality (BCM) Executive Mayor Zukisa Faku, the Italian consul and players from the current Italian rugby team.

The team is in the City to play against the Springboks at the Buffalo City Stadium on Saturday.

The statue, sculpted by Francesco Perilli, finds its home in BCM following the awarding of the Freedom Of Nereto to world icon and former SA president Nelson Mandela. Nereto is 200 kilometres from Rome and is Perilli's home town.

BCM views it as fitting that the only multi-cultural statue in Africa found its home in Mandela's birth province, the Eastern Cape, as he was a living symbol of multiculturalism.

The statue was donated to the people of Africa as symbol of the multiculturalism that typifies the nations of the African continent.

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