



# **Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality**

**Elderly Policy  
2021-2026**

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<b>Document Name</b>	<b>Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality Elderly Policy 2021-2026</b>
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<b>Related Policies</b>	

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality has developed the policy for older persons to set a guiding framework on key areas of development intervention that will inform the programmes of the Municipality. In relation to the policy for the aged, the Special Programmes Unit will ensure that all departments within the Municipality comply with the policy and accommodate the aged as per the guidelines outlined in the policy.

### **The Policy mainly recognizes that:**

- There are complexities with regard to defining the aged. Considerations are made with reference to age as per prescription of the Social Assistance Bill, recommendations from the World Health Organisations and social conditions of the local people.
- There is a substantial number of the aged who are dependent on welfare due to age and the state of the health thus creating a huge responsibility for the Department of Social Development however the municipality is one of the stakeholders to work closely with the Department of Social Development in addressing the needs of the aged within its mandate.
- The Municipality has a role to play as an agent of change and transformation for the support that takes place in the context of culture and the demands and dynamics in developing communities today.
- The aged people should be empowered to ensure that they are not regarded as mal-functional and at a point of total dependency, but rather be regarded as a resource in matters that affect their lives.

### **Particular attention is given to:**

- Aged with no extended family
- Age in fragmented communities due to culture and religion
- Aged with disability
- Aged with terminal illness
- Ex-combatants
- Age with physical and mental ability to be economic active.

The aged faces various challenges and some of these challenges can be directly addressed by the Municipality and other stakeholders through effective collaborations. The situational analysis from Mbizana IDP Document indicates that the dependency ratio in families is 11,2% on Social Grants for the Aged. This challenges the Municipality to develop a comprehensive and sustainable strategy for poverty alleviation that addresses the needs of the whole family. The abuse of the elderly people in South Africa is becoming prevalent and Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality is not excluded.

- To define a developmental perspective on the aged that will ensure that age as a developmental phase is understood within the right context and also set a tone on the interventions at various levels within Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality and people served.
- To ensure that the older persons are taken seriously, respected and treated with dignity.
- To ensure respect and adherence to laws that protect the rights of the Aged

### **3. RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

#### **3.1 Social Assistance Bill**

The Social Assistance Bill provides nationally recognized definition for the aged. The Bill highlights human rights issues to be adhered to in the administration and managing usage of the older persons social grants. It makes provision for social assistance and determines qualifications requirements thereof. The Bill also ensures that minimum standards are set for the delivery of social assistance. As per the amendment of 2008, the bill seeks to regulate afresh the eligibility of men and women to access the old age grants. The overall Bill serves as a foundational document for developing policy for the aged as it set minimum norms and standards that are generic and have direct relevance to the policy for the aged at the municipality.

#### **3.2. The Aged Persons Amendments Bill**

The Aged Persons Amendment Bill focuses on the guiding framework for the management of homes for the aged. This Bill was developed due to shortfalls of the Aged Person Act with regards to proper care of the aged in residential homes. The Bill provides protection for the aged against abuse and mismanagement of the subsidy provided for the aged homes. This is done through setting standards for compliance and measures for effective justice systems where the standards are not adhered to. Issues of abuse to the aged are prominent to all levels of communities and have to be addressed in every public policy.

#### **3.3 South African Social Security Agency Bill**

The South African Social Security Agency Bill regulates the Social Security Agency as the agent that administers the payment of social security grants. The Bill sets norms and standards for the effective delivery mechanisms and national policy for effective economic management and use of limited resources. The standards provide insight to public finance management and standards for effective service delivery to the public. The Bill clearly defines the roles and responsibilities for the agency for the management of the Social Security Grants that the aged are beneficiaries of.

#### **3.4. The IDP Document of Mbizana Local Municipality**

Integrated Development Planning is an innovative approach to development planning that ensures the broad involvement of the entire municipality and the citizens in finding solutions to achieve long term sustainable development for the Winnie Madikizela Mandela LM. The document looks at the challenges of meeting development needs of our rural communities that were left underdeveloped by the past government. The document provides strategies for the economic and social development for the Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality. The document also focuses on special groups.

The Municipality alone will not be able to meet all needs of the aged. It will mobilize resources to support initiatives for the aged. Donors and Private Sectors will be approached to be part of the caring community. Partnerships will be established with Donors and Private Sectors.

## **5. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS**

The majority of elderly people survive through social security grants. The elderly are unable to save for their basic needs (funeral cover, doctor's consultation) with social security grant due to the pressure of fulfilling economic responsibilities in the household.

Lack of jobs and poverty contributes towards the socio economic challenges faced by the elderly as they are the bread winners in many families. There is growing trend of the aged looking after vulnerable and orphaned children to the parents died of HIV/Aids. The chronic poverty makes the aged vulnerable to physical illnesses and disabilities thus making it difficult for them to survive on their own. Hospitals in rural areas are usually very far from the villages with no sufficient resources to meet medial needs of the aged.

Our rural arrears are not accessible to ambulance services due to terrible state of roads. Private transport becomes too expensive when hires special to take the sick aged to the hospitals. Even the public transport service is not user friendly for the elderly. The high crime rate does not leave the aged unaffected. The aged become victims of robbery, physical and sexual abuse. Some elderly people spend time alone during the day in unprotected environments. Evidence of existing homes for the aged was not discovered our Mbizana Jurisdiction only the Elderly Service Centres.

## **5. Feasibility**

The existence of this policy will ensure that:

- Upon the implementation, it is expected that Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality will be better informed on local development initiatives that will seek to address the needs of the aged.
- The programmes will be designed on the basis of outcomes envisaged for the aged.
- The policy will inform areas where the municipality will strengthen areas of collaboration for effective delivery.
- The policy will steer facilitation of development programmes for all community members under Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality thus eliminating dependency on the income of the aged.

