

### THE STATUS OF OLDER PERSONS IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND LEGISLATION AND CHALLENGES RELATING TO SOCIAL SECURITY AS IT APPLIES TO OLDER PERSONS'



*"Human Rights don't stop at sixty"*



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### Our ageing population:

- South Africa's population is ageing. We have a falling birth rate and more people are living to a greater age. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is leaving a gap between the youngest and the oldest, placing new burdens on the older population and reducing their family supports.
- The 2009 mid-year population estimate of persons over 60: 3.7 million of the total population; 58% are women.
- While in most provinces the population of older persons is 6 – 8 % of the total population, actual numbers of older persons vary widely.
- According to a Community Survey conducted in 2007 people aged 60+ ranged from 95, 000 in the Northern Cape to over 720,000 in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal.

Province	Spread per Province	Number of Older Persons per Province	Older Persons	
			Male	Female
Eastern Cape	16.62%	626 610	232 987	393 623
Free State	5.89%	222 244	86 003	136 241
Gauteng	19.05%	718 234	304 646	413 588
KwaZulu-Natal	19.18%	723 003	250 233	472 770
Limpopo	11.77%	443 700	146 653	297 047
Mpumalanga	6.32%	238 099	93 190	144 909
North West	6.63%	250 097	102 384	147 713
Northern Cape	2.59%	95 226	39 832	55 394
Western Cape	12.01%	452 881	19 6558	256 323
Country Total	100.00%	3 770 094	1 452 486	2 317 608

### The Rights of Older Persons

- The Ministerial Committee appointed in 2000 to investigate the neglect, ill-treatment and abuse of older persons heard repeatedly that older persons felt overlooked and forgotten. Indeed older persons are not specifically mentioned in the Bill of Rights (as is the case in some countries) except in the Equality clause which includes age as a ground on which the state may not unfairly discriminate against anyone.

### The Older Persons Act (13 / 2006)

- The first draft of the Bill appeared over 10 years ago yet it was finally signed into legislation in December 2006;
- Since 2006 the SAOPF has fought hard for the regulations to the Act to be finalized ;
- Draft Regulations appeared in 2007 and again after extensive consultation were finalized and gazetted on the 1st April 2010;

### Delegation of Powers ( 13 / 2006)

- The delay in the Delegation of Powers of the Older Persons' Act (13/2006) is worrying.
- In a meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 between the Minister and the SAOPF / Provincial Forums, the DSD was engaged re the delay in a move to try and expedite the delegations.
- Without the Delegation of Powers being formally executed no progress of any kind can be made in relation to implementation of the Act.

## The Funding of Services to older Persons

The 2005 Costing Report on the Older Persons' Bill estimated that the cost of a basic level of service would be R4.5 billion a year for the following:

- Vulnerable older persons having access to residential care,
- VOPs having access to community care and outreach,
- VOPs having access to home-based care and
- VOPs having access to poverty relief and economic empowerment

**However the actual situation is as follows:**

- The population of vulnerable older persons (i.e. social pensioners) is nearly 2.4 million
- The 2009/10 budget for older persons was approximately R700 million.
- R460 million of this budget went to residential facilities (for approximately 30,000 residents)
- The balance of R240 million for other services: **This works out at approximately R100 a year per vulnerable older person.**

**If the Older Persons Act and Regulations are to be implemented funding for the older persons programme needs to be substantially increased.**

## Effective Implementation of the Older Persons' Act

- **Social Workers:** SA has a critical shortage of Social Workers; for the effective implementation of the Children's Act in the WC alone, 11 000 additional Social Workers would be needed.
- **Intersectoral Collaboration:** Effective implementation of the Act will require the co-operation of other government departments, service providers, and many other stakeholders.
- **Readiness of Provinces:** Pivotal to the effective implementation of the Older Persons' Act is the state of readiness of provinces to implement the Act

## Social Security

- One of the main objectives of the social security system in South Africa is to address poverty.
- An effective and user friendly Social Security Payment System for South Africans will require an objective review of the flaws and successes of the current payment system using the Millennium Development Goals as a primary point of reference to measure the current level of success in relation to the protection of vulnerable individuals, maintaining a high standard of universally accepted measures for safeguarding human rights.
- A workable and effective reform of the payment system will bring relief to thousands of poor and vulnerable older persons and other social grant recipients.

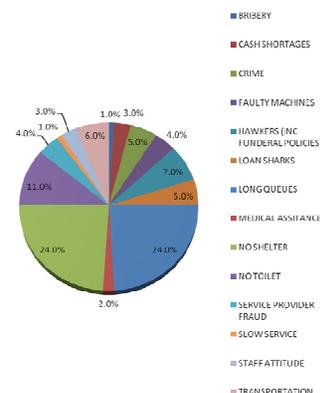
## Dependency of Older Persons on OAG

	Population Persons 60+ (1)	Old Age Social Grant Recipients (2)	Percentage of OPS dependant on OAG
Eastern Cape	626 610	427 726	68.26%
Free State	222 244	133 183	59.92%
Gauteng	718 234	271 378	37.78%
KwaZulu Natal	723 003	450 371	62.29%
Limpopo	443 700	352 885	79.53%
Mpumalanga	238 099	156 715	65.81%
Northern Cape	95 226	56 392	59.21%
North West	250 097	186 134	74.42%
Western Cape	452 881	171 910	37.95%
South Africa	3 770 094	2 206 694	58.53%

## Payment Options

- In finding suitable payment options it should be noted that payment of grants to vulnerable older persons especially in rural areas will most likely not be achieved by a singular payment method as, for instance, the infrastructure for bank payments is not available in many rural areas.
- The Regulations to the Social Assistance Act are clear that beneficiaries have a choice regarding the method in which they are paid. Legislation allows payment to be made through one of 2 channels: Cash / manual payments at a designated place (pay point), Electronic transfers into the bank account of the beneficiary.
- It is advisable that payment options currently available be intensively reviewed, standardized and streamlined in order to provide beneficiaries with a universal level of service at a minimum cost. Equal to this it is of utmost importance that grant beneficiaries be safeguarded against corruption, fraud and financial abuse.

## Major Challenges experienced by Older Persons at paypoints



### % BREAKDOWN OF OA GRANTS PAID ELECTRONICALLY PER PROVINCE

	Old Age Social Grant Recipients (i)	Number of OA Grants paid at paypoints (i)	% of OA Grant paid Electronically
Eastern Cape	477 127	229669	48.14
Free State	157401	49503	31.45
Gauteng	336846	114873	34.10
KwaZulu Natal	547254	158008	28.87
Limpopo	393395	77726	19.76
Mpumalanga	178864	83438	46.65
Northern Cape	67 718	25432	37.56
North West	223358	85163	38.13
Western Cape	217824	111489	51.18
South Africa	2 599 787	935301	35.98

- In order to provide an enabling and supportive environment for older persons, the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing calls for “Social security provisions in terms of social assistance grants provided by the government to be made accessible to all older persons including those in the rural areas”
- It is the responsibility of state and non-state agents alike to ensure social grant recipients, arguably among the most vulnerable in our society, are treated with respect and dignity in the spirit of Ubuntu which sees human needs, interest and dignity as inherent to human existence.

Thank you



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