



## **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

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5 May 2017

**Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng**

**Constitutional Court of South Africa**

**Constitution Hill, 1 Hospital Street,**

**Braamfontein, 2017**

**Per Fax: 011 403-8898**

**Per E-mail: [slingers@concourt.org.za](mailto:slingers@concourt.org.za)**

Honourable Chief Justice

### **Constitutional Court Judgement- *Black Sash Trust v Minister of Social Development and Others [2017] ZACC 8***

The above-mentioned judgement bears reference. I have carefully considered the judgement and welcome the decisive guidance of the court.

As you may be aware the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) has been closely monitoring the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) in relation to its contract with Cash Paymaster Services (Pty) Ltd (CPS) and the processes aimed at securing a new and valid contract. The constitutional role of the National Assembly to maintain oversight over the executive authority is particularly pertinent as regards resolving the current untenable processing of grant payments. Accordingly, SCOPA will continue to call on both SASSA and the Department of Social Development (Department) to account for its actions and to ensure that the matter is rectified in a manner that is both legally sound and which ensures the best outcome for the most vulnerable members of South African society.

SCOPA is currently preparing its programme for the second term, which will include feedback meetings with SASSA and the Department. I note in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the order of the

Court that the parties are directed to submit the names of suitably qualified legal practitioners and technical experts who, together with the Auditor-General, will evaluate the implementation of grants during the 12-month period of the CPS contract and report to the Court on its findings. May I kindly request that you provide SCOPA with the names and contact details of the persons so appointed so that SCOPA may, if necessary, invite the panel to present on its findings and to provide any information that may be required by SCOPA to fulfil its oversight function.

Furthermore, I am of the view that it would be useful for us to engage further on the implications of the judgement and on the manner in which SCOPA can assist in ensuring that the Respondents comply with the order of the Court. Kindly indicate if you would be willing to attend such an engagement so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

I look forward to your favourable response.

Yours Faithfully



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**Mr N T Godi**

**Chairperson: Standing Committee on Public Accounts**