



# **GAUTENG PROVINCE**

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS**

**DATE: 22 OCTOBER 2024**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MEC MAZIBUKO HONOURS A CENTENARIAN IN KOKOSI**

Gauteng Social Development MEC, Faith Mazibuko has urged young people to take a leaf from the book of a centenarian, Gogo Makhopokoane Jermina Matlape, who was born on the 4th of December 1918 in Steenros, Free State.

Gogo Matlape was celebrated by the community at her home in Kokosi. She was blessed with 11 children (5 girls and 6 boys).

Mazibuko joined 93 older persons between 80 and 100 at Gogo's home to celebrate her life and share her secret to longevity, reaching 105 years.

"To have an old person living for so many years is priceless. We opted to come join this celebration of Mama and thank her family for having taken care of her for so many years. We joined this celebration too precisely because we wanted to dig deeper into her wall of wisdom and know her secret to long life," she said.

Mazibuko said young people should follow Gogo Matlape's footsteps and learn how to be responsible citizens in the county. She handed over a certificate, wheelchair, blanket, toiletries, and nappies to Gogo Matlape.

"We pride ourselves with the lives of our senior citizens, which made us even prouder. We continue to promote love within families and the society to protect our older persons. As the province, we have seen a number of distasteful scenes where older persons are abused and sometimes murdered. It is the responsibility of us all in the society to protect and love senior citizens. We also need to learn from their wisdom. We are determined to ensure that our vulnerable older persons live in a safe and healthy environment. We urge families to ensure they don't illtreat them but give them love at all times," said Mazibuko.

The family expressed their gratitude to the government for having taken a day to celebrate her.

**-ENDS-**

**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Social Development**

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