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| MEMORANDUM FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE |

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 983**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 17/03/2023**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 10 OF 2023**

**Ms R N Komane (EFF) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation:**

Following the appeals process of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), (a) what is the total number of students who have been rejected by NSFAS who have appealed and (b) how does he ensure that these are legitimate rejections, noting the historical consistent mistakes by NSFAS of incorrectly rejecting deserving students? **NW1101E**

**REPLY:**

(a) 126 030 appeals were received from the rejected applications.

(b) To assess funding eligibility NSFAS is reliant of third parties such as:

* Department of Home Affairs (DHA) – to confirm applicants’ identity and parental information,
* South Africa Social Security Agency (SASSA) – SASSA beneficiaries are automatically funded.
* South African Revenue Services (SARS) – to confirm household income, and others such as credit bureaus.