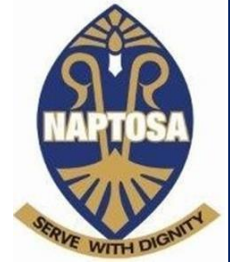


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NNF 01 of 2024

18 January 2024

STATEMENT ON THE 2023 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS

NAPTOSA congratulates the Matric class of 2023 on achieving an impressive 82.9% pass! The dedication and hard work of learners and teachers have undoubtedly contributed to the improvement in pass rates. UMALUSI's acceptance of the raw scores of 49 subjects and the approval for the release of the 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) result is also indicative of a maturing education system.

NAPTOSA acknowledges the determination of the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to ensure that learners complete Grade 12, hence it is reassuring to note that the through-put rate is slowly improving. Signs of gatekeeping to improve results in the NSC are however still evident in the system.

Compliments are also extended to the DBE and Provincial Education Departments on the successful management and completion of the 2023 NSC examination. While it is fitting to congratulate the Education Department, NAPTOSA notes that it is our teachers who deserve all the accolades. Teachers have achieved in sometimes challenging circumstances and have assisted learners with many hours of extra lessons with barely a break. While understanding the current need, this should not become the norm for teachers or learners. The DBE and society will do well to recognise the importance of teachers as an irreplaceable resource. The entire value chain of teaching must be recognised for contributing to the success of the class of 2023.

NAPTOSA is, however, deeply concerned about the cases of cheating within the examination process and reports circulating regarding the issuing of fake matric certificates. The integrity of the assessment system is paramount, and such instances of dishonesty undermine the hard work and dedication of honest individuals. Considering these issues, NAPTOSA urges authorities to take swift action against all parties involved in cases of cheating, and the creation and distribution of counterfeit certificates. This will serve as a deterrent to others and reaffirm the importance of maintaining the integrity of the National Senior Certificate.

While NAPTOSA acknowledges the success of the class of 2023, it must be noted that it is crucial to recognise the diverse talents and abilities within our learner pool. It is especially troubling to see the large drop in the number of learners with special education needs writing matric.

NAPTOSA cautions against placing undue emphasis on the academic stream only. Unrealistic expectations of learners who may not excel academically can lead to unnecessary pressure and stress. NAPTOSA believes in celebrating all children and their unique capabilities, hence the call for greater advocacy and participation in the occupational/vocational and technical streams.

As NAPTOSA, together with other stakeholders, reflects on the country's educational goals, it is imperative to instill a positive and sustainable attitude towards learning from the early grades. Therefore, shifting the focus to strengthening the Foundation Phase can alleviate the pressures faced by both learners and teachers in the FET (Grades 10-12) band.

NAPTOSA encourages all learners who have not achieved their desired outcomes in the NSC to remember that this is not the end of the road, as alternate options are available in the current system.

As we embark on the new academic year, NAPTOSA calls on all stakeholders to create an educational system that values holistic development, prioritises learner and teacher well-being, and fosters a love for lifelong learning!

Mr BL Manuel

Executive Director