
**OPENING ADDRESS BY MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
Mr LAZARUS MOKGOSI ON THE OCCASION OF PROVINCIAL
GOLDEN GAMES HELD AT IMPALA RUGBY STADIUM,
RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

DATE: 18 OCTOBER 2023

Programme Director

Executive Mayor of Bojanala District Municipality

Executive Mayor of Rustenburg Local Municipality

Members of Mayoral Committees from various municipalities

Councilors

Officials from various government departments

Members of the Media

**Bagolo ba rona, Batsaya-karolo ba metshameko ya Golden
Games**

Baagi ba Porofense ya Batho ya Bokone Bophirima

Dumelang Bagaetsho!

Ke itumelela tshono e ya go nna karolo ya pulo semmuso ya metshameko ya bagolo ya ngwaga wa 2023 e e itsegeng thata ka Golden Games, e leng metshameko ya bobedi morago ga gore lefatshe ka bophara le welwe ke koduo ya mogare wa Corona o o bidiwang Covid-19.

These games were first launched in Eastern Cape in 2009 and have, to this very day they continue to attract older persons across all the breath and length of the province.

It is for these games that our senior citizens from all district municipalities have converged, here, in Rustenburg Local Municipality to showcase their sporting skills in various codes which include athletics, soccer and many others.

The main objectives of the Golden Games are, to enhance the quality of life, improve the health of older persons and to embrace active ageing.

We recognize as the ruling party, the right to a full, healthy and active life for senior citizens. We have a mandate to ensure that our senior citizens participate and share in active ageing initiatives and programmes of government.

We are further 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.

We call on young people to emulate our elders so that they should lead a healthy lifestyle, free from obesity and other opportunistic diseases.

We aim to support and increase the number of older persons participating in sport and recreational activities across the length and breadth of the province.

Re ipiletsa go bagarona go tshegetsa bagolo ba rona mo metshamekong e, gore ba tle ba e itumelele le go e rata, mme segolo gore ba itumelele dingwaga tsa bona tsa bogodi.

Older persons continue to play a vital role in our families and in the society at large. Their meaningful role cannot be over-emphasized.

They have always made major contributions in the society including the freedom we enjoy today.

Throughout our province and elsewhere – older persons take care of patients, especially their grandchildren.

When these patients pass on, orphaned children are being cared for by their grandparents.

It has become a norm in our families that caring for dependent and sick individuals is mostly done by older people, particularly older women – hence the dramatic increase of granny-headed households in many of our communities.

Ke bona bagolo ba ba agisang bana fa ba lwa mo lapeng.

Gape bagolo ba rona ke motswedi wa kitso ya setso sa rona le dingwao tsa rona.

If at all we really value the role that our older persons play in our respective families, we should:-

- ❖ Respect them
- ❖ Love them
- ❖ Embrace them
- ❖ Appreciate their roles in child rearing
- ❖ Allow them the necessary space to age with dignity, - free from harm or any form of discrimination.
- ❖ Educate boys and girls to understand and avoid gender stereotyping
- ❖ Protect them from all forms of violence.

We call on all perpetrators to stop their senseless killings of older people. If we lose our elders we lose the hub of wisdom and guidance.

We have said it and we say it now, as the ANC-led government that we will remain unshaken in our pursuit to root out elderly abuse in our communities.

Bagolo ba rona ba tshamekile karolo e kgolo mo kgololosegong ya naga ya rona. Bangwe ba ne ba godisa bana ba le bosii ka nako ya kgaratlho, banna-bagolo ba sietse kwa dinageng tse di mabapi.

Bangwe ba bagolo ba rona ba ne ba fitlha balwela-kgololosego mo matlong a bona gore ba seka ba tshwarwa ke sepodisi sa nako ele.

Ga re kitla re nyatsa seabe sa bagolo ba rona mo kgololosegong. Le bona, ba tshwanetse go itumelela kgololosego e ba e sotlegetseng pele ga ngwaga wa 1994.

Therefore, Programme Director, we will not allow any form of abuse perpetuated against elderly people. We have demonstrated this by putting in place laws and relevant government structures to deal with violence that is perpetuated against elderly people.

We call on communities to work together with government to uphold the values of our Constitution and further consolidate our work in eradicating adult poverty, promoting human rights and restoring the dignity of older persons.

Pele ke digela puo ya me, ke dira boikuelo mo go lona bagolo gore lo tlhokomele bana ba lona, segolo jang ba basetsana gore ba efoge batho ba ba bidiwang di-Blessers.

Bagolo ga ba a tshwanela go rekisetsa bana ba bona ba basetsana di-Blessers ka ntlha ya madi le grocery e di-Blessers di e rekang.

Selo seo, ke tlolo molao. Puso e na le thata ya semolao ya go tsaya bana bao e ba isa kwa lefelong la pabalasego fa ditshwanelo tsa bona di gatakwa. Ka jalo efogang kotsi eo, bagaetsho. Godisang bana ba lona, lo ba rute go ikemela mo botshelong.

In conclusion, I would like to express my profound thanks to the Local Organising Committee and all the stakeholders for making this event a success.

I wish all the participants the best of luck in various sporting codes.

I also wish Team North West all the best in the upcoming National Golden Games.

Finally, Let the games begin!

Ke a leboga.