

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

TO	THE HONOURABLE MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
FROM	HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT	FOOD PARCELS
DATE	11 APRIL 2020

PURPOSE:

To provide responses to questions raised in a letter addressed to the Honourable MEC by Honourable MPL Van Vuuren regarding the budget available for food parcels and the number of food parcels that are available within the current available budget with particular reference to Nelson Mandela Metro.

DISCUSSION:

Below are responses to questions raised which will enable the Honourable MEC to respond to Honourable MPL Van Vuuren regarding the budget available for food parcels and the number of food parcels that are available within the current available budget with particular reference to Nelson Mandela Metro.

Question 1:

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?

Response 1:

- i. In the current financial year, SASSA has been provided an equitable share allocation for the 2020/2021 financial year of **R 45 584 000.00** for the provision of SRD food parcels to destitute families. There is no special allocated budget to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- ii. SASSA regional offices have been authorized to utilize the entire equitable share within a short space of time to respond to the Covid-19 declared disaster.
- iii. The Agency has developed a ward-based approach to ensure alignment of distribution of food parcels to the budget allocated for each district.

- iv. However, the allocation for Nelson Mandela Metropolitan is as follows:
- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan is R 5 925 920.00
 - With the above allocation, NMM can only procure 4 341 food parcels.
 - This translates to 72 food parcels per ward, taking into account the 60 wards within the Metro.
 - Currently NMM SASSA is processing a significant number of applications from the households who are facing undue hardship.
 - Provincially SASSA will be procuring 33 390 food parcels with its allocated budget for the current financial year.
- v. SASSA has also developed guidelines in implementing the programme in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Question 2:

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?

Response 2:

- i. The Department of Social Development does not have a budget solely dedicated to an emergency disaster that is categorized as Emergency Disaster Fund.
- ii. However, the Department has an Equitable Share Budget Allocation for Social Relief Services meant to assist people who are experiencing undue hardship and who as a result find it difficult to meet their family basic needs and obligations. Those who are exposed to disaster are also eligible for consideration in the event of such an occurrence like the case of COVID-19 pandemic recently declared as a National Disaster in terms of Disaster Management Act, Act No 57 of 2002. This intervention is provided through distribution of food parcels on a household basis and including other related material like school uniform and Sanitary Dignitary Packs for those girl children and learners from the poor, vulnerable and marginalized backgrounds.
- iii. The total budget allocation for Social Relief of Distress is R5,239 million which can procure about 3 852 food parcels at an averages SASSA rate of R1 359.18 per food parcel.

Question 3:

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?

Response 3:

The Department is busy developing a proposal for submission to Provincial Treasury as the current budget allocation for Social Relief Services is by far very insufficient to cover the number of households in the Eastern Cape who live below the minimum living level totaling 1 256 508 households constituting 72,9% of which 264 312 households in the Eastern Cape have no income and thus not certain where and how to get their next meal.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is hoped that the above responses will assist the Honourable MEC in responding to questions raised in a letter from Honourable MPL Van Vuuren regarding the budget available for food parcels and the number of food parcels that are available within the current available budget with particular reference to Nelson Mandela Metro.



Ms Nt. Raart
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

12/04/2020
DATE