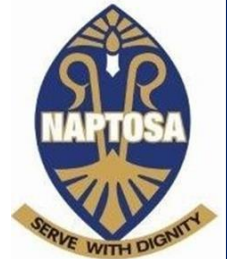


NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



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NNF 31 of 2023

5 October 2023

World Teachers' Day 2023

We celebrate World Teachers' Day under the theme, "*The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage*", which underscores the pressing need for qualified educators worldwide. In an era where education plays a pivotal role in shaping societies and fostering individual growth, the scarcity of skilled teachers presents a global challenge, resulting in countries poaching South African teachers. Addressing this shortage is not merely a matter of numbers but a call to nurture a new generation of teachers who are not only proficient in their subjects but also equipped with the pedagogical skills and cultural competence required for the 21st Century. As we strive for inclusive and equitable education, **investing in** the recruitment, training, and retention of teachers becomes a paramount endeavour, essential for unlocking the full potential of our future generations and ensuring a brighter, more informed tomorrow and a well-balanced adult.

World Teachers' Day is celebrated against the backdrop of envisaged cost containment measures announced by treasury and discussed at various department meetings. Cost cutting in education has huge implications and many unintended consequences for the quality and accessibility of learning. While cost restrictions are essential for managing educational budgets effectively in this climate of austerity, NAPTOSA is concerned that excessive austerity measures may compromise the overall educational experience. Our concerns revolve around reduced funding for critical resources, such as losing experienced educators by promoting early retirement, essential learning and teaching material are not supplied, inadequate infrastructure remains, and the provision of essential services such as water and electricity continue to be erratic. Additionally, the non-filling of vacant posts may result in larger class sizes, leading to diminished teacher-learner interactions and learner centered learning. Furthermore, cost containment measures may limit opportunities for extracurricular activities and enrichment programs, depriving learners of holistic development. NAPTOSA calls on government to ensure effective balancing of the need for fiscal responsibility with the imperative to provide a high-quality education for our learners.

The continued functioning of our schools and the make it happen ethic of our teachers and school management teams need to be applauded. NAPTOSA honours and appreciates educators who remain dedicated to their true calling of nurturing learners to learn and grow holistically. For this, we laud you! Teachers, your role in shaping the future is immeasurable. Each day, you step into your classrooms, not merely as educators but as beacons of light in the lives of your learners. Your influence extends far beyond the subjects you teach; it touches the hearts and minds of those you inspire.

Your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment are the driving forces behind the growth and development of the next generation. As you continue to guide, support, and empower your learners, remember that your impact is enduring, and your legacy is built upon the countless lives you've touched. In the face of challenges and uncertainties, your dedication remains the steady force that illuminates the path to knowledge and success for your learners. Keep shining, for in your light, learners find not only knowledge but also the inspiration to become their best selves!

Teachers are invited to participate in the NAPTOSA provincial teacher celebrations which will be hosted during the month of October.

HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY TO ALL OUR CHERISHED EDUCATORS!

Mr BL Manuel

Executive Director



**The teachers
we need
For the education
we want**

The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage

#WorldTeachersDay

