

## BCMM appoints City Manager

The Buffalo City Metropolitan Council embarked on a recruitment process to fill the vacant City Manager's post on 30 September 2011. A total of thirty-nine (39) applicants applied for the post. Six (6) applicants were eliminated and two (2) withdrew their applications. Only six (6) candidates were shortlisted and five (5) were interviewed (after one of them withdrew).

The recruitment panel approved by Council on the 29th November 2011, comprised of councilors from the African National Congress and the Democratic Alliance, representatives from the provincial government and union members from SAMWU and IMATU as observers.

After a selection and interview process that included a preliminary vetting, independent data check, psychometric test conducted by PriceWaterHouseCoopers, and presentations by the short-listed candidates, the panel unanimously recommended to the Executive Mayor and to Council, the appointment of Mr. Andile Fani.

On the 27th February 2012, the Buffalo City Metropolitan Council resolved to approve the appointment of Mr. Andile Fani in the capacity of City Manager for a fixed term period of five (5) years, with effect from 1 March 2012.

It therefore, gives me great pleasure to announce to the community of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, the appointment of Mr. Andile Fani as the City Manager.

Cllr. Z. Ncitha  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR



*Newly appointed City Manager Andile Fani*

## Italians donate truck to BCMM farmers

by Lydia Ngqoba



*L to R: Cllr Pumla Nazo, the Portfolio Head for Local Economic Development unit; Executive Mayor Zukisa Ncitha, Regional Government of Tuscany, Flavia Donati who is the Senior Manager of the International Relations Department and Fabio Fabbri, Director of the Rural Development from the Grosseto Province.*

In an effort to strengthen ties with the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, the Province of Grosseto recently donated a delivery truck to the value of R250 000 to agricultural cooperatives operating in Mdantsane unit 18. Speaking at the hand over, BCMM Executive Mayor Zukiswa Ncitha said: "We feel honored to be partners with the Tuscany government and would like to thank the efforts that they are putting with the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality," said Ncitha.

She added that the donation the Italians will help improve the lives of the people of Mdantsane. Fabio Fabbri, from the Grosseto Province, said the partnership with BCMM seeks to ensure that agricultural cooperatives are capacitated with technical and management skills.

Buffalo City Metro through NETSAFRICA forged partnership with the Italian Province of Tuscany which provides technical expertise and financial support to hydroponics farming in Mdantsane.

The programme's approach to the concept of urban agriculture was informed by the need to ensure that people had a sustainable food basket at their doorstep, and to encourage the emergence of market-orientated business entities. The pilot project began in NU6 in Mdantsane, with three co-operatives benefiting. Some members of the co-operatives received training from the Italian partners in various aspects of urban agriculture, and tomatoes were the first product grown in the tunnels.

# German City helps needy children

by Tabisa Mntengwana

**S**TRUCK by the plight of vulnerable children during a visit to Buffalo City, the mayor of a German town has sent some cheer down south.

In an effort to improve the children's living conditions, the city of Oldenburg has donated more than R9 000 to the East London Child and Youth Care Centre.

The donation came after the mayor, Gerd Schwadner, visited the centre in 2011. He toured the home with German volunteers who are working at the facility, where they help the children with their schoolwork and reading lessons.

"During their visit, the delegates noticed the plight of the orphans and vulnerable chil-

dren and decided to raise funds in Oldenburg through selling cupcakes," explained Darby Gounden, the City's manager of development co-operation and international relations.

An amount of R9 700 was raised at the cake sale. Earlier this year, Executive Mayor Zukiswa Ncitha travelled to Germany in to discuss a city-to-city partnership with the City of Oldenburg. Schwadner entrusted his Buffalo City counterpart with the handing over of the funds to the facility, which she did at the East London City Hall last week.

