

## **BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY**

MEDIA RELEASE

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**Buffalo City  
Municipality**

**19 December 2008**

**For immediate release**

### **BCM goodwill announcement for Consumers**

Approximately 96 000 electrified households within the Buffalo City Municipality stand to benefit following an announcement by the new Executive Mayor Councillor Sakhumzi Caga this afternoon.

This staggering announcement - set to bring relief to thousands of consumers who are on prepaid electricity - was made at a special Council meeting held at the East London City Hall.

This is effective as from the period 19 December 2008 until 4 January 2009. All consumers that are blocked on the prepaid electricity system will be automatically unblocked by the BCM system.

No new electrical blockings will be implemented during this period. The purchase of electricity should also not exceed R500.

The limit is set to avoid people from buying bulk excess electricity during this period and thereby not paying their rates.

This will apply to all ratepayers including indigent consumers. Indigent consumers are those that are on our relief programs, earning less than R1900 per month and reside on one fixed household.

This goodwill gesture to the already cash trapped consumers due to the current harsh economical conditions ratepayers, will also apply to those that have payment arrangement.

The Municipality wishes to urge consumers that while they are taking advantage of this good gesture, they should not forget to pay their accounts and keep them up to date.

Including businesses, there are up to 160 000 electrical consumers in the City.

According to the 2001 census, Buffalo City Municipality has a total population of over 700 000, accounting for about 42 percent