



CEO'S CORNER

The face of poverty changes constantly from what we have known it to be. As a government entity that is tasked with contributing towards poverty eradication and its causes; and formulating programmes that are aimed at meeting the needs of poor communities through strengthening the institutional capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) involved in providing direct services to poor communities – this poses challenges and opportunities for us to further deliver on our mandate.

It is against the backdrop of the constant changes that the NDA is repositioning its service offering by de-centralising services to ensure that all communities and CSOs are able to access services in their districts, throughout South Africa. These districts are those prioritised by the Poverty Index. The NDA's immediate focus will be on nine Mikondzo districts as identified by the Department of Social Development and poverty wards identified by provinces and municipalities in all the provinces. Previously, NDA offices were located in metropolitan areas of provinces and Advisory Centres opened in local municipalities – and now we are saying that we need to go even further into districts. The plans are that nine district offices will be operational by the end of this financial year and the rest will follow as we get more funding.

Following many organisational reviews that the NDA underwent, a decision was taken to elevate capacity building of what is classified as Level 1 and 2 CSOs, mainly located in under developed areas, struggling for survival and failing to comply with the NPO Act.

We believe that, for government to achieve Vision 2030, a strong and empowered CSO sector is necessary in supporting government initiatives aimed at improving the lives of all South Africans. An empowered CSO sector will also be able to access development support from the State and other sectors in development.

Our service offering is now on:

CSO mobilisation

This is an engagement process with social development sector multi-disciplinary teams that engage communities and CSOs at local level to identify developmental needs, possible interventions and referrals to other departments. This process supports communities to develop community structures or formations to organise themselves.

CSO empowerment

Community empowerment through CSOs provides the NDA a space to implement interventions that use development creation principles that foster social cohesion and empower communities to participate in their own development.

CSO institutional capacity-building

This is a process of developing and strengthening the institutional skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organisations and communities need to survive, adapt and thrive in a fast-changing world. CSOs are trained in the following areas: financial management, conflict resolution and management, governance, compliance and registration, fundraising and resource mobilisation, project planning and management, and project monitoring and reporting.

The programme focuses on formal and informal training, mentorship and incubation at district level to ensure easy access to specialised skills.

CSO resource mobilisation and referrals

As the NDA phases out its generic grant-funding for project implementation for CSOs, this intervention will assist CSOs in identifying and linking them to available funding within their local area and nationally. The intervention will have referral processes to available resources for funding and will ensure that the organisation has the ability to account for any funding they have accessed.



We now have a new Board of Directors that has been appointed by our Minister to assist us with governance and to steer the organisation in this direction. They bring about vast knowledge in the CSO and development sectors and we certainly look forward to their leadership. They are introduced in the pages to follow ...

I recently launched our user-friendly and informative website as a tool that keeps you abreast of our programmes and activities. Our office contact and location details are available on: www.nda.org.za.

South African Early Childhood Development Awards

I congratulate all the winners of the South African Early Childhood Development Awards and applaud each of them for their individual dedication to the children of this country. It was encouraging to observe that the sector is attracting younger talent and that there is concerted effort to training and governance within ECDs across the country.

Farewell

I would like to express gratitude and bid farewell to Prof Zach Chuenyane; Provincial manager in Limpopo, a veteran in the development sector, who has commenced his retirement. Mary Dube, Office attendant in our Northern Cape Office, also retired at the end of March. She has been with us since 2008. I wish both of them a deserved rest with their families.

Lastly, it pains me to share news of Gugu Shezi's passing; Development Manager in KZN Office – a shock to all of us. We are encouraged by her strong faith that she is indeed in a better place and she rests in eternal peace.

Till next time

Nelisiwe Vilakazi: Acting CEO



- New NDA Board appointed
- South African Early Childhood Development Awards Winners Announced

- Symposium highlights the importance of nutrition in Early Childhood Development services
- NDA's "Prof" and "Mme Mary" retire

NDA Board members



Ms Judy Hermans - Chairperson



Mr Zolile Ngcakani - Deputy chairperson



Mr Moses Chikane



Mr Abram Hannekom



Ms Bibi Khan



Ms Makgoro Manny



Ms Mashila Matlala



Ms Sebenzile Matsebula



Ms Farzana Varachia



Ms Thabi Shange



Mr Rakgabo Makgae - Company Secretary

South African Early Childhood Development Awards Winners announced

The provincial SA ECD Awards ceremonies have taken place in all the provinces in the Best ECD Centre and Best ECD Practitioner categories. The other categories which are - Best ECD Publication, Best ECD Trainer, Best ECD Non-centre Based Programme and Best ECD Programme supporting babies and young children with disabilities, were awarded at the national SA ECD Awards hosted on 4th May in Cape Town by the Minister of Social Development and custodian of the SA ECD Awards, Ms Bathabile Dlamini.

The provincial winners are:

Best ECD Centres

- Simba Kleuterlifies, Olifantshoek (Northern Cape)
- Mahlasedi Community Crèche, Dennilton (Limpopo)
- Africa Community Projects Day Care, Belhar Cape Town (Western Cape)
- Loerie Heuwel Crèche, Loerie (Eastern Cape)
- Land of Joy Day Care, Soweto (Gauteng)
- Ipelegeng Day Care Centre, Radium (North-West)
- Isiduzo Crèche, Mpumalanga Township (KwaZulu-Natal)
- Tjhabelang Primary School, Bainsvlei (Free State)
- Asisizane Crèche, Kwaggafontein (Mpumalanga)

Best ECD Practitioners

- Keolebile Mocumi from Leseding Pre-School in Kuruman (Northern Cape)
- Mmakosa Jackinah Masotla from Swarishanang Crèche Polokwane (Limpopo)
- Elizabeth Jantjies from Khanyisa Educare in Beaufort West (Western Cape)
- Veronica Masingatha from Morning Star Day Care in Mdantsane (Eastern Cape)
- Mathapelo Mathibela from Mothergoose Day Care in Germiston Centre (Gauteng)
- Lydia Ntsimane from Setlhabaneng Early Learning Centre in Disaneng (North-West)
- Thokozani Msimang from Silindokuhle Crèche in Hammastdale (KwaZulu-Natal)
- Dimakatso Seshaoke from Naledi Educare Centre in Heilbron (Free-State)
- Lindiwe Masina from Khayelihle Crèche in Amsterdam (Mpumalanga)

The South African Early Childhood Development (SA ECD) Awards, now in their 12th year, awarded a total of R635 000.00 worth of prizes to the winners.

These are the national winners:

Best ECD Practitioner of the Year

- Jackinah Masotla (rural) from Limpopo
- Veronica Masingita (urban) from Eastern Cape
- Dimakatso Seshaoke (informal) from Free State

Best ECD Centre of the Year

- Loerie Heuwel Crèche (rural) in Eastern Cape
- Mahlasedi Community Crèche (rural) in Limpopo
- Africa Community Projects Day Care (informal) in Western Cape

Best ECD Programme for children and babies with disabilities of the year

- Bellinah Ratau (informal) from Mokgalaborwa Centre For Children with Disabilities in Limpopo
- Elizabethe Mbhele from Tshepang ECD Centre For Children With Disabilities in the Free State (urban)
- Kristien Bahumi (rural) Kagisho Day Care For Children With Disabilities in the Northern Cape

Best ECD Publication of the Year

- Vivlia Publishers

Best ECD Illustrator of the Year

- Debbie Human

Best ECD Author of the Year

- Maya Fowler

Best ECD Emerging Publication of the Year

- Nonkululeko Nkosi from Land of Joy Day Care in Gauteng



Winners of SA ECD Awards



Best ECD Centre of the Year (rural): Loerie Heuvel Crèche



Best ECD Programme for Children with Disabilities (urban): Elizabethe Mbhele of Tshepang ECD Centre For Children With Disabilities (Free-State)

Best ECD publication: Special Mention

- Stacey Fru

Best Non-centre Based Programme of the Year

- Ikamva Lethu (urban) in the Eastern Cape
- Ubuntu (rural) in the Eastern Cape
- Tshwaraganang Barolong (informal) in North-West

Best ECD Trainer of the Year

- Margaret Goliath (Informal) from Kwazulu-Natal
- Princess Nkwana (Urban) from South African Congress for Early Childhood Development.
- Nanase Leboa (Rural) from CUSTODA Trust in the Northern Cape



Best ECD Trainer of the Year (informal): Margaret Goliath from Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal

Special Mention category

- Martha Sesana Ntuli – Special Awards for Extended Service in ECD
- Thokozani Msimang – Special Awards for Dedicated Service in ECD
- Sarah Driver-Jowitt from Uhambo Foundation for the Ndinogona “I Can” programme for Extended Service in the field of children with disabilities

“It is important that as we develop the ECD sector in South Africa and make it professional, that we also develop the women who have always been in the

forefront of developing the South African child. They must also benefit from the growth in the sector. No woman should be left behind in our process of moving the sector forward”, Minister Dlamini said.

The awards seek to develop and empower the early childhood development (ECD) sector by recognizing excellence, innovation, best practice, dedication and participation throughout South Africa. The awards aim to promote the ECD sector and emphasize the importance of investing in early learning.

The SA ECD Awards continue to grow and have a great impact on the development of the ECD sector. The NDA is confident that the awards will grow in 2016 and take the ECD sector to greater heights.

The awards are hosted in partnership with the Department of Social Development, SASSA, Department of Basic Education and Health, the South African Congress for ECD and UNICEF.

» See page 4 for more of our Winners

More SA ECD Awards Winners



Thokozani Msimang from Hammarsdale in KwaZulu-Natal received a Special Award for Dedicated Service in ECD



Best ECD Publication (Special Mention): Stacey Fru



Best ECD Illustrator of the Year: Debbie Human



Best ECD Practitioner of the Year (Informal): Dimakatso Seshaoke, Naledi Educare in Heilbron



Tribute to Gugu Shezi

It is with sadness to announce the sudden passing away of NDA KwaZulu-Natal Development Manager, Gugu Shezi. She has served diligently at the NDA for the last 5-years.

She had just successfully coordinated the South African ECD Awards in the province when she took ill.

Gugu is survived by her husband, two children (Lungelo and Ntokozo), parents, sister (Simangele) and brother (Thulani).

Condolences to her family, colleagues and NDA beneficiaries she worked closely with.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Symposium highlights the importance of nutrition in ECD services

The nutritional intake value and wellbeing of children is critical to the overall development of children. Studies have indicated that nutritional deficiencies can seriously impact cognitive, physical and other developmental areas for young children. A symposium organised by the National Development Agency (NDA), at the end of March 2016, brought together early childhood development specialists, private and public sector stakeholders to create awareness on nutritional requirements of children, share insights from studies and enhance understanding of the implications of food and nutritional security towards the holistic growth and development of children.

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) presented evidence based research findings that directly link the wellbeing of children to daily intake of nutritious foods by children and the importance of health and human development within the first 1000 days. The collaboration between

the Departments of Social Development, Health and Education also highlighted the efforts made towards implementation of the ECD policy approved by Cabinet in December 2015. The three departments are working closely to address some audit findings related to infrastructure requirements, qualification of practitioners, focus on children with disabilities, stimulation programmes and the advancement of the curriculum.

The South African National Energy Development Institute of the Department of Energy is also making strides in energy and waste management to ensure that ECDs establish functional and productive food gardens through rain water harvesting as well as solar heating methods.

The NDA would like to thank the following organisations for coming on board as partners: ECD directorates at Social Development, South African Congress for ECD, Department of Health, SANEDI and HSRC for their participation and inputs at the symposium.



NDA's "Prof" and "Mme Mary" retire

After almost 16 years as the National Development Agency's Provincial Manager in Limpopo, Professor Zach Mmutlanyane Chuenyane, fondly known as "Prof", announced his retirement at the end of March 2016.

He will be solely missed by all, particularly his immediate staff who have described him as "a good leader and a father to us in the office, he was always willing to help and motivate us".

Mary Dube, has been with the NDA since 2008 has also retired to rest with her family. She has served with dedication for all the years. Sadly, Mme Mary's husband passed on recently – hardly a month into her retirement.

We wish both of them well in their future endeavours and a well deserved rest.

Contact Us

Editor: Lesego Ranchu Email: indabaeditor@nda.org.za Tel: 011 018 5500



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