**Communications Department**

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**Dear Members of the Media,**

**Rural Indigent Registration Campaign Commencement**

Buffalo City Municipality will be going out on the road from the 19 September 2017 till 29 October 2017 for the Rural Indigent Registration Campaign to assist the underprivileged citizens with access to free water and electricity.

The Metro has identified more than 40 locations that will be part of the Rural Indigent Campaign as part of its mandate of improving the lives of the citizens of the Metro and truly living up to its *A City Hard at Work* mission.

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality will be undertaking the campaign in the first quarter of the new financial year 2017/2018 which aims to register all rural indigent consumers so as to ensure that indigent consumers benefit from the free basic services offered by council.

The main objective of the Metro is to cover rural areas within its jurisdiction including the recently demarcated areas to BCMM. A formal notice will be issued to the public and distributed to all affected ward councillors as well as an invitation to Eskom.

**Indigent subsidy and who benefits from it?**

The applicant must be a citizen of the Metro and must earn less than R3,200 per month, unemployed, the person must be a pensioner, must be an account holder, must own and be staying at the house, should not own more than one fixed property and lastly the value of a property must not exceed R120 000.

The criteria for applying for the subsidy is that community members must get an indigent application form from a nearest municipal office and take it to their ward councillor to sign and submit it with these supporting documents:

* an ID copy and affidavit
* Proof of income if employed and earning less than the threshold income (Threshold income must not exceed R3 200.00 (Household income)
* Proof of pension if you are a pensioner
* When the applicant gets approved they receive an equivalent R652.90 towards their account, which translates to six kilolitre of water and free 50 units of electricity once a month.

In the rural areas applicants receive free electricity from Eskom and the Metro absorbs the cost at a maximum of 50kwh per household.

The Indigent Subsidy is funded from an equitable share from National Treasury. BCMM provides indigent subsidy to its indigent consumers through the billing of their accounts and free tokens in respect of electricity which is equivalent to 50Kwh.

The consumers that are receiving Indigent Subsidy are approximately 60 000 as at 30 June 2017.

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