



National Student Financial Aid Scheme

10 Brodie Road, House Vincent, 2nd Floor, Wynberg, Cape Town, 7800
Private Bag X1, Plumstead, Cape Town, 7801
Tel No.: 0860 067 327 | 021 763 3200 | Email: media@nsfas.org.za

02 May 2018

Speech by Mr. Msulwa Daca (Executive Officer, NSFAS) on the Occasion of the University of Johannesburg (UJ), Missing Middle Fundraising Event

Chairperson of the University of Johannesburg's Council Mr. Roy Marcus and Chancellor Prof Njabulo Ndebele (in absentia), University Vice Chancellor, Professor Ransburg and the entire leadership of the university.

Students, guests present here and all protocol observed. Allow me to take this opportunity to greet and thank the leadership of University of Johannesburg for the invitation to share this moment with you.

This event is very historic because it is a serious game changer in our landscape understanding what we are all faced with. Perhaps we need to thank the generation 2015 by raising their struggle for more funding.

It is further important to be present here, knowing that the University of Johannesburg is amongst the biggest universities in the country, having merged in 2015 from Rand Afrikaans Universiteit, Wits Technikon and Vista (SOWETO campuses). I believe this year (2016) UJ is educating close to 50 000 students and the NSFAS contribution as "Friends of Education" will be in excess of R1.2 billion.

We fully understand this is not enough and hence our presence here today to support this initiative. Ladies and gentleman allow me to briefly outline what government has already done in funding of students.

As the scheme since inception we have funded more than 1.5million students with about R59 billion. In 2016 we are funding about more than 405 000 students from 25 universities and 50 TVET colleges, across 320 campuses, in its budget of R 14,6 billion. We must thank the Presidential Task Team and all those who were involved in making sure that more funding is available for our students. Furthermore we are delighted of its work particularly the Historic Debt Funding.

As NSFAS we are driven by a mission to transform NSFAS into an efficient and affective provider of financial aid in a sustainable manner that promotes access to and success in higher education and training in pursuit of South Africa's National and Human Resources Development Goals.

Therefore we are truly delighted about this initiative of fund raising for the missing middle and we all know it remains one of the key remaining pressing needs. We truly support the initiative because it speaks to the core of what we are all supposed to do, by raising funds to make sure that South Africa's youth is given an opportunity for the future.

Our country's history still manifests itself with the triple crisis of poverty, unemployment and inequalities.

Therefore student funding exists to address such and even those who have managed have some economic breather are still victims of such a crisis. The professionals in our country are mostly bread winners and they contribute vastly in the economy and hence many struggle to fit the bill of higher education. President Mandela once said; "education is the greatest engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that a son of a mineworker can be the head of the mine that a child of farm worker can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what are given, that separates one person from another".

Therefore as NSFAS we remain committed in the work of fundraising for more funds as instructed by the NSFAS Act and realities of our country. Last week, we met the CEOs of SETAs to strengthen our relations with them and to make sure they commit to continue providing students funding.

You might be aware that the PTT recommended that a new funding model be piloted in 2017 for full implementation in 2018 which will also focus on what UJ has started on, the current challenge of funding students from the missing middle. In closing, as NSFAS we reaffirm our support to the university, this initiative and our relationship as partners in education with a broader vision to improve Access to and Success in, Higher Education.

Thank you
Mr Msulwa Daca
NSFAS Executive Officer



Board Members: Mr Sizwe Nxasana - Chairperson | Mr Steven Zwane - Chief Executive Officer | Mr Andre Zeeman
Ms Julia De Bruyn | Mr Lumko Mtimde | Ms Mary Bomela | Ms Nafisa Mayat | Prof Neil Garrod | Ms Pearl Whittle | Ms Rose Keanly
Ms Sibongile Masinga | Mr Thabo Moloja | Ms Thandi Lewin | Prof Themba Mosia | Mr Yershen Pillay | Mr Yonke Twani | Mr Zirk Joubert