

## MINISTER ZULU MEETS WITH FOUNDER AND CHAIRPERSON OF GIFT OF THE GIVERS TO FIND WAYS ON STRENGTHENING OF DISASTER RESPONSE MEASURES

Johannesburg, Thursday, 24 March 2022: The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, met with Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, Founder and Chairperson of Gift of the Givers, today to discuss collaborative ways in which the DSD portfolio can work with Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) to strengthen disaster response measures.

During the meeting, Minister Zulu expressed that; “We would like to get to a point where we are able to work efficiently together with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to find preventative ways to react urgently and decisively in the times of disaster, which have now become more frequent. I would like to appreciate the contribution made by small and big organisations such as Gift of the Givers which provides humanitarian relief services in affected communities during times of need, especially, when we as government are not able to react fast enough because of our internal control systems.”

“Partnership with government on how we run our programmes is critical as we come to assist when disasters are declared while government is in communities every day. There are ways to assist communities. Communities want to get back on their feet as soon as possible, they will put up accommodation on the same water plain and rebuild in the same way that caused a fire. Here is where government can put stringent measures in place to ensure that disaster preparedness and response to prevent disasters recurring in the same area,” Dr Sooliman said.

Both Minister Zulu and Dr Sooliman agreed that on how disaster preparedness and response need to be structured to improve coordination of efforts, agility to react and capacity building of communities to recover from disasters.

The Department of Social Department is currently in talks with Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) on how the systems create delays in response for both the department and its entities, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the National Development Agency (NDA).



“We have learnt many lessons in the last few years on how we should be preventative and respond urgently in the event of disaster management and response. We know that communities are capable to come up with their own solutions which they want to be part of. All we need to do is create enabling environments” says Minister Zulu.

A task team has been set up to work on a cooperation agreement between DSD and Gift of the Givers.

In meetings going forward government and Non-Profit systems will be jointly reviewed, and partnerships will be strengthened to pave a way for better disaster management going forward. As a way forward, Minister Zulu agreed that government can do more to fix its systems and further indicated that there is a will to do that. She also said this can be made possible through guidance and partnerships with organisations like Gift of the Givers.

## Say “No” to Gender Based Violence