



## Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present another edition of the Institute of Early Childhood Development's newsletter and the last edition for 2016. As the year draws to an end, it is a wonderful time to reflect on what we have accomplished in the last year and what we want to prioritize for the upcoming year. This year, as has been the case since its inception, IECD has continued to

develop and implement programmes that will improve early childhood years across the country. Looking at this year's achievements we are remain committed to working with all our partners and stakeholders in ECCE to ensure the long-term success in meeting the goals of the Institute.

This final Newsletter edition of 2016 outlines some of the accomplishments of IECD with the support of its partners for the last six months amongst which are the registration and continuous training for the Childminders, advocacy campaign on National Standards for childminding services in partnership with Temooljee & Co Ltd, and Hunt Deltel; the research project on Monitoring Child Development Outcome using the Denver Development Screening Test (DDST) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, sponsored by Seychelles Ports Authority and Seychelles Trading Company, and the Data Management in ECCE in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the World Bank.

We cannot celebrate our achievements without celebrating the contribution of an invaluable colleague who has been working with the Institute since 2013 and will be retiring. Dr. Andre Leste, the Director for Programme Coordination and Research has indeed been the motivation behind IECD's great achievements. I would like to dedicate this edition of IECD's Newsletter to his many contributions. In addition, I wish to thank all the staff, ECCE sectors, partners and friends of IECD for all their continuous support.

Finally, with the festive season already upon us, I would like to wish, on behalf of the Chairperson and Members of IECD Board and Staff, you all the best of the season's greetings and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Shirley Choppy (Mrs.)  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Institute of Early Childhood Development**

## GOVERNMENT'S INCENTIVES TO SUPPORT CHILDMINDING SECTOR

Amongst other qualities, a childminder needs to, first, love children, be familiar with the theory of child development and must be committed to providing a safe, nurturing and learning environment for young children. Today's working parents depend a lot on child care services to enable them to go out to work and contribute towards the economic development of the country. Childminders are not only essential service providers but also praiseworthy educators.

The 1st June is customarily a special occasion for children in Seychelles. This year was even more special and memorable to many Childminders as in recognition of their special role in the care and education of young children, the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) organised a special event for all Childminders on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. The Vice President of the Republic, Mr. Danny Faure was the guest of honour at the event which took place at the Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education (SITE). The occasion was also attended by the Minister for Finance, Trade and Blue Economy, Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Minister for Education, Mrs. Mac-Suzu Mondon, and other high government officials. The event began with a spiritual blessing for the work of all Childminders led by Reverend Alcindor. The highlight of the occasion was the speech by the Vice President, commending the Childminders for their role in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pledging the Government's commitment and support in raising the quality of Childminding Services across the country. The Vice President announced a num-

ber of incentives to support the Childminders to comply with the National Standards, once they are registered with IECD. The scheme include:

- financial assistance to employ an assistant
- assistance upon registration with reasonable terms and conditions to access loans from the Small Business Financing Agency (SBFA) to carry out major refurbishment works at the premises.
- increased government financial contribution to the ECCE Trust Fund
- access to the ECCE Trust Fund as of 2017 which will allow them to apply for grants and implement projects related to their services.

These support mechanisms emanated after IECD's Childminding Study of 2013 which showed that Childminders were merely breaking even and not making any profitable returns. To further bring support for the Childminders, the Chairperson of the ECCE Trust Fund, Mr. Lambert Woodcock donated fire safety equipment which included fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and Manual Gongs to the Chief Executive Officer of IECD, Mrs. Shirley Choppy for distribution to the Childminders. These equipment will further assist in ensuring the safety of children.

At the end of the afternoon Mrs. Raymonde Jean-Louis, a Childminder with over 25 years experience, thanked the Government on behalf of all Childminders, shared her experience and also expressed words of encouragement



Mr. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles



Mr. Lambert Woodcock handed over fire safety equipment to Mrs. Choppy

to her colleagues. In recognition of his advocacy and championing ECCE in Seychelles, the Vice President was rewarded with a token of appreciation by the Childminders.

# SEYCHELLES PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO-IBE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY IN THE AREA OF ECCE TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF CAMEROON



UNESCO-IBE and Seychelles Experts with Local Consultants in Cameroon

In response to an invitation by UNESCO-IBE, the Chief Executive Officer of Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD), Mrs. Shirley Choppy and Dr. André Leste, the Director for Programme Coordination and Research joined the IBE mission to Yaoundé, Cameroon, from July 18th to 22nd, 2016. This Mission formed part of UNESCO-IBE technical assistance activity for ECCE within the 'General Education System Quality Analysis/Diagnosis Framework' (GEOAF). The aim of the five-day mission is to:

- Conduct an analysis of the situation of ECCE in Cameroon
- Identify key priority areas (for instance; education, nutrition and governance) for action
- Develop an implementation plan to address the developmental needs of children in the early years.

