

01 October 2023
MEDIA RELEASE
To All Media

RE: LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT URGES PROTECTION OF RIGHTS FOR
OLDER PERSONS IN RURAL AREAS

The Limpopo Provincial Government is calling for the protection of the rights of older persons in rural areas. This plea was made by the MEC for Social Development, Ms Nandi Ndalane, who spoke on behalf of the Limpopo Premier at the International Day of Older Persons held in Mafefe, Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality today, 01 October 2023.

MEC Ndalane emphasised the importance of recognising the wisdom, knowledge, and traditions that rural older persons possess. She acknowledged their significant contributions in building families and nurturing communities. However, she expressed concern that older persons in rural areas often face discrimination, neglect, and even abuse.

"This is a violation of their basic human rights and goes against the principles of justice and equality," stated MEC Ndalane. She called upon the people of Limpopo to utilise the International Day of Older Persons as an opportunity to uphold and protect the rights of older persons, particularly in rural areas.

Dr Solomon Nchabeleng, Chairperson of the Limpopo Older Persons Forum, echoed the MEC's call and emphasised the need to protect and promote the rights of older persons. He highlighted the challenges faced by older persons due to the high unemployment rate, which puts pressure on their old age grant. Dr Nchabeleng urged the government to increase the grant to R3000, as this would alleviate the burden on their financial resources.

In an effort to enlighten older persons about their human rights, the South African Human Rights Council, represented by Advocate Jonas Sibanyoni, provided valuable information and guidance.

The older persons of Mafefe expressed their gratitude to the government for bringing the commemoration to their village, recognising the importance of their contributions and the need to protect their rights.

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