



## **Media Advisory**

**To: All Media**

**Att: News Editors**

**For immediate release**

**23 March 2009**

### **Gauteng launches the Early Childhood Development Institute**

The Gauteng Provincial Government's Social Cluster (Education, Health and Social Development departments) recognise that the early years of a child's growth and development are crucial for health, wellbeing and success in later life.

Despite that; access to Early Child Development services is still a challenge as a result of historical race-based discrimination. The Gauteng Provincial Government policy recognises this and also acknowledges that the socio-economic context of many South African children works against their adequate development in childhood. A concerted effort by government is needed to combat the adverse factors that arise from historical race-based discrimination and related poverty.

In addressing challenges faced in the early years of child's growth and development the Province has established the Early Childhood Development Institute (ECDI) which will be launched by the Gauteng Premier Paul Mashatile and the Gauteng MEC for Education Angie Motshekga on the 25 March 2009.

The ECD Institute (ECDI), currently located within the Gauteng Department of Education, will become a stand-alone entity and a powerful support structure to ensure that ECD services are experienced in an integrated manner at ECD sites. Its new, distinct functionality is to enhance integration of ECD services despite the differentiated, specialised functions of the various role players. The roles of the ECDI are summarised below:

- ❑ Mapping, monitoring and feedback for increased access and quality
- ❑ Information to the public at multiple levels
- ❑ Research and evaluations
- ❑ Secretariat for consultation processes
- ❑ Secretariat for quality management
- ❑ Secretariat for streamlining of the regulatory framework

**Details of the event are as follow:**

Date: 25 March 2009

Time: 11h30

Venue: Albertina Sisulu Thusong (Multi Purpose Resource) Centre  
No. 9394 Mophiring Street  
Orlando West  
Soweto

**For more information contact the Gauteng Department of Education's Director of Communication, Nanagolo Leopeng on 083 450 2872 or 011 355 0414.**

**To RSVP contact Thebe Khumalo on 083 54 55 259**

**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education**

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