

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality  
East London | Bhisho | King William's Town  
Province of the Eastern Cape  
South Africa

Website: [www.buffalocity.gov.za](http://www.buffalocity.gov.za)



**BUFFALO CITY  
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**

**BCMM SPOKESPERSON**  
Samkelo Ngwenya  
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**BCMM MANAGER DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**  
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**SA NAVY**  
Commander Greyling van den Berg  
083 626 3541

**08 SEPTEMBER 2011**

## **Buffalo City Metropolitan to welcome SA Navy**

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality is set to have a week-long hive of activities when we welcome the South African Navy in a historical visit to our shores next week.

The SA Navy will be exercising its right of entry into Buffalo City as the Freedom of the City has been accorded to the SA Navy by the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

Two Ships - SAS UMKOMAAS and SAS UMZIMKULU - will arrive in the harbor on Sunday 11 September 2011. Another ship, SAS AMATOLA, is schedule to arrive closer to the weekend of 16 September, in order to play host to various functions for the people of East London.

The SA Navy is a regular visitor to East London, but it has been a number of years since so many sailors have come to East London. Various events are planned, including a community upliftment project, a colorful Right of Entry Parade; a Navy Band Concert; Open public visits to the Ships and various other demonstrations.

The BCMM Executive Mayor Zukiswa Ncitha will receive a courtesy call from the Officers Commanding SAS UMKOMAAS and SAS UMZIMKULU at the East London City Hall on Monday 12 September 2011. Also in attendance will be the Chief of Police, Harbour Master and Chief magistrate.

The Right or Freedom of Entry is a highly prestigious event and has historic significance. According to SA Navy's s PRO Commander Greyling van den Berg the SA Navy is on a mission to build and entrench its relations with Coastal Cities.

With its own rich history and coastal pride, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality is excited and honoured to be part of this august occasion.

- **More** -

### Editor's notes:

The South African Navy has a long history which dates back to the mid 1800's. The South African Navy's earliest beginnings can be traced to the Port Elizabeth Naval Volunteer Brigade that was raised in 1861, which then merged with a volunteer artillery unit in the following year. On 30 April 1885 a part-time unit named the Natal Naval Volunteers (NNV) was formed in Durban. From then to now the SA Navy has become renowned for their excellent seafaring vessels, submarines, and war ships but they are also many heroic and courageous acts, all in service of the country that the Navy is known for.

The South African Navy is also well known for its Band which is internationally acclaimed and the premier band of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). The Band has become a regular visitor on the International music scene since 2002. The Band has performed in various countries including Germany, The Netherlands, Russia, Burundi, England and Scotland.

The Ships scheduled to visit the city include the SAS UMKOMAAS, SAS UMZIMKULU and the SAS AMATOLA. The public are invited to attend the various events scheduled from Friday 16, September to Saturday, 18 September 2011:

DATE	TIME	EVENTS	VENUE
Friday, 16 September 2011	18h30	Concert by the SA Navy Band	City Hall, East London
Saturday, 17 September 2011	11h00	SA Navy Right of Entry Parade	Oxford Street East London
Saturday, 17 September 2011	10h00 to 17h00	Open Ships Day	East London Harbour F & G Berth
Sunday, 18 September 2011	10h00 to 17h00	Open Ships Day	East London Harbour F & G Berth

Entry: Entrance is Free.

Kindly note certain streets in the city centre will be closed off on Thursday, 15 September 2011 from 15h30 to 17h30 and on Saturday, 17 September 2011 from 06h00 to 13h00 to accommodate the March past process and parade.

For more information contact the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality on: 043 – 705 1170 or 705 1123.

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