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## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### MEDIA STATEMENT

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
**Embargo:** None

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#### WORLD POPULATION DAY CELEBRATIONS 2014

In the wake of the interest generated by the Day of 5 Billion, celebrated on 11 July 1987 (approximately the date on which the world's population reached five billion people), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Governing Council and later the General Assembly recommended that 11 July be observed annually as World Population Day. World Population Day is an event which seeks to raise awareness of global population issues.

The Republic of South Africa and its nine provinces have been commemorating World Population Day since 1994. This year's theme, in keeping with the United Nations Population Fund's focus on adolescent well-being, is **"Investing in Young People"**.

Activities to commemorate World Population Day 2014, will therefore focus on the youth and aims to create awareness with regards to education; responsible sexual behaviour; skills development as a vehicle for sustainable human development; the danger of substance abuse as well as awareness of the range of services rendered by various stakeholders, including the Department of Health; the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the National Development Agency (NDA) to name but a few.

The Department of Social Development, after careful consideration of the demographics and the various challenges experienced in certain communities, will host these celebrations in the Maruleng Municipality, Mopani District this year. The event will be held as follows:

**Date:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
**Venue:** Shining Sports Grounds, Finale Village  
Maruleng Municipality  
Mopani District  
**Time:** 12:00

The MEC for Social Development, Mrs. Happy Joyce Mashamba, will be addressing the formal programme. You are hereby invited to cover the event.

*End.*

For more information, please contact:

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