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NAPTOSA HERITAGE DAY MESSAGE 2021

Heritage Day is annually celebrated on 24 September to commemorate the cultural heritage of the many cultures that make up the population of South Africa.

The population of the democratic dispensation in South Africa, today, forms the foundation of many companies, organisations, societies, codes, clubs and the like in our country. Some unfortunately are still out to keep their mono cultural heritage intact. NAPTOSA is proud to be on the other end of the diversity spectrum.

Stepping back to 2006, the old NAPTOSA Federation and six independent unions joined hands to form NAPTOSA the union. This event is so aptly captured in the bottom part of our union's crest where seven lines converge to form a single line pointing to the union's name. Significant is the fact that the Federation and the six unions came with diverse cultural heritages that have successfully been blended into a new NAPTOSA heritage, grounded not only in the heritage commonalities, but equally in the heritage differences.

Heritage is not something static, entombed in the distant past, but living, on which each generation builds and to which they add – hence the term “living heritage”. According to the Department of Arts and Culture “living heritage” includes aspects such as “...cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge system and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships”. The importance of “living heritage” is that it contributes to the promotion of cultural diversity, social cohesion, reconciliation, peace and economic development in our current society because in every community there are living human treasures who possess a high degree of knowledge, skills and history pertaining to different aspects of diverse living heritage.

This is also true for NAPTOSA. What we do today will become heritage for future generations of NAPTOSA members. So, apart from embracing cultural diversity and promoting social cohesion, what does NAPTOSA (and its members) bring to the union's heritage table?

- Professionalism
- Discipline
- Principledness
- Anti-discrimination
- Anti- gender-based violence (especially anti-school-related gender-based violence)
- Caring (e.g. for the health and welfare of members and learners and education in general)

- Resilience in the face of adversity
- Respect for human rights
- Reasonableness
- Non-violence

These are but a few aspects that will define NAPTOSA's heritage into the distant future. What is vital though is that every member, whether in a leadership position, or not, realise that they are actively contributing to NAPTOSA's living heritage, today.

The future will bring new and more demanding challenges for our organisation. Our contribution to the NAPTOSA heritage at this juncture will determine how well future NAPTOSA generations are able to cope with these challenges.

The Leadership of NAPTOSA wishes all our members a joyful Heritage Day 2021.

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PRESIDENT: NAPTOSA