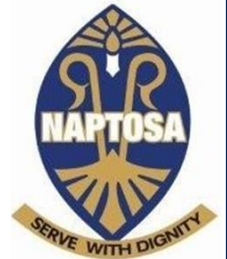


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NNF 27 of 2023

11 August 2023

WOMEN'S DAY 2023

NAPTOSA along with the rest of the country celebrated this year's Women's Day under the theme "**Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience.**" In the pursuit of gender equality and societal progress, focusing on women's socio-economic rights and empowerment is essential for a resilient and inclusive future. By deliberately addressing the disparities in economic opportunities, access to education, healthcare, and legal support, we can pave the way for women to thrive and contribute meaningfully to their communities. As we strive to "build back better" from global challenges, such as food security and poverty, it becomes evident that bolstering women's economic agency not only uplifts individuals but also fortifies entire societies.

The tragic story of an Eastern Cape mom taking her own life and that of her children underscores the pressing need for women to have access to financial independence and empowerment. When women are economically empowered, they gain the ability to make informed choices, exercise greater control over their lives, and contribute to economic growth. This holistic approach not only enhances women's resilience in the face of adversity but also fosters a more equitable and resilient world for everyone.

We were therefore pleased to hear the President reaffirming, on Women's Day, the government's irrevocable commitment to continuing the process of advancing and improving the lives of the women and girls of South Africa. NAPTOSA welcomes the tougher bail conditions for perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence, as well as the life imprisonment of gang or serial rape, date rape, marital rape, child rape and incest offenders. The online application for protection orders will alleviate social anxiety disorder often experienced by victims of domestic violence. We hope that the new progressive laws will be enforced fully, by the police and other arms of the law, to curb the violence against women and children.

On a lighter note, NAPTOSA extends heartfelt congratulations to the exceptional women of our nation who continue to shine brilliantly in the realm of sports. Our national teams performed admirably, with Banyana-Banyana winning the women's Africa Cup of Nations and reaching the top 16 in the Women's FIFA world cup and the Protea Netball team being ranked 6th in the world. Their dedication, perseverance, and remarkable achievements serve as an inspiring testament to their unwavering spirit and commitment. Their triumphs not only bring pride to our country but also pave the way for future generations to aspire and excel. NAPTOSA demands pay equity for all sports women.

NAPTOSA wishes all the incredible women and girls who grace our lives with their strength, resilience, and boundless potential. May this month be a reminder of the remarkable contributions you make to our society and a time to honour the progress achieved and the challenges overcome. Here's to your continued success, empowerment, and happiness as you inspire us all.

HAPPY WOMEN'S MONTH!

Keep an eye out for NAPTOSA Provincial Women's Day festivities – an inclusive celebration for all!

Mr BL MANUEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