Speaking at the event, Ncitha said: "The City is grateful to have such ties with foreign countries. For us, this is a lesson that we need to have the same ability as the youth and people of other countries where we would help others without expecting anything in return." She added that this gesture meant a lot to the people of East London. The centre houses over 100 street children, abandoned children and children affected by HIV and Aids. Its Glen Stella Campus was recently refurbished by the youth of Leiden, the metro's Dutch sister city. The boys unit now has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and an en-suite room for one childcare worker. It also has a kitchen and a lounge.



*Buffalo City Metro Executive Mayor Zukiswa Ncitha, Deputy Mayor Mzwandile Msoki and Mayoral Committee members with the Management of East London Child Care Centre and volunteers.*

## Sexwale opens multi-storey Southernwood Square

**T**he Minister of human Settlement Tokyo Sexwale launched a nine storey Southernwood Square Social Housing project in a bid to address housing needs of low income earners in East London on February 14.

Southernwood Square consists of 57 bachelor flats, 78 one bedroom flats and 114 two bedroom flats. The project caters for households earning between R2 500 to R7 500 per month.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Sexwale said the provision of medium to high density housing projects is one of the main solutions in dealing with the housing needs in urban areas.

"For us to make a difference in the lives of people who fall within the GAP market (those who earn too much to qualify for free government subsidy but also earn too little to apply for housing finance from banks) we need to have more of these projects," he told hundreds of community members at the launch.

The project is spearheaded by the Department of Human Settlements and is managed by Own Haven through the funding from Provincial Department of Human Settlement and National Housing Finance Corporation (NHFC). BCMM Portfolio head for Human Settlement Nomiki Mgezi said the Metro has submitted an application for Level two accreditation status to the national minister of Human settlement for approval.

"With such accreditation the metro will be able to speed up the delivery of houses and in the process eradicating informal settlement."

Level two accreditation status gives municipalities the responsibility to approve and manage housing construction programmes and ensure and technical quality assurance.

Currently, this authority rested primarily with Provincial Government of Human Settlement.

In reply to the request by Cllr Mgezi, Minister Sexwale said his office will look at the application submitted by the metro.

"With the authority to take such decisions, it is imperative for the



*The Managing Director of Own Haven, Andrew Wiseman, Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale, MEC for Human Settlements in Mpumalanga Province Siphosezwe Masango and Buffalo City Portfolio Head for Human Settlements Nomiki Mgezi during the opening of Southernwood Square.*

municipality to beef up its capacity in order to manage this huge task.

During the launch some residents demonstrated their dissatisfaction on what they called structural defects of some units. Sexwale addressed this group explaining that they had a right to voice their dissatisfaction.

"Clients must be satisfied, that is why we are here, to listen and find out how they feel about this development. You must also highlight the positives, you must tell us about the good things that are happening here as well".

Sexwale also encouraged tenants to pay rent for their units. "Things don't come for free. People must keep paying rent. Government has a responsibility to provide human settlements as much as tenants have a responsibility to pay for rent," he said.



# BCMM clamps down on illegal signs

In an effort to curb erecting of offensive signs in the City, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Law enforcement Services confiscated thousands of illegal posters and flyers last week.

This came after the Metro noticed a disturbing trend in which people are publicly erecting offensive signs, posters and notices illegally. In response to this problem, BCMM initiated a law enforcement campaign against the display of illegal and undesirable posters especially in the CBD area.



*Some of the impounded signs at the premises of eight so-called healers.*

BCMM General Manager for Public Safety Steve Terwin said the Law Enforcement Unit conducted a raid to premises of eight so-called healers in Gladstone Street at East London the CBD area.

"During the raid, numerous advertising boards that were erected in contravention of the municipal by-law were impounded and approximately 30 000 posters, flyers and pamphlets were also impounded. We issued a total of 16 summonses (R1600 per person)



*Nirmord Dastile from Law Enforcement inspects the seized illegal signs.*

to various individuals for illegally displaying posters," said Terwin.

