



**REFLECTION OF MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
LAZARUS MOKGOSI, ON ISSUES RAISED BY OLDER
PERSONS AT THE SECTORAL PARLIAMENT HELD AT
SEASONS AND WEDDING CONFERENCE - MAHIKENG
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2023

Honourable Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature

Honourable Premier of North West

Honourable Members of the Executive Council

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature

Leaders of Political Parties present here

Provincial Chairperson of Older Persons Forum

Older Persons present here

Officials from Government Departments

Members of the Media

Revolutionary greetings to you.

Honourable Speaker, I am grateful to be part of the Senior Citizens Sectoral Parliament which is being held under the theme: “Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons.”

Without a shadow of doubt, Honourable Speaker, this theme makes a clarion call to all of us as leaders gathered here, to work together to strengthen oversight and accountability on issues affecting older persons; to promote an understanding of older persons issues and mobilize support for their dignity and rights and to build sustainable stakeholder relations that will deepen participatory democracy.

Yesterday, we had a very successful Annual General Meeting of older persons at Mmabatho Civic Centre. Among the key issues that our older persons raised and has become a pandemic, is gender based violence and femicide experienced by older persons, women and children.

We acknowledge that gender based violence and femicide is so real in our lifetime and we must continue to wage a winnable war against it.

Honourable Speaker and Members, the onus is upon all of us gathered here as political leaders to demonstrate our concern on the scourge of elderly abuse and be exemplary in our communities through our deeds and speeches.

We have made remarkable strides as government by putting in place legislation and policies with the aim of promoting the rights of older persons. From such legislations and policies we have developed various programmes that entail provision of residential care facilities for older persons.

We urge older persons who need 24 hour care and support services to make a hard decision by agreeing to be placed in the residential facilities which are funded by government.

Currently we have Sonop old age home, which is a state run facility for older persons. We are looking forward to open another old age facility in Taung in November this year.

Honourable Speaker, Mental health problems are also common among older persons These mental health problems may include isolation, anxiety disorders, dementia and among others.

Re dira boikuelo mo bagolong ba rona go nna karolo ya di - service clubs mo metseng ya bona le go tsaya karolo mo metsamekong ya Golden games.

Ntle le moo, re dira boikuelo mo malapeng a a nang le bagolo go ba tlhokomela le go netefatsa gore ka gale ba sireletsegile.

Bagolo ga ba tshwanela go tlogelwa ba le bosii. Ke ka moo re ba retloetsang gore ba dumela go fudugela kwa matlong a bagodi gore ba kgone go amogela tshireletsego e e tseneletseng.

Dingongorego le dintlha dingwe tse di amang bagolo, re tla di fetsetsa kwa mafapheng a a maleba a puso go akaretsa ditheo tsa puso go netefatsa gore di a arabelwa.

Re tla tswelela jalo go di sala morago gore kopano e, e se nne ya puo fela,
mme e nne e e tswelang bagolo ba rona mosola.

I thank you