The Consultant from UNESCO-IBE, Mr. Christian Morabito led the working sessions and discussions with the Technical Team of local experts, including the Ministry for Women and Family Empowerment as well as representatives of the UNESCO National Commission. Several key issues concerning ECCE in Cameroon emerged and three priority areas were identified:

1. Health and Nutrition - build on school meal programme, reinforce the vaccination programme to cover all children, promote use of mosquito net and deliver Health Education Programme for Teachers
2. Education - continue to improve access, attend to space and infrastructural facilities, strengthen community-based programmes, develop links with parents, provide specialized training for Early Childhood Teachers and review Early Learning Programme
3. Governance - sensitize stakeholders on the legal and policy provisions, consider the equity issue when making ECCE provisions for the different Zones, develop an ECCE Framework for a common vision, develop collaborative and

coordination structures at national level and between ECCE sectors and introduce financial family support system

Mrs. Shirley Choppy made a presentation of the progress of ECCE in Seychelles within the last four years. She outlined the rapid development of ECCE in Seychelles from policy formulation, to strategic frameworks and specific action plans. She emphasized the progress made in ECCE in Seychelles by accentuating some major milestone achievements such as the production of "The Seychelles Framework for Early Childhood Care & Education", national legislation relating to ECCE, The Seychelles Early Learning Framework, national sectoral programmes such as maternal child health, immunization, parenting, access to early childhood education services, suitability check for childminders, access to community facilities and resources, and provision of day care facilities.

She described the fundamental role of the Institute of Early Childhood Development, as the anchor for ECCE and an important precursor in the rapid development and transformation of ECCE in Seychelles. This has propelled ECCE in a new direction and has yielded remarkable results – the effective implementation and promotion of multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration;



Experts from UNESCO-IBE and Seychelles with the Minister of Education (Centre) and her delegation.

the development and implementation of national plans for ECCE; championing ECCE for the 0-3 using evidence-based approach and research projects; the development of national standards, regulations and training for Childminders, Government's introduction of subsidy and financial assistance to childminders, and the partnership with the technical and economic support through international linkages such as UNESCO-IBE and World Bank. However, Mrs. Choppy cautioned that the challenges for ECCE in Seychelles still remains, to continue on the quest for quality and harmonisation of programmes and services across sectors. The general reaction of the Cameroonian counterparts to the presentation was one of amazement and acclamation that so much has been achieved in such a short period of time.

A series of visits to ECCE facilities were organised to contextualize some of the issues and concerns which have formed part of the situational analysis. Whilst basic provisions were made in terms of infrastructure, the public facilities need major repairs, indoor spaces were generally inadequate for play and group activities, outdoor space need some maintenance. The overall quality of the private schools is far better than the public schools.

The mission concluded that the successful adoption of ECCE recommendations depended on Government of Cameroon's commitment alongside their local consultants input from the different stakeholders, and the experience-sharing and expertise of the UNESCO-IBE and IECD Seychelles experts and the success of the Seychelles Model on ECCE. It ended by having an audience with the honourable Minister of Education and her delegation. The Minister applauded the sharing of expertise and experience and expressed a wish to further collaborate with UNESCO-IBE and Seychelles in establishing mechanisms, developing programmes and improving the quality of ECCE in Cameroon.

## FIRST CHILDMINDER REGISTERED WITH THE INSTITUTE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Emilie Lesperance is officially the first Home-Based Childminder to be registered with the (IECD), something she is very proud of. The mother of three boys has been caring for children in her home at Baie Ste Anne on Praslin for the past two years. However her journey as a Childminder began a long time ago overseas.

Currently, Emilie who is presently caring for four children attended training on the National Standards for Childminding Services. "I have learned a lot from the different sessions which were very interesting; with this knowledge, I have been able to implement the mandatory requirements to register as a Childminder." Emilie is thankful for the continued support being provided by IECD

Although she recognizes the challenges in caring for children, Mrs. Lesperance feels that it is important to have patience in everything one does and to be guided spiritually. Her wish for the future is to continue caring for children and to see other childminders come forward to register with IECD.



