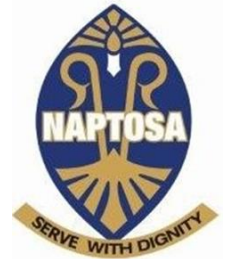


NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



SERVING EDUCATION SINCE 1904

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ELRC COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT 1/2020: AGE AND COMORBIDITIES

The position of education sector workers who are at higher risk of serious complications and illnesses from the COVID-19 virus, due to age and certain medical conditions, has been a matter of debate and uncertainty since the start of the national lockdown.

From the earliest interaction with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) on the re-opening of schools, NAPTOSA demanded that the Department draft policy to clarify its position on this matter. At some stage, the Department produced a guideline document which, in the absence of clarity on its status, failed to bring certainty. The guidelines were conveyed to members in National News Flash 18 of 2020. In an attempt to force the DBE to produce such policy, NAPTOSA even indicated that it would advise its members to regard the guidelines as departmental policy (see National News Flash 20 of 2020).

Last week, the Department eventually approached the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC) to negotiate a collective agreement on the matter. Because of the importance to members, the unions to the ELRC lent their full support and weight to the discussions, culminating in Collective Agreement 1/2020. A copy of the Collective Agreement will be posted under “What’s New” on the main page of the NAPTOSA website.

Please note that the Collective Agreement replaces what is contained in National News Flash 18 of 2020. Members over the age of 60 and members who are of the opinion that their medical conditions fall within the identified comorbidity categories, are advised to familiarise themselves with the contents of CA 1/2020 and to follow the provisions contained therein.

BASIL MANUEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR