



HANDS OFF OUR GRANTS! SOCIAL GRANTS FOR ALL! RAISE THE RATES!

Social grants are given to South African citizens by the government each month because of the high rate of unemployment and poverty. Grants are targeted at people who are vulnerable to poverty and in need of state support. Grants are not gifts from the state, they come from the tax money that all individuals and businesses pay.

Under sections 24 through 29 of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution, the government recognizes the right to social security for citizens. So in 2004 the government introduced the Social Assistance Act, which provides the framework for the administration of social grants, which is the responsibility of the South Africans Social Security Agency (SASSA).

If you apply for a grant and are approved, you will be issued a SASSA card. Your money will then be sent to a bank account controlled by Grindrod Bank, which is connected to your SASSA card. You can then go and collect your social grant at a SASSA paypoint or from an ATM.

But the distribution of social grants at these paypoints is not managed by SASSA. In 2012 grant payments were outsourced to a private company called Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) at a cost of R10billion.

CPS is owned by Net 1, a financial company that also owns a lot of other companies that target people who get social grants. These companies include Easy Pay, Moneyline Loans, Smart Life Insurance, Finbond Loans, and Umoya Manje. It is a very wealthy company and it makes money by targeting the social grant holders and the poor.

Since CPS took over the payment of grants people have noticed many illegal deductions from their grants for airtime, water, electricity and insurance policies that they did not purchase. Because SASSA has received so many complaints about deductions, they have tried to make it illegal to deduct money from your social grant. Despite this, illegal deductions are continuing. In May 2017 Black Sash intervened in a court case to try and close these SASSA accounts to prevent deductions from continuing, but they were unsuccessful. Many grant recipients have never got their money back that was deducted illegally.

It is not only illegal deductions that hurt the poor, but the low level of social grant payments. Social grants have not kept up with the rate of inflation, and food and transport is getting more expensive each year. SASSA must stop illegal deductions completely and increase social grant payments to a living level!

OUR DEMANDS:

1. End outsourcing. End the contract with CPS!
2. Protect our grants. Stop illegal deductions!
3. Minister Dlamini Must Fall!
4. Grant levels should be increased. We demand a living grant for all!
5. Improved public services!
6. Non-citizens should get grants!