

25 March 2020

PRESS STATEMENT

## CONSUMER GOODS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (CGCSA) SAYS ITS MEMBERS ARE READY TO PROCESS SOCIAL GRANTS DURING SHUTDOWN PERIOD

The Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) has confirmed that its retailer members will be able to pay out old age, disability as well as social grants as per normal during the shutdown period.

Abraham Nelson, Executive: Crime Risk Initiative at CGCSA, says elderly and disability grants will be paid on 30 and 31 March, and the rest of the social grants on 1 April 2020.

“We wish to reassure the public and emphasise that all necessary arrangements and preparations have been made to ensure that recipients of grants can access their money. Our retail members – including others involved in the payment of grants such as the banks, the South Africa Post Office and SASSA - already have systems in place to efficiently process the payment of grants, as they have always done. They are therefore ready to pay the grants during the shutdown period,” Nelson says.

He urges recipients to maintain the safe social distancing protocols and adhere to measures as put in place by retailers when collecting their grants. He further encourages grant recipients to not withdraw all their money on the day as the money will remain available whenever they need it. Recipients are also encouraged to use their cards when making purchases instead of withdrawing and using cash. This is in line with COVID-19 hygiene protocols which discourage handling of cash.

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