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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

Use of the Child Support Grant in households in Mahumani Tribal Authority, Giyani

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A research report submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Management (in the field of Public and Development Management) to the Faculty of Management, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

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B.E. Baloyi **March 2013**

ABSTRACT

This study on the use of the Child Support Grant in households in Mahumani Tribal Authority (MTA) was conducted in six villages in the Limpopo Province's Greater Giyani Municipality, under the traditional leader and tribal authority of Mahumani. It is made up of a group of communities with the highest levels of poverty when compared to other wards in the Greater Giyani Municipality. It has high unemployment, very limited economic opportunities and the highest number of people recorded as receiving Child Support Grants. With little knowledge about how these communities survive and what the CSG is used for, the study sought to understand how the CSG is being used within households, how decisions are arrived at about its use and whether the grant is used exclusively to meet the needs of children.

The study applied qualitative methods of research design and data collection by visiting twenty primary caregivers in their households. Face to face, semi-structured interviews were conducted with key informants who are recipients of the grant. Based on data collected, this research has identified that the grant was reported as being used for food, school uniforms, and funeral policies, to generate further income and for other services necessary for child wellbeing. The findings further revealed that the funds received by the grant beneficiaries are used to support many more individuals than the actual grant recipient. From the study, the money does not take care of the beneficiaries only but the family as a whole. The study highlight various implications for those interested in the use of CSGs. The study concluded that the CSG was used directly to reduce poverty and vulnerability within households, that it directly improves the living standards of the poor and reduces poverty.

DECLARATION

I, Bombeleni Elizabeth Baloyi, declare that this report is my own, unaided work. It is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Master of Management (in the field of Public and Development management) in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

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B.E. Baloyi

20 March, 2013

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Thabiso, Thapelo and Aaron, and to all from whom I learnt so much. This is a pride to the entire flock of the Ramodumo and Baloyi families.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The preparation and putting together of this report would not have been possible without the support and valuable contributions of a number of individuals. The report benefited greatly from intellectual advice and guidance by my supervisor. I am most deeply indebted to my supervisor, Lynn Hewlett for her valued advice, assistance, excellent guidance and encouragement throughout the research process. She is to me the source of unfailing encouragement. I sincerely appreciate and acknowledge the contribution of Aaron Ramodumo who carefully edited the report and provided useful comments and suggestions. Editing the work has improved the content of the work considerably and the structure became essentially clearer.

Furthermore, the research greatly benefited from the support of interview subjects. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who allowed me to visit them and to disrupt their day's work. Your honest answers to questions and rigorous follow-ups gave an insight into the use of CSG, and have provided a basis for what one hopes will be a perfect opportunity for further learning. To all caregivers who took their eyes off their business and sat for some hours to answer some questions, thank you.

It has been a long road towards this achievement, and at times the road was bumpy. I extend my warmest appreciation to my husband (Aaron) and kids, Thabiso and Thapelo for their support during this journey. You have supported me in a way nobody could. You will one day also walk this path, for this trajectory is the one that leads to a better life. I have run my race, and your journey begins now. Victory is certain.

Many thanks.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Beneficiary: Refers to any person who receives social assistance in terms of Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13 of the Social Assistance Act of 2004 (Act No 13 of 2004).

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Child/children: Refers to any person under the age of 18 years.

Child Support Grant: Child Support Grant is a monthly income provided by SASSA to needy child's primary caregiver e.g. parent, grandparent or a child over 16 years heading a family. It is a grant paid to a primary caregiver of a child who satisfies the criteria in terms of Section 6 of the Social Assistance Act of 2004 (Act No 13 of 2004).

Foster Child: Refers to any child who has been placed in the custody of a foster parent in terms of Chapter 3 or 6 of the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act No 74 of 1983) or Section 290 of the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977).

Foster Parent: Refers to any person, except a parent of the child concerned, in whose custody a
foster child has been placed under Chapter 3 or 6 of the Child Care Act of 1983, or Section 290 of the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977, or a tutor to whom a letter of tutorship has been issued in terms of Chapter IV of the Administration of Estates Act of 1965 (Act No 66 of 1965).

Parent: Refers to the legal parent of a child as defined in the Child Care Act of 1983 (Act No 74 of 1974).

Social Grant: means "social grant" as defined in section 1 of the Act; as Child Support Grant, Care Dependency Grant, Foster Child Grant, Disability Grant, Older Persons Grant, War veteran's Grant and Grant-in- Aid

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CPS: Cash Paymaster Services

CSG: Child Support Grant

PCG: Primary Caregiver

MTA: Mahumani Tribal Authority