

**merSETA**  
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING  
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

**To:** All Media

**Attention:** News Editors/ Manufacturing and Engineering Reporters

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Johannesburg, 24 March 2023**

Three Hundred (300) students from the “missing” middle are set to benefit from a collaboration between the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

With the constant financial struggles faced by students classified as “missing middle”, leading to their inability to afford higher education, the merSETA has undertaken to collaborate with NSFAS to offer support to these students, through the provision of funding, which will be administered by NSFAS. The funding is for a total amount of **R141.75 million**.

Through this collaboration, 300 students from the “missing middle” will be supported to pursue higher education studies. The focus of the studies will be on mer-sector specific programmes, at 26 (twenty-six) of the public universities in the country, over a three-year period, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025.

To this effect, the merSETA and NSFAS will sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) on Monday, 27 March 2023.


**Ends**

**Issued by the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA).**

**For more information, please contact Ms Temana Masekela on 0768926619.**

**merSETA Head Office**  
Metropolitan Park Block C, 8 Hillside Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, 2193

PO Box 61826, Marshalltown 2107  
Tell: 010 219 3000

 [www.merseta.org.za](http://www.merseta.org.za)

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