

# Vuk'uzenzele

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## Support for students

Allison Cooper

**G**overnment remains committed to ensuring that deserving students have financial support to continue with their studies.

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, says government is firmly committed to providing fee-free higher education support to students from working and poor backgrounds, while putting a mechanism in place to support students from the 'missing middle' income bracket.

He adds the department and universities have agreed that fee increases for 2021 will be affordable but will still ensure universities remain sustainable.

### NSFAS shortfall addressed

A shortfall in funding for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) for 2021 meant NSFAS was unable to communicate funding decisions to institutions and students entering public



universities for the first time. The Minister says funding has been reprioritised from the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET)

budget to ensure all deserving NSFAS-qualifying students receive funding support for 2021.

"NSFAS will be able to re-

lease funding decisions, and the registration process at public universities can continue as planned.

"No NSFAS-qualifying stu-

dents have been affected by these delays, as universities had agreed to extend the registration period to ensure that students without funding decisions would not be prevented from accessing a place that they qualify for."

He explains that NSFAS is working hard to finalise appeals so that students are not prevented from registering in time, and continuing students who meet the qualifying criteria have already been allowed to register.

NSFAS funding is provided primarily for students completing a first undergraduate qualification.

"In the past, NSFAS provided funding for some limited second qualifications in key areas. Students who are already funded on these programmes will be able to continue as long as they meet the academic criteria," says the Minister.

However, there is no funding available for new entrants on second or postgraduate qualifications.

"We will engage further

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## linkokheli zemveli ziphambili kwimizamo yokubuyisela kwimeko yesiqhelo

**K**wezi nyanga zimbala zidlulileyo, kuye kwafune ka siginye nokuba kuya-kra kra xa iinkosi ezimbini ezi hlonitshwayo kwilizwe lethu ziye zasutya ku-kufa.

Kutsha nje abantu bakwaZulu babeke kwikhaya lokugqibela uKumkani u-Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu olawule kangangesiqingatha senkulungwane. Ngenyanga yoMqungu, aBapedi bangcwabe uKgoshikgolo Thulare Thulare III, osutywe kuku-fa kungekapheli nonyaka emva kokubekwa kwakhe esihlalweni.

Ngokudlula kwabo emhlabeni, siphulukene neentshatsheli zolondolozo lwamafa ethu, kwaye sihlonipha abagcini beembali zabantu babo.

Kwango xesha, ba-bengabdlali bendima ebalulekileyo kuphuhliso lwasemaphandleni, kwaye babezinikele kwiinkqubo zokuqhube ukuphakamisa iimeko ezibonakalayo za-bantu babo.

Ngokufika kolawulo lwentando yesinanzi ngonyaka we-1994, yayiyeyona nto iphambili kurhulumente omtsha ukubuyisela isidima nokuba semthethweni kobunkkheli bemveli ngo-kuhambela nomthetho wemveli namasiko kwaye kuxhomekeke kuMgaqosiseko weRiphabhlikhi.

Iziko lobunkokheli bemveli liyaqhube ka nokudlala indi-ma ebalulekileyo kubomi bezigidi zabantu kwilizwe lethu liphela, ingakumbi emaphandleni. Iinkokheli zemveli zixhasa kwaye zi-qhuba uphuhliso kwiindawo zabo.

Kutsha nje, ndiye ndafuma-



na ithuba lokuthatha inxaxheba kwingxoxo mpikiswano kuvulo lweNdlu yeeNkokheli zeMveli yeSizwe, ebikhathazwa ziingxaki ezinzima ejijamelene nelizwe ngoku.

Eyona nto yayihla ziya kakhulu kuthethathethwano olomeleleyo yayikukuba iinkokheli zemveli zinombulolo ongazenzisiyo ngeemeko ezinzima zoqoqosho ejijamelenelizwe lethu, kwaye zifuna ukuba yinxalenye yojukongana nemiceli mnjeni emininzi yokungafumani uphuhliso kunye nentlu-phiko kwiindawo zabo.

Ndisoloko ndisitsho ukuba ukubuyela kwethu kuqo-qosho emva kobhubhane wentsholongwane i-Corona kufuneka kubandakanye wonke umntu, kwaye akukho mntu ekufuneka ashayeke ngasemva.

