**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 1382**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 JUNE 2020**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER: 23 - 2020**

**1382. Ms T Breedt (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

(1) Whether, with reference to the recent High Court ruling that extended the Social Relief of Distress Grant to asylum seekers and special permit holders, her department has made any additional resources and/or funding available to assist with the growing number of applicants for the grant; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) additional (i) funding and (ii) other resources are available and (b) is the total amount paid out to beneficiaries to date;

(2) whether her department has made amendments to the criteria on which applicants are approved; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether her department keeps statistics on approved beneficiaries; if not, why not; if so,

(4) whether she will provide Ms T Breedt witha breakdown on approved beneficiaries relating to (a) nationality, (b) racial demographic and (c) age;

(5) whether her department gives preference to applicants based on certain criteria; if not, what are the reasons for declining applicants; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1753E

**REPLY:**

1. The initial allocation for the special relief grant of R350 per month from May to October 2020 was R3 457 696 700. Motivation was done to National treasury to indicate that this would not be sufficient. In the special adjustment budget of 24 June 2020, an additional amount of approximately R6 billion was provided for this relief grant.

(a)(i) An additional amount of approximately R6 billion was made available in the special adjustment budget for this grant. However, this is intended to cater for all who qualify, not only the asylum seekers and special permit holders.

(ii) No additional resources other than the current internal resources being used to implement the special relief grant have been made available.

(b) A total of R949 537 750 has been paid out to approved beneficiaries as at 30 June 2020

1. The Department of Social Development has amended the Directions to accommodate asylum seekers and special permit holders from Angola, Lesotho and Zimbabwe, as directed by the court, and the revised Directions were published on 2 July 2020.
2. Yes, SASSA maintains statistics on all applications received, approved and declined.
3. Statistics are not maintained on racial demographics. The table below indicates the approved applications according to citizenship and age.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **SA Citizens** | **Permanent Residents** | **Refugees** | **Total** |
| 18 | 182 193 | 3 438 | 38 | 185 669 |
| 19 | 220 690 | 4 443 | 90 | 225 223 |
| 20 | 210 845 | 4 521 | 94 | 215 460 |
| 21 | 218 868 | 5 450 | 76 | 224 394 |
| 22 | 197 327 | 5 490 | 80 | 202 897 |
| 23 | 173 240 | 5 334 | 78 | 178 652 |
| 24 | 145 010 | 4 758 | 66 | 149 834 |
| 25 | 120 722 | 3 728 | 55 | 124 505 |
| 26 | 104 268 | 3 225 | 40 | 107 533 |
| 27 | 89 123 | 2 595 | 54 | 91 772 |
| 28 | 84 157 | 2 268 | 40 | 86 465 |
| 29 | 78 136 | 2 097 | 44 | 80 277 |
| 30 | 74 184 | 1 988 | 59 | 76 231 |
| 31 | 68 719 | 1 710 | 57 | 70 486 |
| 32 | 66 001 | 1 630 | 63 | 67 694 |
| 33 | 63 756 | 1 500 | 54 | 65 310 |
| 34 | 62 572 | 1 518 | 60 | 64 150 |
| 35 | 60 163 | 1 456 | 62 | 61 681 |
| 36 | 57 831 | 1 388 | 67 | 59 286 |
| 37 | 57 910 | 1 424 | 69 | 59 403 |
| 38 | 53 068 | 1 420 | 60 | 54 548 |
| 39 | 49 799 | 1 259 | 74 | 51 132 |
| 40 | 50 840 | 1 240 | 88 | 52 168 |
| 41 | 46 036 | 1 228 | 64 | 47 328 |
| 42 | 45 052 | 1 181 | 67 | 46 300 |
| 43 | 45 651 | 1 299 | 68 | 47 018 |
| 44 | 48 094 | 1 312 | 56 | 49 462 |
| 45 | 47 682 | 1 360 | 53 | 49 095 |
| 46 | 45 889 | 1 365 | 47 | 47 301 |
| 47 | 47 956 | 1 460 | 51 | 49 467 |
| 48 | 46 402 | 1 377 | 32 | 47 811 |
| 49 | 43 844 | 1 361 | 25 | 45 230 |
| 50 | 50 692 | 1 466 | 30 | 52 188 |
| 51 | 49 167 | 1 437 | 24 | 50 628 |
| 52 | 48 707 | 1 528 | 25 | 50 260 |
| 53 | 46 515 | 1 465 | 15 | 47 995 |
| 54 | 50 230 | 1 534 | 15 | 51 779 |
| 55 | 51 778 | 1 611 | 17 | 53 406 |
| 56 | 53 629 | 1 547 | 9 | 55 185 |
| 57 | 54 309 | 1 646 | 14 | 55 969 |
| 58 | 49 561 | 1 492 | 8 | 51 061 |
| 59 | 44 576 | 1 364 | 5 | 45 945 |
| 60 | 2 958 | 86 |   | 3 044 |
| **Grand Total** | **3 408 150** | **90 999** | **2 093** | **3 501 242** |

1. The qualification criteria for applicants to qualify for the Special Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant is applied to all applicants. The gazetted criteria, including the recent amendment on 2 July 2020 is as follows:

A special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress of R350 per month may be provided for the period indicated herein to distressed individuals who are:

* South African Citizens, Permanent Residents or Refugees registered on the Home Affairs database,and holders of special permits under the Special Angolan Dispensation, the Lesotho Exemption Permit dispensation and the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit Dispensation, and asylum seekers whose section 22 permits or visas are valid or were valid on 15 March 2020;
* Residing within the borders of the Republic of South Africa;
* Above the age of 18;
* Unemployed;
* Not receiving any social grant;
* Not receiving unemployment insurance benefit and does not qualify to receive unemployment insurance benefit;
* Not receiving a stipend from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme;
* Not in receipt of any other government COVID-19 response support; and
* Not a resident in a government funded or subsidised institution.

Applicants are declined if they do not meet any of the above criteria.