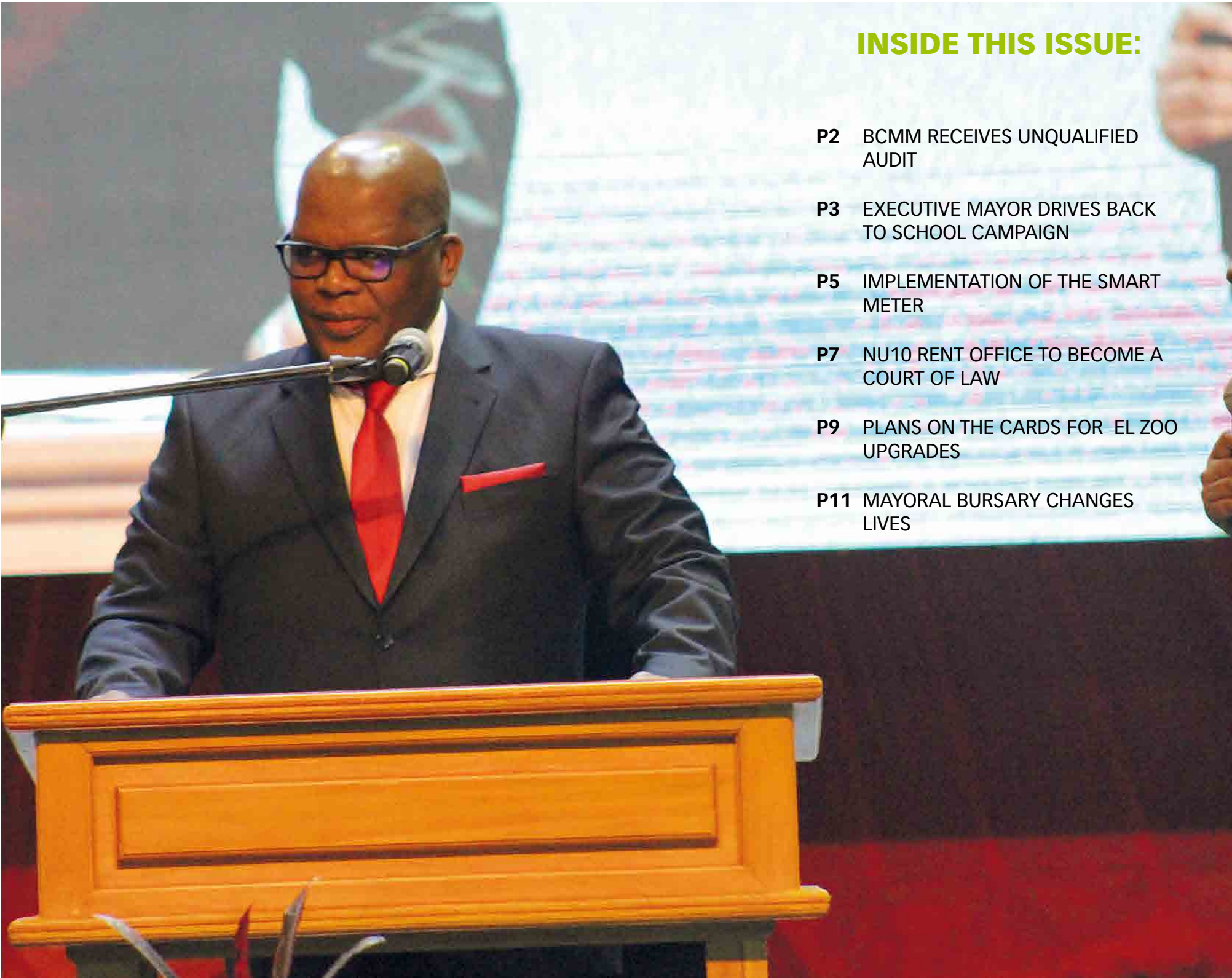


TOWARDS BECOMING A "WELL-GOVERNED CITY"

By Siphokazi Mrubata

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BCMM BOOKS FINALLY GET THE GREEN LIGHT

By Siphokazi Mrubata

The City's books are in good hands. This was confirmed after the City received its first unqualified audit opinion in several years for the 2016/17 financial year.

The City received its first unqualified audit opinion in several years for the 2016/17 fiscal year. BCMM Executive Mayor Councilor Xola Pakati alongside the City Manager Andile Sihlahla, took the opportunity in the form of a media briefing to share the heartening news of the City's upward looking state of financial affairs.

The briefing was held at the East London International Convention Center (EL ICC) Thursday 1 February.

This is indeed a big win for the city and a clear indication that governance and management in the city have taken a positive turn.

"We welcome the audit outcome as it means overall governance particularly financial management, institutional oversight, internal controls and administrative systems are gradually improving in our city,"

"The audit confirms that the city is under the hands of a capable council and competent administration," Said Pakati.

The unqualified audit opinion is an audit report that is issued by the Auditor General (AG) which determines that the financial records provided by the city are free of any misrepresentations.

In addition, an unqualified opinion indicates that the financial records have been maintained in accordance with the standards known as Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). This is the best type of report an organization can receive.

Having a clean bill of operational and financial

health indicates to investors and regulators that the administrative as well as political management is effective.

Other benefits of an unqualified report may include improved relationships with business partners such as lenders, customers and suppliers.

Pakati said, "Investors will easily come to our city when they see that this is a well governed and managed city, and this will help improve our economic fortunes.

It is also important to note that the audit opinion came with matters of emphasis. A point which was of great interest to members of the media that had been present at the press briefing, as was revealed in a question by Sithandiwe Velaphi a reporter from Isolezwe seeking clarity on whether the report came with findings.

Matters of emphasis are areas where the city should focus on in terms of strengthening its financial controls. These are areas that are of concern but are not strong enough to form part of the audit opinion.

One such area of emphasis is that of irregular expenditure. The City incurred an irregular expenditure to the amount of R287.3 million in the 2016/17 fiscal year.

Irregular expenditure happens when the supply chain processes are not properly followed. According to a report presented to council, most of the city's irregular spending was given rise by procurement that occurred outside the barometers of the supply chain management framework.

Such expenditure does not mean that money had been wasted or that fraud had been committed. However, it is an indicator of irregularities in

processes followed in the procurement of goods and services and a measure of the municipality's ability to comply with legislation relating to expenditure.

Despite the huge amount incurred in irregular expenditure it is a significant improvement from the R531.6 million incurred in the 2015/16 financial year.

In response to the challenge of irregular expenditure, the city has put in place stringent measures to strengthen oversight through an audit improvement plan.

Sihlahla gave an overview of how this plan will serve in management structures by highlighting how it will be monitored.

"The plan that has been developed will be monitored monthly by an audit committee that has been appointed by the political leadership."

"Management in totality will in every meeting look into progress made in as far as dealing with the audit outcomes," said Sihlahla.

Adding to that, management has set up a specialized task team called Operation Clean Audit in response to the findings of the weekly meetings.

Another issue of emphasis by AG was the City's debt impairment currently standing at R1.2 billion, which is mainly a result of the slow recovery of old consumer debt.

