

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL EDITORS/EDUCATION REPORTS

DATE: 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

NSFAS STATEMENT ON ADDRESSING THE FUNDING SHORTFALL FOR THE 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is pleased to announce has developed funding mechanisms to address the substantial shortfall experienced in the 2025 academic year. To this end, NSFAS and DHET have reprioritised funds within its existing budget of R13.3 billion to support 34 000 students with blocked registrations and second semester registrations of 15 000 students.

The deficit had arisen due to several factors:

- An increasing number of students qualifying for higher education funding.
- The ongoing cost of living crisis, which has expanded the eligibility criteria.
- Declining state resources in real terms.

Students who were affected by the funding deficit were as follows:

- University students who applied during the TVET cycle.
- Students whose registration confirmations were received after the registration portal had been closed.
- Students who had successful appeals that were unfunded.
- Second semester registrations.

Student accommodation providers who were impacted by the above will also be in a position to now receive payments for services rendered.

This marks a significant moment in the stabilization of NSFAS for the 2025 academic year. It however does not underscore the need for a sustainable financing and funding framework for the higher education sector.

NSFAS BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr Karen Stander (Chairperson) | Mr Waseem Carrim (Acting CEO) | Adv Lavan Gopaul | Dr Mampiane Johanna Maphutha | Dr Marcia Socikwa | Dr Mugwena Maluleke | Dr Siyanda B Mngadi | Adv Richardt Tlou Ramashia | Ms Clarinda Elizabeth Simpson | Ms Karabo Mohale | Ms Ndileka Portia Loyilane | Ms Prashika Mahesh | Ms Philisiwe Sibiya | Mr. Siphwe Welcome Khumalo | Mr Lukhanyo Daweti



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

NSFAS appreciates the understanding and support of all stakeholders as we navigate these challenges and work towards securing sustainable funding solutions for South African students.

For further inquiries, please contact NSFAS.

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