

## BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**TO ALL MEDIA**

**For immediate release**



**Buffalo City  
Municipality**

### **BCM gears its beaches up for bumper festive season**

We have – since the monster waves hit most of our beaches and left devastation in September – been working around the clock to ensure that we deliver a festive season that is memorable and reflective of the high standards and authentic beauty that our City and its beaches possess.

For the last four weeks, work has been vigorously underway at the Gonubie Boardwalk in an effort to ensure that our citizens as well as tourists will be able to access it during this exciting period. Indeed, we are optimistic that in December we will be able to re-open the boardwalk.

We have also received the news of the non-accreditation of the Gonubie Blue Flag status with natural disappointment, more so since we had undertaken a number of interventions and stringent steps to improve our situation especially our water quality which has since been resolved.

We are therefore going to go ahead with a second year of Blue Flag Pilot Phase which means all Full Blue Flag status standards will still apply to the beach and be carried out for the next year until we can re-apply. Constant monitoring as a proactive measure has been carried out this whole year.

We have noted the logistical and technical challenges and we are confident that the situation is indeed reversible. We have also noted with pride in that other factors that contribute to the attainment of the status we have achieved. These include security, parking, environmental and awareness programmes and safeguards.

Once again, we do not expect any of this to impact on tourism as witnessed last season when as a pilot beach we received more visitors than our expectations. We are gearing up for the same for this season in all our beaches.

Pertaining to the current rubble on the side of the beaches; most of the clearing and cleaning work has been done to make the roads accessible. What is left now is for us to remove the rubble from the sides and edges of the roads, and this is what is currently underway. It is not only the Gonubie Beach that is affected in this regard but also most of the beaches.

One must remember that this was an unexpected and unfortunate event which has since stretched us even further...on top of our demanding schedule of preparing for the festive season. We are indeed pleased with the work that has been done by our employees thus far and are even extremely proud with the assistance and efforts received from our communities who have been supporting us. We call upon those who still can, to come on board and rally around us. We cannot wait to open our shores and receive friendly local, national and international visitors this festive season.

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