

METRO VOICE



October 2021

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Mayor Pakati promises... A better tomorrow

BY BATHANDWA DIAMOND

"Tomorrow will bring more joy."

These were the concluding remarks by the Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Councillor Xola Pakati when delivering the 2021 State of the City Address under the theme Hope, Resilience and Recovery, A City Hard at Work.

Pakati was accounting to residents of the Metro on how the Municipality had carried its mandate whilst unveiling new plans by the Council on fast tracking services under an adopted R10 billion budget. He cited a conscious decision the Council implemented at the start of its term to set up a Development Agency and also turn the City into a construction site to attract investments and create jobs.

The Metro's Development Agency has since been undertaking development initiatives namely the Water World Upgrade and Expansion, Court Crescent Development, Integrated Beach Front Programme, Inner City Safety Programme, Business Improvement Districts and the Mdantsane Eco Park Upgrade. These have created over 600 stable jobs.

In making the City viable and investor friendly, more efforts have been made in rehabilitating roads and transport infrastructure. "When we assumed many thought the stop-start construction that had been happening at Fleet and Oxford Streets will continue; we arrived, we upgraded and widened the roads and they are now convenient transport route for all in our City," he said. "We surfaced internal roads in Mdantsane as part of the R444 Million roads upgrade project and this work is continuing."

In June, Pakati officially launched the R460 Million Settlers Way R72 and Military Road, a

multi-million-rand project which is a 7.6 km stretch that seeks to upgrade the East London's economic hub's existing road Settlers Way from the airport intersection to Fleet Street. BCM has purchased its own road construction fleet in order to build internal capacity and to consistently maintain rural roads. He also commended business investor confidence shown by both locally organised and informal businesses as well as international companies.

"Over the past four years, the Mercedes Benz

South Africa investment in their factory expansion and a new plant to prepare for the W206 model has also contributed to the fairly consistent investment levels in the City. The company has invested R10 Billion in the city over the past 4 years in preparation to produce the new C-Class model which will run from this year to 2027."

Over R630 million have been spent on upgrading and refurbishment electricity infrastructure to ensure reliability and consistency of supply.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>



“For many residents of our Metro today is better than yesterday and tomorrow will bring more joy than today” - Pakati

>> CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

In the next financial year, the Metro will spend R18 Million electrifying an additional 400 formal households and 600 informal dwellings. “Over the years we have spent an amount of

R64 Million on informal settlement electrification and we will continue to electrify qualifying informal settlements with 1500 dwellings targeted for electrification in the next three years,” he said.

Around 3200 formal households

and 2629 informal dwellings have been electrified to ensure reliability and consistency of supply.

With regards to water and sanitation, the City continues to provide a stable water and sanitation service supply to all the industries that are present in Buffalo City.

“We want the people of the Metro to always have a reliable and clean water supply and this is why we invested an amount of R340 million for our water projects since the start of term with an additional budget of R41 Million allocated for the current financial year.” “The Metro has erected communal water points for informal settlements and rural areas giving water supply access to 2500 households. 98 percent of the people in Buffalo City have access to water but we are continuing to deliver water through water tankers to those communities that do not have a water supply.”

