

**ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT, MRS. H.J MASHAMBA, AT
THE EVENT OF THE PROVINCIAL
QUADRENNIAL MEETING OF DEAFSA
LIMPOPO AT APD POLOKWANE.**

10th September 2016

Programme Director;

Councillors present here today;

**The Provincial Director of DeafSA, Patricia
Kgamane and other board members;**

Ladies and gentlemen;

All protocol observed.

Thobela!

Macheroni!

Avuxeni!

Good morning!

Goeiemore!

It is an honour to be here with you today on behalf of the Premier of the Province, Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, but also as a representative of a caring and active government. The Premier sends his warmest regards with a message of hope, that this meeting will be fruitful and will fulfil all expectations.

Programme Director

The world famous author Helen Keller once said, and I quote:

“Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained.”

Close quotes.

We therefore welcome gatherings such as today's meeting, in preparation for the national event, in which we have the opportunity to join hands and show our concern and commitment.

We acknowledge that people with disabilities, or the differentially gifted as we like to call them, have the same rights as all other South Africans. However, it is up to all of us to create awareness of their special needs.

Who better to develop and strengthen strategies around this awareness than the very people who are gathered here today? That is why we say "Nothing about us, without us".

Programme Director

As a caring, inclusive and transparent government, we continue to strive towards equal opportunities for all our citizens. Let us commit here today to leave no stone unturned in ensuring that more employment opportunities are created for the deaf community.

We are further supporting the idea of “Solidarity in South African Sign Language”. This will ensure that the citizens of Limpopo and indeed the whole of South Africa, will begin to understand the importance of communicating with all fellow citizens in their mother tongues or even sign language.

Indeed, this will take us far in attaining social justice and in creating a caring, progressive society.

All that is left for me is to wish you successful deliberations and allow me to congratulate the new Deaf Provincial Council members in advance.
May

I thank you!

Ke a leboga!

Ndo livhuwa!

Ndzi khensile!

Baie dankie!