

Buffalo City

East London • Bisho • King William's Town
Province of the Eastern Cape
South Africa

Website: www.buffalocity.gov.za

**Directorate: Corporate Services**

PO Box 134 • East London • 5200
Trust Centre • Cnr North & Oxford St
East London • 5201
Tel: 043 705 1128
Fax: 043 722 4791
Email: mamkelin@buffalocity.gov.za

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Attention: News Desk

Date: 29 September 2005

50 000 INDIGENT BENEFICIARIES IN OUR DATA BASE

Buffalo City municipality has made good progress in implementing its indigent policy by registering more than 50 000 indigent beneficiaries in its database from both the urban and rural areas. These are people whose household income is less than R1 560 a month.

Once an application has been made and the relevant documents submitted it gets processed. Thereafter our inspectors would conduct some site visits to verify whether the applicant is indeed indigent or not. All approved applications are recorded in the indigent register according to ward numbers, area of residence, names and meter numbers. Customers residing in urban areas can receive their free basic electricity units at any vending site or municipal office once their applications have been approved. For customers in rural areas the municipality sends the information to Eskom.

Some of the requirements for qualification are as follows, viz

- The applicant must reside in a fixed property
- Have a valid South African Identity Document
- Have a valid ID of spouse
- Affidavit for the unemployed
- Pay slip if employed
- Meter box number
- Bank statement or pension card
- Signature for the Councilor of the area

So far, we have discovered that there are government officials, business people and others who have means for a living but who continue to make applications for the indigent benefit.

We wish to warn these people to stop this forthwith because it is fraud and is punishable by law. This benefit was made available by the government to look after the poorest of the poor in our communities. Instead of seeking to defraud the system these people should be encouraging their families and next of kin who are indigent to come forward and apply.

Thank you.

Issued by
Communications Department

**For more information, please call
M Ngam on 043-705 1124 or 082 414 7742**