



NAPTOSA Mpumalanga



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NEWS FLASH

TO THE NAPTOSA MPUMALANGA UNION REPRESENTATIVE
Please make this communication available to ALL NAPTOSA members at your school/college/office.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Innovation for Women Today... a Healthier Tomorrow for All

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8 every year. After women gained suffrage in Soviet Russia in 1917, March 8 became a national holiday there. The day was then predominantly celebrated by the socialist movement and communist countries until it was adopted in 1975 by the United Nations. It's a day when we celebrate the amazing social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women - while also campaigning for greater progress towards gender equality.

On International Women's Day this year, UN Women is calling on individuals and organizations to "think equal, build smart, innovate for change." The International Women's Day 2019 campaign theme: #BalanceforBetter. The future is exciting. Let's build a gender-balanced world. Gender balance is essential for economies and communities to thrive. It is a human rights issue. Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist, journalist and activist once explained "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organisation but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."

Education International (EI) and its member organizations, of which NAPTOSA is a member, have taken a firm stand to advance gender equality within our own organizations, in education and in society. NAPTOSA celebrates women's achievements and tenaciously challenge bias. Right now is a great and important time in history to do everything possible to help forge a more gender-balanced world. Women have come a long way, yet there's still more to be achieved. NAPTOSA shares the views of many activists worldwide that "balance drives a better working world", and calls on all members of NAPTOSA to embrace and promote gender equality. Everyone has a part to play - all the time, everywhere.

NAPTOSA joins hands in celebrating the 10 most powerful women in South Africa today, Christine Ramon, Mamphele Ramphele, Nonhlanhla Mjoli-Mncube, Dr Judy Dlamini, Elisabeth Bradley, Sharon Wapnick, Bridgette Radebe, Irene Charnley, Wendy Ackerman and Wendy Appelbaum.

NAPTOSA also celebrates women who are rising within her ranks to occupy positions of authority and responsibility such as the Provincial Chairpersons, Mrs Patricia Mvanana –Mpumalanga and Mrs Marion Bruce-Kwazulu-Natal. NAPTOSA has also seen the rising of Ms Thirona Moodley and Ms Tshwanelo Mmutlana from the position of Executive Officer to Chief Executive Officer of NAPTOSA KwaZulu-Natal and NAPTOSA North West respectively, as well as, Ms Gaylin Bowles from the position of school principal and NAPTOSA Deputy-President to Chief Executive Officer of NAPTOSA Gauteng. NAPTOSA salutes these phenomenal women of substance.

**"Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo"
"You strike the woman, you strike the rock"**

SM KUNENE
CEO: Mpumalanga