Senior Compliance Officer Ms. Lianette Morel presenting Mrs. Lesperance her Certificate of Registration in the presence of the District Administrator and a parent.

## MULTI-SECTORAL WORKING SESSION ON JOINT PRE - REGISTRATION VISIT AND ASSESSMENT OF CHILDMINDING ESTABLISHMENTS



The Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) organized a half-day working session on pre-registration and assessment visits to be conducted at Childminding Establishments as part of the registration process for home-based services. The working session which saw the participation of Officers from the ECCE Sectors, Health and Social Affairs as well as the Seychelles Fire and Rescue Services Agency (SFRSA), was held recently at the

International Conference Centre Seychelles. The IECD Act, 2014 established the Institute as the regulator of home-based childminding services with the responsibility of regulation and inspection of registered services as well as enforcement where the requirements are not being met. The recently gazetted IECD (National Standards on Childminding Regulation) 2016, calls for home-based, paid childminders with four or more children to register with IECD for a Certificate of Registration. The recently developed registration process involves several painstaking steps including a joint pre-registration visit and assessment. These visits are aimed at determining the eligibility of the Childminders to register by assessing whether they meet the requirements set by the regulations. Led by IECD, the visits are conducted by a team of officers from the

above mentioned Sectors. The aim of the training session was to set a common approach to the visits and validate the instruments to be used for the assessment. However, the session itself was dominated by discussions on the registration process and instruments for the visits. The training was led by the CEO of IECD, Mrs. Shirley Choppy, supported by the then Special Advisor to the Minister of Education, Mr. Selby Dora and assisted by the Staff of the Institute's Regulatory Affairs Section.



**THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR  
ON EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION  
COMING SOON**

Institut National de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse  
 Institut International de l'Enfance  
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
 International Bureau of Education  
 ECCE

## SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN ON NATIONAL STANDARDS ON CHILDMINDING



The Institute of Early Childhood Development National Standards of Childminding Regulation (2016) provides a set of standards that childminders have to comply with in order to be able to operate legally. These standards aim to ensure consistency across childminding establishments therefore, assuring quality service in early childhood care and education for the wholesome development of children in Seychelles.

However, in order to promote those national standards, an education and sensitisation campaign is necessary to reach not only all child-minders but also parents, prospective parents, other stakeholders and the public in general. This is also in line with the Institute's mandate to advocate and promote comprehensive understanding of the best practices in Early Childhood Care and Education. A series of ten media-based spots have been produced focusing on the ten standards (namely; Early Learning, Interaction, Health, Nutrition, Safety, Child Rights and Protection, Staffing, Physical Environment, Family and Community Engagement, and Administra-

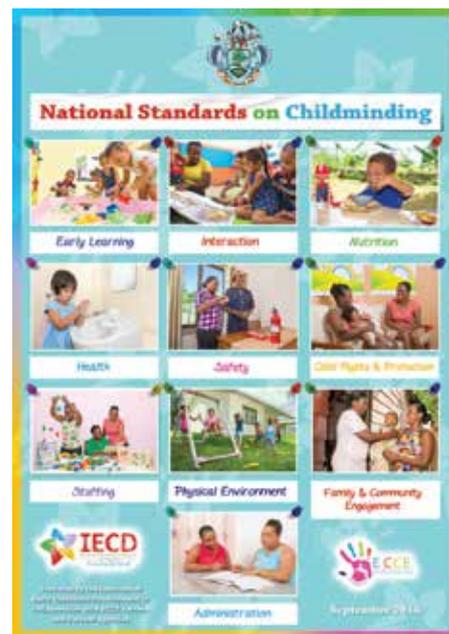
tion). The spots are presently being aired on national television and radio. They have been broadcasted since August 2016 and we anticipate that this will be continued until December 2016.

In addition, they have been uploaded to the IECD website and Facebook Page. With such publicity, it is anticipated that the spots will help to raise awareness on the quality of childminding establishments and service delivery. We have so far received excellent reviews on the spots from professionals, parents and members of the public.

