

**ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT, MRS. H.J MASHAMBA, AT THE
EVENT OF THE GOLDEN GAMES OPENING
CEREMONY, POLOKWANE CRICKET CLUB.**

10th September 2014

Programme Director;

**The MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Nandi
Ndalane;**

**The Executive Mayor of Capricorn District
Municipality, Cllr. Gilbert Kganyago;**

**The Executive Mayor of Polokwane Local
Municipality, Cllr. Thembi Nkadimeng;**

Councillors here present;

**The HOD for Social Development, Ms. Daisy
Mafubelu;**

**The Acting HOD for Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms.
Dorah Maraba;
Esteemed guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen;
Comrades and Friends;
All protocol observed.**

With old age comes wisdom. This wisdom is evident in our brothers and sisters of an advanced age, who are gathered here today. They have the wisdom to realise that an active lifestyle will greatly benefit their health for years to come!

Programme Director

The Golden Games is proof of Government's commitment of working together to ensure healthy and progressive communities.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, in partnership with the Department of Social Development, remain committed to enabling the participation of older persons in physical, social and recreational activity. We have seen how a healthy and active lifestyle impacts positively on the lives of these vulnerable members of society. However, the Golden Games hail so many more benefits, such as promoting social cohesion and camaraderie amongst older persons. In short, it is an opportunity for us to show how much we value our older persons and how important their wellbeing is to us, as a caring government.

The ultimate aim is to enhance the quality of life; improve the health of older persons; encourage active aging and to broaden their horizons.

At the same time, the emphasis is also on creating awareness of the abilities of older persons, in sport and recreation. We will continue to encourage this active aging among elderly people even on the periphery of the Province, as guided by the Constitution and the basic human rights of older people in South Africa.

Programme Director

It is encouraging for us to observe the enthusiasm and endurance, with which these competitors take part in the Golden Games each year. The late American comedian, George Burns, once said and I quote:

"You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old."

Close quotes.

Our brothers and sisters who take part in the Golden Games are proof of this statement! Their tenacity also serves as encouragement for the younger generation, to get active, fit and healthy. Observing their grannies participating in sport in recreation will bring about the realization that active lifestyles have no age limit and no boundaries, but come with so many benefits. Our elderly citizens, being reservoirs of wisdom and culture, are a shining example of how to live life fully and how refraining from unhealthy activities will ensure a long and rewarding life. These active senior citizens can attest to the health benefits of active aging and will gladly and confidently relate their personal experiences.

In closure, Programme Director, I wish all participants and officials here at the Provincial Golden Games an incident-free and enjoyable tournament! We will be following your activities with interest. We wish to thank everyone who was involved in making these Games a reality.

I now declare the 2014 Provincial Golden Games, officially opened.

I thank you!

Mayihlome!

Khanimambo!

Ke a leboga!

Ndolivhuwa!

Baie dankie!

