

Media Statement
Wednesday, 26 October 2011

North West Provincial Legislature Hosts Older Persons' Parliament 2011

The North West Provincial Legislature will be holding its annual Older Persons' Parliament on Friday October 28, in the Legislature Chamber at 09h00.

The event, themed, **'overcoming the plight of our elders in changing societies**, will focus on capacitating elders to raise challenges on issues that affect them; and also make recommendations to all relevant portfolio committees in the Legislature for them to exercise their oversight role over the departments and other relevant structures.

Safety of Older Persons; and Health issues facing our Elders will be discussed as thematic areas. The thematic areas came about after the Legislature held meetings with relevant stakeholders, such as, the Department of Social Development, Women, Children and People with Disabilities; the Department of Health; the South African National NGO Coalition and; the Department of Human Settlements to check on what are the main challenges affecting the elders currently.

As stated both in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, chapter 2, *Section 9* and the Older Persons' Act no. 13 of 2006, older persons' have the right to participate in community life and any position appropriate to their individual capabilities and interests.

Therefore the North West Provincial Legislature in playing its oversight role is hosting older persons' parliament to address any issues around the health and safety of our elders.

About 350 elders from across four districts of the province are expected to attend.

Members of the media are invited to attend. Please contact Namhla Luhabe on 079 527 0628 for more information.

ENDS

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