**Communications Department**

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**Good day members of the media,**

**On Thursday 5 September**, Buffalo City will be hosting a delegation from its sister city, the City of Gavle from Sweden.

This comes after a visit to the City of Gavle by a BCMM delegation in May 2017 for a joint partnership for youth programmes and vulnerable groups.

Members of the media are invited to join a session that will be chaired by the Executive Mayor Councillor Xola Pakati with the delegation at the **East London ICC at 09h30.**

During the session, there will be presentation by BCMM (Youth engagement project); Commission for Gender equality (issues of discrimination); Human Rights Commission (Roles).

After lunch there will be visits to the East London Harbour, Nahoon Point Boardwalk, East London Museum and the Masimanyane Women’s Centre.

The twinning relations between the two Cities were initiated in 2002 with the aim to strengthen local democracy, expand knowledge and capacity development as well as to improve competence among the parties in their developmental roles as service providers.

The sister Cities have cooperatively implemented projects with the fundamental objective to address underlining issues amongst others, that focus on; local democracy, governance and administration, technical municipal services (waste management, energy, water and sewerage), environmental/climatic issues, sustainable urban development, social welfare operations, education, youth projects and health and medical care operations.

From June 2017 the City of Gavle and BCMM jointly implemented the following projects:

* Steering Group Project which initiated in 2016 and programmed to carry over to 2018, focusing on matters of discrimination in both cities.
* Youth Project also initiated in 2016 and planned to carry over 2018, aimed to enhance and create youth development opportunities for youth in both cities.

The Metro in this regard has since piloted six Social Labs which are a ward based multi-stakeholder response for vulnerable groups to proactively engage in Integrated Development Planning Processes.

**You are respectively invited to be part of the visit and witness the fruitful relations between the Cities.**

For further details, see **attached programme**.

*Issued by BCMM Communications*