



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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1 March 2017

Dr Blade Nzimande  
Minister of Higher Education and Training  
Private Bag X174  
Pretoria  
0001

By email: [Sako.M@dhet.org.za](mailto:Sako.M@dhet.org.za)

Dear Minister Nzimande,

**RE: NSFAS APPLICANTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MPUMALANGA**

I write to you to express my concern regarding the plight of university students struggling to start their academic year.

Students across the country have worked hard enough to be accepted at one of the 26 public universities, but must now find the funding to support their educational aspirations. Many of these students put their hope in funding from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)

Yet by late February, more than 400 students at the University of Mpumalanga Mbombela campus had not received an answer from NSFAS. This represents nearly half the number of students at that particular campus. The Democratic Alliance was informed of this by students at the university.

You might also wish to note that two DA MPs were forced to speak to these students outside the university gate after they were refused entry to the campus - a clear breach of the oversight role that our Members are required to fulfil.

The urgency of the situation these students find themselves in cannot be overstated – registrations have closed and classes started at nearly all of our public universities. To leave responding to applicants to such a late date is unacceptable and unnecessarily distressing.

I urge you to follow up on your promise that all students who qualify for NSFAS will be funded – at the moment, it appears that you have reneged on this promise.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Belinda Bozzoli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dr Belinda Bozzoli MP**

DA Shadow Minister of Higher Education and Training

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