

October/November 2016 Issue

National Development Agency welcomes new Chief Executive Officer

Ms Thamo Mzobe has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the National Development Agency (NDA). She was previously employed as a Provincial Manager of the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) NDA office before she was seconded to the Ministry of Social Development for a Special Project.

"One of the new CEO's key deliverables will be in line with increasing the NDA's accessibility to poor communities. I have also advised her to get vital support from stakeholders such as the CSO sector and NDA Board members, because they too offer an insurmountable experience in the development field. The Deputy Minister and I have full faith in her capabilities and are certain she will also use the time to tap into and build on ideas already conceptualised by her team at the NDA" said Minister Bathabile Dlamini at an NDA engagement session with staff after officially introducing the new CEO.

"My first year in this leadership position will be marked by drastic change to get the NDA brand on everyone's lips within the development sector. I am fortunate enough to already know that I am walking into an office with a team full of potential, strength, resilience and experience in and around community development. My core competencies are tailored around hard work, sound ethics and respect for leadership – these competencies bore fruits in my career and I have no doubt these will also take the NDA forward," says Ms Mzobe.

The incoming CEO has always worked in government and started with the KZN Social Development Ministry in 2007 where she established a Non Profit Organisation directorate that was later adopted and replicated in all other provinces to facilitate registration of NPOs as legal entities across all governments departments in provinces.

"My loyalty to government stems from the commitment to serve and to continuously improve the lives of poor communities."

Ms Mzobe holds a Bachelor's Degree and a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of South Africa. She has also attended short courses offered by PALAMA. Currently, she is studying towards her Master's in Administration at the University of Potchefstroom.



NDA new CEO Ms Thamo Mzobe, Board Chairperson Ms Judy Hermans and outgoing Acting CEO Ms Nelisiwe Vilakazi

She takes up office from 1 November 2016 from Acting CEO, Ms Nelisiwe Vilakazi, who has been instrumental in the overall management of the agency as well as leadership in taking the NDA staff through a repositioning process that will have the NDA focus its business model on community development and expansion of offices across South African districts. The Minister also took the time to note Ms Vilakazi's tenure in office stating that she displays "sincerity in completing any task given to her". Outside the office Ms Mzobe also serves as a dedicated wife and mother to her three children. ■

WHAT'S INSIDE?

PAGE 2



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

University of Fort Hare and National Development Agency partner to advance Early Childhood Development research

PAGE 2



Department of Social Development achieves 4th consecutive Auditor General clean audit

PAGE 3



The NDA launches research book on the impact of CSOs in South Africa



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

University of Fort Hare and National Development Agency partner to advance Early Childhood Development research

A longitudinal research study is being conducted by the National Development Agency (NDA) and the University of Fort Hare's Early Childhood Development Centre (UFH-ECDC) to test and evaluate the extent to which evidence based research interventions are contributing towards the provision of ECD services in the Eastern Cape.

A study will be conducted in ECD centres over 21-months to analyse and monitor the impact of ECD practises in context of policy and legislation requirements: infrastructure, teaching and learning and management, especially in lesser resourced areas. A research report will be compiled to inform specifically designed interventions that can be monitored and evaluated over time to measure the value and delivery of quality comprehensive ECD services to deprived communities. Interventions will include training of practitioners, improving quality of teaching and learning, infrastructure and management of the centres. The research has keen interest on how these centres will address issues relating to vulnerable groups such as, children with disabilities and access to food and nutrition in ECD centres. The study is conducted with active participation and support from the Departments of Social Development, Health, Basic and Higher Education.

The National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy was approved by Cabinet on 9 December 2015 and sets clear direction on the provision of comprehensive ECD services for infants and young children, including those with

special needs and other developmental challenges. "The purpose of the study is to conduct research that will inform effective implementation of the ECD policy and produce best practices in ECD centres" explains Nthabiseng Kraai, Senior Manager for Research and Policy at the NDA.

Previous research shows a close link between poverty and the lack of adequate early childhood development. The NDA is mandated to contribute towards the eradication of poverty, this mandate directly contributes to the main goal of the National Development Plan (NDP) of reducing poverty, inequalities and unemployment. Government pronounced 13 outcomes that are used to plan for and implement programmes that will respond to the NDP. The NDA responds to outcome 13: "An inclusive and responsive social protection system" and as entity of the Department of Social Development also addresses "Improved quality and access of early childhood development services for children 0-4 years".

FHU-ECDC spokesperson Doctor Namhla Sotuku points out synergies between the two entities exist because the University is committed to developing academic capacity and replicable evidence-based models for ECD, research and scholarship in the area of ECD that can contribute to addressing key questions and challenges related to child development in South Africa. The NDA, on the other hand, focuses on capacity building to ensure

that practitioners access minimum required qualifications to address capacity constraints in ECD centres and training that deals with the management of centres to become or remain compliant. "This partnership has come at the right time following the publication of the ECD policy. The partnership will enrich the work of the UFH-ECDC and carve its space and focus as a participant in ECD" she said.

The NDA will fund the three phased research and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by both parties whilst SLA's will be signed to guide implementation and achieving expected deliverables against time frames. UFH-ECDC will serve as technical and intellectual expertise and implementation partner to conduct the study. Results of the study will be disseminated through various platforms such as official websites, symposiums, policy makers, communities and participants by both parties.

