



# AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

**TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: AZAPO SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY & INFORMATION**

**DATE: February 28, 2024**

**SUBJECT: AZAPO ON THE SOCIAL DISTRESS RELIEF GRANT**

The statement by ANC president Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa that the recipients of the Social Distress Relief Grant (R350.00 grant) are entitled to expend the money on alcohol is reckless and irresponsible.

South Africa is ranked number 1(one) in the world on the consumption and abuse of alcohol.

There are many historical drivers behind the culture of alcohol abuse and underage drinking.

Alcohol abuse is the leading cause of gender-based violence, broken families, high road accidents, women and child abuse and general social laxity including sex work.

Alcohol and substance use and abuse have found a space in the education system – many schools are currently at a point where they are not able to cope with this growing trend.

Part of building our society requires a serious clampdown on alcohol abuse and access to illicit alcohol and drugs.

The SDRG is, as the title describes, aimed at alleviating poverty due to high unemployment rate caused by the uncaring and inefficient government.

The amount provided by this grant is far-below the average standard of living (which is \$6 per day).

To encourage it to be expended on alcohol is not only being irresponsible, on the part of Ramaphosa, but also selfish on the part of the recipient as children cannot eat alcohol.

Any government, its leader or representative that encourages indigent people to go out and buy alcohol with a government relief grant, is not suitable to lead people or society.

**AZAPO** reiterates her call for a serious dialogue on strict control measures in the advertisement of alcohol, the age limit for sale of alcohol, the proliferation of taverns and liquor outlets in poor communities, the hours of trade of these outlets, the absence of centres of entertainment for young people, the culture of public drinking under the guise of “after tears” and “chilling”.

It is upon us to determine the kind of society we want to create and to work diligently towards that goal.

**END**

Issued by **AZAPO** Department of Publicity and Information (DPI).

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