# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

# QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY QUESTION NUMBER: 2696

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 03 DECEMBER 2021 INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER: 31 - 2021**

**2696. Mrs G Opperman (DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

Considering the huge budget cuts to her department in 2020, how likely or by what date does she envisage the implementation of the Basic Income Grant from to 18 to 59-year old persons in future?

NW3209E

# REPLY:

As the Honourable Member is aware, the Department currently provides Social Relief of Distress, in the form of the Special COVID-19 SRD Grant, which covers those aged 18-59. The Department is of the view that the implementation of the Special COVID- 19 SRD Grant has provided a basis for the introduction of the Basic Income Grant. However, I must point out to the Honourable Member that this require an amendment of existing legislation.

Depending on costs and the fiscal position of the country, it may take a few years to progressively implement. Until then, the Department is however, currently motivating for the extension of the Special COVID-19 SRD Grant, preferably over the medium- term period. This should provide the much-needed income support to cushion against the economic hardship occasioned by the advent of COVID-19 pandemic for the 18- 59 years.