Pakati said that an aggressive revenue enhancement strategy had been developed whose key feature is the management of the debtor's book.

The overall audit outcome paints a picture of an institution that is stabilising with great potential to improve.



MAYOR DRIVES BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

50 pairs of shoes at Nobhotwe and Zimasa Primary Schools and in Qaqamba High School in Duncan Village

As part of asserting the municipality's vision of making education fashionable and implementing government's overall prioritisation of education as an apex.

The Executive Mayor Xola Pakati visited Masijongane Higher Primary School where he gave learners school shoes in Ndevana.

Pakati also visited schools in Mdantsane where he handed over 50 pairs of shoes at Nobhotwe and Zimasa Primary Schools and in Qaqamba High School in Duncan Village as well.

Speaking at the school, Pakati said "We know the plight of the kids in rural areas and it is not easy to have discouraged young people to attend school. As the Metro it is our mandate to make sure that kids from these areas are not disadvantaged when it comes to education."

On Tuesday 13 February, Pakati also handed over a mobile science laboratory to encourage learners to take up science at Sandisiwe High School in Mdantsane.

This was part of Standard Bank several initiatives to support budding and schools across the City

Speaking at the event, Pakati said, "Education is a powerful tool for youth development and is essential to transforming the economy.

"As the City, we are very proud to be part of the programme and we also take note of other challenges that you have," said Pakati.

"For education to create tangible future opportunities for our children, corporates need to collaborate with the government and communities to help pupils develop the skills they need to achieve their dreams," he said.



Executive Mayor Xola Pakati handing over a certificate to one of the bursary beneficiaries



2018 New year started on a very high note

MAYOR HANDS OVER BURSARIES TO BCM YOUTH

By Anga Mtongana

47 students ticked some boxes off on their New Year resolutions as the Mayoral Bursary Fund (MBF) awarded them an exceptional opportunity to enroll at institutions of higher learning.

27 of the 46 students are first-year students and the remaining 19 are on second and third levels of their respective qualifications.

Speaking to us Luvuyo Mafilika whom one of his bucket list plans for 2018 was to switch from College to University said that "during the interviews I told the panel that I don't regard myself as a College type which is why I applied for the MBF so that it makes my dream a reality."

Mafilika also spoke on behalf of the recipients, expressing their heartfelt gratitude and what this opportunity means for them.

"We are very thankful for this opportunity and we don't take it for granted as it takes us closer to our dreams."

"On behalf of all the recipients we promise to seize this opportunity and make the most of it because there are other children out there like

us who need these kinds of interventions, so it is our duty to make sure we sustain them by making sure we pass exceptionally well at school," added Mafilika.

Mafilika also passed on a message to the Executive Mayor and his delegation who made this all possible that, a blessed hand is the one that gives than the one that receives.

Ivy McAllister, a mother to one of the beneficiaries spoke on the role that the Mayoral Bursary Fund has played on both their own lives and children's lives as well.

"We are very grateful to the Executive Mayor, Councilors and panel for this act of greatness."

"It is very liberating to know there such interventions by government to better our children's lives with higher education, in light of unemployment and limited financial resources," added McAllister.

Executive Mayor Honorable Councillor Xola Pakati congratulated all the recipients, encouraging them to work to their maximum best and further emphasized on the importance of education.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which

we can use to change the world" Pakati quoted the words of the late President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela whose centenary we are celebrating this year.

"Education is a great essential tool in our programme of societal transformation. Through this Bursary Fund, we wish to touch as many young people as possible in order to change the decaying inter-generational poverty and to achieve this we need to track all previous beneficiaries and place them accordingly within the Metro," added Pakati.

Pakati further pleaded with private sector to invest in education stating that a properly educated mind is a liberated mind.

"We believe that funding education should be part of a security risk reduction strategy for all companies in the private sector" said Pakati.

The MBF that has funded 101 students from its inception in 2008 held its annual award ceremony on Friday, 26 January at the East London City Hall.

PLANS ON THE CARDS FOR EL ZOO UPGRADES



BCMM Zoo to get upgrades

Buffalo City newsletter scribe Zanda Booi sat down with Acting Senior Manager for Zoological and Marine Services Siani Tinley and Assistant Programme Manager of the Zoo, Alison Roux to chat about the turnaround strategy and capital projects in place that will help aid the East London Zoo.

Tinley said the strategy will look at four main issues that needs a comprehensive improvement within the zoo namely the animal welfare, security, infrastructure and staffing challenges.

In recent months, the Metro was confronted with a public outcry on allegations that animals at the EL Zoo were kept under unacceptable conditions.

Tinley acknowledged that some of the concerns raised by the public were justifiable but said plans to mitigate the situation have been underway since November 2017.

"In November 2017 the City recognised that the standard of the zoo needed to be addressed and as a result a report on these with recommendations and a proposed budget will be tabled to Council."

"An ethics committee and a security group have also been formed for the turnaround strategy," she added.

She said an animal welfare check was done by the SPCA in March 2017 and they have been at the premises on a regular basis and no further welfare issues have been raised. She further indicated that a study to compare the amount of hours that each animal needs and the man hours is in progress to

justify animal stay at the zoo. "The findings of the study will inform the decision to relocate other animals. The aim is for the husbandry hours of the animals to balance out with the man hours."

"We will also be assessing each animal's role in conservation and role in education to decide if it should be at the zoo. In addition, a veterinary assessment on every animal will be done to determine its needs."

As part of the animal welfare the zoo will relook the number of animals currently at the zoo to address enclosure sizes.

"We would rather give an animal a bigger enclosure than have more animals in captivity," said Tinley. "However, if any more animals are brought in, it will be to compliment an individual animal that needs a group but a thorough assessment will be done before the decision is made."

The City is also in the process of signing an MOU with the Pretoria National Zoological Gardens and Business Safari For You to be assisted with veterinary back up and protocol.

"In two years from now we aim to apply to the Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquaria (PAAZA) and see if the zoo will meet their operational standard," she added. Tinley expressed that the public's concerns are appreciated and they will complement the turnaround strategy.

She affirmed that the public will be given an opportunity to get involved through an organisation called Friends of the Zoo, a non-profit organisation that assists with aspects such as the injection of funds into the Zoo and bringing in volunteers.

We want to remind the public that Buffalo City has one of the most beautiful natural environments in the country and the Zoo compliments that environment. Speaking on capital projects, Assistant Programme Manager of the Zoo, Alison Roux said the projects are already in progress for this financial year. One of the projects is a R1.5 million double clear-vu security fence that will secure the zoo boundary in the area closest to the railway line will be installed.

She said project is 50% complete. Other projects include:

An installation of a new boundary fence at the lions and wolves' enclosure.

Upgrades on the wild dog enclosure that will include a new fence, new night quarters, the landscaping of the enclosure with a pond and elevated area, as well as an introduction enclosure

Upgrades of the primate enclosure

Roux said there are plans for a new Sungazer exhibit being developed for the 2019 financial year.

"This is a completely new enclosure to house the Sungazers as the zoo's flagship conservation species," said Roux.