The project is proudly sponsored by Hunt Deltel and Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation



Hunt, Deltel & Co. Ltd



## DATA MANAGEMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

The Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) in partnership with other Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Sectors including Health, Social Services, Education and Community Development and Sports, joined together at Avani Barbarons Hotel in a half-day workshop on Friday 30th September, 2016, to discuss the collection and management of data in early childhood care and education. In her opening address, the then Minister for Education; Mrs. MacSuzy Mondon, emphasized the need for accessible data that is reliable in order to facilitate effective planning, strategic action and decision-making. She further elaborated on the need to strengthen data management in ECCE and

highlighted the project which emanated from the World Bank's Systems Approach for Better Education Results - Early Childhood Development (SABER-ECD) Country Report for Seychelles, 2013. On her part, Mrs. Choppy, IECD Chief Executive, described the Seychelles rating on key indicators such as "Established" for all - policies that govern ECCE, except for data availability which was rated as "Emerging", indicating the need to reinforce the ease of data collection and use by the various Sectors.

The data management project with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank, will start with Ministry of Health and is expect-

ed to progress to the other Sectors. During the month of September a situational analysis was conducted by Ms. Lindsay Adams, an expert on Data Management from the World Bank. She presented the preliminary findings as well as examples of early childhood development indicators and how these can be collected. Ms. Adams is expected to return to Seychelles to continue her work on the project. This includes training for professionals on data management as well as the development of an indicator framework and a procedures manual. This will be based on key early childhood development, internationally recognized indicators to guide data collection and its management.



Participants from the workshop with Consultant from World Bank

## MON KONTAN OU! AN EXHIBITION BY EARLY CHILDHOOD ARTISTS

It was at the Carrefour des Arts that a crowd of arts enthusiasts, proud parents, supportive teachers, and young artists gathered for an arts exhibition, under the theme "Mon kontan ou". The exhibition comprised artworks from pupils in the second year of Primary Education. They had written poems and produced accompanying artworks for a publication entitled: "I love Seychelles: Through the Eyes of Early Childhood Children – A Collection of Poems". To further promote the emerging talent and publicised the creative potential of our Early Seychellois Artists, the Institute of Early Childhood Development went beyond book review to arts appreciation, and in collaboration with the Department of Culture and the National Arts Council, mounted an arts exhibition with a difference - to add value to the innovative ideas and the burgeoning skills of the youngest artists in Seychelles.

Thirty of the most striking artworks judiciously selected and vetted by two well known artists, Mr Golbert Nourrice and Mr Robert Alexis were on display. These artworks, reproduced, enlarged and framed, were carefully displayed to bring out the early artistic flair of the young children.

The exhibition was inaugurated through words of appreciation, encouragement and advocacy for the Early Artists. In his opening address,

the Minister reminded us of the many things that we can appreciate in our country through the innocent but keen eyes of the children. He went on to quote from a poem read by one of the Early Artist, El Alvis from Beau Vallon Primary School, entitled "Ou ris an lanatir" that explores the greenery of the trees, the sweetness of the fruits and the freshness of the breeze as a source of inspiration for her tranquil mind. The Principal Secretary for Culture, Ms Benjamine Rose echoed the Minister's view and also emphasised the importance of allowing the children to develop themselves artistically, whilst the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Early Childhood Development, Mrs Shirley Choppy expressed how Seychelles is a real jewel as viewed from the children's perspective, and further added that the artworks was a true expression of patriotism.

The symbolic ribbon was cut by the Honourable Alain St. Ange, Minister for Tourism and Culture, to open the exhibition to the public. Genuine interests were shown as the art enthusiasts toured the exhibition, talked to the children who stood by their artworks and discussed the possibility of purchase. Many arts enthusiasts expressed their interests in gracing their offices or front rooms with one of those art pieces and, surprisingly enough, thirty orders were summarily placed.



Minister Ste Ange accepting an artwork from a young artist and viewing the exhibition with his delegation



## BASIC PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID TRAINING FOR CHILDMINDERS

Minor, or even major incidents are not unusual in any child care setting. Even with supervision, children frequently sustain scrapes, bruises, cuts, bites and falls in the normal course of a day. Less frequently, emergencies such as seizures, asthma attacks, and allergic reactions may require immediate medical intervention. As a Childminder the best way to handle such incidents is to always be prepared and this is by updating your knowledge, skills and having the recommended basic supplies at hand.

The Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD), National Standards on Childminding Regulations, 2016 stipulates that a Childminder should have training in basic Paediatric first aid. It is for this reason that the IECD partnered with the Red Cross Society of Seychelles to develop a training programme in Basic Paediatric First Aid for - Childminders. Present at the ceremony to officially launch the training programme, were the CEO of IECD, Mrs Shirley Choppy and the Secretary General of the Red Cross Society of Seychelles Mrs Collette Servina. The launch which took place on Saturday 24th September coincided with the International Day of First Aid which had 'First Aid for Children' as the theme for this year.