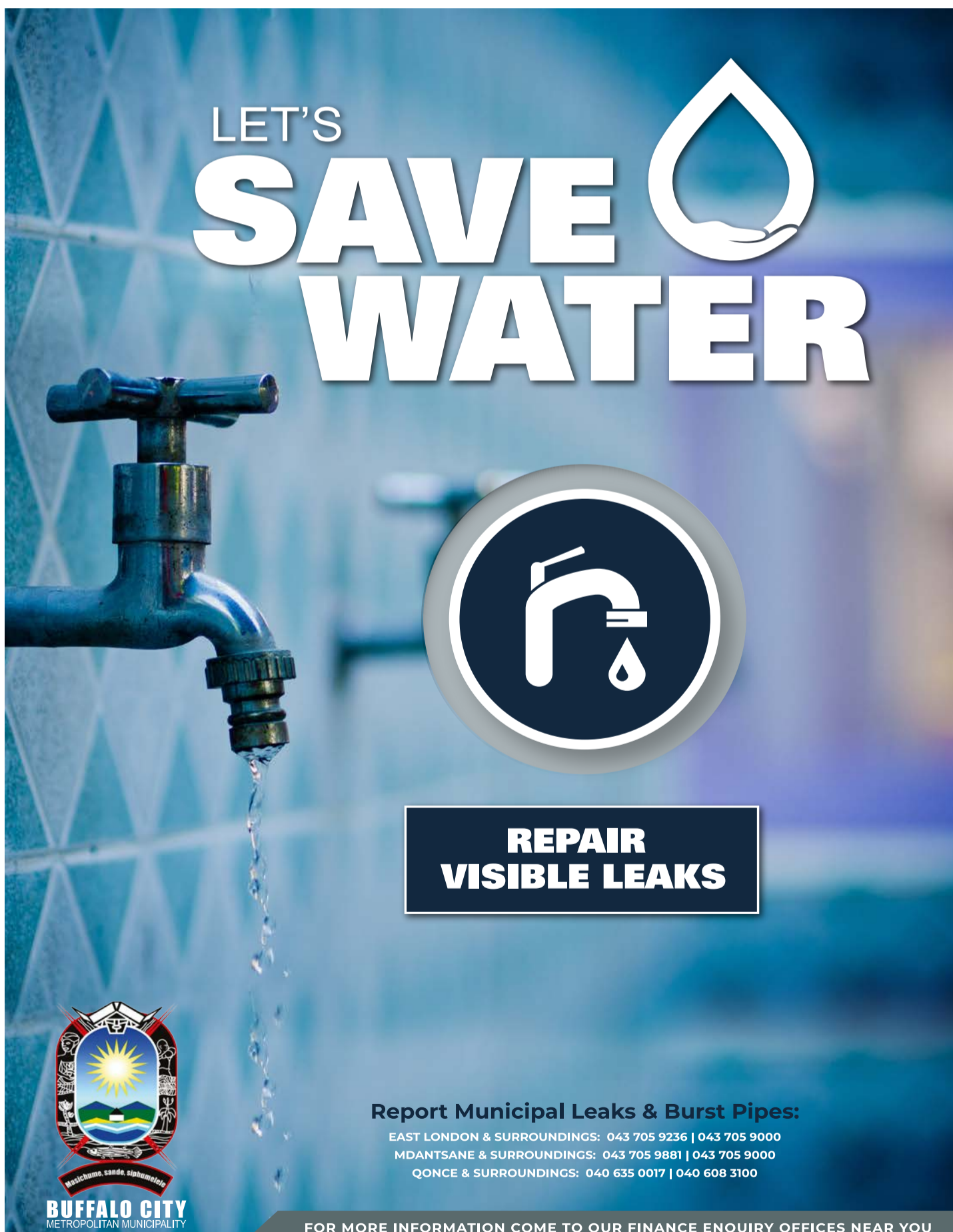
Since the start of the term, the Metro has spent R82 Million for sewer reticulation and the upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Works in Reeston and eQonce.

The Tunnel Sewer Diversion of the Central Wastewater Treatment Works to Reeston is estimated at R1.4 Billion.

Pakati indicated that the completion of the project will enable densified human settlements in the North West Corridor and will allow for the Duncan Village Redevelopment project to go full steam ahead. Already 931 housing units have been built in Reeston and handed over to beneficiaries from Duncan Village with the development of Temporary Relocation Areas in Ziphunzana and Mtsotso

“Over the years we have installed 21 370 VIP toilets in rural areas spending an amount of 250 million. We have also completed 150 seats of new Ablution facilities in informal settlements ever since the start of the term and have employed 540 Caretakers under EPWP for these toilets,” he said.

Coming to housing in the City, Pakati said: “Since the start of our term in 2016, working with the Provincial Department of Human Settlements, we have built and handed over 8 930 houses and 11 367 serviced sites to the people of Buffalo City. In the next financial year, we will be handing over around 1600 houses and 800 serviced sites.”



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BCM Executive Mayor, Cllr Xola Pakati inspecting the Qumza Highway.



Changing the face of Mdantsane for the better

BY LUXOLE BOYA

In the last few years, the township of Mdantsane has transformed into thriving, investor friendly living area due to several interventions by the Metro.

Through Municipal strategic catalytic developmental projects, the township has seen businesses and franchise investments showing confidence by committing projects.

The first major catalyst factor has been the revamping and upgrading of the Qumza Highway which has beautified Mdantsane in a way previously unimaginable.

