



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

## MEDIA STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2023**

### NSFAS STATEMENT ON THE PROTEST BY SOME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) has called for an urgent meeting with the officials of SAUS. This follows a protest by some university students, among whom there were SRC representatives from some universities. Ordinarily, the NSFAS engages with an organised body of Student Representative Councils, under the banner of SAUS which cuts across the political divide. Notwithstanding this and regardless of the fact that the protestors arrived unannounced, NSFAS management received their memorandum and subsequently engaged with them.

NSFAS holds the principle of engagement with stakeholders in high regard, as evident in the various physical visits to institutions and various sessions with stakeholders. Furthermore, in observance of the principle of engagement with student leaders, the CEO had an engagement with the CPUT SRC just a day before the unannounced protest where several issues affecting students were clarified.

We note that very few issues in the memorandum have to do with the sphere of NSFAS operations. We will however, over and above the engagements we have had with students continue to communicate developments and progress on the issues.

4 Christiaan Barnard Street, Cape Town City  
Centre, Cape Town, 8000  
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)

**Board Members:** Ernest Khosa - **Chairperson** | Andile Nongogo – **Chief Executive Officer** | Bamanye Matiwane | Jullie Beya | Lindiwe Matlali | Nceba Maxwell Fuzani | Prof Pumela Msweli | Reshma Mathura | Richard Siyabonga Msweli | Sanele Zondi | Sibonelo Cyril Madiba | Yonke Twani



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These issues are:

- 1) List of funded students
- 2) Direct payment of student allowances
- 3) 60-credits policy
- 4) Close-out process for students with outstanding fees
- 5) Update on the Appeals Process

We note statements from the protests on matters that are related to service providers and procurement. We are aware that the major purpose of the protest is to try and stop a new system of direct payment which will commence next month. We take a dim view of the increasing involvement of student leaders on matters of service procurement and alleged collaboration with service providers. We are taking an unprecedented step of alerting law enforcement agents of our observations and information at our disposal with the objective of getting to the bottom of some of the causes of instability in the higher education sector.

In the meantime, management will implement policies and decisions of the entity within the necessary legal and policy provision.

Issued by:

### **The National Student Financial Aid Scheme**

#### **FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

Mr Slumezi Skosana : 081 023 1845

Email: [media@nsfas.org.za](mailto:media@nsfas.org.za)

***\*The above contact details are to be used for media related purposes only.***

4 Christiaan Barnard Street, Cape Town City    T: 0800 067 327 | 021 763 3200  
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