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12 January 2011

BCM acquires disability friendly buses worth R12 million ahead of METRO status

With the transaction to being a Metro just months away, Buffalo City Municipality has acquired six new disability friendly buses to the value of over R12 million.

The new buses incorporate contemporary vehicle technology and safety features. The buses include space inside to accommodate wheelchairs and incorporate facilities to enable easy access for wheelchairs.

They have a capacity of 43 seated and 17 standing passengers (60 in total).

The buses have Mercedes Benz engines and chassis (manufactured in German) and Marco Polo bodies (manufactured in Brazil). Their components were assembled in Johannesburg.

The Municipality plans to acquire three more buses into its fleet before the end of this financial year which ends in June 2011. The intention is to recapitalize the bus fleet on an ongoing basis depending on the availability of funding.

The current bus fleet consists of 33 buses with an average age of 23 years. As new buses are purchased, old ones are decommissioned. The new buses will operate on the City routes that have the highest demand.

The new buses – currently at our depot in King Williams Town - are currently being licensed by the Eastern Cape Province using the eNatis system. This process is expected to be complete in order to have the buses operational within the next two months.

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