



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

MEDIA STATEMENT

09 OCTOBER 2019

NSFAS STATEMENT ON THE ARREST OF THREE EMPLOYEES ON ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD RELATING TO ALLOWANCES OF STUDENT

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) confirms the arrest of three employees at the Wynberg Office, on October 08, 2019. The employees were all arrested on allegations of fraud relating to diverting student allowances to their personal accounts. NSFAS is working with the authorities, who are investigating the matter.

Since NSFAS was put under Administration in August 2018, as part of his Term of Reference the Administrator instituted a number of forensic investigations relating to the general disbursement of student funds, student allowance, leakage of sensitive and confidential information, and human resources related issues.

It has come to the attention of NSFAS that there are people who are misrepresenting themselves, posing as NSFAS officials soliciting applicants to pay a sum of money in order to have their application processed or have access to application forms. NSFAS would like to caution all students applying for the 2020 funding to be careful in managing their accounts. We want to stress that NSFAS applications are free.

The best way to apply for NSFAS funding is through your smartphone. If you are not able to apply or do not have a smartphone, you are safe to approach the National Youth Development Agency office, or the Vodacom Teacher Training and Development Centre for assistance. We have our people stationed there to help with the applications. We are also going out into rural areas, in partnerships with various provincial departments of education.

NSFAS has set up a dedicated independent fraud hotline called Vuvuzela. Through the hotline, whistle blowers can report abuse, fraud, wastage and other cases of misconduct to NSFAS with comfort and confidence. We appeal to students, applicants, employees and community members to report any suspicious activity promptly on fraud hotline. All calls are kept strictly confidential and callers may remain anonymous.

To report any fraud, please call Toll free number 0860 247 653, SMS "Call-back" to 30916, or email nsfas@thehotline.co.za. For more details on how you can report, please visit www.thehotline.co.za.

NSFAS would like to reassure the public that the arrest of the three employees will not have an impact on the 2020 applications cycle, which is expected to close on November 30, 2019.

Issued by

Dr Randall Carolissen
NSFAS Executive Administrator

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Email: media@nsfas.org.za

****The above contact details are to be used for media purposes only. For any other inquiries contact 0800 067 327.***

10 Brodie Road, House Vincent
2nd Floor, Wynberg, Cape Town, 7800
Private Bag X1, Plumstead, Cape Town, 7801

T: 0800 067 327 | 021 763 3200
E: info@nsfas.org.za
W: www.nsfas.org.za

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 to 17D of the NSFAS Act (Act 56 of 1999 as amended), effective from August 21, 2019 as published in the Government Gazette by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, MP.