This has seen the road widened to accommodate four lanes with 1,5m sidewalks, intersections and street lighting.

The Municipality has also invested in internal roads constructions valued at R373 Million and work is progressing well with many zones now tarred. This together with the renaming of streets process, is an enabler for online shopping delivery

services and digital transportation services to flourish.

There has also been major injections of upgrades into major facilities like the Sisa Dukashe stadium, which has seen top flight professional football and rugby being played at the township with some injection to the township economy.

The Mdantsane swimming pool consists of various phases which entails the construction of the ticket office, guard house and change rooms. Phase two includes the upgrade of two kiddies' pools, floodlights replaced with steel floodlights, construction of pump houses and installation of pumps and filters.

And phase three includes the construction of grandstands, water polo and diving pools.

The Municipality is also connecting Mdantsane with other nearby areas having completed the Potsdam/Needs Camp Bridge which now connects the people of Phumlani, Potstam, Mount Coke, to the Westbank area which includes the airport and eQonce.

Millions have been set aside by the Metro to help curb Izinyoka (illegal connections) in the areas of the Buffalo City that include various Informal Settlements in Mdantsane.

Over 200 homes in Solomon Mahlangu Informal Settlements now have proper electricity to help decrease the death toll of people dying as a result of illegal connections including innocent young children.

Buffalo City Metro Executive Mayor Councillor Xola Pakati says it is important for people to get quality services regardless of where they reside.

“We have implemented a number of quality housing projects in the Metro including the township of Mdantsane.

Since the start of the term, as the Metro we have built over 8333 houses and in this year alone we will hand over an additional 1100 houses,” he said. Pakati also spoke about the importance of electrifying informal dwellings.

“We have electrified 1300 informal dwellings and while this is a moving

target we continue to implement it with due care. We are piloting a study that will unlock electrification for those informal dwellings that do not qualify.”

During the current term of Council, organisations from Mdantsane have benefited from Buffalo City Metro Grants in Aid fund in categories that include Charitable & Welfare Organizations and Educational as well as Day Care Centers.

The fund is an initiative done by the Metro to provide grants to non-political and non-profit making organisations that help support and improve BCM communities.

It assists organisations in need by providing financial and material support to non-profit organizations, especially in the poor communities.

Pakati further committed to more projects in the near future for the township saying “we are going to be conducting a feasibility of expanding Golden Highway as an initial step of mobilising funds and other investment which can beautify the area.

Building houses is a priority in service delivery



**BY LISEKHO
MADIKANE**

Buffalo City Metro (BCM) has delivered a number of housing projects despite informal dwellers migrating to the City for greener pastures.

The Executive Mayor Cllr. Xola Pakati, during his address at the virtual State of the City Address (SOCA), spoke about new housing developments in the City from the start of the current term.

“Township establishments that will automatically activate development in many of our informal settlements have been undertaken and since 2016, we have established 19 new townships.

“These are Ilitha, Soga 2 and 3, Masibulele, Phola Park, East Bank Restitution, Hani Park, Empilsweni, Khayelitsha, Matsheni Park, Mzamomhle Phase 3, Ginsberg Area G1, Hlalani, Berlin Lingelitsha Phase 1 and 2, Dacawa and Kwatshatshu. This translates into a total number of 2955 residential land parcels created to accommodate housing needs in the City while ensuring the security of tenure and shelter for all BCMM beneficiaries.” Said Pakati.

The progress of the aforesaid reasons is evident in the number of projects that are in progress in the City, with the biggest one being the Duncan Village Redevelopment Initiative (DVRI).

Human Settlements, Water and

Sanitation Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi visited the City recently to assess progress on the project with the aim of establishing permanent housing in the densely populated Duncan Village.

Pakati unpacked the progress of the project: “Together with the National Human Settlements Department, we are now busy implementing the massive Duncan Village Project which will see 20 000 households moved into habitable houses and it will also lead to the de-densification of Duncan Village. We are happy to report that already 931 housing units have been built in Reeston and handed over to beneficiaries from Duncan Village,” said Pakati

The first phase of the project is set to complete 2500 units. This project will see hundreds of families moved to temporary homes while they wait for the completion of their houses. The beneficiaries being relocated to these temporary structures are those that have been approved for the Reeston housing project which consists of 2500 units prioritising the elderly and vulnerable.

Mdantsane is also part of the upgrading of informal settlements along the buffer strip.

