FNB Media Release

FNB and its partners support children and families with food supplies

23 April 2020: As the country continues to observe the national lockdown, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres remain closed, many children across South Africa who rely on the food provided by their ECD centres, no longer have access to their daily meals.

Sipho SiImba, CEO FNB Public Sector Banking, says “We are responding to this plight by working with teachers from our adopted creches to identify vulnerable families in need of food. In order to get food to the identified families, we are working closely with designated organisations who are approved to facilitate this kind of support under the lockdown conditions.”

FNB’s ECD programme was started in 2016 to enable alignment of ECD strategies in all regions of South Africa through adoption, maintenance and measurement of ECD centres. To date 796 Creches have been adopted by FNB employees across South Africa reaching over 20,000 children and 2,000 teachers. The program focuses on four pillars of support: Food, Love, Safety and Play and works closely with a number of partners to deliver on its objectives.

In order to facilitate its support during lockdown, the Bank is spearheading the following initiatives:

- Food campaign in collaboration with the DO MORE FOUNDATION: The Bank has been working with the DO MORE FOUNDATION for the past 3 years delivering food to adopted ECD centres across the country. Since the closure of the centre in March, the DO MORE FOUNDATION has been assisting with getting food to the homes of the children in increased amounts to help feed the rest of their families and, in some instances, communities as well.

Warren Farrer Foundation Executive of the DO MORE FOUNDATION says, “The Foundation’s #DoMoreFeeding initiative has so far delivered 758,000 meals to children and families in Gauteng, Limpopo, KZN, Western Cape and Mpumalanga. Non-profit partners have been identified in the remaining provinces so that food can be delivered in accordance with lockdown regulations. In partnership with FNB and other contributors, we are accelerating fundraising efforts to ensure that we secure additional funding. Every cent that is raised is used to procure food at cost through our founder, RCL FOODS, enabling us to #DoMore”.

- Food Bucket Campaign: After the announcement of the national lockdown and subsequent closure of schools, the FNB ECD team recognised that there was going to be a massive food shortage.
The teams mobilised to raise funds through calls for donations from the Bank’s employees, programme partners and civil society for food buckets filled with basic food supplies to feed a family of 4 for 3 weeks at a cost of R300 per bucket.

To date 2 000 buckets and food parcels have been delivered to families in Gauteng and Plet Retief. The initiative is now being rolled out in other provinces and donations of fresh food and staples has already been received from local food distributors.

“Our President has called on each of us to find ways of helping our communities which requires us to come together and contribute towards various relief efforts. Our ethos of HELP lies at the centre of everything we do, and we are actively identifying, participating and contributing to initiatives that make a difference for both individuals and communities in need. We are immensely proud of the response that has come from our staff, and for demonstrating how they are living the Bank’s purpose and help,” concludes Silinda.

ENDS

To support the campaign, donations can be made to the following:

Food campaign in collaboration with the DO MORE FOUNDATION

RMB Corporate Bank
Account: 62848932712
Ref: Covid-19 Feeding (cell number):
SWIFT FIRNZAJJ
Proof of Payment: support@domore.org.za

Food Bucket Campaign
FNB ECD
FNB Account: 62752166374
Ref: Bucket
Contact nix@fnb.co.za

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