

CHAPTER 1 – MAYOR’S FOREWORD AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An annual report is a legal requirement provided for by Section 46 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 and Sections 121 and 127(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act No. 56 of 2003. It is further, required of the Executive Mayors to table such reports in their Councils within seven months after the end of each financial year.

Such legislative requirements are in concert with the notion of Development Local Government requiring of municipalities to be accountable and transparent to their respective communities. It is in the policy context of these legislative prescripts that I now present the annual report for the financial year 2012/13 set against the broad mandate of Local Government as prescribed in Chapter 7 of the South African Constitution read together with Part B of both schedule 4 and 5, which reflects on powers and functions that we have executive powers over as instructed by Section 156 (1) of the Constitution.

Whereas, the Annual Reports are a backward looking reflection on what we managed to achieve or not achieved, it is equally a forward looking reflection of where we want to be in the future - guided by our vision of becoming “a responsive, people centered and developmental City”. It stands as an account of what we have done in the past financial year in realising our vision, and specifically in achieving our set objectives as detailed in our IDP, namely:

- Creating a financially sound organisation that efficiently manages its resources;
- Establishing an institutionally efficient and effective City that inclusively works with communities;
- Generating an enabling environment for an economy that is growing, diversifying, generating increasing number of sustainable employment opportunities and contributing to increased incomes and equality;
- Delivering sustainable infrastructure that support social and economic development;
- Establishing a well structured and capacitated institution that renders effective and efficient services to all by 2016; and
- Enhancing and protecting all environmental assets and natural resources within Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality by 2016

The 53rd Annual Conference of the ANC once more, reminded us of the need to exercise political leadership in making developmental local government work, and in championing the realisation of our municipal vision through investing on human capital, systems development and resource management, as well as in building relationships in the context of inter-sectoral and inter-governmental relations. It is a political imperative that we contribute in defining to the national transformation

agenda, through amongst others means, shaping our IDP to relate to development priorities across sectors, areas and other interests.

Guided by our IDP, the municipality can proudly reflect on some of our achievements:

- Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality was the best performing municipality in the Eastern Cape with the Blue Drop Score of 92.55%. The Blue Drop Evaluation System measures the quality of drinking water.
- We secured the 4th place among 8 Metropolitan Municipalities in South Africa, scoring at-least 86.7% in the Green Drop Evaluation System for managing waste water.
- We managed to enhance electricity networks to allow for RDP service connections, including 95% completion of the Queens-Park Zoo Sub-station, as well as a total of 1054 service connections combined in areas such as Reeston, Sweet Water, Postdam, Haven Hills and Mekeni Street. However, in the latter areas the full extent was not achieved due to the housing project not been completed.
- With an allocation of R27.9 million to the Electricity Department in the 2012/2013 financial year for capital projects will be completed in the 2013/14 financial year. These projects will include Frere Hospital, KWT, Brooklyn Road and Bhisho Fourways Switch Houses.
- It is worth-noting that network reinforcements and upgrades were completed in a number of areas as detailed in this report
- BCMM is implementing the Electricity Demand Side Management street lighting project to the value of R10m funded through the DoE.
- In assessing BCMM, the National Accreditation Assessment Team has recommended that we be awarded level 2 Accreditation in relation to Housing Services. Even though we have not yet been awarded the level 2 status the Provincial Department of Human Settlements has agreed to provide funding to Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality in the form of a Capacity Enhancement Grant.
- A construction tender has already been awarded for the Gonubie Main Road widening project to the value of R150 000 000.00. This is an ongoing project to be completed in October 2014.
- A tender for the construction of a structure/bridge and related road to the cemetery in Ndevana over a period of 4 Months is currently being assessed and is expected to be awarded shortly.

- In our Local Economic Development interventions, we have invested our resources in the Buffalo City Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Development Programme, Rural Development, Training and Capacity Building, Tourism Development and Promotion, Marketing and Promotion, Tourism Publications, Tourism Exhibitions, Business Development, as well as in Trade and Investment interventions.

It is commendable to note the improvements in relation to our spending and expenditure patterns, but truly we can do more.

However, this period has also been characterized by a number of challenges including;

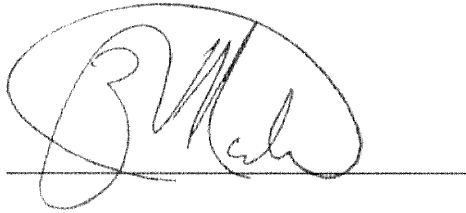
- A need to invest considerable funding to address the issue of bulk water conveyance and treatment works to deal with both the Blue Drop and Green Drop compliance requirements, housing delivery and economic development.
- Additional funding is required to replace all old equipment, which passed its normal engineering life span in order to ensure that the electrical network become fully reliable and functional.
- In relation to waste management, there is a dire need to change community mindset and behaviours in relation to illegal dumping, invest in more refuse compactor trucks, finding suitable land for Central Transfer Station, as well as built our human capital to improve efficiency.
- We still have approximately 50,386 informal settlement structures located in 154 informal settlements within the BCMM Urban Edge according to Census 2011, and this (alone) presents a big challenge of Housing backlog in our Municipality.
- An appointment for the BRT System tender was awarded in December 2011, but was later challenged by a losing bidder. Additional planning work is required which mainly involves the development of the business planning for the BRT system.
- In respect of LED, there is a need to ensure alignment of plans with the spatial development framework, as well as plans with other government spheres and sectors.

The ever present excuse of lack of resource might be a legitimate one, but the key question is how effectively we use the resources at our disposal. It is clear on this annual report that we are moving in the right direction, although not there yet. It is

of paramount importance to synchronise our programme plans with quarterly targets to achieve our broader goals of effective and efficient Metro.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to members of the Mayoral Committee, all Councillors, officials, the communities of Buffalo City and various stakeholders for their dedication, support and co-operation, which enabled the institution to record service delivery progress during the year under review. It is also worth mentioning Section 154 support rendered to the institution by the National and Provincial Government.

Signed by :

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Z.V. Ncitha', written over a horizontal line.

Z.V. Ncitha - Executive Mayor

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