

NSFAS administrator 'living large' without Godongwana's approval

'Why is the president allowing Mathebula to plunder like this'

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National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) administrator Professor Hlengani Mathebula has been spending public funds without the approval of finance minister Enoch Godongwana as stipulated in statutes governing the post he occupies.

Sunday World has learned that Mathebula has sought the services of four technical advisors, who are costing the taxpayer about R10-million per year. His luxury accommodation and travel expenses, totalling R200 000 in just over a month since his appointment, have also been flagged.

All this has been happening without the greenlight from Godongwana and in contravention of the NSFAS Act.

Chapter two, section 17C of the Act states: "The minister (Manamela), with the approval of the minister of finance (Godongwana), may determine the remuneration and allowances to be paid to the administrator and to any other person appointed in terms of section 17B."

Buti Manamela's spokesperson Matshepo Seedat has confirmed that Godongwana has not approved.

"We have to wait for the approval of the Minister of finance (Godongwana). The approval was requested after lengthy discussions within the department and with the Administrator on the remuneration of the Administrator," she said.

Insiders say the remuneration of the four advisors and Mathebula's accommodation expenditure, without Godongwana's approval, might be irregular expenditure.

EFF MP Sihle Lonzi, who also serves in Parliament's portfolio committee on higher education, slammed Mathebula and his political principal.

"The NSFAS administrator, who was suspended post the SARS Nugent commission, Hlengani Mathebula, is said to be bringing on two more advisors, taking it to four advisors with each receiving roughly R2.4-million; this will take the salary bill to about R20-million over the period," said Lonzi.

"His own remuneration is yet to be approved by the finance minister. I don't know why President Cyril Ramaphosa is allowing Buti Manamela to plunder state resources like this.



Higher education minister Buti Manamela allegedly gave NSFAS administrator Prof Hlengani Mathebula the nod. / CREDITS



"This is despicable considering the many students who are still struggling with allowances."

Sunday World has confirmed the advisor's remuneration, a fact that has also been verified by NSFAS. We have also seen evidence of Mathebula's luxury accommodation in Cape Town.

Mathebula has been enjoying a luxurious lifestyle in the Mother City, thanks to public funds, with a particular preference for the Pepper Club and Westin hotels. As of this month, Mathebula is renting for R50 000 a month at the ex-

pense of the taxpayer.

NSFAS spokesperson Ishmael Mnisi told *Sunday World* that Mathebula was in fact very prudent with public money compared to the administrator who came before him.

"Professor Hlengani Mathebula's decisions have been preceded by a dispassionate assessment of the systemic risks as outlined by the minister of higher education and training in the government gazette. In the course of his work, he has been extremely considerate of NSFAS's financial and other resources," said Mnisi.

According to Mnisi, Matheb-

ula's administration has the lowest cost structure by design, despite having only four technical advisors whose housing is not covered by the entity.

"As a stakeholder-dependent entity, he has had to travel to meet some of the stakeholders, based on government-set rates. He has also invited stakeholders to NSFAS offices in Cape Town to cut down on travel costs. It is far-fetched to allege PFMA breaches in any of his decisions."

Meanwhile, Mathebula's problems are far from over, with his appointment the subject of a high court review application set to be heard on August 4.

In the litigation, former NSFAS board members are challenging Mathebula's appointment as irrational and unlawful. At the core of their argument is that Mathebula is unfit for the office given his previous scandals, as SARS found him wanting.

Mathebula's papers filed in court have countered that he is fit for public office because no recommendations were made by Nugent on him.

His argument has been seconded by Manamela.

Godongwana's spokesperson had not responded to questions at the time of going to print.

THEMBISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



BIDS ARE HEREBY INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Tender No	Description	Price Per Bid Document	Compulsory Briefing	CIDB Grading	Technical Enquiries	Availability of Tender Documents	Closing Date
THLM/SCM01/2026-2027/RS01	Construction of Entokozweni (Mathyzensloop) Bus Route	R 1 596.17	14 July 2026 @ 10:00 Municipal Shelter	6 CE or Higher	Mr. Siyabonga Kalipa T: 013 986 9201 E: KalipaS@thembeisilehanilm.gov.za	10 July 2026 @ 08:00	05 August 2026 @ 12:00
THLM/SCM02/2026-2027/RS02	Construction of Moloto South Bus Route	R 1 596.17	14 July 2026 @ 10:30 Municipal Shelter	6 CE or Higher	Mr. Siyabonga Kalipa T: 013 986 9201 E: KalipaS@thembeisilehanilm.gov.za	10 July 2026 @ 08:00	05 August 2026 @ 12:00
THLM/SCM03/2026-2027/RS03	Construction of Msholozhi Road	R 1 596.17	14 July 2026 @ 11:00 Municipal Shelter	7 CE or Higher	Mr. Siyabonga Kalipa T: 013 986 9201 E: KalipaS@thembeisilehanilm.gov.za	10 July 2026 @ 08H00	05 August 2026 @ 12:00
THLM/SCM04/2026-2027/RS04	Construction of Empumelweni Road	R 1 596.17	14 July 2026 @ 11:30 Municipal Shelter	7 CE or Higher	Siyabonga Kalipa T: 013 986 9201 E: KalipaS@thembeisilehanilm.gov.za	10 July 2026 @ 08H00	05 August 2026 @ 12:00
THLM/SCM05/2026-2027/WS01	Construction of KwaMhlanga B Water and Sewer Reticulation	R 1 596.17	14 July 2026 @ 12:00 Municipal Shelter	6 CE or Higher	Siyabonga Kalipa T: 013 986 9201 E: KalipaS@thembeisilehanilm.gov.za	10 July 2026 @ 08H00	05 August 2026 @ 12:00
THLM/SCM24/2025-2026/F02	Appointment of a Service Provider for the Supply and Delivery of Operational Full Maintenance Lease of Thembeisile Hani Local Municipality Vehicles for a period on 36 Months.	R 1 596.17	N / A	N / A	Richard Makhubele T: 013 986 9198 E: MakhubeleR@thembeisilehanilm.gov.za	10 July 2026 @ 08H00	05 August 2026 @ 12:00

