



Media Advisory

04 June 2015

FREE STATE COMMEMORATES CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

The Child and Welfare Temporary Safe Care Centre in Thaba-Nchu will officially open its doors to accommodate abused, neglect, exploited and abandoned children during the ceremony to be officiated by the MEC for Social Development Me Sisi Ntombela on Friday, 05 June 2015.

For the past ten years the Centre has been operating as a shelter for abused women and children through donor funding. In 2014, the Department of Social Development entered into agreement with Child Welfare SA to revive the center due to increasing need for shelters

The center operates 24 hours to service communities around Thaba-Nchu and Botshabelo will be able to accommodate 13 Children who will be placed by the Court Order. The SAPS are also allowed to remove and place children in need of care by means of a form 36 in terms of the Children's Act. Children are only allowed to stay at the center for a period not more than 90 days pending the finalization of their cases. They will be receiving psychosocial support and reunification services. The event forms part of the activities organized by the department to celebrate **Child Protection Week**.

Child Protection week is an annual awareness raising campaign to sensitize communities around child abuse, neglect and exploitation. Since 2010, the campaign has adopted the theme "working together to protect children" to enable and show communities that they have a crucial role in the child protection system and that communities also have a responsibility to report any form of abuse against children.

Members of the media are invited to this event arranged as follows:

Date : **05 June 2015**
Time : **10H00**
Venue : **Child and Welfare Temporary Safe Care Centre (Botshelo Centre), Thaba Nchu, next to Social Development Offices**

For Enquiries, please contact Ms Tebello Tau on 083 555 9717

Wear a Green Ribbon  **show you care about Children**