

**ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT, MRS. H.J MASHAMBA, AT
THE EVENT OF THE OLD AGE BEAUTY
PAGEANT, TIVEKA GAME LODGE,
POLOKWANE.**

18th October 2016

Programme Director;

**The Executive Mayor of Capricorn District
Municipality, Cllr. John Mpe;**

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

Councillors present here today;

Our agencies NDA and SASSA;

Representatives from Age in Action;

NPO's present here today;

**Our most important guests – the ladies and
gentlemen of an advanced age!**

All protocol observed.

Good morning!

Avuxeni!

Thobela!

Macheloni!

Goeie more!

We are in the month of October. A month in which we, as the Department of Social Development, prove that we are geared towards serving the people of this Province and to make our people aware of all we have to offer.

Social Development month is a time in which we place more emphasis on the most vulnerable and the most treasured of our citizens.

We are therefore happy that this year's Beauty Pageant coincides with this month of celebration and reflection.

Programme Director

When we say "beauty pageant" it is not necessarily about who is more beautiful than whom! It is a day for celebrating the fact that nothing stops us from enjoying life at an advanced age.

Today is all about a caring government's commitment to restore the dignity of our senior citizens, in the form of our Active Ageing programme. This programme is meant to keep our older persons fit, happy and healthy.

We would rather see a gathering of this nature, where we laugh, have fun and celebrate life, than seeing our senior citizens fade away alone in some remote area.

Allow me to note that the South African Policy for Older Persons stipulates that older persons have a right to access recreation facilities and programmes.

Sports and recreational activities that are suited to older persons, should be organized so as to enrich their lives and encourage creative use of their time.

In response to this, South Africa has developed a Plan of Action for Older persons. This plan strives to promote independence and self-reliance.

Older Persons are, in turn, motivated to embrace ageing, as a natural process symbolizing wisdom and beauty.

Today, we see this plan coming to fruition. We will continue to find innovative ways to enhance the quality of life and improve the physical and mental well-being of our older persons.

Programme Director

We still hear horror stories of our senior citizens falling victim to abuse, neglect, violence and crime. We need to break the silence and report abuse of our most vulnerable citizens, like women, children, the elderly and persons living with disabilities.

If you or someone you know is the victim of abuse, please report the matter immediately.

Any form of abuse or neglect against older persons will not be tolerated.

We also wish to once again warn our senior citizens who receive grants, to be extra vigilant. Do not give anyone access to your grant money.

In closure, Programme Director;

We wish to assure each and every contestant today that you are already winners! The energy and enthusiasm that you show by being participants in this fun and uplifting activity, proves that you have a high regard for your own health and for this programme of Active Ageing.

Let us all enjoy this day together, as we work towards building a caring society.

I thank you!

Ndzi khensile!

Ke a leboga!

Ndo livhuwa!

Baie dankie!