



# National Homeless Network

Minister Lindiwe Zulu  
Minister of Social Development  
Private Bag X672  
Pretoria 0001

24 April 2020

Dear Minister Zulu,

**PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA’S ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON R500BN IN RESCUE PACKAGE AND COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ENDING IN PHASES – 21 APRIL 2020**

**CLARIFICATION REGARDING ADDITIONAL FUNDING – FOOD AND SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS**

The National Homeless Network represent more than 20 organisations across the country – including practitioners, NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, local homelessness forums, activists, academics, current and former homeless people.

The National Homeless Network sent the attached letter to President Ramaphosa ahead of his address to the nation on Monday 23 March 2020. We requested that there be a specific response to homelessness in the event of lockdown. We are more than grateful that he stated that temporary shelter should be provided for the homeless during this period.

Member organisations of the National Homeless Network have been working together with their various municipalities to address the challenge. Our members have been working with local and provincial government departments, with varying success, to establish shelters within their cities. Our members in eThekweni, Tshwane, Johannesburg, and Cape Town have established shelters that cater for more than 5 000 homeless people. In Bloemfontein, Kimberly, Richards Bay and other cities, our members have been seeking collaboration with local government with limited success.

We write this letter ***to obtain clarification***, to ***make suggestions*** and ***to request a meeting*** with yourselves:

- We would like to establish what amount will be allocated to address homelessness, referring to the President’s announcement: “Additional funding of R 20 billion will therefore be made available to municipalities for the provision of emergency water supply, increased sanitization of public transport and facilities, and providing food and shelter for the homeless”. ***What portion of the R 20 billion is actually allocated to homeless issues?***
- Never before has homelessness been so singularly mentioned by the President and we are encouraged that public funding will be invested into this issue. However, we are also

concerned: In the absence of coherent national policy on homelessness, and very few provincial or municipal policies on homelessness, we are concerned about ***what would guide spending on homeless issues, to ensure that allocation of funds is effective and responsible.***

- We seek clarification as to ***what the current processes are that you envisage for allocating these funds:*** would it be done through provincial governments, local governments, or other vehicles? How should we advise cities and partners of our Network, in terms of how they can benefit from these funds?
- As the National Homeless Network, we are willing to offer ourselves to assist in preparing guidelines that will ensure effective and responsible spending of state funding. As the members of the network have been active in this sector for a long time, collectively. ***We would therefore like to request a meeting with you to address the issue and to explain how we can assist.***

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Yours sincerely,

**National Homeless Network**

Email: [national-network@homeless.org.za](mailto:national-network@homeless.org.za)

Website: <http://homeless.org.za/national-homeless-network/>

including:

Towers of Hope, Bloemfontein  
U-Turn, Cape Town  
Denis Hurley Centre, Durban  
Centre for Faith and Community, University of Pretoria  
Johannesburg Organisation for the Homeless, Johannesburg  
Johannesburg Homelessness Network, Johannesburg  
Tshwane Homelessness Forum, Tshwane  
Tshwane Leadership Foundation, Tshwane