

## **BRIEF REPORT ON THE ROUND TABLE: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT WORKFORCE**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Venue: Sheraton Pretoria Hotel, 643 Cnr. Church & Wessels Street Arcadia, Pretoria**

### **PREAMBLE:**

The Director of Motheo Training Institute Trust, Mr. Rex Molefe attended the round table discussion meeting on Early Childhood Development (ECD) Workforce and this round table discussion on Early Childhood Development (ECD) workforce organised and hosted by the Department of Basic Education (DBE), Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and UNICEF.

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the round table was to discuss the current status, development and future of the ECD workforce in South Africa (SA) with regards to qualifications, working conditions and professionalisation.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Presentations during this round table discussion on ECD workforce were made by the following organisations:

1. Omotola Akindolani from SAQA and she presented on "The Qualification landscape Early Childhood Development Practitioners: Yesterday, today and Tomorrow"
2. Hasina Banu Ebrahim from UNISA/PIECCE Consortium presented on "Quality and Qualification: Two sides of the same coin"
3. Marie-Louise Samuels from the Department of Basic Education presented on "Quality and Qualification: Two sides of the same coin"
4. Rex Molefe from Motheo Training Institute Trust presented on "Quality and Qualification: Two sides of the same coin"
5. Andre Viviers from UNICEF presented on "Professionalisation: the conversion point for qualifications, quality implementation and recognition"
6. Vanencia Chiloane from the South African Council for Educators (SACE) presented on "Professionalisation: the conversion point for qualifications, quality implementation and recognition"
7. Leonard Saul from the South African Congress for Early Childhood Development presented on "Professionalisation: the conversion point for qualifications, quality implementation and recognition"

It is also worth mentioning that in attendance were the following organisations:

- NECDA
- Nelson Mandela foundation
- Inclusive Education
- Department of Social Services
- Various Senior Government officials and
- Numerous experts from the Civil Society Organizations.

The round table discussion on ECD workforce was handled and facilitated by the following people and there were two panels:

- Zelda Adendorff from the DHET
- Andre Viviers from UNICEF and
- Marie-Louise Samuels from DBE

#### **DELIBERATIONS:**

The meeting deliberated around many issues pertaining to quality and qualifications, conditions of employment and challenges, opportunities and the envisaged changes and the availability of quality data with regards to ECD workforce.

The meeting also examined various policies and legislations which talk about quality and qualifications as well as conditions of employment for the ECD workforce and how these legislations speak to the National Development Plan and the National ECD Integrated Policy.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The attendees and/or participants came up with some substantive recommendations and all these recommendations were summed up and condensed into a statement of recommendations which will constitute a way forward.

Once the statement of recommendations is made available, it will be shared widely with members of the ECD sector.

#### **WAY FORWARD:**

It was agreed that the consolidated summed up statement of recommendations should be submitted to the National ECD Integrated Forum for further deliberations in various sub-committees.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Motheo Training Institute Trust is committed to highlighting the plight of ECD workforce and believe that the country cannot afford to leave behind the ECD workforce. Quality ECD training matters most in the continuous professional development of ECD educators, in the implementation of various ECD policies and in the coverage and universal access of quality ECD service provisioning. as we firmly believe that

Therefore, we hope that the statement of recommendations will be made available and those recommendations be further deliberated in the National ECD Intersectoral Forum.

**Report compiled by: Mr. Rex Molefe-The Director of Motheo Training Institute Trust**