

### To Whom It May Concern

The Southern Africa Labour Development Research Unit (SALDRU) at the University of Cape Town is embarking on new national survey, the **National Income Dynamics Study** (NIDS). This survey will study livelihood dynamics in South Africa, with the aim to better understand the well-being of South Africans, their household structures and how these change over time. In line with these aims we are asking an appropriate adult in the household to answer a household questionnaire that asks about residents and other members. We will then ask each resident over 15 years of age to answer a questionnaire and a parent or care giver to answer a short questionnaire on each child in the household. Amongst other things we will ask about where the members of this household have moved from, their levels of education, their employment status, their health and incomes, expenditures and assets in the household. We will measure the height, weight, and blood pressure of all residents and give them a card with this information.

In 2008 households in your community will be part of about 8 000 households and approximately 32 000 people across South Africa that we will interview. The fieldwork for the survey will commence in late January 2008 and will run through to May 2008. We will keep contact with you after the survey because we would like to interview you again in two years time and then again further in the future. These repeat visits enable us to see how your circumstances change over time. When we combine your information with that of the other households we are able to see what helps South Africans to get ahead and what is holding them back economically.

Many developing and developed countries have surveys like this because they are so useful in informing policy. However, this is the first national survey of this sort in South Africa. Therefore this is the start of something exciting and very important. Your household has been scientifically selected to be in our sample of households. Therefore your participation is very important and we greatly appreciate it.

**Development Research Africa** (DRA) has been appointed to do the fieldwork for NIDS. Once again allow us to say that your assistance and cooperation in ensuring the successful completion of their fieldwork assignment for this important study would be greatly appreciated.

Should you require any further information on this study you may contact the NIDS project manager, Ms Sihaam Nieftagodien, on 0800 11 NIDS (6437) or Mr David Scott at DRA on 011 807 1194 or visit the website at <http://www.nids.uct.ac.za>.

Kind regards



Prof Murray Leibbrandt  
Director, SALDRU and Principal Investigator of NIDS