



PRESS RELEASE

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AL JAMA-AH welcomes presentation on “Progress on Early Childhood Development Function Shift”

The AL JAMA-AH welcomes initiatives and progress made to “migrate” the function of Early Childhood Development from the Department of Social Development (DSD) to the Department of Basic Education (DBE).

On 16th March 2021 the DSD presented a report to the Portfolio Committee on the DBE on progress made.

AL JAMA-AH says this move is long overdue, ECD is an educational function and service and should be managed by the DBE. It is our hope that this will allow ECD facilities to register with greater ease (currently the process is tedious and the wait is long).

We would like to see that ECD facilities should serve as feeders to the local primary schools. Primary schools and ECD facilities should have direct relationships for ease of flow in terms of the syllabus and transition for the children.

We agree on the importance of monitoring but call on the Department to implement a process of training and support alongside the monitoring and that there should be a process of training and support before monitoring and evaluation.

There should also be a benchmark for all facilities to have equal standards so that all our Children’s basic human rights can be met, regardless of race, class, resources, etc.

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