

# **Welcome Address by Cllr Thane Hearne, Speaker of TLM on the occasion International Day for Older Persons held at Regorogile Multipurpose Sports Centre at 11:00**

**1 October 2019**

- ❖ Programme Director,
- ❖ Premier Representative and MEC for Social Development, Mme Nkakareng Rakgoale
- ❖ The Executive Mayor of Waterberg District, Cllr Morris Mataboge,
- ❖ Fellow Councillors,
- ❖ Government and Municipal officials,
- ❖ Community leaders,
- ❖ Our senior citizens,
- ❖ Distinguished guests,
- ❖ Ladies and gentlemen,
- ❖ All protocol observed,

Good morning!!

Ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honoured to have received this opportunity to welcome you to our municipality here in Regorogile. On behalf of Thabazimbi Local Municipality and its entire community, we feel honoured to host the Older Persons Day where we celebrate elderly people in our communities.

As we celebrate 25 years of democracy this year, we are proud of the numerous interventions and programmes that have been achieved by our democratic government in providing services to the people and transforming lives. However, South Africa as a nation is still faced with multitudes of challenges and social ills that threaten the democratic gains of our government.

Most of our vulnerable citizens including the elderly are still ill-treated in our communities. Poverty is still defined along racial lines and the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality still exists. Therefore, we need to work together as government, civil society, non-governmental organisations and many other social groups in order to overcome these challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen, our Municipality has programmes that are specifically developed to cater for the needs of women and children as well as people living with disabilities and senior citizens.

Taking care of senior citizens is of paramount importance for our government. It is for this reason the Thabazimbi Local Municipality has dedicated programmes that address the needs of elderly persons. It is our way of ensuring that challenges related to senior citizens are prioritised because we are a caring Municipality.

Ladies and gentlemen, in closing, I wish to once again take this opportunity to welcome you all. To our senior citizens, enjoy this special day. Government appreciates your valuable contribution to community development. Therefore, we are committed to ensuring your wellbeing.

**I thank you!!!**