The buffer strip consists of five areas which are: Masibambane, Masibulele, Ilinge, Velwano and Dacawa with 1459 units with 1297 units completed.

While the Potsdam Ikwezi project also aims to eradicate informal

settlements through building decent houses for people in block 1 with a total of 656 units. The construction of the houses is underway.

BCM is steadfast in ensuring that residents in rural areas also receive decent houses of brick and mortar. Peelton, just outside Qonce was earmarked for housing development as from 2013 with a funding agreement that was allocated for a total of 2174 housing units to be scattered in the entire area.

Due to the large number of villages that form up Peelton, a technical decision was taken for the area to be clustered into three cluster projects: Cluster 1: Mdange – 278 units, cluster 2: Majali and Nkqonkweni – 653 units and cluster 3: Drayini, Esixekweni, Under Train & Mpengempengeni with 598 units. The multi-million-rand project commenced in May 2015.

27 visibly impaired community members in Dimbaza received houses in Phola Park, following an intervention by the City. The families were living in appalling conditions where they experienced sewer blockages and this resulted in a need for replacement of the entire 2 km sewer network. The project was completed successfully in December 2020.

Within the context of the Emergency Housing Provision, BCM identified a case of exceptional housing in Duncan Village and East London.

The relocation of Duncan Village households to various identified sites within the Buffalo City Municipality Metro is as a result of de-densifying the community due to COVID-19 Pandemic. HDA is the implementing agency for the identified 1174 units identified by the BCM.

This stage of the Ziphunzana Bypass TRU is a sub-phase of the overall project for the development of 2196 temporary relocation units which will be the catalyst to develop earmarked land parcels in Duncan Village that is informally occupied.

Pakati also highlighted the status of the temporary residential structured. “To fast track the process, we are developing the Ziphunzana Bypass Temporary Relocation Area which will have 2000 temporary units and this project is 47 percent complete. We are also developing the Mtsotso Temporary Relocation Area which will have 1174 units and 119 of these have already been completed.

Pakati also shared about the good working relations between the City and the Department of Human Settlements.

“Since the start of our term in 2016, working with the Provincial Department of Human Settlements, we have built and handed over 8 930 houses and 11 367 serviced sites to the people of Buffalo City. In the next financial year, we will be handing over around 1600 houses and 800 serviced sites.”





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1. THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING MUNICIPAL TARIFFS FOR SERVICES

In terms of the Municipal Systems Act, Section 75A under "General power to levy and recover fees, charges and tariffs" it also states that:

- (1) A municipality may:
 - a) levy and recover fees, charges or tariffs in respect of any function or service of the municipality; and
 - b) recover collection charges and interest on any outstanding amount.
- (2) The fees, charges or tariffs referred to in subsection (1) are levied by a municipality by resolution passed by the municipal council with a supporting vote of a majority of its members.
- (3) (b) publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality a notice stating:
 - a) that a resolution as contemplated in subsection (2) has been passed by the council;
 - b) that a copy of the resolution is available for public inspection during office hours at the main administrative office of the municipality and at the other places specified in the notice.

Guiding Principles for Tariff Setting

- **Social Norms:**
 - Tariffs should be **equitable** and **affordable**
 - Tariffs must allow provision of **basic services** to everyone
 - Tariffs must provide for **transparent cross-subsidisation** of poor households where necessary and feasible
 - The tariff structure and levying process should be simple and easy to implement.
- **Economic Norms:**
 - Tariffs should encourage local **economic development**
 - Tariffs should have a positive influence on **economic input factor costs** for industrial and commercial firms
 - Tariff setting should be **aligned with economic policies** of the country.
- **Financial Norms:**
 - Whenever feasible the tariffs should be **cost reflective** and **cost-effective** link into the municipal financial framework
 - Tariffs should be linked to unit costing and **efficiency improvements**
 - Tariffs should promote **sustainability** and **extension** of service provision.

Electricity Tariff Determination

The process and determination of the electricity is fully regulated by NERSA and the municipality applies increments as guided by NERSA. NERSA issues out a Consultation Paper on an annual basis, so that all licensees comment on their proposed increase. After submission of comments, licensees submit their proposed increases, which must be in line with NERSA proposed increases (Any increase that is more must be substantiated – this does not apply to BCM). These submissions are tabled to the NERSA board for consideration, compliance review, approval, and implementation. The IDP budget process consultation ensures that the above is well communicated and comments elevated to NERSA on an annual basis.