Impumelelo yesiCwangci-so soKwakha ngoKutsha noKuvuselelwkoQoqosho ixhomekeke ekubumbeni ubudlelwane obuluqilima phakathi kungekuphela ku-karhulumente, amashishini kunye nabasebenzi, kodwa

kunye neenkokheli zemveli kunye nolunye ulwakhiwo loluntu.

Abakutsho ngokuphindaphinda kwingxoxo-mpikiswano kutsha nje kukuba abafuni kuxhomekeka kwi-zibonelelo okanye kuluntu lwabo ukuba luuhale lujonge kurhulumente ngoncedo lwezezimali.

Bafuna ukubonelelwagenkxaso eyimfuneko, uqequeso kunye nemeko efanelekileyo yokuvumela uluntu lwasemaphandleni ukuba luzimele.

Bafuna ukuvala iyantlu-kwano phakathi kwasezido-lophini nasemaphandleni ekufikeleleni kwiinkonzo zi-karhulumente nakwizixhobo zecandelo labucala.

Into abangathanda ukuyibona kukuba iindawo zasemaphandleni zibe ngamaziko emisebenzi yezoqo-qosho, amashishini kunye namathuba engqesho. Oku kubonisa iminqweno ye-Modeli yoPhuhliso yeSithili (i-DDM), neyasungulwa ngowama-2019.

Iinkokheli zemveli zikwi-

meko efanelekileyo yokuqini-sekisa ukuba izicwangciso zezithili ziyahambelana kwaye ziyaphendula kwii-mfuno zokwenene zoluntu kwaye zibonakalisa ubunya-ni bobomi obuphilwa emaphandleni.

Njengokuba i-DDM ixhasa iinkqubo zalapha ekhaya ezi-jolise kwiimfuno, ukomelela kunye namathuba kwiindawo ezithile, iinkokheli zemveli ziye zangenele-la kwindlela yabo kuphuhliso loqoqosho lwasekhaya.

Baqulunqe iSicwangciso esikhulu se-InvestRural, eyasungulwa eMntla Ntshona kwinyanga ephelileyo. Kuyakhuthaza kakhulu ukuba iinkokheli zemveli ziye zaxhasa esi sicwangciso kwaye zifuna ukusebenzisa-na noorhulumente basekha-ya ukuqinisekisa ukuba siyimpumelelo.

Ngexesha lengxoxo kwi-Ndlu yeeNkokheli zeMveli yeSizwe kwacetyiswa ukuba eyona mpumelelo ipham-bili kwinkqubo yoTyalo-mali lwaseMaphandleni kukuba imibutho yemveli iyaqequesha, yomelezwe kwaye ixhotyiswe.

Abathathi-nxaxheba abaninzi bazichaza izicwangciso zoqoqosho ese le zikwisisaga esiphambili sophuhliso. Olu luhlu lususela kwiiprojekthi zezolimo ukuya kuhlolokwemveliso ezivela kwizilwanya-na nezityalo ezohlukeneyo ukuya ekudaleni amandla amatsha ombane.

Okubonakalayo kukuba iziko lobunkokheli bemveli liyaiyiqonda into yokuba ukuleqeshelwa umsebenzi wobugcisa kubalulekile ku-shishino lwaseMaphandleni ngohlobo lwa mashishini amancinci, aphakathi kunye

nookopolotyi ukuze babe yinxalenye yoqoqosho olu-phambili.

Iinkokheli zemveli ezithethileyo ziveze umbono wazo 'weenkosi eziphuhlisy', abangaziboni njengabagci-ni bamafa emveli kuphela kodwa nanjengabaqhube bempumelelo yezoqoqosho nenqubela phambili. Ba-chonge iiprojekthi ezinanzi kunye namathuba ezoqo-qosho azakudala imisebenzi kwaye aphucle ubomi kwii-ndawo eziemaphandleni.

