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Our Ref:

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## **PRESS STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO READINESS OF STUDENTS TO USE THE ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM**

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019 THAT STUDENTS APPLYING FOR STUDY LOAN SHOULD NOW USE THE ONLINE APPLICATION [WWW.SLAS.GOV.SZ](http://WWW.SLAS.GOV.SZ) THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS CALLS INDICATING DIFFICULTIES APPLICANTS ARE FACING IN NAVIGATING THROUGH THE ONLINE SYSTEM.

THIS PRESS STATEMENT IS TO ALLAY ANY FEARS THAT THERE COULD BE APPLICANTS WHO WILL BE LEFT BEHIND. WE TAKE NOTE THAT SOME APPLICANTS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO INTERNET FACILITIES AND THAT SOME ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING ONLINE APPLICATIONS AS THEY MAY BE DOING THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME. WE THEREFORE HAVE CONSIDERED THIS AND WISH TO INFORM PARENTS AND STUDENTS THAT APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS USING THE PAPER BASED APPLICATION SYSTEM MAY DO SO. THESE FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY SCHOLARSHIP UNIT FIRST FLOOR MBABANE AND ONCE SUBMITTED THESE FORMS WILL BE UPLOADED INTO THE ONLINE SYSTEM BY OUR STAFF MEMBERS. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION FORMS IS NOW EXTENDED TO 10 JUNE 2019. FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE OPEN TO USING THE ONLINE SYSTEM THEY ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO DO SO AND WILL BE READY TO RECEIVE QUERIES AND GUIDE THEM ACCORDINGLY THROUGH OUR DEDICATED WHATSAPP NUMBER **7979 4444**. WE WILL SEND CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT AND SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION OF STUDENT APPLICATIONS THROUGH CELL PHONE

NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES PROVIDED WITH THE APPLICATION. ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE CONTACT NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESS FOR EASE OF COMMUNICATION.

ON THE ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN THE MEDIA THAT BOBABE BO SHIFU HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PROCESS, WE WISH TO STATE THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE. ACTUALLY, WHETHER ONLINE OR PAPER BASED THE PROCESS WILL NOT BE COMPLETED WITHOUT FIRM CONCURRENCE OF TRADITIONAL STRUCTURES THAT THE APPLICANT IS KNOWN TO AN UMPHAKATSI. IN THE OFFLINE PAPER BASED SYSTEM THE APPLICANT WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE FORM THROUGH THE NORMAL SYSTEM. IN THE ONLINE SYTEM THE APPLICATION CANNOT BE COMPLETED WITHOUT A CURRENT GRADED TAX NUMBER. GRADED TAX NUMBERS HAVE THE CHIEF CODE AND THE HOLDER IS ASSUMED TO HAVE GONE THROUGH ALL THE NECESSARY VETTING AT UMPHAKATSI LEVEL BEFORE GIVEN THE NUMBER. WE ARE HOWEVER GOING TO MEET WITH THE MINISTRY OF TINKHUNDLA ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS TO SEE HOW WE WILL ENSURE THAT STUDENTS WHO FINALLY GET GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE APPROVED TO BE OF GOOD CHARACTER AND CONDUCT BY THEIR RESPECTIVE CHIEFS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI REMAINS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING EMASWATI TO ATTAIN TERTIARY EDUCATION AND TAKE THE COUNTRY TOWARDS VISION 2022 AND OPEN TO SUGGESTION AND SUPPORT IN THIS REGARD.

**MAKHOSI C. VILAKATI(MP)**

**MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

**THULANI E. MKHALIPHI**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**