

**MEDIA STATEMENT
TO ALL EDITORS/EDUCATION REPORTS
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NSFAS Administrator allows outstanding second semester registrations

National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)' Administrator Professor Hlengani Mathebula has acted decisively to allow for the registration of eligible students for the second semester across UNISA and universities of technology, following concurrence with the Minister of Higher Education and Training.

This includes new registrations for 26 159 students for the second semester and 79 118 for top-ups, respectively, across Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Durban University of Technology (DUT), Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), Vaal University of Technology (VUT), Central University of Technology (CUT), Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and the University of South Africa (UNISA).

"Thankfully, our Minister has acted speedily to accede to the processing of the registrations for students who meet the NSFAS criteria. This was a crucial decision in validating our mandate as a scheme," says Professor Helngani Mathebula.

Mathebula adds that uncertainty is a destabilising factor in the sector as not only students, but families are unsettled by pending registrations. Had this not been resolved fast enough, there would have been disruption and instability which we can hardly affirm at this point in our sector.

I am pleased by the cooperation of the institutions, from furnishing us with required verifications or data requests to how they responsibly handled public conversations in the intervening period. "We are beginning to witness a commendable shift in how we relate to each other as a sector." Mathebula states that his Administration has in ninety days closed various burning issues within the scheme and the submission of the Stabilisation Plan, as required by the Gazette, paves the way for the restoration of public trust to the scheme.

End.

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