



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

MEDIA STATEMENT ON FUNDING OF STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

The Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of International Relations Cooperation and NSFAP are inundated with requests from students studying abroad seeking assistance for them to be repatriate back home after having completed their studies.

As a Government, Namibia is very much concerned about the welfare of Namibians in the diaspora. While government is concerned about Namibians in the diaspora, it is equally the responsibility of such persons to look after their wellbeing especially when they are in foreign countries at their own accord.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation would like to reiterate its mandate that is to build a knowledge-based society through the promotion of access to quality higher education, be it local, regional and international.

Currently, the government of the Republic of Namibia is availing study loans through NSFAP to deserving Namibian students to study at approved institutions of higher learning, locally, regionally and internationally. Students who receive study assistance through NSFAP or any other government Ministry are taken care of.

It has come to our attention, that there are also privately funded Namibian students studying abroad. Such students went to study abroad without the knowledge of government. As much as Government appreciates the efforts of parents guardians private companies to ensure that their children and employees acquire quality higher education abroad, such students or employees remains the responsibility of parents, guardians sponsoring agencies to ensure that they complete their studies abroad and they return back to Namibia upon completion of their studies. In order to extend a helping hand to privately funded students, NSFAP provided funds to those students who applied for this once off financial support.

While Government is requested by privately funded students who studied abroad and graduated, to provide them with financial assistance to enable them to return back to Namibia, it is our view that the various sponsors should take responsibility.

Such students are therefore advised to make their own arrangements through their parents, guardians and sponsors to secure the required financial means to return back to Namibia.

Signed by:

Dr. Alfred van Kent
Executive Director

