



BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY

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EMBARGO

**Buffalo City
Municipality**

November 17 marks the 10th anniversary of the signing of the partnership agreement between BCM and the City of Leiden (Netherlands).

The Municipal links between the two cities has experienced a new boom over the years where critical projects were established.

The realization of the agreement is built on a co-operation program that stipulates joint activities. More than five major programmes massively impacting on ordinary lives of our people have been successfully implemented.

Besides official visits and cultural events, the partnership is characterized by visits of groups of specialists in various municipal services as well as seminars to exchange experiences. A classic example is the youth brigade from Leiden which is currently in the City to revamp youth centers.

Our Community will be experiencing a significant week-long jubilee with activities ranging from Exhibitions to 2002 Duncan Village Floods victims remembrance to mention. Our dear guests arrive in the City this Sunday.

BCM Development Co-operation and International Relations Manger Darby Gounden, said the partnership is aimed encouraging community spirit, strengthening local government and exchanging expertise.

"This is an opportunity for both cities to interact and share ideas and experiences. The relationship is also set to build long-term investments in partnerships and give assistance with specifically identified components of the Integrated Development Plan in Buffalo City," said Gounden.

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The main focus will be on gender issues, health, education, housing and economic development. The week-long celebrations include activities such as a fashion show, exhibitions, visits to various orphanages and schools and the launch of a new sports field in Amalinda. (See programme attached)

Other dual partnership projects include; HIV/Aids initiatives, a solid waste programme and a storm water management initiative. The latter was launched in 2006 with the aim to clean streets and streams. The project will also manage water quality by cleaning up the storm water system and rehabilitating the land between floodlines.

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Contact:
Ms Darby Gouden
082 321 3611

And visit www.buffalocity.gov.za for related stories on the partnership.