According to BCMM Signage Control Section these illegal signs are erected in inappropriate places like street verandas, walls, rocks, bins, trees etc. Some contain offensive material, tend to obstruct traffic in such streets and pollute the environment. For any illegal poster that has been erected, the Municipality will remove such poster(s)

at a cost of R160.00 each per un pasted poster, and R395.00 each per pasted poster if such poster(s) has not been removed after the Municipality has written to the offender giving him notice remove such poster(s).

The erection of illegal signage hampers the municipality efforts to keep the City clean. The municipality is calling upon residents to take pride and responsibility in their environment and discourage these people who are spreading filth in the city.

## Executive Mayor brings smiles to Silver Crown Old Age Home

Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Executive Mayor Zukiswa Ncitha brought smiles to elderly residents of Silver Crown Old Age Home in Amalinda as part of her Christmas outreach programme on February 2.

The ceremony was part of the Annual Mayor's Christmas Programme, during which the executive mayor brings comfort and goodwill to pensioners and children over the festive season.

The event was attended by BCMM mayoral committee members, local ward councillor Mahodi, Centre Management and elderly people.

Speaking about the event councillor Menwabisi Mahodi said: "This event was meant to be held last year but was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances which affected the availability of the Executive Mayor."

Addressing the gathering, the Executive Mayor Zukiswa Ncitha made a call to senior citizen to actively participate in the municipality affairs.

"Today we are here to seek advice from you on various areas that the City may need to look into. We want you to input your views in our Integrated Development Plans so that we can able to build a prosperous city."

Mary Mashuana, the Centre Manager, said the elderly were grateful for this opportunity to share lunch with the mayor.

"We fill honoured that Executive Mayor is with us today as it is the first time that a senior government leader visited this centre."

One of the beneficiaries, Mthunzi Telewu from Amalinda Forest thanked the municipality for hosting a wonderful event for them.

"I want to thank the mayor for the nice lunch and gifts she organised us and we hope that she will address our needs as elderly people"

In addition to lunch, each person received a goody bag containing a knee blanket.



*Buffalo City Metro Executive Mayor Zukiswa Ncitha handing over a blanket to senior citizens at Silver Crown Old Age Home.*

# BCMM residents vote for new logo

**B**uffalo City Metro Communications Department embarked on a four day public engagement session from 20-23 of February to afford city residents an opportunity to vote for the new logo.

This follows after the metro engaged the public and stakeholders on the elements of the new logo for the municipality.

The meetings Themed: "Get Involved... Be part of the FUTURE...Grow with your city" were held in the East London City hall, King Williams Town City Hall, Mdantsane Indoor Sport Centre, Moses Twebe Hall in Dimbaza, kids beach and Berlin community hall.

BCMM Communications Manager Keith Ngesi said the phase three of the public engagement was aimed at affording communities an opportunity to choose the logo that they can identify with.

"In previous engagement, we have asked the public to choose elements that they want to be featured in the new logo. The designers came up with four logos that contain elements that were chosen by residents. After this process, we went back to the people in their respective areas on two occasions to ask them to choose one of the four logos."

He added that the results from three public engagement meetings will be consolidated into the report that will be submitted to council. During the meetings a number of residents raised service delivery issues and these issues were forwarded to relevant Municipal Department.

**WHICH ONE SHOULD IT BE?**  
**PHASE 3: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**  
 Get Involved... Be part of the FUTURE... Grow with your city

After engaging with the public and stakeholders on the elements of the new logo for the Metro, the following logos were designed.

Now the City would like you to choose the logo that the City can identify with.

THE ELEMENTS	OPTION 1	OPTION 2
The elements used in the logos include:	Abstract Concept	Traditional Concept
The Sun		
The River		
The Spear		
The Cog		
(Industry & Service Delivery)		
Culture & Heritage		
Agriculture & Land		
Economy		
Buffalo River		
Buffalo Animal		

## Inland

## Midlands



Dimbaza



King William's Town



Berlin

## Coastal



East London



Kids Beach



Mdantsane



# BCMM introduce ward based planning system

In an effort to encourage local people to be part of municipal planning process, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality Public Participation Department has started with the process of establishing ward based planning system.

The objective of this initiative is to empower local communities to play an active role in the development of their area. It is being implemented by Buffalo City metro with the assistance from NETSAFRICA and the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Buffalo City Metro Public Participation Manager Kwenzi Ngoma said this community -based planning process will provide a link between municipal planning, service delivery and activities at ward level.

"In partnership with the community in each ward, we will identify two local people that will participate in the ward based planning system. As part of the initiative, ward committee members, community development workers, community development facilitators and other role players will be trained in participatory methods, business plan development and capacity to respond effectively to the needs and priorities of the their respective areas."

Ngoma added that: "Ward based planning will identify communities' key projects for which business plans will be developed in order to get funds to implement them within a stipulated period.

The Municipality owns the municipal-level phase, providing some resources to the wards and managing the planning process. The ward committee manages the community process and monitors the implementation of the ward plans and decisions taken by the community. Throughout the country, various municipalities including Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality have started introducing a ward-planning system.



*BCMM Public Participation Manager Nokwenzeka Ngoma.*



## Buffalo City News on Radio

Catch Buffalo City News on radio- (Mdantsane FM) every Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm.

This news programme focuses on Service Delivery issues and allows the City to talk to the people and the people talk to the city.

If you have campaigns and events to communicate – please contact the Communications Department

## Upcoming Events

### Municipal public Accounts Committee hearings



*Cllr. Nomfanelo Madonono is the Chairperson of Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC)*

The Municipal public Accounts Committee is sitting around Buffalo City Metro until the 9th of March where the Executive Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Speaker, Chief Whip and City Manager will be in attendance.

- National Water week 5 – 9 March
- Miro ICT graduation 2 March
- Ward committee inauguration 9 March
- Women caucus launch 16 March

# Dimbaza residents listen to the Premier

by Lydia Ngqoba

Moses Twebe Hall in Dimbaza was full to its capacity, when Office of the Premier and Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality hosted a live screening of the State of Province Address by Eastern Cape Premier Noxolo Kiviet on February 17.

More than 500 community members gathered to listen to the Premier speak about the Eastern Cape Government plan for this up-

coming financial year.

The Premiers office did an environmental scanning where issues that affect the Dimbaza were being looked at.

Unemployment, crime, housing, health and problems with identity document were the main issues that prevailed in the scan. Various Government Departments and state owned enterprises were part of the event to

address issues that directly affect their respective organisations.

Keith Ngesi, the Communications manager in the metro addressed the crowd and took down questions that could not be answered to be looked at by relevant people. Buffalo City councilors were also available to support the information day.



*Government Official attending to residents information needs.*



*During the live screening residents were afforded an opportunity to access information about various Government Services.*



*Residents watching a live broadcast of the State of the Province Address.*



# February Birthdays

## Busisiwe Mrwebi 01 February 2012

A belated birthday wish for Busisiwe Mrwebi 01 February 2012.

May God give you, for every storm, a rainbow, for every tear, a smile, For every care, a promise, and a blessing in each trial. For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share, for every sigh, a sweet song, And an answer for each prayer.

**Your working colleagues  
at Beacon Bay Customer care.**



## Polelwa Mzimba 25 February 2012

Birthday greeting to Polelwa Mzimba 25 February 2012. May the blessing of light be on you, light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you and warm your heart, till it glows like a great peat fire. Happy birthday. Hope your day was blessed with many blessings.

**Lots of Love  
Connie & Staff at Beacon Bay.**

## S Bam 07 February 2012

To Mr S Bam, programme manager land admin for the 7th of february "may you have a wonderful birthday and may the lord bless you"

**From all the Land Admin Staff**



## Chetan Karson 20 February 2012

Happy birthday Mr Karson may you be blessed on this day and may all your wishes come true hope you enjoy your day.

