



WORLD ELDERLY ABUSE AWARENESS DAY - 15 JUNE 2017

Speech by Safe Haven Manager, Nicolene Adams

“Good afternoon everyone.

“In my opening thoughts I would like to share one of my first quotes from the great Nelson Rohlshlala Mandela

**WE MUST USE TIME
WISELY AND FOREVER
REALIZE THAT THE
TIME IS ALWAYS RIPE
TO DO RIGHT.**

NELSON MANDELA

“The United Nations (UN) describes elder abuse as a global social issue which affects the health and human rights of millions of older people around the world, it is also said to be the most important issue which deserves the attention of the international community. The UN General Assembly, designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

“This year, the UN theme for WEAAD focussed on Elderly Financial exploitation and abuse. The theme aims to explore effective means of strengthening protections against financial and material exploitation and abuse against the elderly. Our aim as Multi-Agency Directorates for WEAAD was to raise awareness of elder abuse but more importantly to focus on protecting the rights of all older persons.

“In her news article last week, Lindsay Fenemma confirmed that according to the 2016 Census the current population of those over 65 is at 890 out of 4329 , this being 22% of our population. We are seeing an increasing number of older persons beginning to rely on others for support or residential services to provide their daily needs and activities. Home support from family, and friends in the community, is gratefully appreciated and it has to be acknowledged the heavy physical and financial weight this can play on families and relatives. There are resources available to help those who feel they do need a break from caring for a loved one even for just a short few days.

“This week we have seen the people of the Island of St Helena once again rise up to honour the elderly citizens of the Island. Individuals, communities, districts, St Helena Government agencies, and St Helena businesses have all come together willingly to support the events that were planned for the WEAAD Campaign.

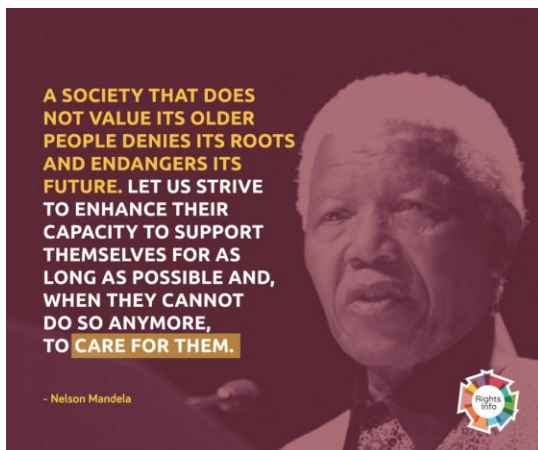
*“We have had the privilege of hosting Area Elderly Tea Parties, School Assemblies , a Pamper Day at the CCC , media reports and interviews to raise awareness of elder abuse and to advocate the right of all our elderly to be treated with respect and dignity always. The message of our WEAAD Campaign this year was grounded in the Statement ‘**Respected Always**’.*

“The Campaign allowed us to engage with the elderly about their view of life on St Helena. Many have shared their thoughts with us , ranging from their love for the Island to their need to be simply acknowledged and cared for in our society. Our school children wrote about their views of the elderly on St Helena, you can read their thoughts displayed on the trellis behind. We endeavoured this week to hear the voices and know the thoughts of our elderly and young alike.

“The colour purple is a symbol of hope representing a society that promotes treating all the elderly with dignity and respect. It was exciting yet humbling to see our people wearing purple clothing and the purple ribbon in support of this Campaign.

“The events of the week come to an end tomorrow with the last tea party at the Jamestown Community Centre, yet the message goes out to each of us today, to be informed and aware of services available to the elderly, to diligently and honourably uphold and support the rights of all our elderly to live with dignity and respect. We are also being challenged to take the time to visit , to speak to, to offer help to care and keep our elderly safe. Tata Mandela very passionately said ... ‘It always seems impossible until it’s done’.

“In my final thoughts, I close with this quote once again from the great Madiba.....



“Far beyond Our call of Duty. Thank you.”

**Safe Haven Manager, Nicolene Adams
15 June 2017**