



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

## MEDIA STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: SUNDAY 16 JULY 2023**

### **NSFAS GOES FULL THROTTLE WITH ACCELERATED PROCESSING OF STUDENT ALLOWANCES**

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The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) wishes to confirm that there is accelerated processing of student allowances. The speed and comprehensive release of funding depends in part on relevant and applicable student registration data being timeously availed to the organization.

We note a statement from Wits University asserting that over 8000 of the 9950 of students had not been paid their allowances on the 14th of July 2023. Our figures are that 7684 student allowances were paid on the 14 July 2023 in addition to the cohort paid during the end of June payment run. There is a number of NSFAS beneficiaries whose payments are outstanding, which cases will be examined and where appropriate corrected as soon as possible.

We will continue to liaise with all institutions to ensure that whatever obstacles exist are addressed. There is accelerated work to ensure universal coverage and disbursements to already approved beneficiaries due to receive funding.

In the spirit of heightened service delivery and cooperative governance, there is a concerted effort to foster closer coordination between NSFAS and beneficiary educational institutions in the exchange, quality assurance and processing of student information to fast track the disbursement of funds to students. We understand and, are fully aware of the need to minimize any delays in the release of funding because of the strain such an eventuality has on the emotional wellbeing of vulnerable and needy students. It is our highest priority, therefore, to maintain the momentum of disbursing approved funding swiftly, accurately and in accordance with our governance systems and principles.

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We, further, wish to inform members of the public and our stakeholder network, that there are overlapping and interdependent change management processes underway within NSFAS including and aimed primarily at the deployment of automated technological solutions; to serve students on time and at scale.

We, therefore, wish to caution and advise the public not to be disheartened by and be impatient with teething problems that might arise in isolated incidents from time to time as the re-engineering of the overall architecture of our systems is on track and receiving our outmost focus and care.

We understand and accept that change creates uncertainty and some levels of discomfort but commit to a consultative and transparent change management process, in the handling of necessary and critical changes that might not always be fully embraced in their early phases of deployment and system testing.

Issued by:

## The National Student Financial Aid Scheme

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