



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

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## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training pays a visit to NSFAS offices

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) CEO Steven Zwane welcomed the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Buti Manamela at the NSFAS offices in Cape Town. Deputy Minister Manamela's visit forms part of a series of working plans in making sure that the 2018 academic year start on a high note.

The working visit started with a briefing session where pertinent issues were discussed. On top of the agenda it was the issue of communicating funding results to applicants, and the assistance which will be given to those students who didn't apply for funding as they were not qualifying. "I can reassure you that from the 17th of January we have started communicating results to applicants, and informing them that they can proceed with register at their respective institutions" said Zwane. He said that south African's can be content that those who are eligible to receive funding will do so and the organisation is working tirelessly to make sure that the process is seamless and efficient as possible. The meeting concluded with the following resolutions:

- Returning NSFAS beneficiaries need to make contact with their academic institutions and register.
- First time entrants upon receiving funding results should contact academic institutions and proceed with registration.
- No student should be denied registration due to historic debt.

Deputy Minister Buti Manamela affirmed that he is aware that the university registration process started yesterday and therefore universities should not return any students who have proof that they have applied for NSFAS. "We urge universities not to use historic debt as a precondition for retuning students" said Manamela.

The visit ended with a walk about where the Deputy Minister and CEO paid a visit to the NSFAS contact centre. The deputy minister had a privilege of calling applicants to give them their funding results. NSFAS CEO commended the Deputy Minister for opening communication channels between the Department and the organisation and hopes to strengthen the working relations between the two institutions.

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