Water Tariff Determination

The Process and determination of Water tariffs is guided by the annual increase of the Water Boards which they are also regulated by the Department of Water and Sanitation. The same process as NERSA applies in the approval of water tariffs for the City and eventually Council.

Refuse, Sanitation and Fire Levy

The National Treasury Costing methodology guideline is a basis for assessing and reviewing annual rates for the above. This guideline considers all the input cost of providing this service, the affordability and customer groups. These costs entail;

- Bulk Purchases
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Employee related costs to service the function
- Interest
- Other related cost to the function (e.g. Contracted Service)

2. SERVICES THAT REFLECT ON STATEMENTS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

- **Fire levy** (open flame as icon) A fixed monthly charge based on the debtor type (domestic, business, school etc.)
- **Property rates** (no icon linked) A monthly charge based on the value and property type (i.e. domestic with rateable value as reflected on the statement). There is also a credit amount that relates to the market value rebate (The 1st R15,000 of a residential property is not rateable)
- **Refuse** (wheelie bin as icon) A fixed monthly charge based on the debtor type
- **Electricity and basic electricity charge** (light bulb icon) Should the property got a conventional electricity meter, the meter number and tariff, according to the debtor type will reflect. The number of units consumed (current reading – previous reading) will reflect as well as the reading dates. Furthermore, there is a basic charge raised which is a fixed charge and relates to the cost of reading the meter monthly. Should a customer use a pre-paid meter, no electricity charges will reflect on the statement.
- **Water charges** (little tap as icon) The meter number and tariff (according to debtor type) will reflect. The number of units consumed (current reading – previous reading) will reflect as well as the reading dates. Should a reading not been obtained before the billing run an average charge will be raised, based on average previous consumption.
- **Sewerage charges** (a loo as icon) A fixed monthly charge based on the size of the property and debtor type.

3. DATE OF PAYMENTS (DUE DATE)

- The due date for current debt is the 15th of the next month as indicated on the statement.
- There are different categories of debt (current, 30 days, 60 days etc.) which reflects on the statement.
- All debt that is not current is payable immediately.
- However, if there is a dispute on a particular service and it had been brought to the Municipality's attention, the account will be protected for a specific period and the total amount will not be payable.
- Please note that all the other services (those not under review) should be paid in full.



BCM: A City h

BY AKHONA ZWENI

The City Hard at Work Campaign is Buffalo City Metro’s response to the directive of the Executive Mayor Cllr. Xola Pakati during the State of the City address.

The City has set aside R1.67 billion towards major road infrastructure upgrades, and a further R25.8 million for inner city routes.

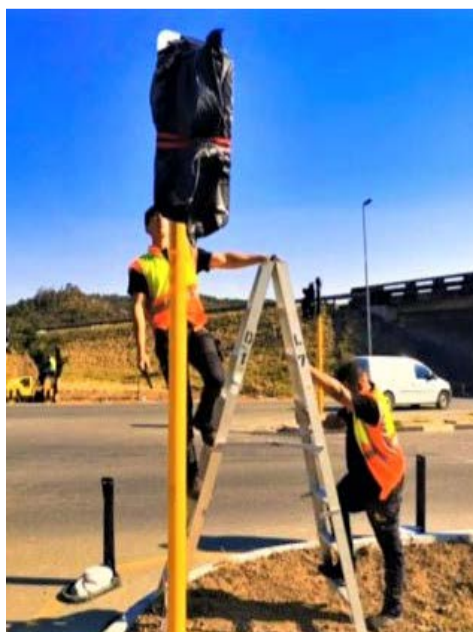
All entrances and exits to all BCM regions (Qonce, kuGompo, and Mdantsane) are being prioritized during the rollout of the City Hard at Work campaign, as well as high-jacking hotspots, sidewalks, and areas of high importance within the three regions are being prioritized.

1. INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON THE NEX:

In June 2021, traffic lights were installed at the North Expressway, near Abbotsford, to manage traffic flow. This is part of the Municipality’s commitment in investing on Buffalo City’s infrastructure.

On the Facebook post on the Municipality’s page Lunga Mciteka commented, ‘Thank you so much. You have saved many lives. I was so happy on Monday, I took a picture’.

