

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 17 August 2026

AN UPDATE ON DELAYED STIPEND PAYMENTS FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT LEARNERS

The Free State Development Corporation (FDC) wishes to provide clarity regarding the current delay in stipend payments to participants enrolled in the FDC Skills Development Programme.

As stated by the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr ME Mosola, in a recent radio interview, the FDC is awaiting the release of outstanding funds from the funder before full payments can be disbursed.

Background on the Funding Process - The Skills Development Programme is funded by the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) through two funding agreements managed by the funder. In terms of these agreements, the FDC is required to consolidate all beneficiary information at the end of each month and submit a claim for processing. This procedure occurs on a monthly basis.

Key Status Updates:

1. **Funding Source:** The programme is funded by the UIF through two active agreements.
2. **Claims Process:** Monthly claims are compiled and submitted systematically for processing.
3. **June Tranche:** We are currently awaiting the release of the larger portion of the June funding, which is expected at any time.
4. **July Tranche:** The July claim has already been submitted. July stipends will be paid to LEARNERS as soon as the corresponding funding is received.

Duly constituted in terms of Free State Development Corporation Act 6 of 1995

DIRECTORS:

Dr. N.H Masithela (Chairperson); Ms. T.V Tobias (Deputy Chairperson); Ms. V.F Ramela; Ms. B.F Nakedi;

Ms. M.J Ntshingila; Mr. S. Mndawe; Dr. J.M Laubscher; Dr. M.E Mosola (Acting Chief Executive Officer);

Mr. R.J Montshioa (Company Secretary)

Affected Programmes for June: The outstanding stipends for June relate specifically to learners enrolled in the following learnerships:

- Water and Wastewater Reticulation
- Plumbing
- Construction Roadworks
- Renewable Energy

Please note that payments disbursed to date to other learners were drawn from a partial tranche received from the funder. The release of the remaining outstanding amount is required to complete payments for all remaining learners.

The FDC is working tirelessly and remains in continuous engagement with the funder to urgently expedite the release of these funds.

We sincerely apologize to all affected learners for the inconvenience and anxiety caused by this delay. The FDC remains fully committed to the success of the Skills Development Programme and to supporting all participants.

A further update will be issued as soon as payments have been processed. In the interim, LEARNERS may direct inquiries to the FDC Skills Development Office through their respective project coordinators.

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The End.

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