

R587m for BCM upgrades

BY KHUTHALA NANDIPHA

On the corner of Union Avenue and Oxford street, a decently dressed young man sits under the robots in the basking sun holding a South African identity document and a white cardboard written, "Please help me get a job, to not be poor like this. Please Africans".

Earlier during the Urban Coastal Mayoral Imbizo at the Jan Smuts Stadium, Buffalo City Metro Mayor Xola Pakati announced that R87 million has been set aside to upgrade the City's roads and a further R500 million has been borrowed to fix and build new sewage lines.

However, over 1 000 citizens who gathered at the stadium lamented that economic and small business development should be prioritised simultaneously with service delivery. They shouted that lack of employment opportunities from their own Metro is puzzling, as it was upgraded from a municipality.

A Duncan Village mother and grandmother made an emotional plea to the Mayor to ensure that the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP), initiated in 2003, be better managed as it is filled with corruption and favoritism.

EPWP employs hundreds of unemployed and unskilled citizens of the Metro as it was intended to provide decent and sustainable through inclusive economic growth.

It was mandated by Cabinet to create work opportunities across infrastructure, on-state, environment and cultural sectors.

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