Erlank Nel praised BCM’s efforts, ‘Good work BCM’. Chris commented, ‘Thank you Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality for this project’.



2. INSTALLATION OF LED LIGHTS:

The Municipality replaced old streetlights with energy-saving LED lights that are environmentally friendly because they consume less energy.

This means that the newly installed LED lights will lower electricity costs due to its efficient energy consumption. The lights were installed around the Buffalo Flats area and in some parts of Mdantsane in June.

Residents commended the metro for installing the LED lights, saying the brighter illumination provided a sense of security. The municipality has since installed lights in Parkside and will roll out the programme to the rest of the ward and other areas of the metro as time goes by, such as Amalinda Main Road, parts of Rosedale, the access road to Mdantsane and Qumza Highway.



3. RESURFACING OF ROADS:

BCM Road repairs were in full swing in Amalinda Main Road in July. Buffalo City resurfaced road pavements, as well as road marking which will improve the road quality.

Lindy commented, ‘Done a fantastic job on the roads in Sunnyside the last couple of months. Thank you’.

Kerryn Swanepoel commented, ‘Keep up the good work’.



The expansion of the airport route: An additional lane is being added in Setters Way and Military Road on your way to the airport. This is in response to the heavily congested road during peak hour which has resulted in traffic delays and longer travelling time on this route.

BCM Spokesperson, Samkelo Ngwenya highlighted the economic benefits of this project, “This project will create economic growth, increase employment and the participation of the small and medium enterprises. Our intention is for a development that will assist our people, this is what we committed to do”. The project includes the upgrading of the existing pavement structure along the road. This project is being done in phases, with the expected completion time to be in May 2023. Gerard commented, ‘Dear BCM thank you for the work you’re doing’.



The Gonubie Main Road is currently undergoing an upgrade. The project is 530 meters long and it includes 4 lanes of traffic, a sidewalk, a cycle path, kerbing, and stormwater drainage. In July 2021, the cycle path and first lane were complete, with the 2nd cycle under construction.

The Facebook post on the Municipality’s page received positive reactions and comments from residents. ‘I live in Gonubie. I’m saying well done, the traffic flows so much easier with double lane’ commented Lyn Lake.

In Cambridge, Harrison Street, repairs were done on 600 meters section of road refurbishments. This includes the patching and resurfacing of the road, as well as stormwater drainage improvements. Other roads to be refurbished include a portion of Abale and Hebbes Street, and Strand Street.



Hard at work...



QONCE: This is an ongoing rehabilitation and resurfacing of roads project in eQonce areas such as Phakamisa, Balasi Valley, Dimbaza, Westbank, Ginsberg, eQonce CBD, Bhisho, Breidbach, Ilitha and Zwelitsha.

Mthubanzi Mniki commented, 'I am happy that the City is working on King Williams' Town roads'. Sabz Manzi commented, 'Great work guys'.

Kerryn Swanepoel commented, 'Thank you for this. Keep up the good work and make East London proud. We look forward to seeing East London maintained and beautified'.



Pictured is the ongoing rehabilitation and resurfacing of roads in the Buffalo City Metro.



4. BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CITY:

As stated in the State of the City Address 2021, several measures have been implemented to ensure the improvement of cleanliness in Buffalo City Metro.

Since the year 2016, the City has procured 39 refuse removal compactor trucks, 5 tipper trucks, 4 skip loaders, 3 skip loader trailers, 1 excavator and 4 tractor-loader-backhoe (TLB) trucks.

The equipment collectively amounted to R132 Million. A number of 850 street litter bins have been placed in all three regions of our city.

The Council is currently busy with placing waste skips for informal and commercial areas.

The grass cutting program is continuous throughout various parts of Buffalo City. Grass cutting and weed spraying operations are undertaken in cycles according to the climate, with areas that have overgrown grass being prioritized. This program is in line with the Municipality's commitment of creating a clean and safe environment for residents.

OVERGROWN GUTTERS:

Gutters in the following regions were cleared:

Coastal region – Vincent, Arcadia, Amalinda (EL).

Midland region – Yako's Shell Garage to Dikela Supermarket in N.U.1 (Mdanstane).

From Fort Jackson Industrial area



to N.U.13 Prison (Mdanstane).

N2 National Road near Fort Jackson.

Inland region – Grey Street through the Station (Qonce).

The program continues.