A first cohort of 9 Childminders attended training sessions on Saturday 24th September and Saturday 1st October, whilst a second group followed the training on Saturday 15th and 22nd October. IECD staff- who work closely with the Childminders also had the opportunity to attend the training in order to better support the participants.

The 14 hour training programme consisted of topics related to the management of common emergencies that can occur in babies and toddlers such as fractures, burns or allergic reactions. The Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation procedure formed part of the training. The instruction which consisted of both theory and practical sessions will be offered on an ongoing basis and is mandatory for all registered Childminders.



# 3RD EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION FORUM

## DENVER DEVELOPMENT SCREENING TEST: HOW USEFUL?



Mrs. Jeanne Simeon (centre), PS Vice President's Office chairing the panel with professionals from Ministries of Health and Education

Sustaining national dialogue on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is a challenging task which the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) has taken up with relentless determination. As part of the implementation of the National Action Plan 2015 –2016 for ECCE, IECD has undertaken a Pilot Study on monitoring child development outcome through the Denver Development Screen Test (DDST) which forms part of the Maternal Child Health Programme. On the 1st of July 2016, IECD organised its 3rd ECCE Forum to stimulate a discussion on child development and the use of the DDST. The conference will be held in February 2017 at the end of the first paragraph on the article on first international conference

After a collegial welcome from the Chief Executive Officer of IECD, Mrs. Shirley Choppy, the proceedings of the forum began with four presentations. In the first presentation which was the Key Note Address, Dr. Conrad Shamlaye, Consultant from the Ministry of Health, an experienced researcher in child development, outlined the surveillance usage of the Denver Development Screening Test (DDST) and the need for more in-depth study of the implementation of the DDST. The second and third presentation were made by Mr. Egbert Benstrong, a specialist in Testing and Assessment: The results of the development profiles of children in the Pilot

Sample were presented and it was pointed out from the data available that generally children in Seychelles were reaching developmental milestones ahead of those children on which the test was normed; however, the large proportion of missing data would need to be factored in to make more precise evidence-based judgment. Mr. Benstrong continued by presenting the results of the Parent Questionnaire: He cautioned that there was an indication that parent knowledge about the test was limited although satisfaction with the service was expressed. Dr. André Leste, Director for Programme Coordination and Research, presented the findings from the Nurse Questionnaire and highlighted some of the conditions associated with the administration of the test.

Thereafter, a Panel Discussion was convened that led to an open discussion, and a rich, highly interactive, and thought-provoking debate ensued. This forum was specifically designed to engage the parents and Maternal Child Health Nurses who completed the questionnaire to talk about their experiences. Topics related to training, facilities and resources, recording and interpreting the results of the DDST, and communicating to parents emerged as key areas for further follow-up actions.



Dr. Andre Leste sharing and discussing some findings from the questionnaire



Mr. Egbert Benstrong sharing some results about the pilot

# FIRST INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON ECCE - FEB 2017

The Conference will be jointly organized by IECD, and High Level ECCE Policy Committee with technical assistance from UNESCO-International Bureau of Education (IBE). This forum is expected to gather around 350 participants consisting of international delegates, local policy makers, ECCE professionals, care-givers, non-governmental and civil society organisations.



It will also be an opportunity to showcase the country's achievements and progress in ECCE. In the context of peer learning, the conference will also provide a chance for Seychelles to reflect on and learn from the experiences of other countries. One of the highlights of this conference will be the launch of the Seychelles/UNESCO-IBE Best Practice Hub for ECCE. Recommendation by Director and expert on ECCE, Dr. Mmantsetsa Marope, that Seychelles strengthens its partnership with UNESCO and reaffirms its leadership role by becoming a regional hub and a model of good practice in the provision of high quality ECCE services. This will be a milestone achievement for ECCE development and a proud moment for Seychelles.

As part of the UNESCO-IBE initiative to strengthen the quality of ECCE services, NESTLE, one of the recognized international partners, will participate in the upcoming conference with experts to facilitate sessions and share best practices.

Dr. Marope visited Seychelles twice this year and held discussions on the forthcoming conference and hub initiative with the then, Minister of Education, Mrs. Macsuzy Mondon, the CEO of IECD Mrs. Shirley Choppy and Dr. Leste.



