



## **BRIDGET MASANGO MP**

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Tel: (021) 403-2911  
Cellphone: 082 761 2480 E-Mail: [masangobridget11@gmail.com](mailto:masangobridget11@gmail.com)

---

31 March 2020

Honourable Ms Lindiwe Zulu  
**Minister of Social Development**  
Email:

### **DA calls for implementation of urgent measures to keep beneficiaries safe at SASSA grant pay-points**

I am writing to request the urgent implementation of effective measures to address the chaos the nation witnessed on Monday, 30 March 2020, during the payment of social grants to the elderly and the disabled.

I received numerous reports of stampedes; of various pay-points failing to adhere to Covid-19 measures such as social distancing, and the provision of hand sanitizers; and beneficiaries not being able to receive their monies because ATMs and supermarkets ran out of cash. Some elderly persons and those with disabilities had to go home empty-handed after using their last money to get to these pay-points.

Despite your promise that the grants would not be affected by the Covid-19 lockdown, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) has completely failed to efficiently administer grant payments.

To avoid any further chaos in the coming days, I request that your department and SASSA urgently implement the following measures:

- The Department and SASSA must engage banks and supermarket chains in order to guarantee that ATMs and supermarkets have enough cash to payout grants;
- Pay-points (Post Offices, banks, and supermarkets) should strictly enforce social distancing;
- The Department and SASSA must ensure that all pay-points have an adequate supply hand sanitizers;

- The Department should work closely with its Police and Defence counterparts to ensure strict security measures to protect grant recipients against opportunists and criminals.

It is unconscionable for the most vulnerable groups in our society to be subjected to such vile treatment, especially the elderly, who are at high risk of contracting this virus.

The DA urges for your urgent intervention, and that you will give our recommendations the due consideration. Failure to do so will leave many vulnerable at risk.

Kind regards,

Bridget Masango MP

Shadow Minister of Social Development

**Democratic Alliance**

(Sent electronically without signature)