

Press Release
Immediate Release

Changing the World Through Education: ISFAP's Journey Is Just Beginning

As South Africa commemorates Youth Month under the theme *"Skills for the Changing World – Empowering Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation"*, the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) is calling on stakeholders across sectors to join its mission to empower the country's youth through education.

Since 2017, ISFAP has supported nearly 1,500 graduates, investing over R2 billion in students from poor and missing middle backgrounds. The organisation's comprehensive model provides not only financial aid but also critical psycho-social support, including mental health services, academic assistance, and life skills development through its Wrap-Around Support programme.

"Reaching this milestone has required unwavering commitment from our students, funders, and the dedicated ISFAP team. Together, we've empowered 1,472 families with the tools to break the cycle of poverty," said Werner Abrahams, CEO of ISFAP.

ISFAP beneficiaries have primarily entered high-demand fields such as Engineering (361), Accounting (351), and Medicine (312), directly supporting South Africa's critical skills agenda. Despite the academic intensity of these programmes, ISFAP's holistic approach has achieved an 85% annual throughput rate demonstrating the power of investing in both financial and emotional support.

However, the need remains vast. "We know the demand far exceeds what one organisation can meet," Abrahams added. Thousands of talented South Africans are still being left behind due to resource constraints.

"As we work to capacitate more young South Africans to become skilled contributors to society, we also wish to invite the private sector, bursary funds, philanthropic organisations, and individuals to investment in the co-creation of inclusive, sustainable solutions that empower the next generation." Abrahams concluded.

"We're not just celebrating graduate or numbers we are celebration our brave act of *"Ukuphosa itshe esivivaneni"* is a Zulu proverb that translates *"to throw a stone on the cairn. Which means to make a personal contribution, regardless of how small, to a larger, shared cause or effort. For us this bravery signifies that everyone can participate and contribute to a collective goal, building something greater together."* Abrahams concluded.

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About ISFAP:

The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme Foundation NPC (ISFAP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to funding and supporting the higher education of South Africa's missing middle students. Established in 2017, ISFAP partners with various universities and private sector entities to ensure that students in need can access and succeed in higher education, contributing to the nation's economic development.

Join the Movement

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