higher education & training
Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Private Bag x174, PRETORIA, 0001, 123 Francis Baard Street, PRETORIA 0002, South Africa
Tel: (012) 312 5056, Fax (012) 321 6770

MEDIA STATEMENT
04 OCTOBER 2026

DEPUTY MINISTER CASSIM DRIVES PROGRESS ON OUTSTANDING STUDENT SETA BURSARY PAYMENTS

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Yusuf Cassim has welcomed progress in resolving outstanding Services SETA bursary payments and benefits for 162 students at Ekurhuleni East TVET College (EEC), following interventions to address delays in administering Services SETA bursaries.

The college updated Deputy Minister Cassim during an oversight visit on Friday, 2 October, at the Kwa-Thema Campus. During the visit, the Deputy Minister was joined by officials from the Department's TVET and Skills branches and Services SETA.

Delays in the payment of student SETA bursaries have been an issue that Deputy Minister Cassim has been following, including at Lovedale TVET College, where he visited on 14 August 2026. That visit led to FASSET paying 20 student bursaries at the institution, while Services SETA continues to work to resolve the challenges there.

- **EKURHULENI EAST TVET COLLEGE INTERVENTIONS**

Prior to the 2 October oversight of Ekurhuleni East TVET College, Deputy Minister Cassim first engaged with Services SETA on 3 September 2026, requesting a detailed update on the administration of its bursaries, including whether qualifying students were receiving their tuition, allowances, textbooks and laptops.

The Deputy Minister called for clear, urgent action to address outstanding tuition payments, allowances, textbooks and laptops at affected institutions, including EEC, and for the reconciliation of beneficiary records and bursary expenditure.

The Deputy Minister then followed up all these prior engagements with Friday's visit to the Kwa-Thema campus.

- **Progress update:**

Services SETA allocated bursaries for 200 students at Ekurhuleni East TVET College, to the value of R15.6 million. A total of 195 students applied. After internal screening, the college submitted 162 as qualifying to Services SETA and SAPCO (implementing agent).

The remaining 33 applicants either did not meet the bursary criteria or had not submitted all required documents. Applicants with incomplete documentation may submit the outstanding documents for reassessment, subject to the applicable process. The college and Services SETA will communicate further on the correct process.

higher education & training
Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Private Bag x174, PRETORIA, 0001, 123 Francis Baard Street, PRETORIA 0002, South Africa
Tel: (012) 312 5056, Fax (012) 321 6770

Of the 162 on the college list:

- 145 were found fully compliant, and tuition fees were processed in September. A further 17 students are still in process, and the college has committed to completing this within seven days.
- The college reported that **R1.98 million** in outstanding allowances had been paid to 132 students, during the month of September, following the intervention from the Deputy Minister.
- A further 30 students remained unprocessed because of banking or documentation issues. The college's finance team is working with the students and the SRC to resolve these issues, with a commitment to finalise the outstanding cases by Friday, 9 October 2026. The college and Services SETA will reconcile the outstanding cases and payment records.
- Textbooks have been provided to all Services SETA-funded students.
- Laptops remain outstanding. The college expedited the procurement process following the intervention by the Deputy Minister and has committed to delivering the laptops by mid-October.

NATIONAL N-DIPLOMA AND NCV CERTIFICATE DELAYS

Other matters discussed during the engagement included delays in the issuing of National N-Diploma and NCV Level 4 certificates. It was highlighted that National N-Diploma applications, which require students to submit their N4-N6 certificates, proof of practical experience and statements of results to the Department's examinations section through their TVET college, often face significant delays.

In response, the Deputy Minister, through the office of the Deputy Director-General (DDG) for TVET colleges, Mr Sam Zungu, will request that the Department's National Examination and Assessment Directorate provide the Ministry with a report on the delays affecting the issuance of these outstanding certificates, together with a turnaround plan to expedite the processing and resolution of the outstanding cases.

"I would like to thank Services SETA for its continued investment in skills development and education across the PSET sector. It is important that we manage these bursaries properly, so that SETAs and other entities do not withdraw funding because of our administrative challenges. Students should not have to wait this far into the academic year to receive the full bursary benefits for which they qualify. This is a problem across the system, and we must find ways to address it. I also want to thank the college management for working constructively to address the concerns raised," said Deputy Minister Cassim.

Issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Training

Enquiries:
Sipho Stuurman
076 965 4880
Stuurman.S@dhet.gov.za