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## **Nelson Mandela International Day, 18 July 2018**

The year 2018 is an iconic year for South Africa and the world, as we celebrate the Centenary of Nelson Mandela. South Africans can truly be proud to have birthed the humanitarian, philanthropist and compassionate Nelson Mandela. He was an individual who had dedicated his life to social justice, freedom, and equality for all South Africans. For this, in November 2009 the United Nations honoured South Africa and Madiba's vision by declaring 18 July, his birth date, the Nelson Mandela International Day.

The Mandela Day campaign calls on individuals, groups and corporates to pledge 67 minutes of their time on 18 July and as often as possible to give back to society. This can be done by supporting a charity or serving the community no matter how small the action. The aim is to change the world for the better, just as Mandela did. This year the Nelson Mandela Foundation calls on all South Africans to take action against poverty. Our community and political leaders are called upon to become servant leaders and to make South Africa a better place to live in.

Nelson Mandela International Day should serve as a reminder to all South Africans to become part of a continuous global movement for good and strive for social justice for all. Education as Mandela said, is indeed the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. In honour of this legend, NAPTOSA calls on teachers in their individual capacity and as a collective to actively work towards ensuring that the dignity of the teaching profession is restored.

### **NAPTOSA calls on teachers and learners to become living legends by:**

- Donating educational toys and books to a children's home, pre-school or hospital.
- Volunteering at a local faith-based organisation to assist as required.
- Start reading clubs in their communities.
- Encouraging learners to collect food parcels for distributing during school holidays for learners who depend on school feeding schemes.

NAPTOSA urges members to give 67 minutes of their time performing a service on Mandela Day, and share their activities on our Facebook page NAPTOSA and Twitter handle @NAPTOSA\_TEACH.

**Greg Titus - PCEO**