

ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, MRS. H.J MASHAMBA, AT THE EVENT OF CASUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS, THOBELA DISABILITY CENTRE, GA-MADIBA, MOGALAKWENA.

2nd September 2016

Programme Director;

The Acting Head of Department, Ms. Daphne Ramokgopa;

Representatives from the various NPO's;

Ladies and gentlemen;

All protocol observed.

To once again spend this day with our differentially gifted brothers and sisters is such a joyous occasion!

Every year, we have the opportunity to celebrate Casual Day at the beginning of September, which is also the month that signals in the season of spring in South Africa. Spring is symbolic of new beginnings and new hope. It is a time for renewed energy and renewed thinking.

It is therefore significant that this year's theme is **"Up your game"**. It means that now is the time for us to take charge and re-emphasize the importance of integrating, uplifting and supporting our brothers and sisters living with disability. It is important to recognise them as worthy citizens that add value to this Province and indeed the country.

Programme Director

We continue to make progress with regards to equity and equal opportunities for people living with disabilities especially within the public sector. However, we still have a long way to go. This gesture by the private sector, of supporting Casual Day with great enthusiasm, should also echo in their workplace and employment norms and policies.

As the Department of Social Development, we want to assure people living with disabilities that we have their best interests at heart, as some of them are the most vulnerable members of our society. Wherever there is room for improvement, we want them to engage us because we also firmly believe in the saying: **“Nothing about us, without us!”**

In closure, Programme Director

Let us use this day not only as a fun-filled day of commemoration and support. Let us use it to reflect on how far we have come as a society celebrating 22 years of democracy and the achievements made towards a better life for all. One of those achievements has been to create a society that has begun to include service delivery on the rights of people with disabilities.

Let us allow this progress to go on and grow from strength to strength.

Let this allow us to build a caring society.
Together!

I thank you!

Ke a leboga!

