



cooperative governance

Department:
Cooperative Governance
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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HEADS OF PROVINCIAL COGTA DEPARTMENTS

HEADS OF PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRES

GUIDANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES ON THE ACCESS AND USAGE OF MUNICIPAL DISASTER RELIEF GRANTS FOR PURPOSES OF MITIGATING AND RESPONDING TO THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

As you are aware, the country is working towards putting measures in place to mitigate, and respond to the impact of COVID-19 which the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma declared a national state of disaster in terms of Section 27 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) (DMA). A notice to this effect was published in Government Gazette No. 43096 (No. 313) dated 15 March 2020. Subsequent to that, on 25 March 2020, the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs issued Directions and Regulations (Gazettes No 43147 and 43148, respectively).

The Department of Cooperative Governance through the National Disaster Management Centre is administrating the Disaster Grants, which may be accessed by the organs of state to prevent and combat the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. Considering the urgency of the interventions required to address the situation, the provincial and local government is informed of the available conditional Municipal Disaster Relief Grant that can be accessed to deal with COVID-19. The total amount allocated to the conditional grant is **R354 million** for the 2020/21 financial year.

The municipalities must use the Municipal Disaster Relief Grant framework (**Annexure A**) to access and utilize the grants. The grant may be used for the following essential goods and services in dealing with the COVID-19:

#	Essential Goods and Services to be provided by municipalities and provinces	Essential Goods and Services to be provided by the Provinces and Municipalities as per the Directions issued
1	Provision of water services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Tanks • Drilling, equipping and refurbishment of boreholes to ensure water supply and appropriate water quality compliance (where geo-hydrological investigations have been commissioned).
	Provision of sanitation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VIP toilets and alternative sanitation technologies
2	Provision of temporary shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tents
3	Waste management, cleansing and sanitization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste collection
4	Municipal public spaces, facilities and offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitisation equipment

It however important to emphasise that municipalities will be required to submit detailed business plans as indicated in the Municipal Disaster Relief Grant framework including implementation plans with a consolidated cash flow over a three-month period. Furthermore, municipalities should note that priority will be given to 'hotspot' areas such as the ones with the highest number of infections; areas without access to water and sanitation; as well as high density areas.

Cognizance of the fact that, government is working together in an effort to fight this COVID-19 pandemic, it is advised that the municipalities should prioritise critical services and also ensure that there is no duplication of resources requested. Therefore, provinces are urged to support municipalities with the identification, prioritization and packaging of interventions.

Provinces should also note that due to the persisting drought that has affected most provinces, the provincial disaster relief grant for the 2020/21 financial year has been earmarked for drought relief interventions. This is in line with the engagements and consultations with Provincial Disaster Management Centers and relevant departments through the National Joint Drought Coordination Committee and Joint MINMECs.

Given the urgency of these interventions and the capacity constraints in some of the municipalities, the department will assess the readiness of municipalities to implement the interventions and determine the need to appoint implementing agents where necessary. Submissions are expected from municipalities (coordinated by PDMCs) on or before the 6th April 2020 to the details provided below.

For further details and deliberations on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact the following NDMC officials: Dr Mmaphaka Tau – DDG (Head): NDMC on Email: MmaphakaT@ndmc.gov.za, Telephone: 082 052 9311 and Ms. Modiegi Radikonyana – Chief Director Disaster Risk Reduction, Planning and Response Coordination on Email: ModdyR@ndmc.gov.za, Telephone: 012 848 4619, Cell: 064 752 5583.

Kind regards



MR N. VIMBA
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Date: 31/03/2020

Cc: Dr. M. Tau (Head of NDMC)