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Dr Delmaine Chelsey  
Christians, MP

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**DA SPOKESPERSON ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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14 August 2026

Hon. Walter Tebogo Letsie

Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training

Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

**REQUEST FOR THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING, MR BUTI MANAMELA, TO ACCOUNT TO THE COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THE HIGH COURT RULING**

Dear Chairperson,

I write to formally request that the Minister for Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela, appear before the Portfolio Committee to account for today's High Court ruling that suspended his appointment of Prof Hlengani Mathebula as the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) Administrator and found the Minister's decision to appoint him irrational. Furthermore, the Minister must communicate his strategies to prevent students from experiencing disruptions in funding, appeals, accommodation payments, or other NSFAS responsibilities amid the ruling.

Over the last three months, several questions have arisen about the Minister's decision to place NSFAS under administration, to appoint Prof Mathebula as the Administrator, and Prof Mathebula's appointment of unapproved advisors. The recent High Court decision concerning Prof Mathebula's appointment, particularly the court's reference to the Nugent Report's findings against him, underscores the urgent need for the Minister to brief the Committee promptly and to explain his decisions relating to NSFAS' administration over this period.

This represents a pivotal moment in the history of NSFAS, and it is imperative that the Minister is able to provide accountability to the Committee at the earliest possible date.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Delmaine Christians', written in a cursive style.

Dr Delmaine Christians MP