Roux also mentioned that there will be another new feature at the zoo that will be the Green Iguana enclosure. "It is currently being designed and it will give the Iguana both an indoor and an outdoor area, the allocated budget is R75000," said Roux.

There will also be additions to the staff changing rooms. "They will separate the staff eating area from the changing/ablution area. The plans have been done and R100 000 is the budget.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SMART METER

By Tabisa Mntengwana

In an effort to improve revenue collection through its billing system, the City is rolling out a smart meter electricity reading program.

BCMM is currently implementing a pilot project on Electricity Smart Metering Technology that is

set to improve the accuracy and efficiency of domestic, industrial and commercial billing process.

This process will kick off with the industrial and commercial sections as the first phase and later in the project the domestic billing will kick off as phase two.

This project includes the electricity meter audit, changing the old meters to the new smart meters.

"We have picked up that many businesses in this City, in fact over 100, are using old meter systems that are outdated and ultimately cost their bottom line," Ngwenya.

The City is aiming at replacing at least 200 industrial and commercial sites as part of the pilot phase to be implemented in the 2017/ 2018 financial year. Thereafter the program will be rolled out to the masses.

This is a transversal contact (RT 15/2016) done by BCMM and is supported by the National Treasury.

The primary benefits of the project for the consumer includes accurate billing, better monitoring of electricity consumption through a Mobile App and completeness of monthly billing.

A Mobile App (SmartWire) has been developed for consumers to monitor their electricity consumption. The App gives the consumer to view their electricity consumption in a 30-minute interval.

In the later stage the City will have a USSD for easy access to consumers with queries. The City also has a control room (Intelligence Operating Centre) which is situated at the Munnifin building 3rd floor to deal with the roll out and implementation.

At least R59 000 will be spent in changing the old meters to the new smart system in the first phase. For more information on the kindly email the Project Manager Office on Smart_Metering_Query@buffalocity.gov.za

"We are tightening the screws and ensuring that the City is innovative, connected and productive in its approach to service delivery. In October we introduced an advanced prepaid vending system which enabled people to buy electricity in the luxury of their comfort and increased many vending areas.

"Now this platform is meant to supplement that and all these efforts that we are putting together to enable people to monitor their consumption, budget properly and ultimately be able to pay for services easily," Ngwenya.

***The project is coordinated internally by the Electricity, ICT and Finance Departments with Siya Peter as the Project Manager.

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRICITY SMART METERING TECHNOLOGY

The purpose of this notice is to inform all municipal business and domestic account holders in the Buffalo City Metropolitan area that the municipality has initiated a project to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the billing process. This project will include the electricity meter audit, changing of meter to latest technology. The primary benefits of this project are as follows:

FOR THE CONSUMER

- ACCURATE BILLING
- MONITOR ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION VIA MOBILE APP
- COMPLETENESS OF MONTHLY BILLING

FOR THE MUNICIPALITY

- ACCURATELY MONITOR DEMAND VS. SUPPLY
- ACCURATE MONTHLY BILLING
- IMPROVED TECHNICAL MONITORING

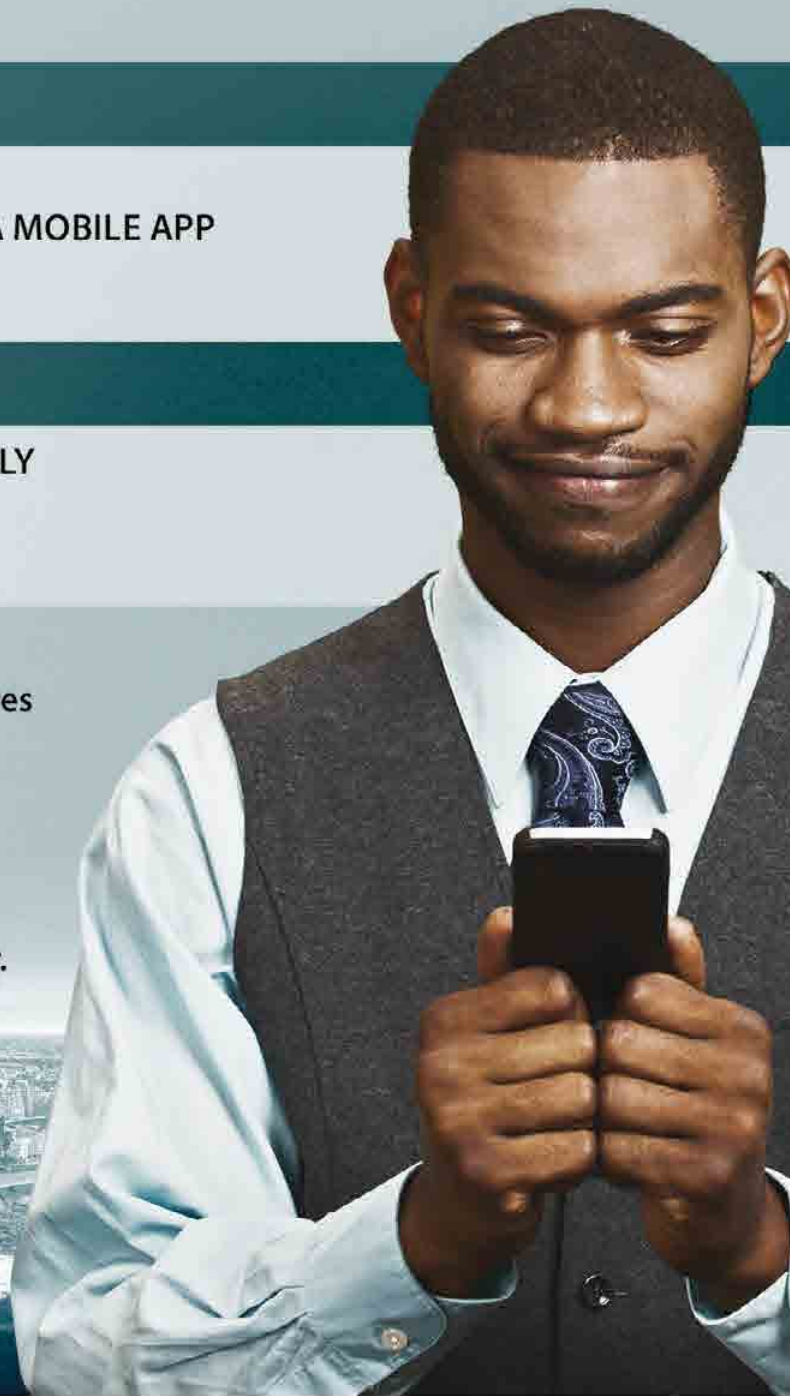
This project will be implemented in a phased approach. During the first phase, representatives from the municipality will be performing site visits in order to gather information and therefore all business and domestic customers are requested to cooperate with this process. Prior to the site visits there will be communication with each respective customer.



BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

Enquiries regarding this project may be directed to the PROJECT MANAGER:
via e-mail - Smart_Metering_Query@buffalocity.gov.za
via post - PO Box 522, East London, 5200

A. SIHLAHLA - CITY MANAGER



By Bathandwa Diamond

“the hub will be completed towards the end of the 2017/2018 financial year”

NEW BUSINESS HUB ON THE CARDS FOR FORT JACKSON CROSSING

Your popular spot to get your delicious smiley will be turn into a business hub that has an eatery and drive through.

