



# NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



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## Freedom Day, 27 April 2026

*Theme: "Freedom and the Rule of Law: Thirty-Two years of Democratic Citizenship"*

As we commemorate Freedom Day, we are reminded of the profound sacrifices made by the heroes of our liberation struggle and the enduring value of our democratic order, anchored in the Constitution of South Africa. This day is not only a celebration of how far we have come, but also a call to action, for the entire citizenry given the slippages we've witnessed in our democracy. Our youth are called upon not to allow this moment to pass them by.

NAPTOSA remains the largest non-party politically aligned union in the education sector. Whilst we are not party political, we are inherently political in our nature, as we advocate for justice, equality, and the rights of our members and the communities we serve.

Our democracy thrives when citizens participate. We must reject the growing culture of complacency, where we stand on the sidelines and complain about what is wrong in our country without taking meaningful action. The question we must ask ourselves is simple: *What are we doing to fix our neighbourhoods, our institutions, crime in our country as opposed to looking the other way.*

Freedom Day calls us to honour the past not just with words, but with action. What better way to do so than by showing up when it matters most, at the ballot box. Make your voice heard by making your mark next to the party that **you** believe will make a difference. Only then can we truly hold leadership accountable.

NAPTOSA also calls on all members to keep our history alive. Teach our learners the significance of this day and instill in them an understanding that history is not just about the past. It is a powerful tool for the present and the future. The importance of history and even past mistakes lies in their ability to provide context for where we are today, to foster critical thinking, and to serve as a blueprint to avoid repeating catastrophic errors. Members today have a unique opportunity to influence what will feature in the school history syllabus, by commenting on the draft currently in circulation. Naptosa needs to hear your views. Do your bit to define how we remember our history.

As we mark thirty-two years of democratic citizenship, let us recommit ourselves to active participation, to informed decision-making, and to nurturing a generation that understands both the privilege and responsibility of freedom.

**Let us honour our past by shaping our future – together, through action.**

**HAPPY FREEDOM DAY, SOUTH AFRICA!**

**Mr BL Manuel,  
Executive Director**