

SASSA MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All MEDIA

21 March 2020

Early SASSA Grant Payment for Older People and Those Living with Disability

SASSA has been inundated with concerns fuelled by uncertainty regarding grant payments for April 2020, given the COVID-19 virus infections affecting the country. To allay these fears it consulted widely and the result is that grant payments for April will be brought forward so that they can start on 30 March 2020. All other grants such as child support should be collected from 01 April 2020.

It is important to stress that payments on the first two days will be for the elderly and people living with disabilities. This emphasis on prioritising the older person and disability grants is an effort to ease congestion at retailers and bank infrastructure the risk of infection is minimised.

Beneficiaries who normally collect their grants at cash pay points will be able to collect their grants at the pay points from Friday 03 April 2020 according to the different specific dates communicated to them in the previous payment cycle.

Once the money is in the account, it will remain available for the beneficiary to access anytime and anywhere as and when required. There is no need to withdraw all the money at once. Beneficiaries are also encouraged to swipe their cards to pay for purchases, rather than withdraw cash.

Additional measures will be put in place to manage the numbers at cash paypoints to ensure that hygiene protocols for everyone are followed and social distancing is maintained. SASSA will ensure that the number of clients being serviced at any one time does not exceed the national set number of 100 people. Social grant beneficiaries are encouraged to avoid areas where large numbers of people are gathered for their personal safety.

Beneficiaries at paypoints and post offices will be provided with hand sanitisers to prevent infections. All necessary measures will be put in place to ensure that social distance is adhered to.

Additional cash dispensers will be available to ensure that there is no overcrowding around one or two dispensers at cash paypoints and post offices. This will increase the speed of serving clients to ensure that there is full compliance with provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 as amended.

A change of behaviour amongst all South Africans is necessary and everyone should practice the following personal hygiene measures:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizers for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms.

Beneficiaries should contact SASSA on 0800 60 10 11 and on social media for further information.

Issued on behalf of SASSA

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