



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

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## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

02 May 2018

#### Statement in response to the student protest at NMU

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme has been notified of student protests at Nelson Mandela University (NMU). According to NMU SASCO the student protests are due to non-payments of allowances; implementation of the free education. Other issues are safety and security concerns, and student accommodation.

It is important to explain our processes which both the student and the institutions play in order for NSFAS to make any kind of payments or disbursement to students or to an institution. NSFAS is not able to pay any monies without both the institution and the student meeting our requirements. Our process for allowance disbursement is that institutions submit student registration data to us. Our role as NSFAS is to do the necessary checks and verifications before disbursing. If institutions are not able to submit required information to NSFAS on time, this then becomes the main cause of delays in the payments of allowances.

As an organisation we are concerned and alarmed by these latest protests due to the fact that we have made two upfront payments of R88 449 080 to the institution so far, a third payment of R77 392 945 was made on Wednesday 02 May. In addition to that we have made sBux upfront payments of R10 187 380 to first time entrants students, and R25 421 008 to retuning students. The payment was for books, meal and travel allowances of all the registration data we received from the institution.

We are very grateful that finally, NSFAS has received the final registration data from NMU, which will enable us to start the process of verification. After the necessary checks all duplicate records will be removed, and all invalid cellphone numbers will be highlighted and sent back to the institutions for resubmission. We hope that if all goes well, and without data integrity issues, we should be able to complete the disbursement payment for all outstanding allowances by early next week.

#### Issued by

NSFAS and University of Fort Hare Marketing and Communications.

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