

SASSA Media Statement on Fighting Fraud

To: All Media

Attention: Social Development Reporters

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SASSA Anti-fraud Strategy Begins to Bear Fruit

SASSA has recently been targeted by criminal syndicates and various attempts were made to defraud its system. Its anti-fraud strategy has been continuously tested over the years by these criminals. Successful arrests have continuously been made and to cap it all, the justice system always comes to the party, securing significant convictions.

Just on Monday, the Mbizana regional court in the Eastern Cape sentenced a couple to eight and ten years in jail for fraud amounting to over 1.2 million rands. Their *modus operandi* was to register fraudulent social grants on the SASSA system. One of the convicted fraudsters was an employee of SASSA and had access to the SASSA system while the other partner was the brains behind the fraud.

In another case, 23 suspects appeared in the Nelspruit regional court for using identity documents of members of the public to register fraudulent grants. Their case has been remanded to 04 September 2020. Still in Mpumalanga, another syndicate will appear in court on 07 August 2020 charged for trying to hack the SASSA system with some sophisticated gadgets.

These continuous breakthroughs made by law enforcement agencies bear testimony to the resilience of the SASSA strategy which is anchored on prevention, detection and strengthening internal controls among others. "This strategy is driven by multi-disciplinary teams of law enforcers who collaborate to detect fraud and unleash the might of the law on those suspected of committing it"- Totsie Memela the SASSA CEO said. "We have adopted a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and will stop at nothing to root it out at first sight, so criminals, be warned": she concluded. SASSA also works with institutions from the banking industry in the fight against fraud and corruption and all these partnerships should present fraudsters with a mountain to climb if they plan to defraud SASSA in the future.

The public is called upon to blow the whistle and report cases of corruption to the Anti-corruption hotline on 0800 43 43 73. We need to work together even more with the public to fight corruption and ensure that public funds are not abused by anyone.

Issued on behalf of SASSA

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