- The economic development opportunities for the local people are created.
- Stakeholders are mobilized to provide support for the orphans and vulnerable children thus reducing children's dependency on the aged. The approach will be developed with sensitivity for preservation of family unit for both the aged and the child.

### **6.3 HEALTH DISABILITIES**

Chronic or on-going illnesses are common amongst the aged. Hypertension, Diabetes, Arthritis, Asthma and Heart problem are amongst the most common illnesses. The aged have equal rights as other citizens in accessing medical services and support to help them live fulfilled lives. Physical health of the aged deteriorates with age and affects their ability to continue with their daily activities. This increases their dependency on family members and care givers.

#### **The Municipality will therefore:**

- Work closely with the Department of Health in developing strategies to ensure that the aged have access to clinics, hospitals and home-based care.
- Ensure that roads to hospitals and clinics are maintained
- Participate in joint resource mobilization that will ensure that the aged with disabilities who do not afford buying their own assistive devices.
- Support and encourage the aged to participate in gardening projects so that they can have access to fresh vegetables.
- Support public health awareness campaigns targeting the aged.
- Ensure that the aged with disabilities are included in the initiatives for the people with disabilities.
- Prevent the spread of diseases by providing sanitation and water supply in rural areas.

### **6.4 CRIME AND ABUSE OF THE AGED**

Prevention of crime and abuse of the aged is critical for building a moral social fibre and economic development of the Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality. Winnie Madikizela Mandela Local Municipality is no exception when it comes to crime in South Africa. Likewise, the abuse of the aged people is taking a rapid increase. The aged get abused by family members, young people from communities and institutions this critical issue of the aged abuse requires a caring community and responsible structures.

The Municipality therefore has a responsibility to protect the vulnerable members (the aged, children, people with disabilities and women) of the community against crime and abuse through:

- Collective efforts with relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing a crime prevention strategy for the municipality.
- Provide funding support to crime prevention initiatives.
- Ensuring that the funding criteria for youth development initiatives includes crime prevention component.

### **7.1.1. Social Welfare and Development Services**

The role of the municipality as far as the aged are concerned is not broad enough. To a large extent, the Department of Social Development plays a leading role in addressing the needs to the aged. Therefore, the role of the Municipality in this regard is heavily skewed towards providing support to the Department of Social Development. Any failures from the Department of Social Development cannot be compensated by the Municipality role within the Municipalities mandate.

### **7.1.2. Health Services in the Mbizana Local Municipality**

Amongst major needs of the aged are medical services. The standard of health services within Winnie Madikizela Mandela LM has its own challenges. There is generally poor access to medical health care by people residing in rural areas. Public Hospitals and Clinics are under resourced in terms of Human Resources and medical supply and equipment. The Municipality has limited scope in terms of the support it can provide in this area.

### **7.1.3. Safety and Security**

The Crime rate within the Mbizana area needs to be controlled. The local South Africa Police Services and the Department of Justice has a primary role to mobilize other stakeholders in fighting crime. The Municipality is dependent on the co-operation of these departments.

## **7.2 INTERNAL STRUCTURES**

### **7.2.1. Effectiveness of the Committee on Special Needs**

The effectiveness of the special needs committees and sub-committees focusing on the aged will determine the success for the implementation of the policy. The Municipality will need clear terms of reference for the committee and strategies to retain members and ensure that members are active.

### **7.2.2. Inadequate Capacity within the Municipality**

The Special Programmes Unit has a challenge of adding the existing personnel. Implementation of the policy will require individuals with experience in designing, implementing and monitoring development initiatives.

## **8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

The aged policy is separate but mutually exclusive from other policies developed by Winnie Madikizela Mandela LM. This policy is not regarded as a complete document but an evolving document which will be continuously reviewed based on findings and experiences from implementation. This implementation process will therefore take a cycle with different phases.

### **STEP 1: Stakeholder Mobilization**

While the Municipality has a responsibility to implement this policy, there will be a need to ensure that all stakeholders have a buy in. the Municipality will ensure that all stakeholders play an active role in the processes of implementation where the effectiveness of the policy will be measured by the experience of the aged and other relevant stakeholders.

### **8.2 Institutional Arrangement and Capacity**

The need to strengthen the capacity at the Municipal level is becoming more and more urgent. The Municipality will define clear roles of personnel and identify capacity building intervention at the organisational, departmental and individual level.

### **8.3 Cultural, Ethnic and Spiritual Aspects**

This policy is developed with open mind to cultural issues related to the roles and responsibilities of the aged in families and communities. The policy intends to add value to existing constructive and developmental approaches for providing support to the aged.

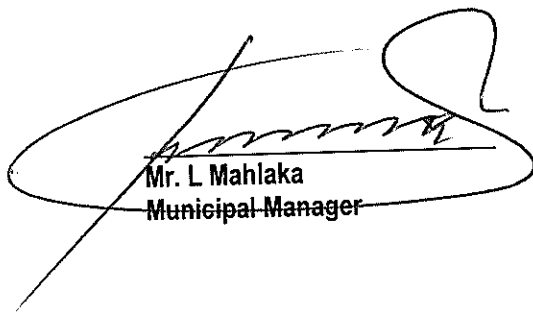
### **8.4 Economic and Financial Capacity**

The Municipality will utilize its current budget to address the needs of the designated groups. Collaborations and further resource mobilization will ensure the sustainability of the support provided to the aged. This policy does not view the aged mainly on social welfare cases, it recognizes their potential for self-reliance and economic participation and therefore will be recognized for participation in economic development initiatives.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

This policy for the aged sets foundation for the Mbizana Local Municipality to identify and support development initiatives for the aged.

**Approval of the Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality Elderly Policy**



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