

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE MEC FOR
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, MRS. H.J
MASHAMBA, AT THE EVENT OF THE OLDER
PERSONS CHOIR FESTIVAL, NGOAKO
RAMATLHODI INDOOR SPORT COMPLEX,
SESHEGO.**

26th October 2016

Programme Director;

Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu;

**The MEC for Transport and Community
Safety, Ms Nandi Ndalane;**

**Other esteemed members of parliament and
the Limpopo Provincial Legislature;**

Management of government departments;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

All protocol observed.

Dumelang!

Sawubona!

Sanibona!

Molweni!

Macheroni!

Avuxeni!

Goeie more!

Lotjhani!

Good morning!

What a privilege to be surrounded by so much talent, wisdom and experience, as we welcome our older persons to the Choir Festival.

This event is part of government's commitment, through the Active Ageing Programme, to restore the dignity of our older persons. They are some of the most vulnerable members of society and yet,

within their communities and society at large, they still have so much to offer!

Having said that, we acknowledge with dismay that some of our older persons still have to endure the indignity of a life of solitude, isolation, neglect and even abuse. Let us continue to take a stand against this evil and report all forms of abuse against older persons.

May our efforts here this week place the spotlight on the worth and the importance of each and every one of our senior citizens. We hope that this will, in turn make society realise that they are treasures to be guarded, included and consulted at all times. We have so much to learn from them.

With these few words, we want to appreciate the opportunity to host this very special event, in which we can experience exactly how age is merely a number!

I now wish to introduce our keynote speaker at this auspicious event:

Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, previously served as the Deputy Minister of Public Works from 2009 to 2011 and as Deputy Minister for Women, Children and Persons with Disability from 2011 to April 2014.

From 1999 to 2004 she served as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Joint Monitoring Committee of Public Administration and Defence and from 1996 –

1999 as the National Coordinator for Disabled People South Africa.

This versatile woman is a member of the Mmabatho Foundation, the South African Federation of Disabled People Member and the South Africa National AIDS Council.

She is a motivational speaker, a researcher, a writer, a consultant, a trainer, a business women and a member of parliament.

Deputy Minister, thank you for being with us this week here in Limpopo, as we celebrate our esteemed older persons.