

BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY

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**Buffalo City
Municipality**

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For immediate release

BCM launches two ground-breaking initiatives for the people of Mdantsane

In what is considered to be another positive step towards improving the quality of life in Mdantsane, Buffalo City Municipality today launched two major initiatives to encourage the establishment of viable small businesses and sustainable community-based organizations.

These two life changing projects are The Local Economic Action Partnership **(LEAP)** and the Livelihood Innovative Fund Enhancement **(LIFE)**.

LEAP is aimed at providing local aspiring and existing entrepreneurs with access to business skills training and mentorship support, whereas LIFE is a social fund established with the purpose of strengthening the sustainability and impact of community-based organizations in the township. Both programmes are implemented within the framework of the Presidential Urban Renewal Programme and are only targeting beneficiaries residing and located in Mdantsane.

Launching the two programmes Councillor Luntu Bobo, the political head for the Mdantsane Urban Renewal Programme says: "These initiatives are an outcome of research and public participatory processes which confirmed the need to reinforce the viability of local businesses and community-based organizations to address livelihood, jobs and poverty in Mdantsane."

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He urged the community to grab these opportunities with both hands, noting that the two initiatives were being piloted for a limited period after which lessons will be reviewed.

“Our people must demonstrate character and come out in numbers to take advantage of opportunities that seek to empower their socio-economic status and develop their livelihood.”

LEAP initiative is expected to benefit about 100 entrepreneurs while the LIFE fund will support between 20 and 40 community-based initiatives. We hereby call for an expression of interests from interested individuals and parties.

To ensure a maximum response to the call, we will be holding Ward community outreaches to assist applicants to complete their expression of interest applications. The three day workshops from 14 to 16 October will be held at three different venues including the Mdantsane Indoor Sport Centre, NU 15 Community Hall and NU 10 Community Hall.

Applications can be collected from the Mdantsane Urban Renewal Programme offices which are located in Mdantsane. The deadline for submissions is October 21.

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