

Sassa office in suburb causes complaints

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The relocation of the office of the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) in Barkly West to a house in the suburbs was met with complaints.

The Sassa office used to be in a rented building in Campbell Street in the business area, but has now moved to a house in the suburbs, belonging to the Department of Public Works.

Delmaine Christians, DA member of parliament, said they had started a petition to get the office back into town. She said the new office was hard to find and largely out of reach of those dependent on Sassa services.

Beneficiaries have to walk longer distances and due to long queues at the facility, people often leave their homes at 05:00. They then have to cross veld and dense bushes which present a safety risk, as the streetlights

in the vicinity do not work.

No seating is available outside the facility and people stand in the sun for hours. There is no shop nearby to buy food or water and only three toilets.

While beneficiaries find the office inconvenient and inappropriate, residents in the suburb complain about increasing noise levels from 05:00.

Christians said it seemed that the majority of beneficiaries were in favour of having the office moved into town.