



# The President's Report

This report is an overview of the state of the association since our 18th FAPSA Conference in Cape Town 2019. It is also our report to the National Conference as we have converged here in Gold Reef City Theme Park Hotel in Gauteng, under the theme,

*#Empowering Futures: Fostering Inclusive Innovation in Financial Aid*

It is an administrative and organisational account of developments of the period activities ensued and assessment of the progress made, and challenges faced by our association and our country at large. It outlines the major tasks of our association for the period ahead.

Our purpose remains serving the institutions and financial aid practitioners in the Education sector. However, our association is still tasked with a developmental agenda that seeks to broaden access to financial aid whilst also ensuring that students are not trapped in debt indefinitely. Therefore, this means, we need to take a closer look at the purpose and define what must become our attitude or the posture that we need to take or assume going forward.

Colleagues,

As Financial Aid Practitioners South Africa (FAPSA) have noted the students protests over across several institutions in our public higher education system and recognises that all students, like all members of the society, have their constitutional rights to protest and voice their opinions and frustrations.

However, that should not be done through vandalisation of the government property.

Our institutions were once prescribed as fragmented in a fragmented state. The latter immediately suggested that a new dawn of fresh thinking and approach need to be provided hence we witnessed the merging of institutions to enable a unison approach in the sector of learning.

However more than two decades later inequality is still predominant, and we have recently more than once experienced scenes which should remind us



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of our twin task as an association and active citizens.

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) through NSFAS has allocated billions for needy students across institutions of learning, however the unrests in institutions suggest that this is not adequate hence the spontaneous unrest which engulfed our institutions across the country. This was not just peaceful unrests, but they have been coupled with serious damage to property to the detriment of the relative peace and tranquility we enjoyed previously.

We have previously demanded adequate participation in the board of NSFAS, will such a move bring about change in the board? Can we stand in unison in support of our claim that such will assist in bringing about change and adequate funding? Is it through our participation in the board that such challenges can be minimised?

I am in no way trying to scorn our resolve but the current developments demand of us to ask these critical questions in response to the

national question of adequate funding and transformation. Ours is a development role however we shall not meet our core objective if we do not go beyond the call of duty and be party to the transformation agenda in this country.

The state has increased NSFAS funding however it is impossible even with that increase to meet the high demand. Some institutions can barely survive without this state intervention nor meet the student's needs. The quagmire is not new to all of us. Some in our quarters were quick to degenerate the debate by claiming the hand of the unseen third force and by so doing they deliberately misled the country from discussing this matter without being sidetracked. We should dismiss such acts because surely, we are in unison when we say we are confronted by high level of inequalities in South Africa.

We have further neglected the role of other bursary schemes in easing and eradicating the pressure we are confronted with in our institutions. We must seek audience with diplomatic mission in this country and familiarise ourselves with their work for the benefit of our institutions.



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Our association was confronted with the following:

- The advent of COVID-19
- Change of signatories took longer than expected
- Resignation of the SG because of promotional career path
- Resignation of the TG
- President promoted to the Deputy Principal Registrar
- Mr Boston, the exco member, was promoted to the Campus Manager
- New administration of NSFAS

We had a limping exco based on the challenges that we have articulated.

President Thabo Mbeki once said,

*"Gloom and despondency has never defeated adversity; we should never be despondent because the weather is bad, nor should we turn triumphalist because the sun shines. Trying times require courage and resilience, our best of character is not tested during difficult and trying times".*

On behalf of the outgoing executive committee of whom I presided over, I want to take this golden, wonderful opportunity to express my words of gratitude to the general membership of FAPSA and affording us an opportunity to lead you.

We further want to wish the incoming leadership all the best of luck and it is indeed our conviction that they will lead this association in accordance with our ideals and aspirations.

*Hasta la Victoria Siempre,*

**Pontsho Mosoeu**  
**FAPSA President**