

**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, MRS. H.J MASHAMBA, ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NATIONAL GOLDEN GAMES.**

**27<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Programme Director, MEC Moloji;**

**Minister Bathabile Dlamini;**

**Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**All protocol observed.**

On behalf of the Premier of Limpopo, Mr. Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, we once again use this opportunity to welcome all participants in the Golden Games and indeed the whole of the Acting Ageing Programme, to the Limpopo Province.

Limpopo is called the Province of Peace. I believe that those who have been with us from earlier this week, have experienced the warm hospitality of the people of Limpopo and Polokwane.

We gather here today as the people of South Africa, united in our purpose to take this country forward through projects and programmes aimed at improving the lives of all citizens, regardless of race or age.

Government recognises the right to a full, healthy and active life for senior citizens. We therefore have a mandate to ensure that our senior citizens participate and share in active ageing initiatives.

We are committed to ensuring that our older persons remain physically and mentally active through the Active Ageing programme. This, in turn, will ensure their good health and longevity.

As the custodians of South African knowledge, culture and tradition, our senior citizens are held in high regard. We will therefore continue to find ways in which to enrich their golden years.

They still have so much talent and energy. They especially need to display this example to the youth of South Africa, who have much to learn from them!

With these few words, I wish you a safe and enjoyable tournament.

Let us continue to build a caring society for all our citizens. Together.