
GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION


No. 675

10 June 2009

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SCHEME

I, Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande MP, Minister of Higher Education and Training, in accordance with Treasury Regulation 20 [issued in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999)], hereby establish the committee set out in the schedule hereto to review the efficacy of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.



Dr BE Nzimande MP
Minister of Higher Education and Training

Date 08/06/2009

Ministry of Higher Education and Training

Terms of Reference for the Review of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme

Background

Education White Paper 3: A Programme for the Transformation of Higher Education (1997) has provided the policy framework for the transformation of higher education over the past decade. The policies have been informed by the need to ensure:

- Improved access to higher education, particularly for students from poor and previously marginalised communities;
- Responsiveness of higher education to the economic and social development priorities of the country;
- Capacity in the higher education system for high level research and innovation;
- Enhanced quality of academic programme provision and the quality of student life; and
- Redress of historical inequalities.

Government established the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) in 1996 as the primary instrument for providing financial support for poor students and thus enhancing access to higher education for citizens from previously marginalized communities.

Since its inception, the NSFAS has grown considerably in terms of the amount of money available for annual disbursement, the number of awards to qualifying students and the diversification of the Scheme through, among others, the administration of special purpose national and provincial government funds such as Funza Lushaka teacher education bursaries; loan recovery on behalf of individual universities; and the management of private sector and donor funds in terms of specified criteria. Its scope has also been extended to the administration of bursaries in the Further Education and Training (FET) college sector.