

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEDIA STATEMENT

Friday, 16 October 2015

Attention: News Editors

The senior citizens in the Mpumalanga Province have called on government to consider introducing one municipal bill which will include all the services provided by the municipality. They also called for more service centres designated for the elderly people and to be assisted with identity documents. They want intense monitoring on allocation of RDP houses.

This transpired during the Senior Citizens' Parliament which was held at the Legislature earlier today.

It became a wonderful day as the elderly gathered to share their wisdom, knowledge and experiences. The Senior Citizen's Parliament was graced by the attendance of among others, Mr Sam Nzima the well-known photographer who captured the famous picture of Hector Peterson during the 1976 Soweto uprising, the former Ligwalagwala FM Station Manager Mr Steve Ngwenya and Ms Germina Nkambule the Chairperson for the Elderly People in the province.

The Senior Citizens' Parliament was celebrated under the theme: "Working Together with our Senior Citizens to move Mpumalanga forward".

As he acknowledged the presence of the elderly people at the Legislature, Member of the Legislature Mr Thulare Madileng said, "You have gone through the three challenges of life, that is, poverty, inequality and unemployment. You are here to teach us and we believe that we will learn a lot from you." The Legislature committed itself to the willingness to listen to and address the concerns of the elderly.

"We are aware of your challenges as the elderly people, you are often left to take care of your grandchildren due to HIV and AIDS related deaths," said Legislature Member Mr VV Windvoel who delivered the keynote address to the parliament.

He assured the elderly people that government is caring and it will continue to care for the aged. He sent a strong message to the youth discouraging them from sexually assaulting the elderly people.

"We are encouraging the elderly people to participate in community platforms such as Community Police Forums (CPF), School Governing Bodies (SGB) etc., in order to instill discipline in the community," continued Mr Windvoel.



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The Senior Citizens' Parliament dealt with two topics that is "The role of senior citizens in a developmental state and dealing with inequality and the Rights of Citizens". They recommended to the Legislature that the elderly who are above eighty (80) years of age should be exempted from paying for municipal services. They want proper shelters with chairs in all pension pay-points and they also made a plea to government to reduce the pensionable age to 55 years.

All the matters raised today will be considered by the committees of the Legislature and will further, through the House (Legislature) resolutions, be forwarded to relevant provincial departments for action on them.

Ends,

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