



# EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE  
**Office of the Democratic Alliance**  
Hon. Kabelo Mogatosi, MPL



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17 October 2024

Dr Mimmy Gondwe  
Deputy Minister of Higher Education & Training

Dear Dr Gondwe

## **RE: NSFAS DEFUNDED STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE**

I write to you on behalf of the “unfunded” students at the University of Fort Hare.

With the final examinations approaching within a matter of one month, hundreds of University of Fort Hare (UFH) students face financial uncertainty due to potential defunding from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

On Wednesday, 16 October 2024, the UFH branch of the Democratic Alliance Student Organisation (DASO) met with the university's Financial Aid Office to investigate numerous student inquiries. We were alarmed to discover that over 1000 students currently have no funding.

NSFAS has informed the Financial Aid Office that 262 students will also be defunded for various reasons, including:

- Dual registration - referring to students registered at one institution while failing to deregister from another.
- Exceeding the annual household income of R350 000.
- Exceeding the N+1 rule which refers to students who have not

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completed their qualifications within the minimum time plus one additional year.

- Poor academic performance of students failing to meet minimum academic requirements.
- Applications submitted before migration - referring to students who reapplied for funding before their initial application was processed.

The majority of these affected students are indigent – with no other means to access textbooks or food.

We have set up a link for affected students to upload their details on the portal. We will send the updated details of these students every Friday to the Deputy Minister's Helpdesk.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kabelo Mogatosi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kabelo Mogatosi, MPL

DASO Constituency Leader  
Shadow MEC for Roads & Transport  
Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature