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Honourable Minister Dr. Blade Nzimande
HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Per e-mail: Babulele.Bingwa@dstv.gov.za

Dear Honourable Dr. Blade Nzimande

AN URGENT REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION AT NSFAS

The Democratic Alliance (DA) has taken a decision to write to you to seek urgent intervention to the challenges facing the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

The DA is concerned by NSFAS's failure to produce audited annual reports for the 2018/19 financial year, to the Auditor General or Parliament by the required legal deadline. This is because NSFAS is now unable to account for how it utilised the R30 billion it received the previous financial year.

For years this entity has been riddled with financial difficulties due to years of mismanagement, corruption, and wanton wastage of money meant for poor students. Without a doubt, NSFAS is in a crisis - if it remains on the current trajectory, the student funding scheme ultimately will be unable to fulfil its mandate of providing education opportunities to indigent members of our society.

It is, for this reason, we are requesting a complete overhaul of NSFAS and its entire management. We simply cannot gloss over the fact that NSFAS is really failing the young people of our country.

We need to ensure that going forward, especially now leading up to the processing of applications and allocation of 2020 allowances, rigorous checks and balances are followed in the management and disbursement funds by the student funding scheme.

NSFAS's inability to timeously process payments and approve applications kills dreams of thousands of qualifying students from indigent backgrounds.

Honourable Minister, the DA holds the view that we cannot afford to stand by while an important institution that is meant to make available educational opportunities to needy students fails due to corruption and poor management. Ours is to ensure that those who run these entities are held to the highest degree of accountability, but it is not currently the case.

The DA implores you to give our request the just consideration it deserves so that no qualifying and the academically deserving student will be left behind.

Kind Regards,

BAXOLILE NODADA MP

Deputy Shadow Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

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(Sent electronically without signature)

