

11 December 2022

Media Advisory

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO LAUNCH THE EXPERT PANEL REPORT ON BASIC INCOME SUPPORT

Poverty, inequality, and unemployment continue to rise due to the current unfavorable economic climate, which is informed by - amongst others, the recent COVID-19 pandemic, which negatively affected the country and the world.

As the triple challenges persist, it is widely accepted that social protection is an important component of development - for both human and economic development.

The rising rate of unemployment, together with, the high uptake of the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant are evidence that there is a gap in the provision of social protection for the working age group of 18 to 59 years. This necessitated the Department of Social Development to conduct studies to inform a proposal to extend social assistance for this vulnerable group.

The report affirms that income poverty in South Africa is extremely pervasive. More than half of households live in poverty and the COVID-19 SRD grant is critical to sustain their livelihoods. Furthermore, the impact of this grant on poverty and inequality is potentially more significant than previously understood. This is despite the relatively modest nature of the temporary relief.

The Department of Social Development will, on Tuesday - 13 December, in Gauteng, launch this groundbreaking report. Experts and participants will deliberate on the findings and the recommendations of the report.

This research was commissioned by the department in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Amongst key thematic areas for discussion by the panel members, are Social Outcomes of the Social Relief of Distress Grant and its Economic and Fiscal Considerations.

At the end of the programme, the report will be handed over to the Department of Social Development by the International Labour Organisation.

Members of the media are invited to the launch of the expert panel report on the basic income support scheduled as follows:

Date: 13 December 2022

Time: 09h30 - 13h30

Venue: Radisson Hotel and Convention Centre, 3rd Avenue, Bredel AH, Kempton Park, Gauteng

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/S3scEgj0xEg>

Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/26exogKdK>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/The_DSD

Microsoft Teams: <https://teams.live.com/join/9484752772508>

Media can RSVP by contacting Ms Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane on 0664806845 / NomfundoLe@dsd.gov.za or Mr Jaconia Kobue on 0632495120 / Mr Jaconia Kobue JaconiaK@dsd.gov.za

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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