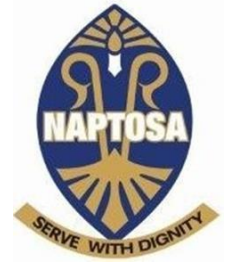


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Free State Department of Education's Failure to Pay Members' Medical Aid Contributions

NAPTOSA expresses its deep displeasure and disappointment in the Free State Department of Education's failure to pay medical aid contributions on behalf of its employees. This gross negligence has placed the health and well-being of teachers and education support personnel and their families at serious risk, leaving them vulnerable without access to critical medical services.

As a legally binding obligation, the Department is required to ensure that medical aid contributions are deducted and paid on time. The failure to fulfill this duty constitutes a severe breach of trust and a violation of contractual agreements with employees. NAPTOSA is appalled that despite hard work and dedication, staff are now being subjected to unnecessary distress and financial insecurity due to the Department's administrative failures.

The impact of this failure is far-reaching. Members who rely on medical aid for chronic medication, emergency care, and essential medical treatments now face the possibility of being denied healthcare services. This is not only a violation of their rights but also a direct threat to the quality of education, as the well-being of educators directly affects their ability to teach effectively.

NAPTOSA calls on the Free State Premier, the National Treasury, and the Minister of Basic Education to urgently intervene and ensure that all outstanding contributions are paid immediately. Additionally, we call on the Department of Labour to investigate the violation of rights and the lapse of responsibility in this matter. We demand that measures be put in place to prevent such reckless actions from recurring in the future. Employees should not have to live in fear of losing their healthcare benefits due to administrative incompetence.

Should this issue remain unresolved, NAPTOSA will be left with no choice but to explore all available legal avenues to hold the Department accountable and protect our members' rights.

We demand answers from the Free State Department of Education regarding their failure to pay members' medical aid contributions and whether this reflects a broader pattern of negligence. We stand in solidarity with our members and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to defending their rights, dignity, and well-being.

Mr BL Manuel

Executive Director