**Lamla, Gary, Vonesha and Simoneey  
Debt Management Department.**

## Leon Mkwenkwe 28th February 2012

Birthday greeting to Leon Mkwenkwe 28th February 2012. May your day be touched by a bit of South Africa's luck, brightened by a song in you heart, and warmed by the smiles of the people you love. Happy birthday.

**Lots of love  
Connie & Staff at Beacon bay.**

## BCMM Launches Home Affairs Stakeholder Forum

Buffalo City Metro Home Affairs Stakeholder Forum was officially launched in Nxarhuni Village on February 22.

Buffalo City was previously under the Amathole district forum but after being declared a metro, the municipality was compelled to form its own forum.

The main aim of the forum is to co-ordinate and streamlines government programmes and events for the development of communities. The forum comprises of Home Affairs, Social Development, SASSA, South African Police Services, and Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.

The forum organise outreach programme to bring government services such as Birth and ID registrations, and Social Grants to rural and township areas.

As part of the build up to the launch, the forum hosted an outreach programme in Tsholomnqa and Nompumelelo where Home Affairs and SASSA brought government services on wheels.



**Tsholomnqa residents listening attentively to the presentation by Government Officials.**



**Home Affairs services on wheels bring services closer to far flung rural areas.**



**President**  
**Zolani Ngesman**



**Deputy President**  
**Zukisa Falakahla**



**Secretary**  
**Phindie Ndayi**



**Deputy Secretary**  
**Karen Tabha**



**Treasurer**  
**Pumla Saba**



**Co-Ordinator**  
**Felicity Mini**

## PRESIDENT'S DESK



**President**  
**Zolani Ngesman**

Firstly, I must take this opportunity to congratulate BCMM Sport club in general for having a successful Annual General Meeting on February 2.

The meeting went well and the new Executive Members were elected to lead for the next two years. I want warmly welcome these new members to the leadership of the Sport Club.

To those who were not elected their turn will come and it is advisable for them to accept the results of a democratic process and not be involved in activities that will seek to undermine the elected officials.

The current Executive is committed in working for the benefit of all sporting codes. We will be working very closely with the Directorate of Community Services on all our programmes for this current year.

## INTER-MUNICIPAL SPORT OF SOUTH AFRICA (IMSSA)

As the current President of IMSSA I had a privilege of attending an Executive meeting of this structure in Durban on January 27, where plans for this year were detailed.

IMSSA is an organization that seeks to organize all Municipal Sports activities within the Republic of South Africa. Provincial structures have already been launched in Eastern Cape and Limpopo Provinces.

Kwazulu Natal and Bloemfontein are currently working on having their own Provincial structures. An important National General Council is planned for 27-28 April 2012 and if all goes well Buffalo City might be the host for this important gathering.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA INTER- MUNICIPAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION (SAIMSA)

There is a general assembly for the SAIMSA on 03 March 2012 in Botswana to assess readiness of Botswana in hosting the SAIMSA games for 2012.

SAIMSA is an organization that is responsible for organizing Municipal Sports in Southern African States. Countries that are expected to attend are South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique.

SAIMSA games were awarded to Botswana for the current year and are expected to take place towards the end of September 2012.

BCMM Monthly is an initiative of Buffalo City Metro Communications Department and is distributed primarily by e-mail. Every month we will cover news and events in Buffalo City from the previous month. News may be contributed by any staff member electronically in MS Word format.

Articles may not exceed 300 words in length and must be e-mailed the week before the end of the month.

Photographs must also be sent electronically in JPEG format with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and must be accompanied by captions.

**Kindly contact: Samkelo Gqeba on (043) 705-1158 or e-mail [samkelog@buffalocity.gov.za](mailto:samkelog@buffalocity.gov.za)**

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