A five million rand centre will be constructed to cater for the small business operating at the Fort Jackson crossing.

Buffalo City Xolelwa Majiza said the City has plans of transforming the area into clean environment to eat and do business.

“We are working with the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs and Small Business Development Department.”

The DSBD will contribute an amount of R 2.5 million and the City will contribute with another.

“The budget which is for the provision of infrastructure for informal businesses will be utilised for the construction of a small business hub that will be shared by all traders that are trading in the Fort Jackson crossing.”

She said the construction is expected to be completed towards the end of 2018.

“We anticipate that the hub will be completed towards the end of the year 2018 as we are still busy with the finalisation of the application to the Small Business Development Department.”

Outlining reasons for the project to hit a snag Majiza said there were a number of technical challenges.

“The project could not commence this year is because of a number of technical challenges that includes the issue of ownership of the land which is not owned by the City.”

“However, the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs has since committed to assist in fast tracking and unlocking the land issue.

The facility will have a drive thru, eating area in the form of a restaurant, conference facility or meetings rooms where traders will be able to hold their meetings and ablution facilities

An area that will accommodate them will be identified while the construction takes place.



new business hub to be built for hawkers

NU 10 rent office to be revamped into a Court of Law

MDANTSANE NU 10 RENT OFFICE TO BECOME A COURT OF LAW

By Bathandwa Diamond

After renovation at the NU 10 rent office people who infringe on municipal by law will be trailed and prosecuted there.

A budget of R3,2 million has been set aside to convert and renovate the NU 10 rent office into a complaint municipal court.

Initially the court was planned for the East London area however due to budget constraints the court premises were found in Mdantsane.

Speaking to us Deputy Head: Municipal Court Siphatho Handi said the budget constraints prompted his office to look for other alternatives as renting would have cost the City.

"The City's initial plan was to establish four courts but due to budgetary constraints we had to look for a municipal building to save as renting would have cost the City."

"We wanted the court to be in East London to share the same jurisdiction with magistrate court but we couldn't find a municipal building."

The four courts were to have been based in East London, Duncan Village, Mdantsane and King William's Town.

Council took a decision in 2012 after Buffalo City was declared as Metro and saw a need for such a court.

Handi said, "The idea behind establishing the courts was to reduce the burden and workload at the magistrate's court and give priority to offences

regarded as less important by the magistrate's courts in their day-to-day operations".

He mentioned the infringement of a municipal by-law; the violation of traffic regulations; the violation of any other legislation administered by the municipality and violation of any other legislation determined by the National Prosecutions Authority as the offences the court will be looking at.

The operation of the court will take effect in the 2018/2019 financial year starting in July 2018.

Handi says currently they are busy with the reviewing and rationalisation of by-laws.

"The Mayoral Committee has processed about five by-laws to be presented in Council for adoption as draft before taking them for public participation."

"We want the by-laws to be promulgated in July because when they are they become effective as laws once the laws are there the court can function."

The Metro is also looking at employing its own prosecutors as the City is "allowed appoint prosecutors operating on a delegated authority by the NPA under section 22 of NPA of 1992."

Asked if electricity theft will be part of the infringements trial at the court, Handi said electricity theft is a criminal case by law and would only be trailed in court of law.

However, he said offenders could be trailed at municipal court only when the City has an established City Police,

"Currently, the City has a Law Enforcement Unit and is in process of empowering them as City Police and once they have those powers to arrest people they appear in the court of law. Now their power is limited because when they arrest a person they have to wait for the police to take that person."



SUMMER SEASON - AN ENGINE DRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY

By Siphokazi Mrubata



Buffalo City summer season events have been identified as one of the strategies to stimulate local economy.

In a report prepared for Council by Head of Directorate for Economic Development and Agencies Noludwe Ncokazi, the report highlighted that the events come with numerous spinoffs for the city - those included a contribution towards growing the tourism sector, the ability to attract visitors, extend the visitor season, increase average spends and increase average length of stay.

The report comes after the City successfully hosted an incident free 2017 summer season events.

"One of the biggest successes of the festive season was the impact the events have on the people of the City," reads the report.

The report further states that hosting of the events had contributed significantly towards increasing visitor numbers to the Metro.

"Marketing of the events enhances awareness about the City and assisted with increased brand exposure."

Furthermore, BCM received an extensive media coverage estimated at R35 million from radio, television, print and social media.

The events also help with job creation with local

businesses benefiting immensely as all goods and services that were used to stage the events were sourced from local suppliers, by providing a chance for local artists to showcase skills, talents and products, and improving social cohesion.

"Approximately 250 local vendors displayed their wares at the events. It is estimated that at least 1059 short term jobs were created as a result of hosting the events during the season."

Over 200 local artists were given an opportunity to showcase their talent throughout the festive season.

The City hosted a total of eleven events which include The Switching- on of the lights (KWT and EL), BCMM Carnivals (KWT, EL and Mdantsane), Berlin November, Cruel Summer, Buyelekhaya African Festival, London Roots, Metro FM Heatwave, EQonce home coming, Mdantsane Reunion and the Countdown Music festival.





CITY CASHES IN ON ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Millions worth of business were brought into the City during the ruling party's birthday celebrations held at the Buffalo City Stadium on January 18.

During this period Buffalo City Metro was productive in all aspects cashing in on a projected amount of R150 million.

The ANC was celebrating its 106 anniversary.

Over 200 000 party supporters flocked into the City even neighbouring towns were experiencing economic boost.

Head of Communication Samkelo Ngwenya said both formal and informal businesses benefitted immensely on the event.

"Street vendors packed the city centre and the beach front was a hive of activity with vendors selling party regalia, hawkers, car washers and car guards also cashed in."

In terms of tourism, the sector raked in a lot as well.

"There was an unprecedented exploration of tourism, hospitality, accommodation, transportation and leisure sectors."

"We were able to expand our economic base from the benefits of its tourism outlook through promotion and beneficiation of sector diversity and the economic integration which maximised the potential of both formal and informal sectors."

Ngwenya said the retail stores, hotels, taxis

and buses, petrol stations, businesses, rental and accommodation establishments were the biggest winner with "people were renting out their cars and many rented out their houses."

The economic spin-offs stretched beyond Buffalo City, and were felt on the East Coast at Chintsa, as well as the Sunshine Coast at Port Alfred.

Ngwenya also pointed out the following:

- The event has given the City more belief on ongoing programs on the capacity to strengthen capital investment into the transport infrastructure network, as it will require development, integration

The issue of a bigger multipurpose venue that is able to accommodate the numbers that were in the City is just but one

The Metro Growth and Development Strategy is definitely not an accident of history but a conscious and deliberate strategic perspective that outlines the transformative and developmental agenda of the City, because it talks to the manner in which Buffalo City must look like in years to come

We further experienced an unprecedented profiling of institutional image and corporate outlook, which portrayed a culture of governance that gives confidence to our social partners and the people of a well-managed and governed City which distinguishes itself from the rest.