Iinkokheli zemveli zikwvakalisile ukuzimisela kwazo ukuthatha inxaxheba ebonalayo kwinkqubo yokubuyiselwa komhlaba. Ukusukela ngowama-2018, iinkokheli zemveli zenze malunga ne-1 500 000 yeehektare zomhlaba wabahlali ukuba ufumane uphuhliso, kwaye kuyat-henjwa ukuba oku kuza kwa-nada kwixesha elizayo.

Ukuphuhlisa iqhinga elilungelelanisiweyo nelizinzi-leyo, sivumelene ngoku-bamba iNgqungquthela yoMhlaba kaMongameli kuy-nyaka olandelayo. Oku kuza kuxoxwa ngemiba enzima malunga nokubuyiselwa komhlaba kunye nefuthe lawo kumhlaba wabahlali, uninzi lwawo usezilalini.

Imo yengxoxo-mpikiswano kwiNdlu kaZwelonke yayi-yimbonakalo efanelekileyo yemeko apho ukubuyise-lwa koqoqosho kubaluleke kakhulu phakathi kwe-ningqwalasela yethu. Kwa-ngaxeshanye ibingumqo-ndiso othembisayo wokuba iinkokheli zemveli ziyayi-xabisa indima yazo yokuba yinxalenye yomzamo woku-lungisa imeko yesizwe ngo-kusebenza kunye nokwenza izinto ezintsha.

Elona lifa lilungileyo leenkoheli ezinkulu ku-kuba imbewu yophuhliso abayityalayo ngexesha layo lokukhula, ikhula ibe yimithi enamandla ekhusela igqume uluntu lwabo kwizizuku-lwana ezizayo ukuze sihlume.

Njengokuba sisebenza kunye njengelizwe ukwakha kwakhona uqoqosho lwethu, sizakuqhube ngokuthembela kwinkxaso yeziko lobunkokheli bemveli, eliyinxalenye engenakuchazwa yexesha lethu elidlulileyo, elangoku kunye nekamva lethu. ❶

# Get help for your child

**IT'S NOT ONLY ADULTS** who suffer from depression, children can experience it too.

## Silusapho Nyanda

Parents with depressed children must not despair. While depression is a serious mental health condition, it is curable with the right treatment.

The mood disorder may cause distress and is indicated by a persistent feeling of sadness or a loss of interest in life that leads to behavioural and physical symptoms.

According to clinical psychologist Dr Marcia Zikhali from the Gauteng Department of Social Development, it is normal to feel sad sometimes.

Depression is when one feels sad most of the time, which can lead to suicidal thoughts.

"Depression can be triggered by a medical illness, stressful or traumatic events, substance use or the loss of an important person," she says.

It affects adults and children differently. While a child will often withdraw from the adults in their life, they continue to socialise with their close friends.

A depressed teenager may experience changes in sleeping patterns and will, at times, express their feelings through anger and irritability.

"Although some children may continue to do reasonably well in structured environments, most children with significant depression will show a noticeable change in social activities, a loss of interest in school, poor academic performance or a change in



appearance.

"Children may also start using drugs or alcohol, especially if they are over the age of 12," says Dr Zikhali.

There are many signs of depression in children, some of which are:

- Irritability, tantrums or excessive aggression or anger.
- Self-isolation.
- Decreased interest in

favourite activities.

- Low self-esteem.
- Changes in appetite.
- Difficulty concentrating.
- Low energy levels.
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt.

Parents can help their children by talking to them about what is happening in their life.

"Establish open communication before there are any

concerns. Then, if concerns arise, they will be comfortable talking to you about what's going on.

"Young children often have difficulty putting feelings into words and may feel ashamed or embarrassed about depression. Parents should convey their concerns and ask questions in a loving, supportive way," says Dr Zikhali.

Parents can seek help from a mental health professional, who can determine the best treatment for the child. Contact your local clinic or hospital or the South African Depression and Anxiety Group at **0800 456 789** or send a WhatsApp to **076 882 2775**. For suicide emergencies, call **0800 567 567**.

## Nceda Usindise Ubomi

### Allison Cooper

Umbutho i-Sunflower Fund imemelela abemi boMzantsi Afrika ukuba banyuse inani lwabantu abanikezela ngeeseli zegazi kwintlanga ezohlukeneyo ukusindisa ubomi babantwana.