Dr. Marope with IECD Management

# A FAREWELL NOTE TO A GREAT COLLEAGUE



Dr. André Leste is a Director of Programme Coordination and Research at the Institute of Early Childhood Development. He completed a Master of Arts degree at the University of London, and then a Doctorate in Education at the University of Sussex. He has taught in primary and sec-

ondary schools, and colleges of further education in England and Seychelles. His research interests include movement therapy, youth socialization, teacher education and educational equity. He has worked on various research projects. Some of these projects include: Special Needs Education Programme, Reading in Early Childhood Education and Gender Disparity in the Secondary School, National Childminding Study and Youth Study.

He was involved in the training of teachers and directed the international bachelor of Education program with the University of Sussex, UK. He has facilitated numerous workshops locally and regionally, published professional articles on child development,

special needs education among others. Dr. Leste was the National Research Coordinator for surveys of educational achievement in primary school conducted by the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ).

He is currently working on the evaluation of the second National Action Plan 2015-2016 Early Childhood Care and Education and the project on 'Monitoring Child Development Outcomes using the Denver Development Screening Test', in collaboration with relevant partners.

Dr. Leste's career in the Public Sector has been fulfilling and has inspired many professionals in Education and other sectors in

the country. During the past three and a half years at the Institute of Early Childhood Development, Dr. Leste has been instrumental in the planning and implementation of various research and evaluation projects and has immensely contributed towards the setting up of IECD and its many achievements. We would like to thank him for his exemplary and continuous hard work over the years, his great love and passion for what he does, his loyalty to the Institute and the professional working relationship with the Institute and all the ECCE Sectors.

The Chairperson and Members of the Board, CEO and staff of the Institute would like to dedicate this special poem and wish him a happy and peaceful retirement.

## Poem

### Dr. Leste

They say age is just a number  
 this is true  
 Your energy, agility, savoir faire belongs to a  
 youthful age  
 Your retreat has come too soon and your departure  
 untimely  
 Your passion in song and dance blows the young  
 away  
 and knows no bounds  
 It is hard to believe that the time has arrived for  
 you to say adieu  
 Dr. Leste, our colleagues from sectors and the  
 children  
 of this land join us to say  
 Thank you for your invaluable contribution  
 It helped make us what we are  
 Rest only a little .....

We will seek your help again, again and again

**Management & Staff**  
**Institute of Early Childhood Development**

## IECD SAYS 'THANK YOU'

With the recent reshuffling of Cabinet and Senior Officers in Government, there have been some changes in Ministries and Departments related to ECCE. The Institute of Early Childhood Development would like to thank the Ministers and outgoing Principal Secretaries for their invaluable contributions in the development of ECCE in their respective sectors and welcome the new and incoming Ministers and Principal Secretaries. It has been a pleasure working with you and we wish you all the very best in your new positions. We also thanked the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members of the IECD Board for their guidance and support in 2016. Our gratitude also goes to the Ministers, Principal

Secretaries, Chairpersons and Members of the ECCE Technical Team of the ECCE Sectors for their contributions in 2016. A special thank you to our partners for your support in 2016: Commissioner and Staff of the Police Department; Chief Secretary and Staff of the Department of Public Administration; Commissioner and Staff of Public Health Authority; CEO and Staff of Seychelles Fire Rescue Services Agency; District Administrators; CEO and Deputy CEO and Staff of National Information Services Agency; Staff of the Ministry of Finance, in particular our Desk Officer and Staff of Centralised Section; and our Consultants for their assistance and support. We count on your continued collaboration in 2017. Last but not least, we extend our grat-

itude and heartiest wishes to all our esteemed sponsors for their generous sponsorships in support of projects and programmes in the National Action Plan for ECCE 2015-2016 and other projects of the Institute. We look forward to your kind assistance in the coming years to move forward the national agenda for Early Childhood Care and Education.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENTS AND CHRISTMAS RECITAL 2016



IECD Board Chairperson delivering his remarks and thanking the sponsors for their contributions towards early childhood development



Anse Royale Primary School Choir performing a Christmas Carol



CEO presenting token of appreciation to STC representative



CEO presenting token of appreciation to Temooljee Co. Ltd representative



Chairperson and IECD Staff with registered Childminders



Registered Childminders with partners in ECCE



First group of Childminders trained in Basic Pediatric First Aid, with Secretary General of Red Cross Society of Seychelles



DRA presenting posters on National Standards to PS Social Affairs



Magnificent performance by Father and son (Michael and Shaqueal Savy)



Khalil sharing a beautiful reflection about Christmas



IECD staff performing a karaoke song at end of year gathering



Childminders performing a karaoke song at end of year gathering

