

TO: The NAPTOSA Representative for the attention of **all NAPTOSA members**

	<p>NAPTOSA Eastern Cape</p> <p>VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.naptosa.org.za Tel: 041-364 0399 Fax 041-364 0259 e-mail <i>NEWS FLASH</i> infocape@naptosa.org.za</p> <p>15 March 2018 NF 8/2018</p>	
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ASSAULT ON EDUCATORS

NAPTOSA Eastern Cape strongly condemns any form of abuse of learners by educators, in whose care they have been entrusted.

There is, however, another stark reality in many schools that stakeholders in education have to condemn in the strongest terms possible, namely the assault of educators by learners. The video clip currently doing the rounds, and on which the MEC of Education of Gauteng commented and took action, confirms this reality. This assault of an educator by a learner in Gauteng is not an isolated incident. There are similar incidents almost every week, but most of these are not reported in the media. NAPTOSA has this year received a number of reports of learners who throw chairs at educators, hit them, push them off their chairs, swear and spit at them, and bully and intimidate them. Of growing concern is the fact that these incidents include many primary school learners and educators.

What is not generally acknowledged, and often ignored by the Eastern Cape Department of Education, is that educators have the right to dignity, respect, and more specifically, the right to protection in the workplace.

In terms of legislation, the Employer has a duty to protect employees.

NAPTOSA Eastern Cape is dismayed at the lack of support rendered to schools and individual educators where abusive and aggressive learners have been identified, where learners have assaulted educators or where teaching is continuously disrupted by learners who have no self-discipline and little or no respect for any authority.

The feedback that NAPTOSA receives from its members is that a learner who returns to class after suspension, is often regarded by some fellow learners as a hero, while the educator continues to feel humiliated. The Department walks away, satisfied that they have done their duty.

Educators are expected to teach, to develop the

potential of their learners, to complete a syllabus and assess learners on a regular basis. In some schools this is simply not possible. Some experienced educators with impeccable service records are becoming disillusioned by what is happening in the classroom. Apart from the administrative burden placed on them by the Department, they are having to cope with ill-disciplined learners. As a result of unrelenting negative pressure, and with no or very little direction or support from the Department on how to deal with ill-disciplined learners, some good, hardworking educators, rather resign or retire early.

The education system in South Africa will not excel if the authorities, parents and society at large do not resolve to assist schools, educators and learners to deal with the scourge of disrespect and violent behaviour slowly taking over an increasing number of schools.

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU'RE SAFETY AS AN EDUCATOR IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE EMPLOYER (DBE)

- NO
- SOMETIMES
- Yes

PLEASE email your response to

antona@naptosa.org.za before 20 March 2018.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SALARY NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESUME ON THE 22ND OF MARCH 2018

LP. Mbinda

PCEO