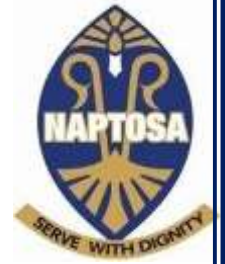




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NNF 16 of 2024

26 April 2024

World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2024

World Day for Safety and Health at Work, observed on April 28th, 2024, carries profound significance this year as we delve into the theme *Exploring the impact of Climate Change on Occupational Safety and Health*. As we confront changing weather patterns, it becomes increasingly evident that the world of work, particularly within our schools, is significantly impacted.

The safety and health of teachers, learners and Education Support Personnel is paramount, yet they face unprecedented challenges. The onslaught of floods and storms not only endangers infrastructure but also disrupts learner attendance, jeopardising the continuity of education. In addition, the alarming surge in violence within our schools has transformed these environments into places where learners, teachers, and education support staff no longer feel secure.

The neglect of infrastructure maintenance and overcrowded classrooms exacerbates these risks, further compromising safety and health. This dire situation calls for urgent action from all stakeholders. We must collectively prioritise school safety, recognising that safe schools are the cornerstone of a strong nation. Schools of which children are proud of are less prone to vandalism.

In the context of NAPTOSA's ongoing campaigns, let us remember the core principles of the school safety campaign: **"Safe Schools Equal a Strong Nation."** Additionally, our commitment to the climate justice campaign underscores the imperative of addressing climate change as *#ClimateJusticeChampions*.

As we commemorate World Day for Safety and Health at Work on Sunday, let us unite in our resolve to safeguard the well-being of all those within our educational institutions. Together, we can create environments where everyone can thrive, free from harm and adversity.

Tomorrow, we observe three decades of freedom, let us reflect on our achievements, acknowledge the opportunities we may have missed, and appreciate the significant progress we've made as country.

HAPPY FREEDOM DAY SOUTH AFRICA!

Mr B L Manuel

Executive Director