

MEMO

To: **Disaster Manager: Provincial Department of Social development**

From: **Johannesburg Local Office Manager: Mr Bandi Paul Miyambo**

Region: **Gauteng**

Unit: **Grant Administration**

Date: **15 November 2023**

Subject: **Report: Fire Incident in the City Of Johannesburg-Marshalltown**

Enquiries: **Ms P Nkwala (011)**

1. Purpose

This serves to report on the developments and response to the persons and/or families affected by the current Fire Incident in the City of Johannesburg, 80 Albert Street which happened from the 31 August 2023 to date.

2. Discussions

Social Relief Distress (SRD) may be given in various forms, depending on the specific circumstances which gave rise to the type of demand. The following forms of Social Relief of Distress under different sections of Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004 and its regulations:

- (a) Disaster support/related incidents (Section 1)
- (b) Social Relief of Distress in the form of School Uniforms (Section 2)
- (c) Zero Hunger Programme (Section 3)
- (d) Vouchers & Cash (Section 4)

The SRD that may be provided as a response to disasters/or incidents, can be financial or non-financial depending on the specific need.



*paying the right social grant, to the right person,
at the right time and place. NJALO!*

Report: SASSA Inner City of Johannesburg Fire Incidents-80 Albert street

- 2.1 Where the disaster/incident has resulted in the loss of life, the affected family may be assisted with SRD in a form of cash to the value amount of the older person's grant (**R4 160.00**).
- 2.2 Where the disaster/incident has resultant with the loss of everything, SASSA may issue cash payment or Food Voucher upon departure from the shelter or alternative facility to the value of **R2 080.00**.
- 2.3 The agency is expected to respond to the incidents with **48** hours after they are reported or became aware of.

2.3.1. 80 Albert Street-Marshalltown Inner City on the 31st August 2023.

The Marshalltown Town Fire Disaster occurred recently, affecting a total of 456 individuals from 198 households. Tragically, the fire resulted in 77 fatalities and left 56 people injured. Out of the affected households, 91 were identified as South African citizens.

In response to this devastating event, the City of Johannesburg took immediate action by opening three shelters/community halls to accommodate all the affected persons. Additionally, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) intervened to provide support and assistance to those affected by the disaster.

2.3.1.1 Issuing SRD Food Vouchers:

SASSA has provided 91 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) food vouchers to the families or households affected by the fire. These vouchers will be distributed to the affected individuals when they leave the shelters, ensuring they have access to food and necessary supplies during their recovery process. The DHA is also currently busy issuing HANIS reports, today they were able to issue 18 reports due to load shedding they will be coming back tomorrow to issue the outstanding affected individuals.

Intervention: Cash Voucher or cash, when lost everything to the value of R2 080.00 per household, which amounts to a total of **R2 080.00 X 58=R120 640.00**.



*paying the right social grant, to the right person,
at the right time and place. N|ALO!*

South African Social Security Agency
Gauteng Region

28 Harrison Street • Johannesburg 2000
Private Bag X120 • Marshalltown 2107
Tel: +27 11 241 8300 • Fax: +27 11 241 8305
www.sassa.gov.za

2.3.1.2. Augmentation of Hot Meals Provision:

SASSA has taken steps to augment the provision of hot meals to all 456 individuals currently residing in the shelters. This intervention will come into effect once the food provided by the Department of Social Development (DSD), Food Bank, and NGO sectors runs dry. SASSA has confirmed that there is an adequate supply of food available, and they will step in to continue providing meals, possibly starting from this Thursday.

2.3.1.3. Cash Contributions

SASSA has made cash contributions to the families of the 76 deceased individuals. The Health Department has identified 12 fatalities whom have been identified as RSA citizen, of the 12 so far 9 families have identified their family members, due to ongoing DAN testing the number is likely to grow, from our side we have assisted 9 families to apply SRD cash vouchers so far while the pending 3 is still awaiting DNA outcomes. We are in constant communication with the Forensic authorities for them to refer the families to us for further assistance as and when they receive linking DNA outcomes. This financial support aims to assist the affected families during this difficult time.

Intervention: Issuing Cash contributions of an amount of R3980.00 per fatality, totalling **R4 160.00 X = R71 640. 00.**

2.3.1.4. School Uniforms:

The number of individuals requiring school uniforms as a result of the fire is about 8 that we have established to date. However, SASSA is actively working with social workers to determine the needs and requirements of the affected individuals. Once the numbers are finalized, appropriate measures will be taken to provide school uniforms to those in need.

SASSA formed part of the delegations by the different Political Office bears such MEC's, minister's and Mayor of the City of Johannesburg visit to the families of the deceased and affected persons.



*paying the right social grant, to the right person,
at the right time and place. N!ALO!*

Report: SASSA Inner City of Johannesburg Fire Incidents-80 Albert street

3. Conclusion

It is concluded that SASSA commit itself to provide additional support, if necessary to all affected persons.

*Kindly note, the number of households, especially on DNA identifications are still increasing as the Health Department continues with their process and provides updates, which imply that the numbers in terms of households and the amount to be spend remains subject to change.

Kind regards,


Bandi Paul Miyambo

Local Office Manager: Johannesburg Local Office

Date: 15th November 2023



*paying the right social grant, to the right person,
at the right time and place. NJALO!*

South African Social Security Agency
Gauteng Region

28 Harrison Street • Johannesburg 2000
Private Bag X120 • Marshalltown 2107
Tel: +27 11 241 8300 • Fax: +27 11 241 8305
www.sassa.gov.za