

The Executive Mayor closed the elderly month with the elderly people of Olifantshoek. The day started with exercise activities and a game of hockey at the Olifantshoek sport ground. The Tswelelopele elderly group comprises of elderly people who meet on Monday and Wednesdays and engage in games and exercises. They are supported by the Department of Social Development and Sport, Arts & Culture, where they also participate in Golden games. This platform is important to the elders because it encourages social interaction, where the elders share with each other important aspects of life such as health, safety and keeping fit. One of the elders, a retired teacher said she joined the organisation after being on retirement. She said she has learnt a lot and hopes other will join and participate.

The programme proceeded to the community hall where the Executive Mayor held a tribute to Mama Albertina Sisulu. She described her as a pioneering woman who championed for the rights of women and children. She also encouraged the community to emulate mama Albertina by being activists in their own communities, as she was a nurse and a political activist.

The mayor also acknowledged the role that the elders play in society especially by caring for their grandchildren despite the challenges such as abuse and negligence. The elders also raised issues relating to service delivery especially littering, illegal dumping, and shortage of medication at the clinic. They also requested the local municipality to build toilets at the cemetery and that the upcoming clinic should operate on a 24 hour basis. The Executive Mayor made a commitment that she would call another stakeholder session with the relevant departments to address their concerns as well as Office of the Premier.

The mayor concluded the programme by handing over branded coffee mugs and food parcels to the needy elders in the community.



