

News from ISFAP, December 2021

Dear funding partners and friends of ISFAP,

The traditional year-end message reviews the past calendar year and gives a glimpse into expectations for the next one. For the CEO of an organisation like the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme, this is a particularly pleasant task, because the smiles of our current students illustrate the effects that a bursary programme can have on promising young people. We are especially proud of those completing their degrees this year, while we share in the excitement of those who are continuing their studies in 2022 with the support of our team and, most importantly, our funders.

Our team focuses on doing two things well: ensuring that our existing bursary holders are supported in the 'wrap-around way' that we promise, while also working to secure more funders and sufficient funding from our existing donors. The more companies that support our work, the more students can be assisted to reach their study goals and complete their degrees. In turn, the contributions of our students who fill positions in the scarce skills occupations of the South African economy make us all stronger, together.

In that spirit we welcome Weir Minerals SA as a new funder for ISFAP bursaries. 'Skills development is a core value at Weir Minerals and we are proud of our recent partnership with ISFAP, an organisation that aims to bridge the South African skills gap through education funding to South African university students from poor and middle-income families. As Weir Minerals, this vision is aligned to our global sustainability roadmap of fostering community/national partnerships in all the countries we operate,' comments Tshidi Anya, Regional HR Director: Africa & Middle East.

We feel privileged to have the opportunity to make a contribution to support some students in the 'missing middle' to reach their study goals. We include in this newsletter a glimpse of their sentiments in some testimonials. There is also some other news in brief.

On behalf of the whole ISFAP team and our many supported students: thank you to you all for your support. Our very best wishes to you for a healthy, happy and fulfilling 2022.

Morné Du Toit, CEO of ISFAP



The whole ISFAP team in informal dress and exercising mood. We went on a hike together near Modderfontein early in August

Two new Board members

Ms Portia Maluleke and **Mr Simon Trupp** were appointed as non-executive board members of ISFAP with effect from 10 November 2021. 'I am delighted that we will have the wise and valuable inputs of Ms Portia Maluleke and Mr Simon Trupp at our Board level,' said Sizwe Nxasana, the Chairman of the ISFAP Board.

Ms Maluleke replaces Dr Alewyn Burger, who has retired. 'I am ecstatic about serving on the ISFAP Board, because I am passionate about education. Our beloved Tata Madiba identified education as a powerful weapon that can change the world. I feel so privileged to play a role in increasing access to tertiary education and increasing the critical skills base that our country so desperately needs.' Ms Maluleke is currently employed as the chief IT governance and risk officer for a leading telecommunications company.



Simon Trupp's long association with ISFAP started when he played an important role in its creation. After meeting with Mr Sizwe Nxasana in 2016, he helped to develop a student funding blueprint and then project-managed the Ministerial Task Team looking into funding solutions for the students who come from 'missing middle' households. After a successful Cabinet presentation by Sizwe Nxasana, Simon and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme was launched in 2016 under the umbrella of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA.) In helping grow and transform this initiative into a fully-fledged stand-alone institution, Simon served together with Chantyl Mulder as co-CEO until September 2021, when Morné du Toit was appointed as the new CEO.

Mr Trupp said: 'It has been a wonderful journey working with ISFAP operationally so far, and I'm thrilled to continue to play a part assisting with the governance and strategy setting for ISFAP as a non-executive but committed board member. I'll continue to my utmost to add value.'

Student testimonials

Quality Mboweni, final year Industrial Engineering student at Stellenbosch University, comments:

'I am planning to work and am exploring if I can do my masters while working. ISFAP took care of all the finances, and the wrap-around support gave me academic support in all dimensions. It equipped me with not only the coping skills for my studies, but also with skills needed in the world of work.'

'With all the support I received from ISFAP, I could to build myself into be the person I am and am still becoming.'



Ethan Mackay, one of the fifth-year medical students at UCT, says:

'I trust that you are well and are enjoying the beginning of the festive season. I extend my gratitude to you and the ISFAP team. I really could not have gotten through this year without you all. The support that the

team is always willing to give reminds me to push on and strive to do the best I can while studying for this degree. I appreciate the fact that the finance aspect is handled by the team and honestly, it has been seamless. I have no complaints. I appreciate how the team has given me the relief of knowing that everything is sorted!

'I will hopefully be heading home later this year. I look forward to seeing the team next year, for my FINAL year as a medical student and cannot wait to see the next batch of students who are blessed to be with you guys.'



Caitlin Heidbreder, Civil Engineering student at Stellenbosch University comments:

'I am proud that I have successfully completed my undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering at Stellenbosch University. I thank everyone who supported me along the way. It was definitely not an easy ride, but I am truly thankful and grateful for the lessons and skills that I have learned along the way.'

'Thank you to ISFAP for blessing me with an opportunity of a lifetime. I will eternally be thankful for the support and skills that ISFAP has provided me with over the course of my degree.'

'I am proud to say that I achieved a 75% aggregate for my final year project involving the investigation and rehabilitation of an automated sediment settling tube for grain size analysis, as well as a 77% aggregate for my Advanced Design project, where I completed a detailed design for a breakwater extension for the Mossel Bay Harbour. I am incredibly excited to see what my future holds, and I look forward to pursuing my MEng degree in Hydraulic Structures and River Hydraulics in 2022.'

Sinazo Vanqa, another medical student at UCT, added her testimonial in this YouTube video on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjIqiHNMrUk>



[Webinar on funding the missing middle now available on YouTube](#)

On 30 November 2021 ISFAP presented a live webinar on the topic of 'Funding the Missing Middle'. A recording of that webinar is now available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmqdZbgxdww>

If you want to become a funding partner or have other fundraising and strategy issues to discuss with us, do contact Shane Perrier, Senior Executive on sperrier@isfap.org.za or partners@isfap.org.za.

IKUSASA STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMME FOUNDATION NPC
Company Registration Number: 2016/533748/08

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 17 Fricker Road | Illovo | Sandton | 2196
POSTAL ADDRESS: Private Bag X32 | Northlands | 2116
PHONE NUMBER: 087 805 8500 | WEBSITE: <https://www.isfap.org.za>
E-MAIL FOR FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS: partners@isfap.org.za

