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PRESIDENT COMMITS TO RESOURCES, SAFER SCHOOLS AND LESS ADMIN FOR TEACHERS

COMMITMENTS MUST TRANSLATE INTO VISIBLE ACTION

At the 26th National Teaching Awards on 1 October 2026, President Cyril Ramaphosa said teachers cannot be expected to overcome every weakness in the education system on their own. No teacher succeeds alone: they depend on principals who protect teaching time, districts that support them, provinces that deliver learning materials on time, and families and communities who get children to school.

NAPTOSA welcomes the President's call that government must:

- Provide safe and suitable school infrastructure.
- Reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Strengthen professional development and support teachers throughout their careers.
- Address overcrowding and protect teaching time.
- Act firmly against violence, intimidation and disruption in schools.

The commitment to reducing unnecessary administrative work is particularly welcome. Excessive paperwork, reporting and compliance requirements take valuable time away from lesson preparation, learner support and teachers' wellbeing.

This commitment is consistent with Minister Gwarube's 2025 pledge to reassign certain administrative responsibilities to teaching assistants and school administrative staff. However, NAPTOSA reminds the President and Minister to consult legitimate teacher structures. Nothing for us without us remains our mantra.

NAPTOSA urges government to translate these commitments into concrete measures, adequate resources and effective implementation. Teachers must be enabled to focus on their core responsibility: teaching and supporting learners.

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