This research will lead to the establishment of an ECD Centre of Excellence, to be built alongside the Education Faculty offices in East London – launching a flagship project for the University. The vision of the Centre of Excellence is to stimulate, support and undertake disciplinary research, teaching, learning and community engagements to fully develop the potential of children in South Africa through the provision of safe, secure, nurtured play and learning environments. ■

Department of Social Development achieves 4th consecutive Auditor General clean audit

Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, accepted a clean audit certificate on behalf of her Department and two agencies, National Development Agency (NDA) and South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) from the Auditor General South Africa for achieving clean audits for the last 4 financial years.

Did you know?



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere” explicitly recognises that poverty results not from the lack of just one thing but from many different interrelated factors that affect the lives of people living in poverty.

This means we must go beyond seeing poverty merely as the lack of income or what is necessary for material well-being — such as food, housing, land, and other assets – in order to fully understand poverty in its multiple dimensions.

The theme this year – selected in consultation with activists, civil society and non-governmental organizations – highlights how important it is to recognise and address the humiliation and exclusion endured by many people living in poverty. ■

www.un.org/en/events/povertyday

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was celebrated on October 17, 2016. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is celebrated every year on October 17 throughout the world. It was officially recognised by the United Nations, but the first commemoration of the event took place in Paris, France, in 1987 when 100,000 people gathered on the Human Rights and Liberties Plaza at the Trocadéro to honour victims of poverty, hunger, violence and fear. This call was made by Joseph Wresinski

(1917–1988) founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World. One of the main aims of the day is to make the voice of the poor heard. This day is commemorated worldwide. www.cute-calendar.com

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2016 Theme - Moving from humiliation and exclusion to participation: Ending poverty in all its forms.

The NDA launches research book on the impact of CSOs in South Africa

Lonwabo Ganelo

The Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, on Tuesday, 18th October 2016, officially launched the National Development Agency's (NDA) research book on Civil Society Organisations titled: “Enhancing Civil Society participation in the South African Development Agenda: The role of CSOs.” The launch was also followed by a symposium where a range of stakeholders from the state, civil society organisations (CSOs) sector, private sector and academia engaged in discussions about the findings of the research contained in the book.

The NDA has over the past three years, conducted a number of research studies aimed at informing the state, the civil society sector and other stakeholders on issues affecting the civil society sector in its quest to positively contribute to the development agenda of South Africa. Comprehensive studies were conducted on areas such as poverty, the role of the sector in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the funding landscape of the sector, and programmes implemented by the sector. These studies were conducted as part of the NDA fulfilling its secondary mandate of conducting research that informs national development policy and promoting dialogue and debate

between the civil society organisations sector and state organs.

The Minister, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, in her keynote address highlighted the importance of the research for civil society organisations and the role they play in the development agenda of South Africa. “It is worth noting that civil society organisations play a significant

Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and Co-operative for Research and Education (CORE) who were also commissioned to contribute on the research work contained in the book that was launched. Through this partnership and the launch of the book, CSOs will be empowered to extend their footprint in the communities they operate in.

The HSRC through their presentation highlighted the fact that twenty years into South Africa's development the country still faces the triple challenges of unprecedented levels of poverty, inequality and unemployment. The discussions at the symposium were also focused on how the CSO sector can respond to these challenges effectively. Two of the conclusions to the discussions were, firstly that the civil society sector has a duty to reclaim its space in the South African development discourse.

The second conclusion is that the sector must find a way to reorganise itself for a common goal and purpose. This will allow the sector to deal with the current fragmentation at all levels.

The NDA is hopeful that by launching this research book, CSOs will improve the living conditions of vulnerable members of society including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. ■



Mr Bongani Magongo, Executive Director: Research and Development at the NDA summarises highlights of the book.

role of ensuring that our communities thrive through successful programmes.

It is for this reason that we are launching a book produced through research work of the NDA. This book is part of the NDA's mandate of conducting research which would in return assist with policy development and facilitation of dialogues between the state and civil society.”

The NDA partnered with the Human

Board of Directors oversight visits to funded projects

The National Development Agency Board have undertaken project oversight road shows to all provinces to get first hand information and engage with project beneficiaries. This is in-line with acquainting themselves with operations and seeking improved ways of conducting business.

Ikhwezi Vegetable Cooperative

The Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini and the National Development Agency handed over Ikhwezi Vegetable and Poultry Cooperative in Sikhwahlane Village, Nkomazi Municipality at Ehlanzeni

District on 21 October 2016.

Ikhwezi is a nine-member cooperative that received R 2 343 939.00 million from the NDA for farming implements, equipment, building a pack house, cold room, office and a training room. The

cooperative produces fresh vegetables and packages them for Spar and Pick n Pay. The cooperative employs 72 community members from Sikhwahlane. The past three years has seen the cooperative extend its mandate to be the trainer of choice for other agricultural cooperatives in Mpumalanga. ■



Minister visits Ikhwezi Vegetable Cooperative to commemorate World Food Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SA ECD Awards Update

Entries for the South African Early Childhood Development Awards (SA ECD Awards) have now closed. Adjudications and site visits will be carried out by the various Steering Committees and the events will be shared in the next issue of iNDABA. Wishing all entrants the very best with their entries.

Office Relocation

The National Development Agency Gauteng provincial office has moved from Braamfontein. The new offices are now at the following address: **2nd Floor, Metropolitan Building, 108 Fox Street (next to Gandhi Square) Johannesburg**

More upcoming events....

- 3th November 2016 – Launch of the Disability Rights Awareness Month, Johannesburg
- 29th November 2016 – Launch and official opening of Siyakha Early Childhood Development Centre in Ducats, East London
- 29th November 2016 – Alice Mikondzo, Alice
- 26th November 2016 – Mawewe ICROP, Mpumalanga
- 03-12th December 2016 – Youth Camp, Kimberly