



UMZIMVUBU
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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DISASTER & SOCIAL RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS POLICY



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1. BACKGROUND

Relief of Social Distress (RSD) Policy is the temporary provision of assistance by Umzimvubu Municipality, intended for people who are in dire need and are unable to meet their family's most basic needs. According to the Department of Social Development, Relief of Social Distress (RSD) is an immediate response to a crisis where citizens are without the means to provide for themselves the necessities. This programme provides temporary and short-term assistance only and shall not be relied on indefinitely.

2. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

To make provision for relief to persons in distress by means of the temporary and immediate rendering of the material assistance to them.

3. Definition

“disaster” means a progressive or sudden, widespread, or localized, natural, or human- caused occurrence which:

- Causes or threatens to cause death, injury or disease, damage to property, infrastructure or the environment or disruption of the life of a community and
- is of a magnitude that exceeds the ability of those affected by the disaster to cope with its effects using only their own resources.

“Disaster management” means a continuous and integrated multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary process of planning and implementation of measures aimed at:

- preventing or reducing the risk of disasters,
- mitigating the severity or consequences of disasters,
- emergency preparedness,
- a rapid and effective response to disasters and

Post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation

“Social relief of distress” means a temporary provision of assistance intended for persons in such dire material need that they are unable to meet their or their families' most basic needs.

SASSA means South African Social Security Agency as per the South African Social Security Agency Act, No 9 of 2004.

“Social grant” means an award of financial assistance in the form of money by the government to an eligible grantee with no expectation that the funds will be paid back.

“Disaster Management Act”: The White Paper led to the promulgation of the Disaster Management Act, Act 57 of 2002, which is the regulatory framework for disaster management in South Africa.

“Pauper /Destitute Corpse” Means a deceased person without a next of kin or an unclaimed body or whose next of kin can verify inability to afford funeral expenses due to poverty conditions that exist within that family.

“Pauper Burial Policy” means a process of ensuring that, the burial of a pauper Or destitute corpse is executed by the relevant authority or council in a manner termed as human dignified by making sure that all the basic requirements needed to bury a dead person are considered.

4. APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

This policy shall apply to all Umzimvubu Local Municipality disaster and emergency situations.

5. Criteria

5.1 A person or family must be in an immediate dire need.

5.2 The inhabitants of the household must comply with the income requirements of Council's indigence Policy.

5.3 The breadwinner of the family has died and there is no any other form of income.

5.4 The breadwinner of that person's family has been admitted to an institution funded by the state and not receiving income during their admission and/or stay in that institution.

5.6 A person is in the process of applying for any social grant and is experiencing undue hardship.

5.7 A person has been affected by a disaster as defined in the Disaster Management Act, (Act No 57 of 2002), although the community he or she lives in has not been declared a disaster area or by any other emergency.

5.8 As urgent and temporary relief during a natural disaster in the municipal area i.e., provision of food and shelter to affected persons.

5.9 To assist with a pauper burial of a local family/person not covered by the Council's Pauper Burial Policy.

5.10 A person or responsible person does not receive assistance from any other organization or government.

5.11 To a person who is not eligible for related or unrelated grant from National, Provincial and Government agencies like South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

6. Other instances where assistance is considered

6.1 Fire

6.2 Floods

6.3 Xenophobic attacks

6.4 Gale force wind

6.5 Earthquake

7. Forms of Relief of the Social Distress (RSD)

7.1 Food parcels (containing basic food necessities)

7.2 Blankets

7.3 Foam mattresses.

7.4 The RSD shall not be converted into cash

8 Stakeholders

The Local Municipality has the primary responsibility within its jurisdiction and will coordinate incidents through the following stakeholders:

8.1 Councillors

8.2 CDW's

8.3 Members of the community

8.4 Ward Committees

8.5 NGO's

8.6 Church leaders, etc

9. Process

9.1 Request must be made through a Ward or PR Councillor

9.2 All requests about Relief of Social Distress should be submitted by the Ward or PR Councillor in writing to the MM's office.

9.3 The request should be motivated in terms of the criteria in paragraph 2.

9.4 The Office of the Municipal Manager links up with Social Development Unit that in turn acquires the needed form of RSD from a supplier and delivers it to the affected person/s.

9.5 The Social Development Unit keeps proper records of the recipients of RSD and forwards that to the Office of the Municipal Manager monthly.

9.6 This list will be always available for scrutiny.

10. PROCEDURES FOR SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS

The municipality through Citizen and Community Services department disaster section will do the assessment of the affected households

The municipal manager or the delegated official may request for a social workers report with recommendation

The value of social relief materials of distress shall not exceed R4500,00 in terms of grocery, food parcel, mattresses and blankets issuing. It shall be limited to food parcels, blankets, mattresses.

The social relief of distress shall be a once off assistance to affected households.

The qualifying households shall supply identify document, birth certificate, death certificate or an affidavit where there are no official documents.

11. Referral

If the individual's situation exceeds the ability and capacity of the local municipality to cope or manage the incident effectively, a referral to the Department of Social Services and SASSA should be undertaken.

12. COMMENCEMENT OF THIS POLICY

This policy will come into effect on the date of adoption by Council.

13. INTERPRETATION OF THIS POLICY

13.1 All words contained in this policy shall have an ordinary meaning attached thereto unless the definition or context indicates otherwise.

13.2 Any dispute on interpretation of this policy shall be declared in writing by any party concerned.

13.3 The Municipal Manager shall give a final interpretation of this policy in case of a written dispute.

14. PERMANENT/TEMPORARY WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF THIS POLICY

14.1 This policy may be partly or wholly waived or suspended by the Municipal Council on a temporary or permanent basis after consultation with the Management.

14.2 Notwithstanding clause No. 14.1 the Municipal Manager may under circumstances of emergency temporarily waive or suspend this policy subject to reporting of such waiver or suspension to Council

15. AMENDMENT AND/OR ABOLITION OF THIS POLICY

15.1 This policy may be amended or repealed by the Council after consultation with Management

16. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

16.1 It will be the responsibility of the Management, and Council to enforce compliance with this policy.

APPROVAL OF THE POLICY

The Municipal Council has approved the Umzimvubu Municipality Disaster & social relief of the distress policy and amendments thereof

AUTHENTICATION

The amendments of the policy and or the new policy was adopted by the council on the

27-05-2022

As per Council Resolution number: ULMC : 091

Signed off

Mr. G.P.T. Nota

Municipal Manager

Cllr. M.H. Ngqasa

Speaker of the Council

