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**DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**PROVINCIAL LAUNCH OF CHILD PROTECTION WEEK**

Child Protection Week 2017 will be observed nationally from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June under the theme *“Let us all protect children to move South Africa forward”*.

Every child has the right to health and a life free from violence. Each year, though, millions of children around the world are the victims and witnesses of physical, sexual and emotional violence. The Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, (Act 108 of 1996) specifically states that every child has the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation.

Children in South Africa live in a society under our Constitution that has the highest regard for their rights and for the equality and dignity of everyone. Protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse is not only a basic value, but also an obligation clearly set out in Article 28 of the South African Constitution. Despite the best efforts of the South African Government and civil society to protect children from child abuse, neglect and exploitation, it is a fact that many children still remain vulnerable.

Child Protection Week was initiated in 1997, in order to raise awareness and to mobilise all sectors and communities towards the perspective of a holistic development and the care and protection of children. The CPW has become an annual campaign to educate and mobilize communities to put children first.

As part of the campaign, Limpopo communities have been engaged in seminars and educational talks on topics such as child abuse, neglect and exploitation; dysfunctional families; teenage pregnancy; children's rights and responsibilities; child trafficking; drug abuse and more. Following will be children's dialogues on various topics that affect them, to put children at the forefront of change in their own lives. The dialogues will further create opportunities for them to understand, discuss, decide and act on issues affecting their lives and to provide an opportunity to local authorities to listen and understand children's concerns and decisions.

The Acting MEC for Social Development, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, will be officially launching Child Protection Week at an event scheduled as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
**Venue:** Hans Masebe Primary School  
Hans Village,  
Ga-Masenya, Mapela  
Mogalakwena Local Municipality  
**Time:** 07:30

You are hereby invited to cover the event. Pre-event interviews welcome.

***Kindly confirm attendance*** and please do not hesitate to call for more information.

***End***

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