

A Mandela Day in honour of the elders

It was a jovial day for the small community of Koppies near Tsineng village when the municipalities and government departments gathered on the 18th July to celebrate International Mandela day with a 100 year old granny. The event was held at the elder, Ms Nkgari's house, where she is taken care of by one of her daughters. Several government departments and the JTGD Trust CEO and officials also attended the event. This year was declared the Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu centenary who both could have turned 100 if they were still alive. According to the Executive Mayor, Councillor Sofia Mosikatsi she wanted this year's celebration to be spent with the elders of the district because very often we celebrate days such as youth day and womens' day forgetting about the people who matters most in our societies. The mayor further went on to say that we must take care of our elders otherwise we would lack the knowledge and wisdom that they have.

The event was preceded by the Mandela Memorial lecture which was held on the 17th July. The memorial lecture was addressed by the Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Kenny Mmoiemang, who spoke about the Mandela's resilience, outspokenness and above all his humility. He also said the country still needs his wisdom to take it far, especially because it is because of him that we enjoy freedom and privileges that were denied to black South Africans. The Executive Mayor also called upon everyone to heed to the call to be the legacy. "We have started embarking on multiple impactful activities in our district, this includes the event of tonight, as a district we thus started cleaning various government institutions and to give back to the communities we serve". We can only be part of the legacy if we are active citizens and try to life up to what Madiba stood for, said the Mayor.

The employees of John Taolo Gaetsewe donated a wheelchair to the elder and she also received a goodie bag from the Department of Social Development and a food parcel from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. She expressed how happy she was to have received visitors from government and she told everyone that they must do it for other elders. The event ended by sharing a Mandela centenary cake with the elders and the community of Koppies village. The Department of Human Settlements will build a house for the elder in Churchill village, where she can be closer to her children.

Both events were held successful with the partnership of the JTGD Trust, Department of Social Development, Agriculture and sponsorship from Oasis Casino and Sebata Solutions.



100 Year old Granny Nkgari.