



Secretariat: Melanie Lubbe
Email: secretariat@sada.org.za
Cell: (+27) 083 320 2267
21 April 2023

To: Minister Lindiwe Zulu, (Dep of Social Development)
DM Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu,
And to:
MEC of Gauteng Ms Mbali Hlophe (Dep Social Development, Agriculture,
Environment, Rural Development)
Head of Communications - Motsamai Motlhaolwa,

Good day,

RE: NPO FUNDING CUTS

We, the South African Disability Alliance (SADA), being the umbrella organisation and mouthpiece of the disability sector wish to note our extreme concern about recent announcement of funding cuts to NPO's. The Covid pandemic has already left most organisations of and for persons with disabilities in dire financial crises to the point of closure and retrenchment of essential staff and seizure of services.

As noted in these 2 articles:

<https://www.iol.co.za/sundayindependent/news/gauteng-department-cuts-npo-funding-e19a37d6-daa3-4994-b693-da174ec94a88> and
<https://www.politicsweb.co.za/politics/cutting-npo-funding-could-lead-to-another-life-esi>

We received a letter from DSD claiming these allegations by the DA was untrue but unfortunately some of the Alliances members have received notices to that effect already. This is unacceptable and DPO's and other NPO's provide services which the Government fails to do. Cutting funding to the already insufficient resources will ultimately affect the most vulnerable of our society most. Bear in mind that loadshedding is also contributing significantly to the burden DPO's face to provide assistive devices like battery operated oxygen machines, feeders, hoists etc. Residential care facilities are inundated with

“The collective voice of the disability sector in collaboration”

Full Members: QuadPara Association of South Africa (QASA); South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB); Cheshire Homes SA; Epilepsy South Africa (ESA); National Association for Persons with Cerebral Palsy (NAPCP); South African Federation for Mental Health (SAFMH); Muscular Dystrophy Foundation SA (MDSA); South African National Deaf Association (SANDA); Autism South Africa (A;SA); Blind SA;

Down Syndrome South Africa (DSSA); ShonaquipSE; Stroke Survivors Foundation (SSF)

Associate members: South African National Association of Blind & Partially Sighted Persons (SANABP); Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa (OTASA); Rare Diseases SA; Quadriplegic & Paraplegic Charitable Trust – South Africa (QPCTSA); Afrique Rehabilitation & Research Consultants (ARRC); South African Non-Communicable Disease Alliance plus (SANCD+)



applications and more and more persons with disabilities must be accommodated and assisted with food parcels and other essentials.

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) clearly states that disability cannot be a reason or criteria for lack of access to development programming and the realization of human rights. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework includes seven targets which explicitly refer to persons with disabilities, and six further targets on persons in vulnerable situations, which include persons with disabilities.

Disabled people's organisations have cut back to the bone and simply will not be able to continue operating which is heartbreaking considering the regular investigations into corruption and mismanagement allegations. With enormous increase in electricity, the cost of food, fuel and other living expenses, persons with disabilities cannot afford to employ care givers and organisations cannot cope with the demand and cannot subsidize anyone further. Caregivers and other personnel are losing their jobs, not only adding to poverty but leaving the people in their care destitute.

We strongly urge you to reconsider the funding cuts and reinstate funds with immediate effect. Government, should in fact be **increasing** funding to NPO's with at least the same amount as the above mentioned increases.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharlene Cassel', written in a cursive style.

Ms Sharlene Cassel
Chairlady

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