



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL EDITORS/EDUCATION REPORTS

DATE: 19 JANUARY 2024

NSFAS CONGRATULATES THE 2023 MATRICULATION CLASS

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) congratulates the 2023 matriculant class for their monumental and outstanding achievements.

Yesterday, NSFAS joined in celebration with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and learners, the announcement of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) 2023 results. Attended by both government and private stakeholders with interest in basic and higher education, the occasion saw the 2023 matric cohort scoop a remarkable 82.9% pass rate, which is an increase of 2.8% compared to last year. This means, over 700 000 matriculants have now qualified to enter the post-school education system, which will see them study at various universities and colleges.

NSFAS continues to prepare for the 2024 academic year. We are pleased to confirm that to date over 1, 406 000 applications for funding have since been received, with almost 1 million more applications anticipated.

NSFAS would like to also take this opportunity to call on all applicants to submit a consent form to verify relevant information from third parties. It is mandatory for NSFAS to verify the employment status and income level of the parents, guardians, or spouses of the applicant for eligibility. This includes applicants whose current Application Statuses are, "**Awaiting Evaluation, Financial Eligibility, and Application in Progress**". Only SASSA beneficiaries who have been approved for funding are NOT required to submit the form. Applicants can download and upload the completed Consent form on the NSFAS website, portal, or mobile app.

As mentioned in our last statement, in addition to our bursary grant, NSFAS is in the process of implementing the first phase of the Comprehensive Student Funding Model, which will be supported by the **R3.8 billion** made available by the government to ensure that **31 884 (47%)** of the estimated **68,446**

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missing middle students are financially supported in the form of a loan to pursue their studies.

Development of the loan scheme eligibility criteria and conditions for funding is currently underway; details on the commencement of the application process for the loan scheme for the 2024 academic year will duly be communicated.

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