

## SA ECD Awards: Creating a Brighter Future for our Children

A befitting function was organised by National Development Agency to award and recognize the hard work and dedication of ECD Practitioners who play a vital role in society by laying the foundation for basic learning and life skills.

For the past 10 years, ABSA saw a gap and decided to recognize South African men and women who work tirelessly to ensure that South African children are receiving excellent education and have the opportunity to build a better future for themselves by hosting the ECD Awards.

The baton has now been handed over to NDA as the new hosts of 2015 ECD awards, indeed they have shown that they are ready to take the awards and the sector to the next level.

Encouraging practitioners to keep doing wonders, MEC Ntombela said, even though in most cases practitioners are often the unsung heroes and heroines of South Africa's communities they are the ones creating the vital phase of human development, shaping not only an individual's future but dictating the strength and vitality of a nation.



MEC Social Development, Me Sisi Ntombela and NDA CEO Dr Nhlapo and Mr Koenane presenting a cheque to Realeboha Day Care Centre

The ECD Awards categories were based on the improvement of quality of care, protection and development of children and skills development of care givers on caring for children and providing them with stimulating environments. Only with only 241 entries were received across the province and they were judged based on the following categories:

- Best ECD Practitioner
- Best ECD Centre

The Best Practitioner award went to Bongosa Vuyelwa of Lerato Educare Centre in Zastron and the Best ECD Centre Award went to Tryphina Malakoane of Realeboha Day Care from Bloemfontein.

Nhlapo- NDA CEO said the work is not over, and this was just the beginning because from now on we are expecting more good results from the ECD sec-tor. "It is therefore very important to reward those who are providing this important service to our children so that they continue to learn, TO know and TO do better" she said.