

MEDIA RELEASE



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Mdantsane street lights upgraded ahead of BCM Metro

With less than two months to go before Buffalo City becomes a Metro - the face of Mdantsane, specifically its main street - is advancing with the change.

The Municipality is investing R6.9 million by installing up to 220 decorative type streetlights along Qumza highway. This is part of the Mdantsane Urban Renewal Project (MURP).

The project has a budget of R5.2 million for 2009/10 financial year, funded by the Neighborhood Development Partnership Grant. Additional funding of R1.736 million for the 2010/11 financial year has been put aside for this project.

Currently the project has commenced from the NU 1 entrance into Mdantsane, with the installation of over 30 streetlights. At present our Electricity Department is installing the streetlights as far as the Mdantsane City shopping mall, in line with the widening of the Qumza Highway which includes installing pavements and speed humps.

These are the same lights as those along the beachfront with the light fitting consisting of 2x150 watt metal halide (white light) lamps. This allows for minimal upward light pollution.

The lighting along the main road leading to the CBD and shopping mall would be of great significance to the area and the beautification of this road in Mdantsane will in turn impress and attract more businesses to invest.

Whilst the majority of the community welcomes the project, there are those with criminal elements that view this as an opportunity for their personal gain. The main challenge that we are facing is vandalism with already numerous attempts to steal the cables supplying the poles and the lights. We are calling on the community to safeguard this development and assist the police in bringing those behind such acts to book.

The street lighting project has thus far created 30 temporal jobs for the local community members. The first phase of this project is set to be completed by the end of May 2011 and the second phase will commence in the next financial year (2011/12) in July 2011.

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