



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021

TO: ALL MEDIA

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

NSFAS ON THE PASSING OF YONWABA MANYANYA

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is aware of the sad and untimely passing of the eThekweni TVET College student, Yonwaba Manyanya, and the circumstances surrounding the incident. NSFAS extends sincere and unreserved condolences to the family and friends of Ms Manyanya. There are allegations in the public domain that NSFAS has delayed paying allowances to cover the cost of accommodation on time and that Ms. Manyanya subsequently suffered from fatigue and hunger while living on the streets as a consequence of this delay. These allegations are factually incorrect, based on information we have, and that the college has.

For funding to continue, a student is required to meet the NSFAS progression requirements. While Ms Manyanya was an NSFAS funded student in 2020, for the 2021 academic year her funding had not been confirmed. The information on NSFAS record is that Ms Manyanya had not met the progression criteria as at the time of her passing. She is part of a group of students whose progression status was continuously being queried with the college.

NSFAS and eThekweni TVET College shared communication to the Department of Higher Education and Training explaining Ms. Manyanya's funding status. The facts of the communication clear NSFAS of any connection to this tragic incident. It is unfortunate that this tragic incident is being used inaccurately and unfairly in an insensitive manner to the family and to defame NSFAS. This misleading, unfortunate and opportunistic approach is viewed in contempt by NSFAS and individuals spreading this inaccurate communication should be ashamed.

NSFAS continues to be highly sensitive to the wide-ranging and essential needs of students and together with institutions, we prioritise the financial wellbeing of NSFAS funded students.

We once again pass our condolences to the Manyanya Family.

Issued by

Sibongile Mncwabe: Chief Corporate Services Officer

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FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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