

MEDIA STATEMENT

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS/ REPORTERS

For immediate release

29 July 2022

YOUTH ACCOUNT FOR 60% OF COVID-19 SRD APPLICATIONS- 5% HOLD TERTIARY QUALIFICATIONS

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) has made great strides in its efforts to alleviate poverty and provide a lifeline to the most vulnerable in society through the COVID-19 SRD. This form of SRD was introduced to particularly target citizens of working age who are not accommodated in the social assistance safety net.

According to statistics, approximately 60% of applicants who apply for the COVID-19 SRD Grant are youth. This correlates with the unemployment rate amongst youth which is approximately 63%; of all the applicants (youth and non-youth), approximately 5% hold tertiary qualifications. The Agency is concerned about the misreporting of these statistics released by the Agency, which indicate that youth holding tertiary qualifications account for 60% of R350 special grant applications. SASSA would like to put it on record that this information is factually incorrect.

The high rate of unemployment amongst the youth is a great cause for concern and the agency remains committed to playing its part in fighting the scourge of unemployment. Furthermore, the agency has made progress with regard to payments for this special grant, approximately 5 298 817 applications were approved, as of 19 July 2022, and 4 088 873 of those have received payment.

The agency would like to reiterate that COVID-19 SRD applications are strictly done online and not at SASSA offices. COVID-19 SRD clients who may have enquiries regarding their grants are advised to contact our toll-free customer care line on 0800 60 10 11 or send an email to grantenquiries@sassa.gov.za

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