



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2020**

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

### **NSFAS RESPONSE ON PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION**

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) has noted the ongoing eviction of students by the private landlords irrespective of the announcement by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of November 26, 2020 on the extension of the 2020 academic year. At this press conference the Minister confirmed the commitment of NSFAS to continue to pay the living allowances to students for the remainder of the respective academic year of the different institutions.

Furthermore, the Minister published a social compact between the DHET and the HEIs in December 2019 that provided agreed fee increases for 2020 academic year including increases for accommodation for NSFAS funded students. NSFAS continued to pay accommodation allowances to all NSFAS students during the lock down period.

Over the past few days it became apparent that some private accommodation providers and institutions did not reach agreement on offsetting payments made during the non-occupancy during the COVID19 interruptions. We are very concerned about the levels of violence and the further interruption of the 2020 year.

In partnership with DHET, SAUS and NSFAS we are quantifying the size of the problem and engaging the institutional leadership in order to ensure stability for the remainder of the year. The fiscal constraints we all are subjected to in South Africa will require all of us to act rationally and work towards a sustainable solution.

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**FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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*NSFAS Contact Centre opened Monday to Friday 08:30 to 17:00:*

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**OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR**

The appointment of Dr Randall Carolissen as the Administrator to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme is in terms of Section 17A (3)(a) of the NSFAS Act (Act 56 of 1999 as amended), effective from August 21, 2018 as published in the Government Gazette by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mrs Naledi Pandor, MP.