

Presentation For Portfolio Committee On Social Developments

Thank you to all those present and for inviting us to this meeting. Introduce ourselves and let them know who we are and why we decided to take on this project.

1. Pensioners badly treated by Government – most of us paid taxes while working.
2. We are being completely ignored so how can we be proud of our country, when our dignity has been taken away from us. Other countries look after their elderly.
3. We would like the politicians to show us how they would live on R1270.00 a month. It's a disgrace I'm sure their parents are not treated like us.
4. We are disappointed in National and Local Government for not trying to improve the living conditions of pensioners.
5. People may ask why we did not provide for our retirement but I for example was employed in the clothing industry and only received R30000.00 for 50 years in the industry and so have thousands like myself.
6. We have a petition of 2800 pensioners that are supporting "The Concerned Pensioners" but could have had thousands more if we would financially be able to go to all areas.
7. 2014 is Election time and political parties are canvassing and giving food parcels to women with children who get a Government grant. They forgot about the pensioners who will not be voting if they do not receive an increase of R2000.00 in the next budget.
8. The SASSA card system has caused more problems. Pensioners have to stand in long queues waiting for their money and most of them have forgotten their Pin Number, gangsters see this as an opportunity to rob them.
9. In the apartheid era our dignity was taken from us and we were forcibly removed from property that was owned by our grandparents and now our dignity is taken from us again. We do not feel free but we were all part of the struggle.
10. Pensioners are expected to pay the same price as the working class like rent, electricity and food. You find pensioners have to think twice before they can afford a piece of meat. The old age homes exploit them or the staff steals whatever valuables they have.
11. In 1991 my mother in law received a pension of R860.00pm, 22 years later we receive R1270.00 an increase of R420.00 what a disgrace and not keeping up with inflation. Compare this with parliamentarians increase.
12. Day hospitals are another sore point. We sit for hours waiting for medication the excuse is shortage of staff. I timed a doctor when he went on tea time, he stayed away for ¾ hour. Please is there no supervision.
13. We should look after our pensioners before we help other countries financially as our vote decides who rules the country.
14. This morning 04/11/2013 at 11h.00 we went to review our pension at William Herbert Sports ground, there was over a hundred people sitting in the hall but only three assistants. It was advertised in the newspaper that we had to bring our I.D., proof of address, and affidavit stating you don't have a bank account. When it came to our turn it was a different story. Surely they could have had an assistant at the door checking what documents were needed.
15. R3000 – R4000 will alleviate poverty.
16. Have a better system with SASSA – stop long queues.

17. Have a better system at Health Care Centres – stop rudeness and employ more staff. There are so many unemployed people out there.
18. Stop corruption at Old Age Homes get Social workers working out there in the field not sitting in their offices. Set up Commission of Enquiry
19. Build more Homes for the aged and retirement villages with reasonable rentals and subsidized electricity so that we can be proud and independent, look after ourselves and stop complaining.
20. R60.00 increase, our rent with electricity has increased by R200.00. We need an increase to keep up with inflation.
21. Investigate “Communicare” as they are exploiting pensioners.
22. R1.15 billion spent on renovating embassies while pensioners are dying of malnutrition, eating out of bins and living on pet food.
23. Explain what other countries do for their aged.
24. Subsidize food vouchers – only food can be bought. Pensioners won't go hungry.