

FOR PSA MEMBERS: SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA) –
NORTH WEST

27-03-2020

Update: COVID-19

The North West SASSA region convened a meeting with labour on 26 March 2020 to determine SASSA's status during lockdown following a cabinet briefing and the issuing of DPSA *Circular 15 of 2020*.

In terms of the Circular's paragraph 6.2, SASSA had identified three areas as critical, namely Social relief of distress, Call Centre and payments. The submission from SASSA was that the identified areas' personnel must work throughout to provide varying services such as screening and sanitising of clients and to provide food parcels if need arise to badly affected communities. However, it was noted that Social Relief services will be on standby as a contingency plan but core services employees from salary level 7 of all districts will work to provide preventative measures and social distancing at pay points and merchants for the 1.2 million SASSA beneficiaries in North West.

The PSA rejected the plan to take employees to merchants as this is out of their scope and endorsed only deploying of employees to pay points for which SASSA must provide transport to ferry employees from their homes to pay points as per agreement. Moreover, all SASSA offices will be closed during the lockdown and only identified staff members will be working during pay-point activities.

GENERAL MANAGER