



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

10 Brodie Road, House Vincent, 2nd Floor, Wynberg, Cape Town, 7800  
Private Bag X1, Plumstead, Cape Town, 7801  
Tel No.: 0860 067 327 | 021 763 3200 | Email: [media@nsfas.org.za](mailto:media@nsfas.org.za)

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

02 May 2018

### **JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE FAKE NEWS REGARDING STUDENT ALLOWANCE AT UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE**

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme has received alarming media reports about a fake screenshot alleging that a student has received an allowance overpayment. The matter was then escalated to the University of Fort Hare for further investigations. From the preliminary investigation done by NSFAS, University of Fort Hare (UFH), and Intellimali the following findings were discovered:

1. The student linked to the student number provided is a Masters Student at UFH, thus not eligible for NSFAS funding.
2. Student is from Congo, and not an NSFAS beneficiary. Up to date the student has never received any allowances from UFH.
3. The student number provided on the screenshot belongs to another student not the stated student mentioned.
4. It appears that the social media post has been edited and sent to the newspapers for mischievous ends, to create fake news and develop a crisis where there isn't one.

We, therefore, confirm that the error or money that have been allegedly transferred to this student is not a true. Therefore as things stands we can confirm that this is fake news.

We are concerned about the high number of fake news and allegations which we receive on daily basis. We urge student that they should keep their personal details safe and never share important numbers with strangers. When student suspect any criminal activity they need to report it to us as soon as possible to avoid any loss or damage.

Students can report criminal or fraud activities to the Vuvuzela Hotline 0800 203 900, call back 072 595 9139 or email [nsfas@thehotline.co.za](mailto:nsfas@thehotline.co.za)

#### **Issued by**

NSFAS and University of Fort Hare Marketing and Communications.

#### **Media Enquiries:**

For NSFAS Ms Phatisa Ntlonze, Media Liaison Officer - 078 144 5980 or email [media@nsfas.org.za](mailto:media@nsfas.org.za)  
For UFH Mr Khotso Moabi, Manager: Marketing & Communications - 086 628 2026



Board Members: Mr Sizwe Nxasana - Chairperson | Mr Steven Zwane - Chief Executive Officer | Mr Andre Zeeman  
Ms Julia De Bruyn | Mr Lumko Mtimde | Ms Mary Bomela | Ms Nafisa Mayat | Prof Neil Garrod | Ms Pearl Whittle | Ms Rose Keanly  
Ms Sibongile Masinga | Mr Thabo Moloja | Ms Thandi Lewin | Prof Themba Mosia | Mr Yershen Pillay | Mr Yonke Twani | Mr Zirk Joubert