By Luxole Komani

ROAD UPGRADES ON-GOING, BUT MORE MONEY NEEDED

“An amount of R6.5 billion will go to resurfacing the metro’s 1600km tarred roads and R1.2 billion to maintain gravel roads that is 1600km in length”

R320 million has been set aside for upgrading various roads throughout the Metro.

The work is scheduled to kick-off from March until December 2018.

Buffalo City’s Portfolio Head for Infrastructure Services Councillor Ncedo Kumbaca met with media houses on Thursday 08 February at the EL City Hall New Council Chamber to outline the plans on the road infrastructure maintenance.

This is part of the Metro’s intensive campaign of Turning the City into a Construction Site which began last year.

Addressing the media Kumbaca said, “When we started the term we made a commitment to the people of the City that we want to turn the Metro into a construction site in pursuit that we want Buffalo City to be in the same level as other cities in terms of quality and infrastructure.”

“This plan talks to fixing roads in the suburbs as well, also this plan will look at the roads in the townships as we all know that most of the roads in the townships have been gravel we are now trying to turn that situation around.”

The Metro plans to improve accessibility and mobility for rural areas as well. “Roads in rural areas are also part of our plan, people in the rural areas also deserved to have their lives changed for the better.”

Kumbaca also formally introduced the appointed contractors who will carry out the intensive work will be formally introduced to the Ward Councillors.

Earlier that day, Kumbaca also presented the mayoral committee with a report revealing that the City needs R7.5 billion to fix its ailing road infrastructure.

In the report, he said 41% of BCM’s roads and storm water infrastructure was in a poor condition.

“The Metro’s road network is old and rapidly deteriorating and has passed its design life.”

The report stated that an amount of R6.5 billion will go to resurfacing the metro’s 1600km tarred roads and R1.2 billion to maintain gravel roads that is 1600km in length.

He also added that the City is also working with other spheres of government as well. He said the Metro is also in talks with Public Works and Sanral working on two major projects that are more than a billion rand, that includes Breidbach Interchange and King William’s Town Bypass that will help change the face of KWT as part of Buffalo City.



BCMM to embarks on MPAC public hearings

By Mzukisi Matshela

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality will conduct road shows in and around the City to give an opportunity to the public to make representations about the recent Annual Report which was tabled and accepted by the council late last month.

The purpose of the hearings is to provide an opportunity for departments to account on work done in the previous financial year and also provide feedback on issues that were inadequate in the 2014/2015 annual report.

Community members are invited into the sessions to listen on how the institution has spent its budget in the last financial year.

Details for planned public hearings are as follows:



20-02-2018 Tues	Departmental Engagements Infrastructure Services; Human Settlements; Finance	Mdantsane Indoor Stadium (Open)
21-02-2018 Wed	Departmental Engagements External Stakeholders submissions, (civic organizations, trade unions, political parties, organized businesses and organs of state; Health and Public Safety& Emergency Services; Municipal Services	Clement Kadalie Hall (Open)
22-02-2018 Thurs	Departmental Engagements Corporate Services; Spatial & Development Planning; Economic Development & Agencies; Institutional Operation& Civic Relations	War Memorial Hall (Open)
23-02-2018 Fri	Departmental Engagements Executive Mayor, Speaker, Chief Whip & City Manager; Executive Support Services	City Hall (Open)

BCMM CHANGING LIVES

By Anga Mtongana

THE MAYORAL BURSARY TRULY IS A GATEWAY TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

"Just when I thought of throwing the towel and give up on all the hopes and plans I had for my turbulent future, Buffalo City Metro came to my rescue."

28-year-old Thembokuhle Hlophekazi whose life changed for better after making the list of the shortlisted candidates for the BCMM Mayoral Bursary since its prosperous inception in 2008, remembered.

Hlophekazi refers to himself as a young humble and conservative man whom unlike many did not grow up with a silver spoon in his mouth. He was born in Tshabo Village, a small area in the outskirts of Berlin and attended his Primary at Tshabo Primary and High School at Zanozuko Senior Secondary School, both local schools.

Hlophekazi speaks of his childhood as a roller-coaster ride, with many downs than ups. "I finished my matric in 2006 and my late mother strived to the ends to put me through school for my first year at the University of Fort Hare in 2007."

"However, the promise of a better life trembled when she passed in 2007 leaving me with little as a hope to further my studies. Coming from a family of seven, painful sacrifices had to be made," he said.

Adding to that Hlophekazi said, there could never have been a convenient time for the bursary to come to my rescue than when it did, because through it I was able to enrol for my second year in B. Com in Economics and Business Management.

Explaining how he heard about the bursary, he said that his oldest sister saw an advert on the Daily Dispatch and advised him to apply even though he didn't see any light from it.

"Just apply, you never know how fortunate you might get. You have nothing to lose but a lot more to gain," he recalls his sister saying.

Hlophekazi said that he is grateful to his sister for the advice and immensely grateful to BCMM for the opportunity to turn his life around.

"The Mayoral Bursary truly is a gateway to a successful life as it fully paid for all my tuition fees, daily meals and textbooks expenses. The only thing that was left for me to do was to focus on my books and complete my degree in record time, as I did."

"One of my biggest fears was failing which would inevitably result in the bursary kicking me out and that fear worked very well for me because I worked harder each day."

Adding to that Hlophekazi said that the bursary did not only put me through school but also helped me by securing my future through providing me with work-based experienced as I was taken as an intern in 2012 to 2014 at the BCMM Local Economic Development unit (LED).

"Following that milestone, I was placed as a temporary employee at the Mdantsane Business Support Centre from June 2015 and gradually permanently employed from November 2016 as a Youth Development Officer."

"BCMM truly is a City with endless possibilities. I will forever be utterly grateful for the immense contribution towards reshaping my future," he added.

The Mayoral bursary fund is an annual own funded programme that seeks to demonstrate the Metro's commitment to investing youth development practices through financial assistance to deserving candidates.

It covers tuition, registration fees, prescribed

books, study material and accommodation for candidates studying predetermined scarce skills in the fields of Engineering, Finance, Planning and Economic Services, Information Technology as well as Agriculture.

The fund further provides beneficiaries with an opportunity to participate in experiential learning placements within the Metro.

From its roll-out in 2008 the bursary has a total of 49 graduates including three permanently employed staff, two temporarily employed staff and six interns employed by the Metro and many others leading successful lives across the province.



Thembokuhle Hlophekazi former beneficiary of the Mayoral Bursary

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ON HOW TO PURCHASE OR LEASE LAND

Who can apply to purchase /lease land in Buffalo City Metro?

Any member of the public.

What process do a person need to follow when applying to purchase/lease?

When a member of the public wishes to make an application to purchase / lease Municipal owned property, they need to first go to the Municipal Survey Department which is located on the first floor of the engineering building to obtain what is called a **"locality plan"** of the property that they wish to apply for.

