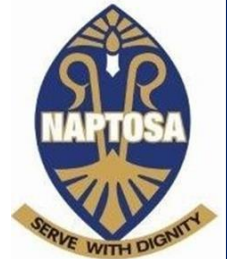


# NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



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NNF 26 of 2023


18 July 2023

## Welcome Back to Term 3

Today is not only the first day of term 3, but also International Mandela Day, which we celebrate under the theme, "It is in your hands". Nelson Mandela, in addressing the scourge of poverty, suffering and deprivation, said: "*It is in your hands to make our world a better one for all, especially the poor, vulnerable and marginalised.*" These profound words are at the heart of our actions during Mandela Month in tackling the intersection between climate change and food security. NAPTOSA embraces the theme wholeheartedly and calls upon members to raise awareness and become active agents against climate change. A changing climate affects everyone, but it is the world's poorest and those in vulnerable situations, who bear the brunt of environmental, economic, and social shocks.

There are number of issues currently dominating the education space:

- 🎧 **The Reading crisis** – NAPTOSA is of the view that we cannot focus on reading skills without writing and speaking skills. The link between reading, writing, and speaking is inseparable. These language skills complement and reinforce one another, forming a cohesive foundation for effective communication. When we read, we absorb vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structures that enrich our writing and expand our speaking abilities. Writing, in turn, allows us to organise our thoughts, leading to clearer and more articulate speech. Meanwhile, regular speaking practice sharpens our oral communication and infuses our writing with naturalness. Together, these skills create a powerful synergy, fostering language proficiency and enabling us to express ourselves with confidence and clarity. Thus, it is important that any reading strategy/plan should infuse all three skills, to enjoy success.
- 🎧 **The National Health Insurance (NHI)** – While we realise that in theory, the bill aims to benefit the masses, we cannot turn a blind eye to the current state of public health institutions. NAPTOSA needs to see how the implementation of this bill will affect public servants in the long run especially the current medical aid benefits. We will keep you informed.
- 🎧 **Two Pot Pension System** – The Draft legislation leans toward the *Defined Contribution* funds, while the GEPF is a *Defined Benefit* scheme. The draft legislation does not touch on the GEPF Act. Neither does it address the impact of withdrawal on the GEPF formula. We will be engaging more on these matters and will keep members informed.

 **Pay Progression** – We are aware that not all provinces are paying the pay progression this month. It is concerning that an agreement that has been in place for many years cannot be implemented timeously. NAPTOSA is looking into this matter.

Keep an eye out for our professional development activities that are currently taking place in all provinces! NAPTOSA's Professional Development Institute (PDI) is currently focusing on Plugged and Unplugged Coding and Robotics with the inclusion of Entrepreneurship, as well as Assessment for Learning, called Demystifying Assessment. For more information, contact our Professional Development Institute: [profdevHO@naptosa.org.za](mailto:profdevHO@naptosa.org.za) .

NAPTOSA wishes all members a fantastic start to the new term! Your dedication and innovation in the realm of education is truly commendable. Here's to a successful and rewarding term ahead!

**Mr BL Manuel**

**Executive Director**