NgokukaPalesa Mokomele, intloko kwicandelo lezenteengiso kunye noqhagamshelwano ye-Sunflower Fund, amawaka ezigulana afunyaniswa enezifo ezinxulumene negazi minyaka le.

Kwixesha elidlulileyo, eziphumo bezisoloko ziyingozi. Namhlanje, uqhaqho lokufakelwa kweeseli zegazi kunokuba lunyangolu-nokusindisa ubomi njengoko kususwa iiseli ezingalunga-nga ze kufakwe ezo zisempilweni.

Okulusizi kukuba, uninzi lwabantu obelunokuxhamla kule nkqubo alulufumanu unyangoluyimfuneko kuba ukufumana umnikeli ono-

hloba olufanayo lwethisiyu kunzima.

"Izigulana ezingengobelenzu zisengxakini ngenxa yenani eliphantsi labanikeli ababhalisiweyo abavela kumaqela abantsundu, abebala kunye namaNdiya," utshilo uMokomele.

### Ithuba lesibini ebomini

Ubomi bukaZyaan Makda (19) baba nguqulukubhode emva kokufunyaniswa ukuba une-heterozygote haemoglobinopathy, isifo segazi esixhalabisa ubomi nesinyangekiyo, ngo-2007.

Elona thuba lakhe lokusinda yayikukufumana umnikeli ngegazi, kodwa zange afumane umntu onokumenzela oko. Ngenxa yoko, kwafuneke afumane ukuthiwa igazi rhoqo emva kweeveki ezimbini.

"Imithambo esezandleni zam yafandaze ndafakwa istishi segazi esifubeni. Ndandidinwa rhoqo, ndakhu-



Ubomi bukaZyaan Makda batshintsha sibulela ngoncedo alufumana kumnikeli.

tshwa inyongo yam kunye namatye enyongo kwaye ndanesifo sedlala elingasebenzi kakuhle. Ndandisolo ndingayi esikolweni ngenxa yonyango kwaye ndandingakwazi ukuthatha inxaxheba kwezemidlalo. Ukuchitha ixesha elide esibhedlele kwaba nzima kakhulu," utshilo.

Imeko kaMakda yabangela ukulahlekelwa ziinkumbulo kunye nokuxhuzula kwaye kwafuneka ukuba athathe iminyaka emithathu enganayo esikolweni. Nangona wa-

yenezi ngxaki, wahlala enethemba. UMakda ekuggibeleni wamfumana umnikeli, kodwa uhambo lwakhe lokuya empilweni lwaluse-lude kakhulu ukuphela. Kwafuneka enziwe uqhaqho ebuchotsheni ukuze kususwe izivubeko ezaye zisengqondweni yakhe.

"Ngoku ndineminyaka emithathu emva kokwenza uqhaqho kwaye ndiphila ubomi endandingazange ndabucinga ukuba buno-kwenzeka, ndibulela ngese-nzo esimangalisayo somni-

keli wam waseJamani sobuntu nobubele."

### Yiba lithemba lomntu

UNaledi Senamela (14) kwafunyanwa ukuba une-leukaemia (umhlaza wegazi) kuCanzibe ka-2020. Ujoyina izigulana ezingenakubalwa ezifuna umnikeli ofanayo.

"Oko ndafunyanwa ndinesi sifo, andikwazanga ukuqhuba kakuhle esikolweni. Andikwazi ukudlala ezemidlalo okanye ndenze izinto ebendizithanda," utshilo uSenamela, ophupha ngokuba ngugqirha.

Abanikeli abanomdlabaphakathi kweminyaka eli-18 nama-55 banokunceda uSenamela nabanye abanizni abafuna umnikeli ngokubhalisa kwiwebhusayithi ye-Sunflower Fund.

Okufunekayo nje kukwenza uvavanyo olwenziwa ngesiqwenga somqaphu kunye nemizuzu embalwa yexesa lakho. Cela ikiti yomqaphu wovavanyo kwi-Sunflower Fund ngokundwendwela u-www.sunflowerfund.org okanye utsalele umnxeba ku-0800 12 10 82.