

Allegations: Key Questions to the NSFAS Administrator

1. In terms of the Public Finance Management Act 1999 and Treasury Regulations; NSFAS is supposed to have the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board which plays an oversight and independent role of the entity. Why was the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board (ARC) dissolved and never re-instituted even after Parliament instructed NSFAS to reinstitute it?
2. In the absence of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) who was playing the oversight role at NSFAS?
3. The Government Gazette Vol 638 No 41851 dated 21 August 2018 and Government Gazette No: 42662 Vol.650 dated 22 August 2019 appointed the Administrator for NSFAS as at 21st August 2019 to 20th August 2020. What prompted you to change your title "Administrator" as per the Government Gazette to that of an "Executive Administrator"?
4. During your two terms of Administration, how is the overall performance of NSFAS? Has the performance of NSFAS improved or regressed since your term of administration?
5. Is the Planning Process of NSFAS aligned to the Budgeting Process?
6. Do you think you acted ethically and within corporate governance standards when you employed the Internal auditor from Ernest and Young, (Ms Thaaniya Isaacs), who used to provide internal audit services on behalf of NSFAS? Do you think you also acted ethically when you appointed one of your advisors (Ms Sibongile Mncwabe) into the structures of NSFAS while her initial appointment was linked to your terms of reference as an Administrator of NSFAS?
7. You had a press conference when employees were arrested; allegedly for fraud. How many NSFAS employees were convicted after the much-publicised arrests and commentary by NSFAS?
8. How much was stolen by each arrested employee. Please specify the exact amount?

9. The President appoints the Director-General of any government department as recommended by the Minister. Such an official assumes the overall accountability, monitoring and evaluation of the department including its public entities. All the administration processes, the monitoring and evaluation of NSFAS as a public entity will be received by the DG, which he routes to the Minister; however, this process is not being practiced by NSFAS. What is the reason for this? Why would some documents skip this process and be submitted directly to the Minister without following this process?
10. Was there an approved organogram when you started at NSFAS? If so, when was it approved and by whom? Did the institution undergo any restructuring processes and other reforms? If so, did NSFAS headcount increase? If so, by what percentage? What was the cost to the taxpayers? Did this impact the existing employees? Was this consulted with all relevant parties including employees and the trade unions?
11. Was it a coincidence that during the first term of Administration (2018 - 2019), only 1 out of 8 Technical Team appointed to support the Administrator happens to black? If so, what were the reasons for her suspension, if she was appointed as an advisor, as opposed to an employee of NSFAS?
12. In Parliament you, together with the Department of Higher Education, responded to the VBS question that money was paid to them prior to them being put under curatorship. Please specify how much money was paid to VBS and the exact date on which it was paid?
13. In the Sunday independent you indicated that the forensic led to evidence of fraud and corruption. Please indicate how many employees have thus far been charged, suspended and dismissed for fraud and corruption? (Please specify numbers for fraud and corruption separately).
14. How many cases have been referred to the CCMA during the Administration period, and how many of these were won by the employer? How many employees have been granted exit packages? What is the cost of this?

15. The 2018/19 Annual Report reflects R7.5bn irregular expenditure. Would you please specify how much of this amount was allocated to the previous Board that is (April 2018 to July 2018) and how much was attributable to your tenure as Administrator during your first term, which is (August 2018 to 31 March 2019).
16. What was the scope of the forensic investigation, what was the cost of the forensic audit, how much has been recovered so far and what was the return on investment in the forensic audit?
17. How many service providers and deployees have been employed during your tenure to assume the same roles done by employees of NSFAS? How many were employed and converted as employees of NSFAS after their contracts expired?
18. NSFAS spends more money on travel and accommodation. Millions of Rand's are paid to the travel agency for travelling. Can you provide a comparative summary of the money spent on this item prior to Administration and during the Administration, with a breakdown and reasons for variance?
19. The Sunday Independent (<https://www.pressreader.com/south-africa/the-sunday-independent/20200614/281479278657400>) states that there are 39 employees who are either targeted, dismissed or suspended during your tenure. Please indicate if this number of employees are systematically phased out and how does this impact on funding decisions and response times for appeals. What is the cost of exit packages, CCMA cases, Labour court rulings and the cost of hiring external chairpersons for internal disciplinary hearings?
20. Were any friends, former colleagues and/or family of you and your wife appointed at NSFAS during your tenure? If so, were they all appointed into existing vacancies? Did they apply for these positions? If not, did you provide their CVs to NSFAS and/or introduce their names to HR or line managers? Were they appointed through the existing recruitment process?