



social development

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World Bank to Visit SASSA

The World Bank delegation headed by Senior Vice President Development Economics and Chief Economist Mr. Kaushik Basu, visited the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) pay point in Coronationville Community hall in Johannesburg on 5 March 2013. The purpose of the visit is to learn more about the newly implemented biometric grants payment system used by SASSA since 1 April 2012.

Through the visit The World Bank delegation hopes to learn firsthand the benefits of the biometric system in paying out social grants with the purpose to assist other developing countries with technical information on how the system can also benefit them.

The strategic use of the system involves electronic capturing of voice and fingerprints of the beneficiary who is thereafter issued with a SASSA master card that can be used in any ATM throughout the country. Sassa also has an agreement with designated retail stores where beneficiaries of social grants can also visit to access their grant money at till points.

This biometric system is implemented with the objective to compile a reliable database of social grant beneficiaries in South Africa and also to combat fraud and corruption within the social grant system itself. Since the introduction of this system a number of SASSA officials and beneficiaries have been detected and arrested for fraudulent grant related activities. This has in turn helped government to save considerable amount of money.

Mr Kaushik Basu, was accompanied by Asad Alam, country director for South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland.

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SASSA CEO (far left) explaining to the World Bank Senior Vice President, Development Economics and Chief Economics Mr. Kaushik Basi on how the Biometric system works.



Social **Development** and SASSA officials, World Bank delegates led by Senior Vice President, Development Economics & Chief Economics Mr. Kaushik Basu (4th from left). SASSA CEO Virginia Petersen (middle), during the visit to a SASSA pay point in Coronationville, Johannesburg.