

Mr. Sithembiso Freeman Nomvalo

NSFAS ADMINISTRATOR

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👍 National Student Financial Aid



READY TO SAIL: NSFAS management and staff formally welcomes new Captain on board

“There is no organisation that is dysfunctional” -

Mr Sithembiso Freeman Nomvalo,
NSFAS Administrator

Written by
Tshepo Boshiane

On Monday, 15 April 2024, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) Executive Management and staff, welcomed the newly appointed Administrator, Mr Sithembiso Freeman Nomvalo.

Mr Nomvalo who has served in various leadership positions, was tasked with the momentous tasks of stabilising NSFAS, after the funding scheme was recently placed under Administration by Professor Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation.

The new “NSFAS Captain” who has now taken over the governance, management and administration of NSFAS; was formally handed over to the management and staff by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Director– General Dr Nkosinathi Sishi and the Special Advisor to the Minister, Mr Nqaba Nqandela.

In his welcoming address, Mr Nqandela highlighted to the Administrator that one of the issues he needs to seriously deal with internally, is “Change Fatigue”.

“Those who have served and led NSFAS before, we recognise them. However, people are tired. There has been so many new people that came and left. People are change fatigued. But because of the important role that NSFAS plays in the country, by virtue of you working here, it means that you are part of the disciples who believe in what NSFAS stands for,” Mr Nqandela said.

Mr Nqaba added that, there is no one who can solely turnaround NSFAS, hence the appeal to all staff to work with the Administrator; and the department will also play its part.

Dr Sishi spoke about the importance of communication and communicating on time to students; which translates to service delivery. “Service delivery is not always when you communicate that ‘you have been funded’, sometimes it is just to be told on time that unfortunately ‘you will not be funded this time’. Just that response to a student is important enough,” Dr Sishi said.

Mr Nomvalo thanked everyone for the warm welcome, as he took to the podium to address all staff members.



The Administrator expressed the importance of acknowledging each other and the students NSFAS serve, as human beings.

This followed as the Administrator noted a report by the minister of a student who was not properly assisted

by staff members; labelling it as [not helpful and regrettable.]

“Failing to assist students and the lack of responding timeously, as the Dr Sishi said; dehumanises them,” the Administrator said.

Mr Nomvalo encouraged staff to always speak up, whenever challenges occur. “We need to create an environment that is safe for anyone to speak, and not wait until it is too late. Snitch, if you have to,” he added.

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PROFILE

Mr Nomvalo has over 25 years working experience, 17 of which were at senior level both in the public and private sector.

Mr. Nomvalo also holds the distinction of being the first African and longest serving Accountant-General of a democratic South Africa. He also possesses extensive knowledge and an impeccable track record in public finance and government processes.

In 2002 Mr. Nomvalo worked with the Reserve Bank to resolve the Banking crisis as well as clear the accumulated losses on the Gold and Foreign Exchange Contingency Reserve Account. He was asked to serve on the Cricket Committee established to help resolve Cricket South Africa challenges in 2012. He recently served on the Ntsebeza Commission into KPMG's practices mainly at SARS but also other entities that put the profession into disrepute.

ADMINISTRATOR'S IMMEDIATE TASK



1. To take over the governance, management, and administration of NSFAS for a period of 12 months (but subjected to renewal for another 12 months, depending on progress) from the date of the publishing of the Gazette, which is 12 April, 2024;

2. To ensure the effectiveness in terms of the finalisation of funding guidelines of the loan scheme for the Missing Middle;

3. To resolve the data integration challenges as a matter of urgency;

4. To finalise all the necessary funding decisions and outstanding payments, including those relating to student accommodation

5. To ensure the reconciliation of funding data between Universities and TVET colleges and NSFAS;

Please click her to access the rest of the TORs (Terms of Reference) for the appointment of the Administrator.

“What must come first in everything we do, is the care for students” -

Mr Sithembiso Freeman Nomvalo (NSFAS Administrator)

Laying down the ground rules





Mr. Sithembiso Freeman Nomvalo

NSFAS ADMINISTRATOR

“There is no organisation that is dysfunctional. If it is dysfunctional, it means; there is somebody with a leverage on the organisation who keeps it there. What you are experiencing is not an accident. But, the question is: are we prepared to be the agents that begin to drive a different agenda, that is aligned to the legislation that established this organisation,” - **Sithembiso Freeman Nomvalo, NSFAS Administrator**

A week that was...The Administrator's First Week Through The Lens:



MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2024

- Introductory Meeting with NSFAS Management



- NSFAS Staff Briefing

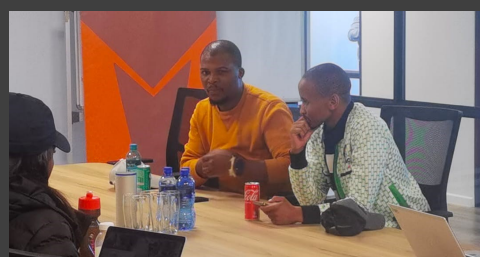


TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2024

- Meeting with Board Advisors



- Meeting with the South African Union of Students (UNIVERSITY)



WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2024

- Meeting with SATVETSA (TVETS)



- Meeting with Universities South Africa (Usaf) (Virtual)
- Meeting with the South African Public College Organisation (SACPO) (Virtual)

THURSDAY, 18TH APRIL 2024

- Meeting with NEHAWU



- Meeting with NUPSAW



- Meeting with NSFAS Management



- Meeting with Lawyers on Outa issues (Virtual)