In order to obtain this locality plan, the member of the public needs to know the **Erf number** of the property they wish to apply for and should they not know the Erf number of the property, then they **need to explain clearly** to the official that assists them, **precisely where this property is located** – and with the help of aerial photography, the official will be able to assist them in order to identify the Erf number of the property for the member of the public (proposed applicant) and print the required locality plan for the proposed applicant.

The member of the public (proposed applicant) must then proceed to the Municipal Property Management Department (formerly known as Land Administration) – who will confirm the ownership of the property for the proposed applicant. Should it be established that Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality own the property that the proposed applicant has identified, then an application can be proceeded with.

Now – the proposed applicant has now become an "applicant" after concluding the provided application form by the Property Management Department and attaching the locality plan that the applicant obtained from the Survey department before proceeding to the Property Management department. **Furthermore, a certified copy of the applicant's identity document** needs to also be attached to the application form and locality plan.

Now, the application goes through the **'circulation process'** – whereby the application is circulated to the relevant Municipal departments, as well as the Ward Councillor and Telkom for comments. On receipt of all these requested comments being obtained by the Property Management department, a **valuation** is then requested for the land being applied for, from our Valuations Department. On receipt of the requested Valuation by the Property Management department, a report is compiled and submitted to the Spatial Planning and Development Portfolio Committee for consideration of the application, prior to proceeding to the Mayoral Committee and thereafter to Council for an approval / non approval.

In the event of Council approving (resolving) the application – the proposal will be advertised in the local media for a period of 21 days inviting objections thereto. Should no objections be lodged during this time period (as mentioned in the newspaper advertisement) then the next step of the process will be proceeded with.

Before commencing with the next step, it must be noted that Council would have approved either by Private Treaty or by Public Tender to sell / lease the municipal owned property (this fact would have been included when advertising for objections in the local media). In the event that Council resolved to sell / lease by private treaty to the applicant, as long as all the relevant implementation processes required, have been concluded – i.e. The subdivision and rezoning of the property, a Deed of Sale / Deed of Lease can be entered into between the applicant and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

In the event of Council resolving to sell / lease the Municipal owned land by Public Tender, then all the relevant Supply Chain Management processes of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality will need to be concluded, before this Municipal owned property is awarded to the winning bidder.

MUNICIPALITY ACTS SWIFTLY AGAINST LAND INVADERS

After obtaining a court interdict and a demolition order, the Municipality acted swiftly to prevent land invasion on the R72, near the East London airport.

Following reports of a land invasions which surfaced in January, the Municipality had to follow the laws of the country strictly in order to act decisively.

This empowered police to be able to arrest anyone trespassing on the land and prosecute them successfully.

The Municipality also erected public notices around the area and as per law, the Court Order was read out to those who were found in the area and they were given 10 minutes to disperse.

Failure to do so would have led to arrests.

According to the Court order, anyone commencing or continuing to erect/ occupy the farm number 924 area in East London is interdicted and restrained. The order also empowers the Police to take all necessary and reasonable steps to dismantle or demolish any structure erected illegally in the property.

The Municipality law enforcement agencies, together with the Public Order Police monitored the situation whilst patrolling in the area.

Government policy and subsequent action on land invasion issues is very clear particularly on demarcated land.

"We are committed in protecting our natural resources including the protected forest and ensuring that national government is able to expand the East London airport in order to grow the City socio-economically and attract investment towards developing the City," said Municipal Communications Manager, Samkelo Ngwenya.

"We strongly condemn land invasions and we would like to send a strong warning to those who undertake this act that land invasion is a crime – and like all crimes, the law is very clear on what results could be, including demolitions," Ngwenya added.

"Any rumors that the occupation of the land around the airport has been sanctioned by government is totally untrue."

"Council is awaiting recommendations of the national task team that was set up to come with solutions on the issue, and serious action will be taken thereafter," he added.

BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

FARM 924 EAST LONDON

You are hereby interdicted and restrained from commencing and or continuing to unlawfully erect and/ or occupy and or permit to be occupied any structure on Farm 924, East London (as per Court Order obtained on the 19th of January 2018 with case no. EL 62/18).

The Sheriff of the Court with the assistance of the BCMM Police and/ or the South African Police Services is empowered, by this Order of the Court, to take all necessary and reasonable steps to dismantle and/ or demolish any structure erected on this property in contravention of the Court Order.

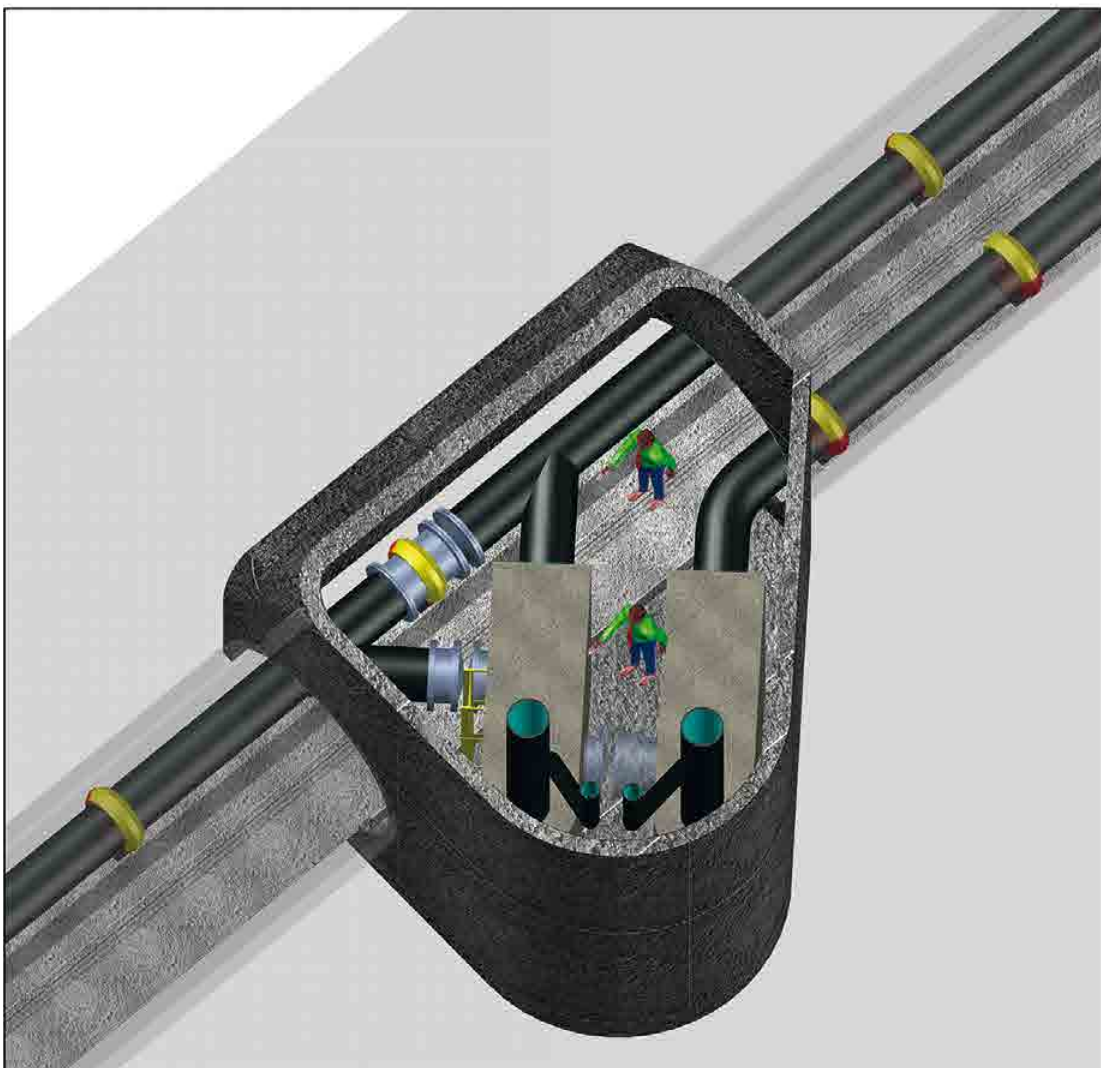
Ngomhla we 19 kaJanuwari 2018 inkundla ikhuphe isigunyaziso esithintela naye nabanina ekubeni agxumeke okanye ahlale kule nombolo mhlaba ingu Farm 924, East London.

