



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2020**

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

## **STATEMENT ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF LAPTOPS TO NSFAS FUNDED STUDENTS**

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) was informed on 4 June 2020 by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, that it would manage the procurement process of digital learning devices (laptops) for NSFAS funded students currently registered at universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges for the 2020 academic year.

NSFAS then prepared the tender document and advertised a tender on 26 June 2020 for the supply and delivery of the digital learning devices (laptops) for NSFAS funded students. The tender (SCM 004-2020) closed on 13 July 2020, where a total of 150 bid proposals were received.

The 150 bid proposals were evaluated and adjudicated against the pre-qualification criteria and mandatory requirements as outlined in the advertised tender document, in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), National Treasury Instruction notes, and the NSFAS Supply Chain Management (SCM) policy.

Subsequent to the evaluation and adjudication process, it was established that no acceptable bid was received, as all 150 bid proposals failed to achieve all mandatory requirements as per tender bid description. Accordingly, the NSFAS Administrator, Dr Randall Carolissen, approved the cancellation of the tender, in accordance with Regulation 13 (1) (c) of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (PPPFA) 2017 regulations.

The Notice for a formal cancellation will be submitted to the Government Printing Works by 28 August 2020, for publication on 4 September 2020. The cancellation notice will be published in the Government Tender Bulletin, the National Treasury E-tender portal and the NSFAS website on 4 September 2020.

A notice to advertise the new tender will be submitted to the Government Printing Works on 28 August 2020, for publication on 4 September 2020. The new tender will be published in the Government Tender Bulletin, the National Treasury E-tender portal and the NSFAS website on 4 September 2020, with updated requirements. Service providers are encouraged to bid and to ensure that the bid responses are accompanied by explicit, sufficient and appropriate evidence.

Whilst the previous tender process was underway, NSFAS did some groundwork to ensure that there are no further delays on this project. NSFAS issued guidelines to universities and TVET colleges

10 Brodie Road, House Vincent  
2nd Floor, Wynberg, Cape Town, 7800  
Private Bag X1, Plumstead, Cape Town, 7801

T: 0800 067 327 | 021 763 3200  
E: [info@nsfas.org.za](mailto:info@nsfas.org.za)  
W: [www.nsfas.org.za](http://www.nsfas.org.za)

### **OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR**

The appointment of Dr Randall Carolissen as the Administrator to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme is in terms of Section 17A to 17D of the NSFAS Act (Act 56 of 1999 as amended), effective from August 21, 2019 as published in the Government Gazette by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, MP.

which outlined the process to be followed by institutions to enable speedy processing and delivery of laptops to students. NSFAS has also hosted consultation sessions with relevant stakeholders for alignment and concurrence.

Once service providers have been appointed, the digital learning devices (laptops) will be delivered as per new tender bidding specifications. The sole purpose of this project is to provide access to digital remote learning for NSFAS funded students, to ensure that no student is left behind. The successful implementation and completion of this project is of paramount importance and priority to NSFAS.

NSFAS takes firmly the issue of compliance, thorough and fair processes, therefore we would like to convey an earnest apology caused by the delay resulting from no acceptable bids being received.

-END-

**ISSUED BY:**  
**NSFAS Administrator**  
**Dr Randall Carolissen**

*NSFAS Contact Centre opened Monday to Friday 08:30 to 17:00:*

- *Email: [info@nsfas.org.za](mailto:info@nsfas.org.za)*
- *Facebook: National Student Financial Aid Scheme*
- *Twitter: myNSFAS*
- *Instagram: myNSFAS*
- *NSFAS Connect: [www.nsfas.org.za](http://www.nsfas.org.za) and log into your myNSFAS account*

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