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STATEMENT ON THE 2025 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION RESULTS

"Persistence and Integrity in Education"

NAPTOSA congratulates the Matric Class of 2025 on the successful completion of their National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. With over 927,000 candidates sitting for the NSC across the country, this cohort represents the largest share of the total candidature across different qualifications and assessment bodies, demonstrating the increased confidence in public education. The dedication of both learners and educators has once again proven to be the cornerstone of our education system's success.

NAPTOSA welcomes UMALUSI's approval for the 2025 October/November examination results with an impressive **pass of 88%**, reflecting an improvement from the previous year albeit miniscule. We note with satisfaction that the standardisation process resulted in the acceptance of raw marks for 56 out of 68 subjects (82%) for the Department of Basic Education (DBE), which is indicative of the stability and maturity of our assessment systems.

Whilst we celebrate these achievements, NAPTOSA remains vigilant regarding challenges to the integrity of the examinations. We are deeply concerned by the breaches reported in three subjects: Physics, Mathematics, and English Home Language Paper 2, where approximately 40 candidates were implicated. We applaud the DBE's swift investigation into these irregularities and support the decision to withhold results for implicated candidates. Protecting the integrity of the NSC is essential. NAPTOSA therefore stresses that cheating or the use and distribution of fraudulent certificates will not be tolerated and must result in serious consequences.

NAPTOSA further wishes to highlight:

- 🔑 **The Invaluable Role of Teachers:** Our educators continue to perform under challenging circumstances, often providing extra lessons with little reprieve. They are an irreplaceable resource, and their well-being must be prioritised to ensure a sustainable education system.
- 🔑 **Diverse Learning Pathways:** We continue to caution against an overemphasis on the academic stream. We call for greater advocacy for occupational, vocational, and technical streams to serve the diverse talents of our learners better.
- 🔑 **Early Childhood Development:** Shifting focus to the Foundation Phase remains critical to alleviating the pressures faced by learners in the FET band (Grades 10-12).
- 🔑 **"Gatekeeping or "culling":** NAPTOSA is pleased that both UMALUSI and the DBE have finally acknowledged the existence of this phenomenon that sees under performing learners prevented from writing the NSC for the benefit of a 100% pass rate, thus crippling the future of thousands of young adults.

As we embark on the 2026 academic year, NAPTOSA urges all stakeholders, parents, guardians, and authorities to support learners who did not meet the requirements. Alternatives, such as the "*second chance matric*," are available to ensure that no learner is lost to the system.

We wish the Class of 2025, their parents, and their teachers a successful year ahead, filled with new opportunities for growth and lifelong learning.

Mr BL Manuel,
Executive Director