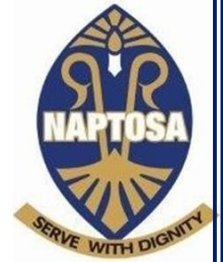


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FAIR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEGINNER TEACHERS: A VICTORY FOR NAPTOSA

A significant decision has been made regarding employment opportunities for new teachers in South Africa following 2022 negotiations (See NNF 7 of 2022 - 12 April 2022). The Head of Education Departments Committee (HEDCOM) and the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) have agreed to prioritise fairness and equality in the hiring process. This means that **both graduates of the Funza Lushaka bursary program and self-funded graduates, including those whose parents rely on loans for university expenses, will now have equal access to teaching positions.**

This decision was influenced by arguments from NAPTOSA and other labour representatives, highlighting the potential for inequality if bursary graduates were given preferential treatment due to government funding. It emphasises the importance of fairness and meritocracy in the education sector by ensuring that all graduates have an equal opportunity for employment.

This move aims to promote transparency and inclusivity across Provincial Education Departments and marks a significant step towards creating a more equitable environment for new teachers. All PEDs have been informed.

NAPTOSA will monitor the implementation of these decisions closely to ensure that they translate into tangible actions on the ground. This decision stands as a testament to the power of constructive dialogue and collaborative decision-making in addressing key challenges within the education sector.

Mr BL Manuel

Executive Director