Prospective Service Providers are encouraged to download the tender documents from the E-Tenders Portal according to the dates indicated above at www.etenders.co.za. The only time hard copies will be made available is if there are technical challenges from the E-Tenders portal.

Cash and EFT payments will be accepted and must be made payable to Thembeisile Hani Local Municipality only for hard copy tender documents, any tender documents which are downloaded from the E-Tender portal are free of charge, the price per document is not applicable to them. Sealed envelopes marked with the tender number as indicated above, must be placed in the bid box at the Municipality's Offices, Stand Number 24, Mthombomuhle (Kwaggafontein C), no later than 12h00 on the above-mentioned dates.

Please take note that no bid documents will be given to couriers unless the courier company is in the possession of a letter on an official letterhead, confirming on behalf of the company the full details of the specific bid(s) to be collected and the payment of the full amount payable for bids is required.

The Council reserves the rights to either accept the whole or part of

any bid, or not to appoint. Facsimiles or e-mailed documents will not be accepted. No awards will be made to a person who;

- Is in the service of the state,
- If that person is not a natural person, of which any director, manager, principal shareholder or stakeholder is a person in the service of state, and/ or
- Who is an advisor or consultant contracted with the municipality or municipal entity.

A Preferential Point system shall apply whereby a contract will be allocated to a bidder in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, Act No 5 of 2000 and as defined in the Conditions of Tender in the tender document, read in conjunction with the Supply Chain Management Policy of Thembeisile Hani Local Municipality and the Preferential Procurement Regulations of 2022 where 80/ 20 points system will be applied wherein 80 points are for price and 20 for Specific Goals.

SCM Enquiries: Ms. Pinky Sibuya through 013 986 9153, Email: SibuyaP@thembeisilehanilm.gov.za

Municipal Manager – Mr. D.J.D. Mahlangu

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MOPANI TVET COLLEGE
"EXCELLENCE IS ALWAYS OUR CHOICE"

Call for Applications: Appointment of College Council Donor Member

In line with Section 10(4)(d) of the Continuing Education and Training (CET) Act, 2006 (as amended), the College Council of Mopani Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College hereby invites applications from interested and competent individuals who wish to contribute to skills development in South Africa by serving as a Donor Member of the College Council. The Term of Office shall be in accordance with the current term of the College Council, ending 30 June 2029.

Kindly take note that the appointment is subject to concurrence by the Minister of Higher Education and Training.

Purpose: The Donor Member will represent the interests of donors and development partners on the College Council. Key responsibilities include:

- Contributing to and supporting the College's strategic plan.
- Promoting a culture of collaboration, creativity, and community engagement within the College.
- Advising the Principal on fundraising opportunities, prospective donors, and strategies to expand the donor base.
- Providing guidance on fundraising efforts to secure financial support through individual giving, corporate partnerships, sponsorships, and contributions.
- Supporting institutional resource mobilization, donor stewardship, and community engagement initiatives.

Qualifications & Experience

- Educational Background: A Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Public Relations, Marketing, Fundraising, or a related field.
- Professional Experience: A minimum of three (3) years of successful experience in development and fundraising for recognized public institutions.
- Sector Knowledge: Demonstrated knowledge of community engagement, donor stewardship, and institutional relevance within the TVET or broader post-school education and training sector.

Eligibility Criteria: A South African citizen or a company incorporated under South African law; must be registered and in good standing with the South African Revenue Service (SARS); must have previously donated a significant value of movable and/or immovable assets to the institution or sector; must not be under investigation for money-related transactions or financial misconduct; must not be under administration, insolvency, or business rescue proceedings; and must not have a conflict of interest with the College or be conducting any business with the College.

The candidate must reside within a reasonable distance from the College (within the Mopani District). This ensures they reflect the knowledge and interests of the surrounding communities while minimizing travel and accommodation costs related to Council and committee meetings.

How to Apply: Applications and nominations must be submitted using the official nomination and declaration of interest forms obtainable from the Mopani TVET College website (www.mopanicollege.edu.za) or on request from Mrs. ME Mokoape at 015 781 5721/25. Applications must be accompanied by a detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV), certified copies of qualifications and a certified copy of the applicant's Identity Document (ID), not older than three (3) months.

Written nominations may be sent/delivered to the office of the Principal: Mopani TVET College, Private Bag X01024, Phalaborwa, 1390 or hand delivered at Mopani TVET College, Corporate Office, Corner Combretum & Haarlem Street, Phalaborwa, 1390.

The College reserves the right to verify all information provided in the applicant's CV and may invite shortlisted applicants for an interview. Successful applicant will be formally notified once the appointment process has been finalized by the Department.

Closing Date: Friday, 10 July 2026, before 12:00.

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