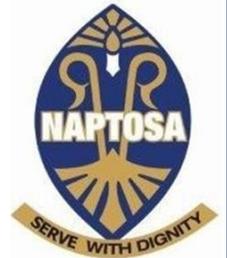


NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



SERVING EDUCATION SINCE 1904

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25 January 2023

2022 National Senior Certificate Results – Overcoming The Odds

The 2022 matriculants were definitely a force to be reckoned with. They are the true definition of resilience and fortitude. Their FET phase started on a difficult note with the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions, followed by the adjustments to a new normal, rotational learning, revised ATP's, natural disasters due to climate change, civil unrest, loadshedding and more. After every possible challenge projected on their path, they still came out shining in the end. This group has shown us that failure is a state of mind and not a state of being.

This could however not have happened without the hard work of our dedicated teachers and education support staff. They have motivated, persevered, and encouraged learners regardless of the negativity from community members and horrific working conditions experienced by many.

With a national pass rate of 80.1% and the overall improvement at provincial level, everyone who played a role in achieving triumph over the adversity, deserves to be celebrated.

Raw scores of 47 out of the 66 subjects written were used. This indicates that 71% of the subjects' results are unaltered data. This is indeed a great achievement, attesting that the assessment process was indeed reliable, fair, and valid. This is indeed an indication of a maturing assessment regime.

This year's results have raised the bar. Everyone in the education sector, will have to push harder than ever before, if we want to continue striving towards excellence. This means that we will have to address the many challenges that our learners and teachers experience daily. Infrastructure deficits need to be attended to with a sense of urgency. Addressing overcrowding will result in teachers having the ability to address learners' specific needs in the classroom, during ordinary teaching and learning time, instead of having extra time spent at school, resulting in mentally exhausted learners' and near burnt-out teachers who simply have not had time to rest. These working hours for matric teachers and learners are NOT sustainable. The system needs to protect its most valuable resource, The Teacher.

Our role in education is to offer learners balanced learning opportunities in the five aspects of development, i.e., moral, intellectual, physical, social, and aesthetic as well as to nurture them to be responsible citizens. Ultimately, preparing them well and not just getting them to cram for exams to stroke everyone's egos.

NAPTOSA calls on everyone to support the learners who have not achieved the desired outcomes. We understand that not everyone is academically inclined. All learners need to be encouraged to find their passion and make it their profession.

Life is full of challenges and challenges are opportunities to learn.

'The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts: therefore, guard accordingly, and take care that you entertain no notions unsuitable to virtue and reasonable nature' – Marcus Aurelius

The 2023 Academic Year

Policy must be our guiding light when planning for the year ahead. Educators are professionals and must be trusted to facilitate the teaching and assessment of learners accordingly. Unrealistic expectations of lesson plans 3-4 weeks in advance, as well as formal assessments at the beginning of the term must come to an end. More especially so, if we are expecting our teachers to teach and assess according to the specific needs of the learners. We have learned from experience that the one size fits all approach is not the way to go. Teachers with decision-making authority create the schools that many profess to want. If we want to improve our education system, we need to reduce our classroom sizes and trust our teachers.

We wish everyone all the best for the 2023 academic year as we take on the new year with new energy and new optimism.

Mr BL Manuel

Executive Director