



AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: AZAPO SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY & INFORMATION

DATE: April 12, 2024

SUBJECT: THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NSFAS BOARD AND THE CALL FOR THE MINISTER TO RESIGN

AZAPO welcomes the dissolution of the NSFAS Board and calls for the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande to resign.

In January 2024 **AZAPO** decried the shenanigans and mismanagement of the NSFAS and the fact that over 20 000 institutions of higher learning were still awaiting their 2023 allowances. Almost four months into 2024, we still have students that have not received their allocation and payments. NSFAS is accusing the institutions of not submitting their proofs of registration and the latter are adamant that the data was submitted on time. Institutions are dependent on those funds and would certainly not delay in complying with the requirements.

AZAPO therefore believes the institutions of higher learning.

Instead of dissolving the board as early as in 2023 when the signs of mismanagement were glaring, Minister Nzimande opted to shield the board and its conflicted chairperson. The forced resignation of the chairperson should have resulted in the collapse and dissolution of the Board but the Minister gave it a new lease of life by appointing Professor Lourens van Staden. This move only delayed the inevitable and prolonged the misery of the Black students, who are the main beneficiaries of NSFAS.

The litany of failures by Minister Nzimande calls for him to do the honourable and fall on his sword.

AZAPO demands the scrapping of the middleman agency in the form of NSFAS and that funds must go directly from government to institutions of higher learning. This will save administrative costs and ensure efficient and seamless funding for poor students. An **AZAPO** government that is corrupt-free and caring will make this possible.

END

Issued by **AZAPO** Department of Publicity and Information (DPI).

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