5. CLEARING OF ILLEGAL DUMP SITES:

Buffalo Bypass Road, although not under the jurisdiction of the Municipality was cleaned by the Municipality to ensure that the illegal dumping was cleared. Aletta Erasmus commented, 'Keep it up'.



Hard working staff at BCM undertaking grass cutting. Pictured below is the clearing up of illegal dump sites. BCM urges the public to please refrain from dumping and use the service sites provided.





Bridge reconstructed to bring relief to eQonce

**BY NOMATSHAW
VELLEM-DUBE**

The Albatross bridge linking the West Bank area to the Central Business District (CBD) in eQonce has made a huge difference in the region.

Residents have been struggling when it rains as the low-lying bridge submerges under water making it difficult to cross.

In an interview with the Executive Mayor Cllr Xola Pakati he said: “Since the start of term, we have been emphasising the fact that transport and telecommunications systems are critical for the achievement of our vision of creating a well -connected City. The rail, airline and shipping

networks are key if we are to have a globally connected City.”

The Executive Mayor added that the City has purchased its road construction plant to build capacity.

“We have purchased our own plant in order to build internal capacity and to consistently maintain our rural roads. We are on site in many areas of our City undertaking road construction, upgrading our bridges and stormwater systems,” added the Executive Mayor.

The new bridge is 40 metres long, wide enough for the vehicles to cross and is constructed to provide all weather access to the West Bank area.

The construction includes the

demolition of the old structure, the construction of a new bridge, approach road, sidewalks, kerbing, stormwater drainage, street lighting and traffic safety improvements.

Speaking about the project, Buffalo City Metro Stormwater Manager Adrian Van Der Merwe said, “The previous bridge was a low-level bridge which flooded regularly and posed a danger to road users using it to access the West Bank area.”

“The new bridge was much needed in this area and the City is proud to invest in a structure that will not only make life easier for citizens but be a visual icon in Buffalo City.”

“It will be a safe and functional structure catering for vehicles and

pedestrians and will also provide shorter travel time for residents that are working within the West Bank area,” said Van Der Merwe.

He added that the bridge will improve the quality of life of locals when completed, for generations to come.

According to a Municipal Report, there has been a high demand for development in the area during the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget as well as Mayoral Imbizo road shows.

Several job opportunities were created for 12 local labours and six SMMEs contractors with their own labours.

The Project started in August 2020.



Turning the City into a Construction Site



BY ASEMAHLE DINISO

Buffalo City Metro takes pride in delivering services to its residents, thus upgrading the roads and infrastructure around the City.

Over the years, the City has spent an amount of R951 Million on roads rehabilitation and construction.

Some of multi-million rand road projects that have been completed by the Metro include the Sleeper Site, Fleet Street and the Qumza Highway.

The Beacon Bay / Gonubie Link Road is also one of the projects that were implemented by the Municipality.

It was divided into various phases with a total budget of R81 Million.

This project is aimed at linking Beacon Bay and Gonubie and it is ongoing.

Another road project that the City is proud of is the upgrading of existing 350m grave road in Reeston.

This was done by box cutting existing grave road to the required level, formation of subgrade, importing of G5 and G5 sub-base and base respectively and construction of precast concrete kerbing on both sides of the road.

As part of the R444 Million roads upgrade project, internal road surfacing was done in Mdantsane and this work is still continuing.

As a rural Metro, the decision of purchasing the City's own road construction plant was put in action and this will make it possible to

consistently maintain the rural roads.

The City is currently hard at work expanding the airport route. The Settlers Way R72 is subject to excessive traffic and congestion during peak hours and this has resulted in many of traffic delays and longer travel times along this route.

The multi-million-rand project is a 7.6 km stretch that seeks to upgrade the East London's economic hubs' existing road, from the airport intersection to Fleet Street intersection.

This is an important development for the City as it will beautify the entire route from the Airport, thereby creating an authentic city feel.

The route is mostly used to transport goods between the East

London IDZ and many businesses in West Bank, this will then enable more than 400 trucks and interlinks per-day.

The project is underway and is expected to continue for the next 2 years. The rehabilitation will be done in phases and it is expected to be completed in May 2023.

“In the almost 5-year term period, we have been in Council, we have made the necessary improvements in the conditions of our roads and we have constructed new roads changing the face of the city for the better”, said BCM Spokesperson, Samkelo Ngwenya.

These upgrades have ensured the increase of the City's internal capacity and added more on the beautification and flow of traffic in the City.



Spillages & ancient pipes are a thing of the past



BY XOLILE BENGEZA

The Buffalo City Metro has made huge upgrades on its major sewer pipes at the Eastern Beach near the well known eBuhlanti.

These sewer pipes are between the Blind River and the City pump station at Bat's Cave to minimise sewage spillages at Eastern Beach.

The Municipality opted for these replacements because its 750mm and 1.050mm sewer pipes were old and could potentially cause havoc if left to decay further.

They had a difficulty in handling peak flow and that caused serious leaks.

The construction of the Blind River pipe bridge commenced in February 2020 with a budget of R13.9 m. Due to Covid-19 lockdown, the project was completed within a period of a year.

The project had been split into

several phases to implement critical portions through the City's annual contractors.

This sewer upgrade necessitated a construction of two 1.350mm diameter gravity-fed concrete sewers from the Blind River, to the city pump station along the coast.

In addition to this, there is a new Blind River pipe bridge, connection chambers and a new overflow chamber close to the city pump station, near Bat's Cave.

This 78m pipe bridge is built next to the existing one, and is supported by seven concrete piers that are anchored into bedrock by means of piling.

This is a project of major importance in the Municipality because it plays an enabling role for future socio-economic development in the city. It could potentially cause havoc if left to decay further.



BUFFALO CITY METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

MakInwaMediaSolutions 043 722 3312

CALL CENTRE: 086 111 3017

BCM new water world fun park under construction



BY TABISA MNTENGWANA

A construction of a water world fun park is underway in Buffalo City.

Buffalo City Metro Development Agency has put in an investment of R103 million into the project to further develop the tourism and entertainment of the City as well as diversify the spaces of entertainment along the beach. This will also help reduce congestion in the traditional spaces such as the Esplanade where citizens gather in numbers.

The investment by the City also intends to revitalise property development in a Westbank area that has immense real estate development potential given its scenic wide sea facing views.

The Water World project will provide a one of its kind water fun fair park for not only for the Metro but for the entire Province of the Eastern Cape.

The upgrade of the existing will see the 5.9 hector project feature facilities that include amongst

others new entrance areas, braai areas facilities, informal trade stalls, ablutions facilities, climbing walls, an amphitheatre, podium seating, sand pits and swimming pools.

The official site handover to the contractor took place on the 12th of February 2020 and Executive Mayor Cllr. Xola Pakati and the late Deputy Executive Mayor Cllr. Zoliswa Matana officiated the sod turning event in July 2020.

Speaking about the project, Pakati said the City has been doing an outstanding job on the tourism front due to the number of initiatives that the City has been undertaking.

“Before the Covid pandemic, tourism had been on an upward trajectory with 38% increase in seats on flights into the City. Tourism spend in BCMM had increased by an annual of 6,5 % between 2008 and 2018. This has been due to the number of initiatives we have undertaken with the tourism sector,” said Pakati.

Pakati added that the City tasked the BCMDA with the implementation of the water world fun park project as part of the City’s vision to grow the tourism sector.

“We believe the water world project will breathe new life into our public spaces and it will stimulate the local economy in ways never seen before,” added Pakati.

To date the overall project is at a physical completion level of 40% with all key demolition work completed.

The following activities having also been achieved; earth works for the amphitheatre and swimming pools are complete.

The swimming pool brick work is already at 70%. Water reticulation work is at 90% completed and sewer work is at 95% completion, while the storm -water system work is at 80%.

The next few months will be focusing on completing brickwork and backfilling for the amphitheatre and swimming pools as well as the

sand pit.

Work on the new buildings (i.e. life guard house, ablution facilities, change rooms) has taken shape and it is at 64% completion of the earthworks.

The next few months will focus on foundation footings and foundation brickwork which are at 57% and 41% complete.

In terms of work opportunities, the project through the Buffalo City Metro Development agency (BCMDA) has committed to SMME development and as a result, nine construction SMMEs on site with three of these SMMEs coming from ward of the project.

Currently the project has 112 jobs, all the core labour force on site is sourced from the local community through the Community Liaison Officer.

The scope of work and anticipated project duration remains unchanged and will take 18 months to complete notwithstanding the delays due to COVID 19.

METRO VOICE



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