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social development

Department of
Social Development
FREE STATE PROVINCE

**RE: MINUTES OF THE PROVINCIAL (FREE STATE) OLDER PERSONS
PARLIAMENT 2019**

VENUE: FOURTH RAADSAAL BLOEMFONTEIN LEGISLATURE

DATE: 03/10/2019

TIME: 10:00

OPENING AND WELCOME: The Provincial Parliament for Older Persons was officially opened at 10:45 by Mr Refilwe Masamane the programme director of the day. Mr Masamane extended a warm welcome to the people who were attending the Parliament. A special note of welcome was extended to all the VIPs of the day- the Senior Citizens who came in their numbers from different parts of the Free State.

After Mr Masamane's welcoming address. The Parliament session was officially opened with a hymn and prayer. Mr Masamane explained to all who were present that holding a formal parliament for older persons in the Free State is important as the main purpose of older person's parliament is to give senior citizens in the province an opportunity to come together and engage on issues that affect them as senior members of society. Taking into cognizance that the purpose of the older persons programme as stipulated in the Older Persons Act 13 of 2006 is to ensure that senior citizens are kept active in their communities. Furthermore, Mr Masamane explained that Senior Citizens must be are given the platform where they are able to make a contribution by voicing their concerns to the leadership of the province.

Moreover, Mr Masamane stated that the purpose of bringing elderly people together for parliament is not done in vain but it is done so in order to ensure that the leadership of the province is held accountable to the senior citizens as issues discussed in Parliament are supposed to be heard and addressed by those in authority and those who have influence in policy making and governance. The Batho Pele Principles were also emphasized because as Mr Masamane explained that people should be treated with human dignity particularly senior citizens who play a vital role in their communities as they have all the knowledge and experience which should be cherished by those around them. Furthermore, Mr Masamane added that as much as senior citizens have concerns they should also give praise where it is due.

The presence of significant guests was acknowledged by Mr Masamane. Ms Mokone Ntongoa who is the Head of Department (HOD) of the Department of Social Development, Mr Sandlana Smith from the Free State Legislature, Ms Ketse who is the former Chairperson of the Free State Older Persons Forum, Mr Daniel Khothule the current chairperson of the provincial and National older person's forum was also present and Mr Balot from the Premier's office were amongst the extinguished guests who were acknowledged by the programme director.

The following apologies were made by the programme director Mr Masamane. It was announced that with sad regret the Premier of the Province Me Sisi Ntombela could not be present at the Older Persons Parliament as she has other engagements. However, her kind regards were passed to all who were present. It was also announced that the Speaker of the Free State Parliament could not make it to the event due to other commitments that had to be prioritized. It was stated that the speaker has sent Mr Sandlana Smith on his behalf who would be

addressing the senior citizens on his behalf. Hon Me Mamiki Qabathe the MEC of the Department of Social Development was unable to attend the event and apologies were made on their behalf.

In closing, Mr Masamane stated that it was an honor and a pleasure for the Department of Social Development together with the Premier's office to host the Provincial Parliament for the Senior Citizens of the Free State. He also encouraged the Senior citizens to participate in the debate and he further motivated them to go back to their respective communities and continue to Move South Africa Forward for the older persons programme.

With that said, all the Senior Citizens were encouraged to enjoy the day because it is a day that has been prepared for them furthermore their participation was encouraged and they were also urged to escalate the information back to their respective communities.

The rules of Parliament were also emphasized in order to make the Senior Citizens aware of the importance of observing protocol and the importance of proper conduct in Parliament. Some of the rules that were mentioned were the following: switching of cellphones, being silent at all times, limiting movement, bowing to the Speaker for approval of movement and in cases of emergencies that it is still important to wait for the Speaker's acknowledgement before they are excused from the chamber.

The programme director requested that a representative from the Legislature. Mr Sandlana Smith welcomed everyone on behalf the speaker. Furthermore he placed emphasis on the objectives of the older persons Act 13 of 2006 which is to keep senior citizens active in their communities and on the development of support programs is a big task. It is important to recognize people and to show

them that their importance society. He also stated that apartheid should not be forgotten or treated as though it did not happen because it played a major role in the history of senior citizens. There are some who have forgiven and some who still need to get over the grudge. Keeping a grudge is not healthy and some should against it. Mr Smith spoke about the importance of forgiveness in our country because it will help in moving South Africa Forward. Society needs the wisdom of the elderly as the young ones will be able to learn from their wisdom. He further encouraged the senior citizens to share their past experiences with the younger generations.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS BY THE SENIOR CITIZENS (OLDER PERSONS)

The procession into parliament: The Speaker :Ms Ivy Ketse

The deputy Speaker :Mr Daniel Khothule

The sergeant in arms :Ms Elizabeth Tladi

The Speaker officially declared that the 2019 Older Persons Parliament was officially in session. All the senior citizens who are the members of parliament were welcomed by the Speaker of the day.

The Speaker requested that the house have a moment of meditation.

The Speaker laid out the rules on the table that each Member of Parliament had only three minutes to deliberate on their specific contribution. She also placed much emphasis of the importance of not exceeding their three minutes. The five orders of the day were read by the Speaker and she called the first Speaker to take the podium.

The first district that participated in the debate was Manguang district. The following members were:

1. The topic was introduced by Hon. Maneheng Tsumela
2. Challenges : Hon. Diteko
3. Challenges: Hon. Lumka
4. Solutions :Hon Olayi

The second district to participate in the debate was Xhariep district

1. The topic was introduced by Hon. Maria Tau
2. Challenges : Hon. Gaba
3. Challenges: Hon. Lebohang Ntoahayi
4. Solutions: Hon. Mohajane

The third district that participated in the debate was Fezile Dabi.

1. The topic was introduced by Hon. Lechoo
2. Challenges : Hon. Emily Mofutsana
3. Challenges: Hon. Mosiya
4. Solutions: Hon. Anna Thabe

The fourth district to participate in the debate was Lejweleputswa district

1. The topic was introduced by Hon. L P Lecage
2. Challenges : Hon. Mpho Mohlamme
3. Challenges: Hon. Vuyokazi Mafuna
4. Solutions: Hon. Dr MM Tshabalala

Thabo Mofutsanyane was the last district that engaged in the debate of the day.

1. The topic was introduced by Hon. Mokhotho
2. Challenges : Hon. Lechoko

The Speaker Hon. Ivy Ketse officially declared that the debates have come have come to an end.

RESPONSE FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT (HOD) OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

Ms. Mokone Ntongoa started her reply by acknowledging the presence of the speaker Me Ivy Ketse, Mr Daniel Khothule, the board members of the Free State Older Persons Forum, Mr Sandlana Smith from the Free State Legist the advisor, of the Premier Mr Balot. Furthermore, Me Ntongoa acknowledged that Mr Tsosane who is the manager of SASSA is also presen and has noted the issues pertaining to SASSA as Social Development works closely with SASSA.

Me Ntongoa welcomed all the delegates from different districts. She further explained that the program for older persons was started because government could not let older people be marginalized and ostracized by society due to their vulnerability in society. Me Ntongoa quoted the late President Nelson Mandela's quote“ a society that does not take care of its elderly

- VOTE OF THANKS: Mr Masamane
- ❖ Announcements were made
- ❖ Food and beverages were served.

Minutes by ZN MDAKA

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