

CONTRALESA



BUFFALO CITY METRO REGION

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Tuesday, 18 April 2023

The Speaker
Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
East London
5200

Dear Hon Cllr. Humphrey Maxhegwana

RE: COMMENTS ON IDP AND BUDGET ROADSHOW 2023: NCERHA SITE

Firstly, I attended the abovementioned session in my capacity as the chairperson of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (CONTRALESA) in the Buffalo City Region. Honestly I was quite impressed with the manner in which the Honourable Mayor presented her vision and the strategy to assist the people of the Buffalo City in their own development, especially those living in rural areas. I personally applauded the Municipality for identifying agriculture as one of the key drivers to stimulate the rural economy. Over and above this, I highly appreciated the proposed business partnership that the BCMM has entered into with the Chinese Government in order to promote livestock development in our region. I was also excited with the mentioning of the pineapple production as one of the commodities that used to support our local economy and create huge job opportunities for the surrounding communities.

Secondly, I know for a fact that the projects which were flagged in the Mayor's presentation were priority projects submitted by communities through their Ward Councillors. We, as traditional leaders including CONTRALESA leadership are in full support of the community's submissions.

Honourable Speaker, there is a special request which we would like to make to our Mayor and the Council. CONTRALESA in the Buffalo City Metro Region has been running a "Cultural Festival" for almost 15 consecutive years (2007-2022) with resounding results. This is our flagship programme which has addressed social ills in the region in different forms. Unfortunately, this programme never received a constant financial support from government to sustain itself. I therefore, on behalf of CONTRALESA make a special appeal to the BCMM to allocate a small budget for this programme. A project plan for 2023 Cultural Festival is enclosed herein for your easy reference.

Hoping that our application will receive your favourable consideration.

Nkosi Mthuthuzeli Makinana: Chairperson: Project Steering Committee