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## INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

**TO: ALL STAFF**

**FROM: HEAD OF DEPARTMENT (HoD)**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)  
FUNCTION SHIFT**

**DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2021**

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### Background

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced in his February 2019 State of the Nation Address that the Department of Basic Education (DBE) will have technical oversight over the early childhood development (ECD) sector. The Minister of Basic Education in her 2019 Budget Speech reiterated migration of ECD from DSD to DBE.

DBE subsequently established several structures, including national and provincial project management teams and workstreams, to facilitate the process for the function shift. Based on the recommendation from the Office of the Chief State Law Advisors (OCSLA), both Departments have drafted two Proclamations. The first Proclamation is signed by the President, while the second Proclamation is signed by the Premiers for the transfer of power and functions to the MEC responsible for Basic Education in each Province. The proclamations further specify that the date of the implementation of the ECD function shift will be 1 April 2022.

The move will allow for a standardised ECD function, to ensure structured learning in the sector, including a managed curriculum. This means that the ECD curriculum will also be aligned to the CAPS curriculum. Secondly, the shifting of the function from DSD to DBE will allow the DBE to manage the educational journey of young children, from play-based learning to their final paper in Grade 12.

Furthermore, the transfer will provide an opportunity to improve access to quality early learning, to develop a publicly funded national ECD system. The Eastern Cape Department of Education and the Eastern Cape Social Development have embraced the requirements to transfer the ECD function and have embarked on a joint implementation initiative and the following workstreams have been established for this process:



EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT



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- ✓ Legal and contracts
- ✓ Human resources
- ✓ Finance and budgets
- ✓ Infrastructure
- ✓ Data, information, monitoring and evaluation
- ✓ Communication and stakeholder engagement
- ✓ ECD Implementation programmes

## SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

- ✓ A total number of **2556** ECD Centres will migrate from DSD to DOE.
- ✓ Identification of the posts and personnel to follow the ECD function.
- ✓ Engagement of organised labour, affected employees and relevant stakeholders for buy in and support.
- ✓ The budget inclusive COE & Goods & Services to follow the function must be agreed upon by both MECs.
- ✓ Reviewal of the organizational structures for both departments to accommodate the function shift.
- ✓ Analyzation of the current Service Level Agreements (SLAs) of ECD Centres to be done before the implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
- ✓ Processing of the existing ECD related payments before the implementation in 2022.
- ✓ Legal implications such as Provincial Proclamations & MOA must be attended to before end of August 2021.
- ✓ Provincial Summit be convened with all stakeholders for sharing of information.

## ECD CENSUS

A virtual launch of the ECD Census took place on Thursday, 26 August. Information gathered as part of the census will be used to integrate ECD into the DBEs' Education Management Information System (EMIS) and thus expand the provision of education support programmes as well as play-based learning. This exercise is funded by the LEGO Foundation. The data and indicators will also establish a baseline for assessing the quality of learning through play in South Africa. The Census will run from August to December 2021. All registered and non-registered ECD Centres are strongly encouraged to participate, as this will broaden access to quality learning for every South African child.

Consultation, of all staff affected by the shift is guided by the National Macro Organisation of Government (NMOG) Framework Agreement, the PSCBC Resolution 1 of 2019 and the Public Service Guide on Transformation and Restructuring: Human Resources. The PMGO at the Provincial level has already been signed by both MEC's of the two departments.

A Stakeholder engagement summit will take place before the end of September 2021 to brief all affected parties and or stakeholders. This will be done virtually to observe the Covid – 19 protocols.

“Building a solid foundation for learning”

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a hand-drawn oval. The signature appears to be 'N. Mbude'.

**Dr. N. Mbude**  
**Head of Department**  
**EC Department of Education**  
**Date: 27/10/21**