



MEDIA ADVISORY

TO: ALL MEDIA

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEC Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi joins the handing over of six ECDs by the National Lottery commission

The MEC of Social Development in Gauteng, Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi was today part of the virtual ceremony of the handover of six early learning centers in Gauteng by the National Lottery Commission (NLC). The MEC was in a virtual ceremony which included Deputy Minister of Social Development, mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and the Deputy Minister of Health, Mr Joe Phaahla as they received this generous gesture from the NLC on behalf of government.

In her address the MEC indicated that, "Both the NDP and the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy 2015 documents recognise the importance of collaborative efforts through public-private partnership in building education as sector. As government, we hold a firm belief that private sector should be part of the structural system that advocates for solutions to address challenges confronted by our education system".

"Building a strong and resilient early formal education is a 'win-win' situation, benefitting all of us as civil society, business and government. South Africa is a developing country, a collective investment towards education carries a multiplier-effect on prospects of future economic growth and development".

The NLC funded ECD Centres which were handed over today by the Deputy Minister of Social Development are part of the NLC's infrastructure legacy project, which to date has benefitted a total of 203 organizations. The Gauteng Province was the last province to benefit from this legacy project. Priority was given to those communities that desperately needed such infrastructure in Gauteng.

Since the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his SONA address last year that Early Childhood Development will migrate from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education, the two departments have been working tirelessly to ensure that the migration becomes as smooth and seamless as possible.

In her concluding remarks, Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi indicated that, 'This donation of ECD centres also addresses the issues of insufficient infrastructure in our province, due to ever growing population of residents of Gauteng where the massive demand for services surpasses supply. The assistance we have received from National Lottery Commission will go a long way in ensuring that the Department realise its commitment of providing universal access to quality early childhood development services, the kind of services that are safe and within acceptable physical reach'.

According to data from the 2018 General Household Survey, children under six constitute 12% of South Africa's population. This literally means that, one in eight people in our country is under the age of six (6).

The survey further states that, more than 4 million children aged zero to six were living in households with an income of less than R38 per person, per day.

"Acknowledging these figures, it means that we have a full understanding that the advent of covid-19 pandemic has affected most of low income earners, and this status-quo indicates that there is a desperate need for more humanitarian interventions like what National Lottery Commission has initiated", MEC said.

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Issued by the Gauteng Department of Social Development
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