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SASSA office still without power

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Although the office of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) in Carletonville has been closed for more than a month, officials hope that their problems might soon be sorted out.

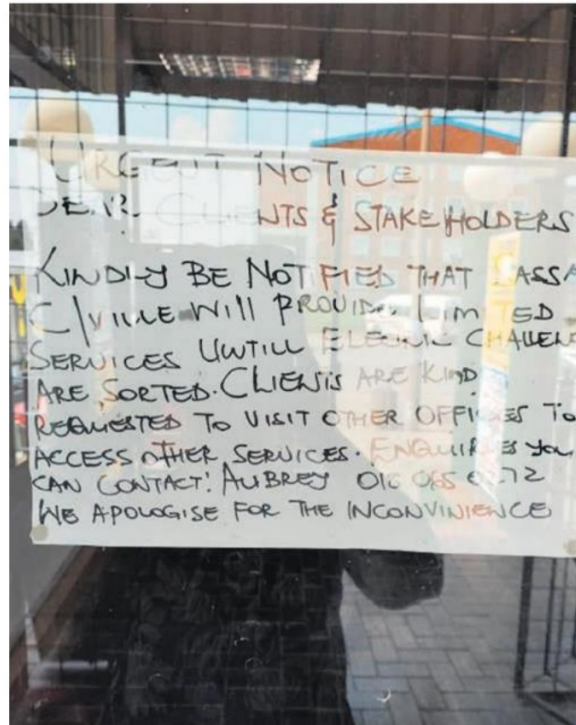
A resident who needed to get their new cards for their SASSA pension towards the deadline on March 20, complained that when he arrived at the SASSA office in Paladium Street, the officials said that they could not help him because they had no electricity.

Since then, several other residents complained that they arrived at the offices only to find a handwritten note on the door saying that they must visit other offices for services "until electric challenges are sorted out."

Because of this, residents are forced to drive to offices in neighbouring towns such as Fochville or Khutson to have their paperwork attended to.

This is particularly difficult for weak pensioners or the disabled, and those who do not have enough money for extra travelling.

Although the *Herald* has tried for weeks to get some comment



The sign posted on the front door of the Carletonville SASSA offices.

from SASSA's national spokesperson, Paseka Letsatsi, and also asked the Merafong City Local Municipality about the issue, another official from this government institution shared more information about the matter.

According to the official the Carletonville SASSA office is rented from a local estate agent by the Department of Public Works. When the estate agent installed a prepaid electricity meter at the

offices, SASSA could not keep up with the purchasing of prepaid electricity. While the office is without electricity, officials gather the paperwork of beneficiaries who cannot travel themselves and do this work at neighbouring offices. SASSA has, however, been negotiating with the Department of Public Works and the estate agent to sort out the matter.

"Hopefully this might be done by next week," the official said.