

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Mdantsane 'Highway' CBD set for R128m revamp

Buffalo City Municipality is underway with an ambitious programme set to address the decay and rejuvenate the Mdantsane Central Business District.

The Municipality had received a funding commitment of R128 million from National Treasury through the Neighbourhood Partnership Grant, to regenerate the CBD, locally known as "Highway".

Key catalytic projects identified for the CBD include traders' stalls; an Eastern Cape Boxing Museum; Municipal Shared Service Centre; eco-park; upgrading of swimming pool, arts center, roads, shop fronts, public buildings and Indoor Sports center; landscaping and beautification; social housing; WSU Student Residence; private health care center; cinema; restaurants; public safety management plan; as well as waste management enhancement strategy.

The municipality's Engineering Department has already identified infrastructure capacity constraints, particularly, sanitation services, which need to be upgraded.

Land Administration Department has commenced with the land acquisition process of privately owned erven for identified projects, subsequent to the land ownership search which revealed that within the CBD, 13 erven are privately owned and 36 are municipally owned.

Transport Planning department has outlined the BRT operational plan in an effort to ensure its alignment with the CBD Regeneration project.

BCM is currently in the process of calling for proposals from the broader private sector to submit proposals for developing the available land within the context of "CBD Regeneration".

This is an initiative of the Mdantsane Urban Renewal Programme (MURP). Commenting on the regeneration of CBD, MURP Operations Manager Mamoeketsi Khetsi said: *"the project aims at stimulating economic development through the creation of an enabling environment for business and the leveraging of public funds to crowd in private sector investment"*.

This project is aimed at ensuring that the CBD attracts and accommodates the needs of the local community and its hinterland, as well as providing goods and services for the population it attracts.

It is also aimed at expanding the CBD's daily activity patterns, to include the night economy and include commerce and business opportunities; work and residential opportunities; better utilisation of public open spaces as well as recreational and social entertainment facilities.

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