



## EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

**Hon. P. E. Van Vuuren, MPL**

(Shadow MEC for Social Development)

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8 April 2020

**MEC Siphokazi Mani-Lusithi**  
**Department of Social Development**  
**Eastern Cape**

Dear Hon MEC

**RE: FOOD PARCELS**

I am concerned with the process that is being followed with regards to the allocating of food parcels during the national lockdown.

My concerns are about the budget available for food parcels and the number of food parcels that are available within the current available budget.

Sassa has a budget of R45 million for relief, food parcels, for the financial year 2020/21 for the most vulnerable in the Eastern Cape. This R45 million has been divided equally amongst all districts in the province with each district receiving R5,9 million for food parcels to be distributed.

Nelson Mandela Bay, with its 60 wards, based on the price of a food parcel of between R1300 and R1500, will only be able to approve +- 72 food parcels in each ward. The ward councilors have been tasked to identify the most needy and vulnerable within their wards and to forward these +- 72 names on a composite form by the latest Wednesday 08 April 2020 at 16h30 to the relevant Sassa official. Screening will still be done by Sassa before approval and distribution of food parcels.

This is indeed concerning in that our councilors are set up for failure or of accusations of biasness in that not all the vulnerable will be provided with a food parcel.

This is a Government decision that only a limited number of food parcels will be available because of budget constraints and councilors were implored to work with Sassa in having this programme rolled out. If more budget is going to be made available, the councilors will be informed accordingly.

The entire budget for relief for the financial year 2020/21 will be used for this disaster relief parcels with unfortunately no budget for any relief for the needy and vulnerable for the remainder of said period.

After screening of the composite list by Sassa, the councilors will be informed within 24 hours, after having reviewed the names on the list, whether any names have been removed, because of noncompliance, and for the councilors to substitute those that have not been approved.

Food parcels will be distributed from the Sassa office in Cleary Park for those in the Northern areas to the residences of the needy, in cooperation with the ward councilor. The councilor will be informed 3 days in advance of when delivery will take place.

Councilors are not the final arbitrators of this process but are merely facilitating on behalf of Sassa, but the final arbitration rests with Sassa. Saps will be involved in monitoring the situation.

With this in mind, most of the vulnerable in Nelson Mandela Bay  
Considering the above information, could you kindly answer the following questions:

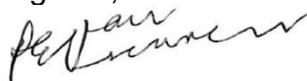
- Does Sassa have an emergency disaster fund that can be utilized during a disaster period, and if so, why is this budget not being utilized to provide much needed food parcels to the most vulnerable?
- Does the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development have an emergency disaster fund that can be utilized during a disaster period, and if so: is this budget being utilized to provide much needed food parcels to the most vulnerable; and what is this budget currently being used for; and what is the total budget?
- How does the MEC intend to source additional funds to make more relief packages available during this time and for any need that may arise in the remainder of the financial year?

Please bear in mind that Nelson Mandela Bay Metro is merely being used as an example, the same principal is being applied to all districts in the province.

I would greatly appreciate your soonest response.

Thank you

Regards,



**Edmund van Vuuren**

**MEMBER OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**