

I'm confident that NSFAS is ready for 2025 online applications - Minister Nkabane

Written by
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On Monday, 16 September 2024, the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, held a joint media briefing with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) Administrator Mr Freeman Nomvalo to give an update on the readiness and preparations for the official launch of the 2025 online applications.

During the briefing, the minister provided reasons for the postponement of the initial launch and opening date of the applications season.

"Beginning on Thursday 12 September 2024, I have had extensive consultations with stakeholders in the PSET sector. The purpose of these consultations was to solicit inputs and proposals to policy positions on matters that affect PSET system," Minister Nkabane said.

The minister said it was critical for NSFAS to be adequately prepared, in terms of resources and systems, to meet the growing demand of financial support when 2025 online application process open.

NSFAS formed part of the consultations with various student formations and institutional governance structures, which included Economic Freedom Fighter Student Chapter (EFFSC), the Progressive Youth Alliance (PYA), and South Africa Democratic Student Movement (SADESMO), South African Union of Students (SAUS), South African Public Colleges Organisation (SACPO), Universities South Africa (USAF), and the South African Further Education and Training Student Association (SAFETSA), amongst others.

"It was due to these critical consultations that we have had to postpone the launch of the 2025 NSFAS online application launch, which is a significant concern for students nationwide," Dr Nkabane added.

She further highlighted that another reason for postponement of the launch of the 2025 NSFAS online application was to allow NSFAS to do a dry run of the online application system to stakeholders.



"Having received a presentation during these stakeholder consultations and having noted the comments received from stakeholders, I am now confident that NSFAS is ready to kickstart the 2025 online application process- effectively this Friday, 20th September 2024. The briefing will take place in this very same auditorium at GCIS at 12h00", the minister said.

Apart from inviting grade 12 learners to apply for NSFAS funding, Dr Nkabane also extended the invitation to grade 9, 10, and 11, who would like to enter the Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector.

Post the media briefing, the Administrator provide further clarity on NSFAS readiness to the media.

"We are ready to roll-out the applications, and we have been working on this for sometime. We have considered inputs from students and other stakeholders, who have been frustrated by our systems. We have now made our systems more user friendly," Mr Nomvalo said.

Responding to matters relating to appeals and other outstanding issues for the 2024 academic year, Mr Nomvalo said the organisation was working hard to ensure that when the 2025 process kickstarts, all other outstanding matters are closed and dealt with.

Mr Nomvalo said the Administration team has been paying much focus on stabilising the organisation and paying attention to key issues. "That is bearing fruits," Mr Nomvalo said.





How to apply for funding?

Applying for NSFAS funding is easy, quick and secure.



Visit www.nsfas.org.za using a cellphone, tablet and computer and follow these simple steps to apply:



Step 1:

Create a myNSFAS account

Step 2:

Click on the 'APPLY' tab and complete the online form

Step 3:

Upload required supporting documents where applicable

Step 4:

Click on 'Submit'

Applicants who are recipients of the SASSA social grant will receive instant funding decisions



Constantly monitor your myNSFAS account for application results. Remember to never share these details with anyone.

#NSFAS2025 #NSFAS2025Applications
#UnitedInDiversity #FundingForAllWhoDeserveIt





How NSFAS rolled-out the Student Accommodation Roadshows

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) kickstarted its provincial Student Accommodation Roadshows on 07 August 2024, in KwaZulu Natal Province (KZN).

The Roadshows were a platform for NSFAS and landlords providing accommodation to NSFAS funded students to engage following the piloting of the student accommodation project.

During these roadshows, the parties deliberate on challenges faced by landlords and seek solutions to better prepare for the 2025 academic year.

Welcoming the Accommodation Providers (APs), the student leadership, the Financial Aid Practitioners of South Africa (FAPSA), The Student Accommodation Task Team, and other stakeholders in KZN, Ms Sibongile Mncwabe said NSFAS wanted to confirm and instil confidence in to all stakeholder that it seeks to ensure that the accommodation project becomes a success.

Mr Freeman Nomvalo, the NSFAS Administrator advanced the meeting by firstly acknowledging and observing (though a moment of silence) the Women's Month; noting the many challenges of gender based violence (GBV), abuse and mistreatment some women still face, more especially female students as a result of accommodation challenges.

Mr Nomwalo said it was encouraging and commendable to see many women venturing into the business of Student Accommodation.

"I hope that of all the things that we change, the opening of opportunity for engagement does not become a casualty. It would be a sad day if that happens," Mr Nomwalo said.

Mr Nomwalo emphasised the safety of students who reside in private accommodations. He advised accommodation providers to adhere to the norms and standards of a "suitable accommodation" as outlined by the Department of Higher Education and Training.

The Student Accommodation Roadshow moved to the Western Cape, and took place on 13 and 14 August at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) in Bellville.

Chief amongst the concerns raised by the Accommodation Providers in the Western Cape, was the issue of communication.

Mr Ishmael Mnisi who is responsible for



NSFAS Student Accommodation on wheels



NSFAS Communications said NSFAS is currently looking at enhancing its communication with Accommodation Providers by developing direct channels.

"This communication will be mainly to accredited providers. It is therefore important that accommodation providers load their properties and get accredited for them to be recognised officially and receive direct communication from us," Mnisi said.

Mnisi said NSFAS was also in the process of establishing a dedicated telephone line for queries related to the student accommodation only.

He said accommodation providers who wish to send enquiries can do so via a dedicated email address available on the portal, as NSFAS has a dedicated team attending to these emails 24/7.

The Student Accommodation Roadshow moved to the Free State Province, and took place at the Bon Hotel - Bloemfontein today, 15 August 2024.

The programme which was facilitated by Ms Mpho Matlala, NSFAS' Senior Manager: Funder Relations - Strategic Enablement, saw the venue being filled to capacity by stakeholders who engaged with the Administrator and management robustly.

Mr Nomvalo addressed stakeholders in the Free State on various issues including the importance of accommodation providers working together with NSFAS.

He spoke on ICT systems, the NSFAS mandate, and the need for students to

reside in safe spaces to ensure success in their academic journey. "Not every accommodation is suitable for learning," Mr Nomvalo said.

The Administrator also appealed to the student leadership to assist in addressing the issue of student behaviour, highlighting that students have a code of conduct to follow.

Accommodation Providers (APs) took to time to voice out their challenges and frustrations which includes amongst others, late payments, and discrepancies in the accreditation of properties.

The Roadshows later moved to Northwest, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng and lastly, the Limpopo province where similar challenges and solutions were discussed and provided.

