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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 166 OF 2010

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

EXPLANATORY SUMMARY OF THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL

The Minister of Social Development intends introducing the Social Assistance Amendment Bill in Parliament during March 2010. An explanatory summary of the Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 241 (1) (c) of the Rules of the National Assembly and Rule 186 (10) (b) of the Rules of the National Council of Provinces.

The aim of the draft Bill is to amend the Social Assistance Act, 2004.

The draft Bill envisages to-

- (a) insert a definition of “disability” in order to provide clarity on the eligibility for a disability grant;
- (b) allow both applicants and beneficiaries an opportunity, before appealing to the independent tribunal, to request the South African Social Security Agency (the Agency) to reconsider its decisions in order to expedite the resolution of disagreements between applicants, beneficiaries and the Agency;
- (c) allow beneficiaries an opportunity to appeal against a decision of the Agency;
- (d) make provision for the appointment of the independent tribunal in a manner to be prescribed by regulation; and

Copies of the draft Bill can be obtained from Mr Ratshisusu Mpho, Department of Social Development, 6th floor, HSRC Building, 134 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, Tel: (012) 312 7190. The draft Bill is also available on the Department of Social Development’s website: www.dsd.gov.za