



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

MEDIA STATEMENT

27 OCTOBER 2019

STATEMENT ON THE STRIKE NOTICE BY NEHAWU

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) can confirm that a notice for strike, in terms of Section 64 (d) of the Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995 as amended was received from the National Education Health & Allied Workers Union (Nehawu). The strike action will resume on Monday 28 October 2019.

NSFAS Management is committed to working with the union through the National Bargaining Forum to reach agreements on any outstanding matters. The current issue of contention which is the Performance Management System is one of many legacy issues that have negatively affected the performance of the Scheme. The Terms of Reference of the Administrator includes managing the day -to -day work of the entity which focuses on the strengthening of structures, systems and policies that will ensure good governance and effective management of the core operational mandate of NSFAS.

NSFAS has not been allocated any funds for bonuses for the 2018/2019 financial year, therefore the entity is not in any position to adhere to the demands of the union of ex gratia payment. We are disappointed that while we are trying to fix the entity under serious government challenges, the very same employees who need assistance seem not appreciate the intervention government has brought to bring stability.

Section 17 of the Constitution recognises the right to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions. Employees are urged to comply with the picketing rules in order to ensure that they are protected. We have taken precautionary measures to ensure the safety of all our employees, striking and non-striking during this time. All the required business continuity and contingency plans are in place to manage the impact of the potential industrial action.

The 2020 application cycle will not be affected by the planned strike, all applications are submitted online via smart phone, computer, NYDA centres, local libraries, GCIS Thusong centres, and Department of Basic Education District Teacher Development Centres.

A 'no work no pay' rule will be applied for the duration of the strike.

ISSUED BY NSFAS ADMINISTRATOR DR RANDALL CAROLISSEN

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Email: media@nsfas.org.za

****The above contacts are for media purposes for any other inquiry contact NSFAS contact centre on 0800 067 327***

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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 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.