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MEDIA RELEASE:

Early Childhood Development training teachers rolled out

On 10 March, 140 teachers and principals from community centre (crèches) started a week's theoretical training in the first of three modules in Early Childhood Development (ECD) NQF Level 5 course through Unisa.

This is due to a public private partnership between the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and Anglo American after an audit by the municipality to identify the educational progress of children from different areas, with regard to their early development and their ability to cope in school.

This action plan is in response to the National Plan of Action announced by Minister Trevor Manuel in order as a nation to plan collectively for the future education and prospects of our children. It forms part of the National Development Plan for a better future for all South Africans in which no person lives in poverty, where no one goes hungry, where there is work for all, a nation united in the vision of the Constitution.

The audit, which took place throughout the community found that children in Grade R, Grade 1 and Grade 2 from poor and previously disadvantaged areas had not received ECD training at crèches they attended, as these centres were used mainly as a baby-sitting service for working parents, with untrained staff, some of whom had not completed Grade 12.

It was evident that these children are not only at a disadvantage when they start school, but the lack of early cognitive learning hinders them throughout their school education right through to university where they eventually drop out.

STLM appreciates Anglo American's enthusiasm that when this case study was presented to them they immediately proposed to meet the educational costs of the teachers and principals who needed training in ECD.

"We applaud Anglo American for its commitment to the country and to our community in the upliftment of educational standards in order to equip our children to primary school level, and beyond," said Executive Mayor Mike Masina who officially launched the study programme on 10 March.

The course, which ends with a final exam in October with see the students attending a week of fulltime lectures followed by monthly lectures, assignments and intermediate exams.

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Yours faithfully

WD FOUCHE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER