

BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY



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MEDIA RELEASE

Buffalo City Municipality

City to count its successes during Integrated Development Plan hearings

In the last financial year, the City has made tremendous strides in creating a better life for all whilst pushing back the frontiers of poverty through infrastructural development.

During the upcoming 2009/10 financial year Integrated Development Plan (IDP)/Budget hearings, BCM will showcase some of its successes and projects that have been implemented in its areas.

The theme for this years hearing - from May 08 to May 18 - is titled: "Together nurturing people-driven development through public participation".

A well governed City that is home to world class expanding manufacturers, Buffalo City is financially stable with an annual budget of more than R3 billion.

Buffalo City is South Africa's 7th largest city. Home to nearly a million people spread over 2 500 square kilometres of municipal land, it is one of the country's secondary cities and one of the nine members of the South African Cities' Network which together accounts for 80% of the GDP of Africa's powerhouse.

The City was the proud recipient of the Vuna award last year as the Best Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape. The key performance areas for the nominations on the awards were around infrastructure development and service delivery, local economic development, financial viability, municipal transformation and institutional development and good governance.

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During the hearings, Citizens will be told of new ground breaking projects, those that will be continued and solidified and those that are long terms. Also to be revealed is the projects' status in terms of completion, the monies that have been spent and the beneficiaries thereof.

These projects are informed by the City's vision of being a people centred place of opportunity where the basic needs of all are met in a safe, healthy and sustainable environment.

Some of our performance highlights include the renovation of the Muniffin building, the Gonubie Main road upgrade (Road-widening to 4km of the Gonubie Main Access Road to provide two out-going lanes) and receiving the commitment of funding of R12 million from Department of Science and Technology to embark on a pilot housing project with alternative energy efficiency.

Others include creating hundreds of jobs in our infrastructure development projects with over 600 jobs in housing construction industry and the eradication of the bucket system.

In terms of key projects we have spent R 37 307 685.00 in East London, R 34 460 000.00 in Mdantsane, R 23 361 000.00 in Duncan Village and R 6 690 640.00 in King Williams Town.

The City handed over roofs on top of the heads of 373 families with houses being built in Tyutyu village. We have spent nearly r18 million on the project and plans are on track to have over 670 families living on decent houses in the area by July 2009. We have connected 18900 RDP houses.

Four new landscaping areas were designed along Settlers way which has included entrances to East London IDZ, Orange Grove Informal Settlement as well as the Centre Islands.

The Fynobos, Ndancama informal settlements were formalised in order to facilitate their upgrading for development, services like electricity and running water.

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Settlement Planning

- **A number of major urban settlement planning projects were completed during 2007/2008 including:**
 - Fynbos Informal Settlement Phase 1 & 2 (1135 sites).
 - Potsdam Ikhwezi Block 2, Phase 1 & 2 (875 sites)
 - Ndancama – Scenery Park (608 sites)
 - Lillyvale Township Establishment (106 sites)

The following sites are currently in the process of being acquired for the establishment of townships for RDP housing...Sunny South, Needs Camp, Greydell, Bongweni (Phakamisa), Kwaklifu (Phakamisa) and Mouth Ruth.

Township registrations are in progress in Reeston Phase 3, Simanyene, Airport Phase 2(a), Potsdam Yellowwoods and Potsdam Kanana.

Community Halls in Dimbaza, Braelyn, Buffalo Flats, Cambridge and Mzamomhle are earmarked while there were refurbishments in five Community halls in Mdantsane. A new civic hall is still at a planning stage for wards 13 to 24 in Mdantsane, Phakamisa and Scenery Park.

Other areas that were upgraded are sports facilities including those in rural areas for R3 million (ward 1-45), the Mdantsane sports field for R2 million and Clinics in Berlin (ward 45) plus Sinebhongo (ward 2).

Two tractors, equipment and agricultural inputs were handed over to two rural communities in Pierie and Mlakalaka.

Various roads were regravelled. There was the upgrading of the KWT Taxi rank (R500 000), the Gonubie Main Road (R3 750 000), Mzamomhle Access Road (R2 000 000), the Yellowwood and Zwelista Pedestrian bridge. We also put in traffic calming around schools and surfaced roads in Mdantsane.

There was an installation of approximately 100 speed humps/pedestrian tables, within the municipal area. We also mentored to 10 BCM Learner Contractors appointed to construct 180 speed humps/pedestrian tables at 58 schools in the Mdantsane area. This project included a number of taxi/bus bays.

Street lighting and high mast lighting in all wards and completed the Esplanade lighting project, increase the water capacity for Mdantsane, built the Berlin sanitation resource centre (R968 998.00), bucket system eradication in all wards (over R3 million) and built the Chalumna Sanitation (over R4 million).

More upgrading took place: the East London Zoo under went an improvement of facilities to the tune of nearly R90 000, the Cremators were upgraded, and a new education centre for the Aquarium was opened.

The following Mayoral Imbizo Projects were implemented-:

- Beautification of entrances
- Development of Play Parks
- Clearing and mowing of grass in previously disadvantaged areas
- Beatification of Mdantsane

In boosting tourism we have built the Dimbaza Wall of Fame and Garden of Remembrance (R680 000), the Duncan Village Massacre Memorial (R698 215), the Mdantsane Tourism Centre and the Mdantsane One Stop shop (R700 000) and Upgraded the Kiwane Campsite

We have also provided training and mentoring capacity building support services to emerging entrepreneurs, cooperatives (80), SMMEs (80) and businesses in the fields of skills related to community tourism, marketing, business plans and B&B registration.

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