Onothimba kunye namapolisa esixeko se Buffalo City Metro banikwe amagunya okuthatha naliphi inyathelo, kuquka ukuchithwa noku tshatyalaliswa kwezakhiwo ezakhiwe ngokungekho mthethweni kulomhlaba.



METRO ON TOP OF WASTE WATER INITIATIVE

By Nomatshawe Dube



ENLARGED VIEW OF TUNNEL SHAFT AND BASE INTERSECTION



ENLARGED VIEW IN TUNNEL SHAFT

BCM has embarked on an extensive re-capitalisation programme in addressing challenges of ageing infrastructure and non-revenue generating water.

The City is currently in a process of constructing a tunnel for the diversion of the central wastewater treatment works to Reeston as well as developing a regional waste water treatment works in Reeston.

The R101 million regional WWTW will cater for Reeston, the Central Drainage region incorporating Wilsonia, Dawn, Summerpride, Scenery Park, Haven Hills, Eureka, Alphendale, Amalinda, Sheridan and parts of Buffalo Flats.

Ward 13 Councillor Ncumisa Mekane said her Ward has been growing and the Reeston waste water treatment plant was unable to handle the capacity.

"We still have new housing projects that are coming up and some have already started so the construction of the plant to increase capacity will help improve infrastructure of the City and that of the ward."

Speaking about the project Acting General Manager Sandile Sojini said the sewerage systems in the city were operating well beyond their designed lives.

"The necessity for a regional waste water treatment works at Reeston is as a result of the Department of Water Affairs ruling that no further development should be allowed within the Central Drainage Zone until the diversion to Reeston Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) had been accomplished."

"This is due to Central WWTW currently being substantially overloaded and its proximity to human settlements."

One of the developments that were put on hold was the Duncan Village Redevelopment Initiative housing projects.

Sojini said the construction on Phase 1 commenced in May 2012 and consisted of the Wilsonia interceptor sewers and the inverted outfall siphon.

"An amount of R18, 8 million has been spent on phase 1 and the municipality is looking at going to the market to obtain funding for the tunnel phase that will cost R350 million."

A gravity system will be used to divert effluent from Central WWTW to Reeston WWTW and that will include an outfall sewer from the Central WWTW to the inlet of the tunnel.

The 3.0 metre diameter tunnel and an inverted siphon from the outlet of the tunnel to the Reeston WWTW.

He said phase 2 will comprise of the balancing of the work to connect Central WWTW through to Reeston WWTW and the existing Wilsonia interceptors.

"This phase includes both the civil works and the construction of the tunnel, Interceptor of current outfall sewers (A) and gravity outfall to (B) tunnel inlet portal, tunnel (B) to (C) with a single outfall sewer of 630 millimeters diameter High-density polyethylene (HDPE) on pedestals, Central Shaft (C) where flow from Wilsonia Interceptor and Scenery Park Outfall enter the tunnel down a 30 metres shaft, the tunnel (C) to (D) has two outfall sewers of 630 millimeters diameter HDPE."

He added that the flows can be split so that the domestic and industrial flows can be taken separately to Reeston WWTW for separate treatment of the domestic sewage should the Metro institute a water reuse strategy in future.

Phase 3 stage of the project incorporates the closure of Central WWTW and can only be implemented once the upgrade to Reeston WWTW and Phase 2 is complete

However, he said "It is possible to divert some of the effluent from Central WWTW to Reeston WWTW. The volume diverted is dependent on the capacity of Reeston WWTW and that it was also possible to only divert the industrial waste flow from Wilsonia to Reeston WWTW which will help alleviate capacity constraints at Central WWTW."

The project is anticipated to be completed in two and a half years.

STANDARD BANK IRONMAN 70.3 SOUTH AFRICA

By Mzukisi Matshela

IRONMAN
70.3 SOUTH AFRICA
BUFFALO CITY



Executive Mayor Xola Pakati getting the athletes ready for the start

South African born triathlon athletes Matt Trautman and Jeanni Seymour clinched their winner's medals at the annual Standard Bank Ironman 70.3 South Africa at the Orient Beach in East London on Sunday 28 January.

Trautman won with a record breaking time of 4:09:53, Seymour won with a record breaking of 4:32:23, and is the first South African woman to win in the history of the event.

This event allows both men and women to compete for the ultimate prize of becoming ironman champions respectively, the race kicked off with swimming then move on to bikes from East London to Berlin and back for final showdown.

With the race tightly contested coming into transition two – with just minutes separating the male pro's – it was set to be a nail-biting finish. With the Standard Bank IRONMAN 70.3 South Africa known for its tough run course, it was still anyone's title to take. Trautman fought to maintain his lead after coming back from a fatal back injury that kept him out of contention last year.

With the race being tightly contested for third between Vaquera and Cheetham, the rest of the podium seemed set early in the run. Seymour seemed to have secured her first ever Standard Bank IRONMAN 70.3 South Africa bragging rights. With Pallant coming in second despite her superb run. The PRO female race was certainly one to remember.

Matt Trautman and Jeanni Seymour triumphed in both man and women race respectively to complete a SA affair, it was a dream win for Trautman as this was a bittersweet pill as he was injured last year and could not compete in 2017 race, as for Seymour she became the only woman in history for SA to win the race.

In all the competition was graced with more than 2400 athletes who embarked on one of the world's toughest sports championship.

This was a successful event as the City enjoyed economic spinoffs from visitors in the fields of hospitality and retail industries as this was an international event.



Buffalo City

EAST LONDON . BHISHO . MDANTSANE . KING WILLIAM'S TOWN
EASTERN CAPE . SOUTH AFRICA

BC TOURISM EVENTS



EXPERIENCE BUFFALO CITY.
Don't miss the fun... come join us.

