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MEDIA INVITE

ATTENTION: EDITORS/JOURNALISTS

RE: ESSET HOLD ITS 4th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DATE: 02/10/2008

The Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET), an ecumenical advocacy organisation affiliated to the South African Council of Churches (SACC) hereby invite members of the media to its fourth Annual Conference on socio-economic justice scheduled to take place on the 15-16th October 2008 in Boksburg, Johannesburg.

This year's conference will focus on the TRADE with a special focus on the linkages between local/informal trade and the regional/global trade regimes. The theme is informed by ESSET's ongoing work with both local/informal traders and participation in global campaigns for just and free trade. ESSET, as a church based Non-Government Organisation (Ecumenical organisation) committed to working for socio-economic transformation, considers Trade as a key aspect of the current economic system, fundamental in fighting poverty. It further contends that informal/local trade is a vindicated sort of trade that plays a momentous role in sustaining communities in our country and to different nation states.

The conference will seek to expose obstacles prohibiting free trade at local and regional levels and explore strategies of how churches can accompany affected traders in their struggle for sustainable livelihoods. Experiences of inner city street traders, small township business and cross border in the region will be shared and be used to inform this task.

Since its inception in 2005, the conference has become a platform for churches, ecumenical agencies, communities affected by socio-economic injustices and activists to dialogue on how to advance the churches' struggle for socio-economic justice.

Date: 15-16 October 2008

Venue: Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg

Time: 09:00-15:00

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