2018



08-11
FEBRUARY

CRICKET
Sunfoil 4-day Series
Warriors -vs- Bizhub

14
FEBRUARY

VALENTINE'S DAY
Valentine's Cabaret - Bonza Bay
Rotary Anns

14-16
FEBRUARY

TRIAL RUN
RB Africa Wild Coast Challenge
2018

24
FEBRUARY

BOXING
1st MMA & Boxing Fight Night



EVENTS CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2018

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT	VENUE
02-04 Feb 2018 Fri-Sun	EQUESTRIAN: Summer Show & SANESA Q1	072 532 1574 border@equestrianclub@gmail.com	Border Equestrian Club (Gonubie Farmer's Hall).
03 February 2018 Saturday	RUNNING: BUCO Tomato Trot & Cycle 2018	043 743 7757	Lilyfontein School
03 February 2018 Saturday	Open Auditions: High Voltage Burlesque Show, Auditions are for vocalists and dancers.	023 305 1134	Pilates for Life (Epsom Rd, Stirling) Time: 14h00
03 February 2018 Saturday	Entertainment: The Ha!Man and Joke Debaere	072 611 2367	Under the Trees Time: 17h00 Entry: R50, kids R25
04 February 2018 Sunday	Entertainment: Miniature Train Rides		Gonubie Farmer's Hall Time: 10h30 - 13h30
08 February 2018 Sunday	Entertainment: Steve Hofmeyr	Guild Theatre 043 743 0704	Guild Theatre Time: 20h00 Ticket: R140 to R160pp
08-10 Feb 2018 Thurs-Sat	ROWING: RMB Buffalo Regatta	082 772 8408	Buffalo River Time: 06h00
08-11 Feb 2018 Thurs-Sun	CRICKET: Sunfoil 4day Series: Warriors vs bizhub, Highveld Lions	Buffalo Park 043 743 7757	Buffalo Park Entry: Free
11 February 2018 Sunday	RUNNING: Border Master's Marathon	084 291 9029	Winterstrand to Buffs Club Time: 06h00 Entry: R100 pp
14 February 2018 Wednesday	Valentine Cabaret. The Rotary Club of Oudtshoorn ANNS are holding a fundraiser for: Greensleeves Children Trust & Guardians of Hope. Wine and canapés will be provided.	Charne Pendock 082 772 4621	The Arts Theatre Time: 19h00 Entry: R130pp
14 February 2018 Wednesday	Valentine's Open-Air Cinema. An evening under the stars with the stars of the film (s). What to bring: pillows, blankets, and picnic basket.		Areena Riverside Resort Time: 19h00
14 February 2018 Wednesday	Entertainment: Roc de Vlieg. It's his day, come and enjoy an evening of some of the most iconic music of the 60s and 70s.	Guild Theatre 043 743 0704	Guild Theatre Time: 20h00
14-16 Feb 2018 Wed-Fri	TRAIL RUN: RB Africa Wild Coast Challenge 2018	043 735 2165	Mazeppa Bay Hotel and finishing at Nahoon.
16 Feb 2018 Friday	CRICKET: T20 International Women's T20	Buffalo Park 043 743 7757	Buffalo Park
16 Feb 2018 Friday	Music Entertainment: Night of Soul Music featuring: Jude Ringo Madlingozi, Belusile Mauga, Mali & NJ Kunene.		Orient Theatre Time: 19h00
17-18 Feb 2018 Sat-Sun	Bridal Fair: Dream Designs Bridal Fair	072 645 0608	Hemingways Mall
24 February 2018 Saturday	BOXING: 1st MMA & Boxing Fight Night		Orient Theatre Time: 16h00 Entry: R120pp
25 February 2018 Sunday	CRICKET: CSA Women T20: Border Women vs Free State	Buffalo Park 043 743 7757	Police Park
26 February 2018 Monday	Business Meeting: Global Business Solutions together with Border-Kei Chamber of Business bring you EMPLOYMENT LAW	Zuki Ngani 043 721 1030	EL Golf Club Time: 07h00

ASK TOURISM FOR
NEXT MONTH'S
EVENTS

GEOGRAPHICAL NAME CHANGE COMING TO BCM

By Anga Mtongana

The geographical name change process is underway in Buffalo City as the Eastern Cape Province Geographical Name Committee (ECPGNC) is currently conducting consultation hearings to afford residents and opportunity to participate in the process.

Four consultations were held in the Metro following a plea that was proposed by the public of the Metro during the public hearings that were held last year.

The consultation process began on Monday 12 February in King Williams Town, Bisho and Dimbaza and continued on Tuesday 13 in Berlin and Zwelitsha then subsequently continued at Nxarhuni on Monday 19. The last consultation was held in East London and Kidd's Beach on Monday 26 February.

Project Coordinator: Mzodidi Kwinana stated that the consultations sat to afford members of the community an opportunity to partake in the process as well as propose names for their respective locations.

"The objective of the public consultations is to interact and consult with various stakeholders on the issues of geographical name change and furthermore inform and bring awareness to the public so that they can have input on the geographical name change processes.

"During the consultations members were given applications to fill out detailing their proposed names and reasons behind the names."

"The consultations that have sat to this point have received tremendous attention from the people as they came in numbers to attend which means that we will receive full cooperation from the communities," said Kwinana.

Kwinana also confirmed that after the consultations have sat the District Geographical Name Change Council (DGNC) will conduct public hearings where the proposed names will be discussed and agreed upon.

He said the names will be taken to Provincial Geographical Name Change Council (PGNC) for further approval and later to National Geographical Name Change Council (NGNC) for implementation.

"Further communication on the process will be communicated in due course as we have to ensure due diligence in concluding the campaign," said Kwinana.



BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

REFUSE		East London	043 721 1983
		Mdantsane	043 705 9901
		Bhisho	043 604 8560
WATER		East London	043 705 9234/5/6/9256
		Mdantsane	043 705 9860/1
		KWT	043 604 8526/8590
ELECTRICITY		East London	043 505 5683
DISASTER MANAGEMENT		East London	043 705 9029 / 9088 043 743 7118
POTHOLES		East London	043 705 9220/9223
		Mdantsane	043 705 9850
		KWT	040 654 0305
FIRE		East London	043 705 9000

**CALL CENTRE
086 111 3017**

BCMM IS CALLING ON ITS RESIDENTS TO USE WATER WISELY AND SPARINGLY IN ORDER TO AVOID A POSSIBLE WATER CRISIS. BCMM COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER USAGE RESTRICTIONS



SAVE WATER NOW!

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL IT IS THE LAST DROP
YONGA AMANZI • SPAAR WATER

PLEASE REDUCE YOUR WATER USAGE IMMEDIATELY



Take a shower of 5 minutes or less
SAVES UP TO 70 LITRES PER SHOWER



Install a water-saving toilet flush system
SAVES UP TO 700 LITRES EACH YEAR



Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth
SAVES UP TO 20 LITRES PER DAY

Close taps properly. Fix leaking taps, pipes and toilets. Only flush your toilet when necessary. Re-use your bath and shower water in the garden.

FIX YOUR LEAKS & REPORT MUNICIPAL WATER LEAKS TO BCMM CALL CENTRE 086 111 3017

EAST LONDON | BHISHO | KING WILLIAM'S TOWN | MDANTSANE
www.buffalocitymetro.gov.za



BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY