

The **NAPTOSA** **IMPACT**

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Latest News and Updates



Meeting with the Minister of Basic Education

By Gregory Masondo

On 22 July 2024, the National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (NAPTOSA) attended a 'Meet and Greet' session with Minister Siviwe Gwarube at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) offices in Pretoria.

NAPTOSA's delegation was led by its President, Mr Thabo Manne, and included Mr Nkosiphendule Ntantala (Deputy President), Ms Hema Hariram (Senior Executive Officer), Mr Gregory Masondo (Executive Officer: Labour Relations and Chief Negotiator), Ms Gaylin Bowels (Gauteng PCEO), Ms Michelle Mosupye (Executive Officer: Professional Development Institute), Ms Michelle van Zyl (National Chairperson of the Special Schools Portfolio Committee), Dr Thulani Nkosi (Mpumalanga Chairperson), and Mr Ndi Madzena (Gauteng Chairperson).

The DBE was represented by the Minister and other officials, including the Director-General, Mr Mveli and various Deputy Directors-General.

During the meeting, NAPTOSA extended congratulations to Minister Gwarube on her appointment and expressed commitment to collaborating constructively with her. The President highlighted several critical concerns and expectations regarding the state of education in South Africa, emphasising the Minister's responsibility for approximately 13 million learners and over 450,000 educators, alongside many support staff.

Key issues raised included overcrowded classrooms, inadequate infrastructure, and poor sanitation in schools, which negatively impact the dignity and safety of learners and staff. NAPTOSA stressed the importance of a safe and conducive learning environment, calling on the DBE to address these challenges urgently. Additionally, NAPTOSA urged the minister to refocus on strengthening the Foundation Phase and General Education and Training to prevent the pressure of maintaining high pass rates in Grade 12 from exhausting both learners and educators.



NAPTOSA's representatives at the DBE Ministerial Meeting



NAPTOSA PDI Executive Officer and Youth Coordinator with the Minister of Basic Education



NAPTOSA's ED addressing the DHET meeting

Further, NAPTOSA advocated for the timely filling of vacant posts and the consideration of permanent appointments for teacher assistants. The Deputy President highlighted the need for academic freedom in teaching, emphasising that educators should have a decisive role in selecting teaching materials and methods within approved curricula.

NAPTOSA concluded by reiterating its commitment to supporting curriculum development, enhancing reading and writing skills, and promoting inclusive education across the system. Through its Professional Development Institute and collaboration with DBE-TUC programs, NAPTOSA aims to continue contributing to the professional development of teachers.

In response, Minister Gwarube expressed her gratitude for NAPTOSA's presentation and acknowledged the shared concerns, particularly regarding learner and teacher safety, infrastructure, and the provision of necessary resources. She committed to working with other government ministries to address issues beyond her department's direct control and looked forward to future discussions to delve deeper into these challenges.

NAPTOSA meets with the Minister of Higher Education and Training

NAPTOSA attended a 'meet and greet' session with the newly appointed Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Pamela Nkabane, on Monday 8 July 2024. The event was held at the Department of Higher Education and Training offices in Pretoria. NAPTOSA was represented by the Executive Director, Mr Basil Manuel, along with Executive Officers Mr Gregory Masondo and Ms Lorvica Matthews.

During the meeting, Mr Manuel congratulated the Minister on her appointment and reaffirmed NAPTOSA's commitment to collaborating with her to ensure a safe and quality teaching environment. He highlighted the need for improved communication within the Department, emphasising that better communication could resolve many existing challenges. Mr Manuel also expressed NAPTOSA's eagerness for more in-depth discussions in the future.

In her response, Dr Nkabane expressed her gratitude for the support from labour unions, especially given the short notice of the meeting. She acknowledged the challenges ahead but emphasised that with the collective efforts of labour and other educational stakeholders,



FEDUSA engages with the Minister of DPSA

By Gregory Masondo

On 20 July 2024, the Federation of Unions of South Africa (FEDUSA) participated in a "Meet and Greet" session with the newly appointed Minister of Public Service and Administration, Mr Mzamo Buthelezi at the Capital Menlyn Maine Hotel in Pretoria. The meeting was a significant opportunity for the various affiliates to establish a rapport with the new Minister.

FEDUSA was represented by its President, Mr Godfrey Selematsela, the General Secretary, Ms Riefdah Ajam, and the Chairperson of the Public Service Committee, Mr Pierre Snyman. NAPTOSA, as an affiliate of FEDUSA, was represented by President, Mr Thabo Manne, and Executive Officer (FEDUSA Chief Negotiator), Mr Gregory Masondo. Other affiliates in attendance included NATU, SAOU, HOSPERSA, PEU, and the PSA.

The Minister who serves as the Deputy President of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and Inkosi (Chief) of the Buthelezi Clan, emphasised his preference to be addressed simply as "Minister Buthelezi," despite his royal heritage. During the session, Minister Buthelezi projected an approachable demeanor, affirming his commitment to an "open-door" policy and a harmonious working relationship with labour.

Each delegate had the opportunity to introduce themselves and outline their expectations. FEDUSA conveyed its readiness to collaborate constructively with the Minister, who appeared receptive and willing to consider the views of all social partners.

This initial meeting set a positive tone for future engagements between the Minister and labour in the public sector.



FEDUSA leaders with the Minister of the DPSA

NAPTOSA in the News



News24

Public sector unions call on government to exempt education from austerity measures

Naptosa believes that investing in the recruitment, training and retention of teachers is essential to unlocking the full potential of South...



IOL

Union raises alarm over shortage of trained foundation-phase teachers

The National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (Naptosa) said while the number of teachers being produced may balance out...



EWN

Overcrowding at public schools a major concern, says NAPTOSA

Ahead of the kick off of the 2024 academic year for pupils on Wednesday, teachers' organisation said overcrowding impacted the quality of...



Thirona Moodley

Global Call for Gender Equality: A Delegate's Experience at CSW 68



Ms. Thirona Moodley at the CSW68 in NY

NAPTOSA KZN PCEO, Thirona Moodley, representing Education International, had the honour of attending the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68) at the United Nations in New York, held from 11 to 22 March 2024. The event brought together thousands of delegates from around the world to engage in vital discussions on issues affecting women and girls worldwide.

The Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) functions under the United Nations Economic and Social Council, one of the principal organs of the UN. Its mission is to promote gender equality and empower women on a global scale.

The theme for CSW 68, "Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective," set the tone for the event, emphasising the urgency of addressing gender inequality, particularly in relation to poverty.

Urgent Need to Address Women's Poverty

Globally, 10.3% of women live in extreme poverty, a stark reminder of the disproportionate impact economic hardships has on women. In his opening remarks, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, stressed that "poverty has a female face," and highlighted how climate change and violence worsen the struggles women face. To meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, progress towards ending poverty must accelerate at a rate 26 times faster than the current pace.

Recognising the solutions to end women's poverty is crucial. Investing in policies and programs that address gender inequalities and enhance women's agency and leadership is key. It is estimated that more than 100 million women and girls could be lifted out of poverty if governments prioritised education, family planning, fair and equal wages, and expanded social benefits.

Key Sessions and Discussions

CSW 68 brought together representatives from governments, civil society, experts, and activists to agree on actions and investments aimed at ending women's poverty and advancing gender equality. Several sessions stood out for their impact and relevance:

- 🌐 **Importance of Care in Achieving Gender Equality:** This session, presented by Australia and Burkina Faso, focused on early childhood development (ECD), parenting services, and policies, stressing the need for increased investment in the care economy to achieve gender equality.
- 🌐 **Women Rising from Poverty:** Hosted by Canada, this session highlighted transformative educational projects and strategies that empower women and girls, equipping them with the tools to break free from poverty.
- 🌐 **Closing the Gender Gap in Education:** This session addressed long-term barriers and emerging challenges in achieving gender equality in education, particularly in the context of a world facing multiple crises.
- 🌐 **Indigenous Women's Voices:** This session provided a platform for Indigenous women to share their experiences and discuss opportunities for inclusive socio-economic development.

One of the more poignant sessions attended by the delegate was titled *"The Israeli Aggression on Gaza and its Impact on Palestinian Women."* Her Excellency, the Minister of Home Affairs for Palestine, presented harrowing statistics, including a 300% increase in miscarriages and 183 women giving birth without medical care. The session underscored the severe impact of conflict on women's health and well-being.

Another notable session, *"Closing the Gender Gap,"* focused on education. The African Union emphasised education as a fundamental human right, highlighting the need for investment in teacher training programs, community involvement, and technology to bridge the digital divide. The session stressed the importance of promoting the role of Indigenous women and ensuring their equal access to quality education.

Education International's Role

Education International played a significant role at CSW 68, hosting a closed event on the impact of restrictions on the rights to learn and teach in Afghanistan. The discussion revealed the devastating consequences of denying girls access to secondary education, which has led to the unemployment of many secondary school educators, with only men permitted to teach at this level.



The experience of attending CSW 68 was both a learning journey and a unique networking opportunity. Participation in CSW 68 provided a deeper understanding of the global challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality. The discussions and connections made at this event are expected to inform and inspire future efforts in advocating for women's rights and empowerment.



NAPTOSA at the 10th EI World Congress: A Strong Voice for Education

By Lorvica Matthews



NAPTOSA's EI World Congress Delegation

The Education International (EI) World Congress is the highest decision-making body of Education International, where key policies, principles, and actions are decided. This gathering is not just a conference; it is a global platform that shapes the future of education worldwide. The 10th World Congress, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 29 July to 2 August 2, 2024, was a significant event under the theme “Growing our Unions, Elevating our Professions, Defending our Democracy.”

NAPTOSA, was proudly represented at this global forum. The delegation included the Executive Director, Mr Basil Manuel, the President, Mr Thabo Manne, Deputy President, Mr Nkosiphendule Ntantala, Vice President Rene Mamce, Mesdames Thirona Moodley, Lorvica Matthews, Gaylin Bowles, Sarah Mkatshwa, Celeste Horn, Michelle Mosupye, and Messieurs Tithe Tite, Mbuyiselo Mava, and Gregory Masondo.

Congress Agenda: A Global Perspective on Education

The World Congress addressed critical issues affecting education worldwide. General Secretary, Mr. David Edwards, presented a compelling activity report, emphasising the need for quality, free, and well-resourced public education systems. He called for global solidarity in tackling crises and highlighted the importance of the “Teach for the Planet” campaign, which focuses on community resilience, curriculum development, and collective responsibility. The protection of LGBTQI+ rights within the education sector was also a prominent theme, with a call for stronger support for teacher unions to defend and amplify their rights. Mr Edwards also urged all EI affiliates to intensify the “Go Public, Fund Education” campaign. This initiative aims to pressure governments to adequately fund education by addressing critical issues such as teacher shortages and the well-being of education support personnel.

NAPTOSA's Impact: Leadership and Advocacy

NAPTOSA's participation in the World Congress was significant and influential. Mr Basil Manuel chaired a parallel session titled “Defending Rights and Democracy through International Solidarity,” underscoring the importance of collective action in protecting democratic values within education. Ms Lorvica Matthews represented Southern African women in Education on a panel discussing “Mobilising for Rights and Gender Equity in the Face of Far-Right Nationalism and Authoritarianism,” highlighting the challenges and strategies for advancing gender equity in education.

The NAPTOSA delegation also actively supported several global resolutions. Mr Basil Manuel spoke on the critical issue of teachers and education support personnel well-being and mental health as vital components of quality education. President Thabo Manne advocated for Peace Education, while Vice-President Rene Mamce addressed the pressing issue of Hair discrimination and Cultural bias in Education. Ms Thirona Moodley made a significant contribution on the climate change resolutions, reflecting NAPTOSA's commitment to global environmental sustainability (*#ClimateJusticeChampions*).

[\(Click here to access the videos\)](#)

Global Platform for South African Voices

NAPTOSA's influence extended beyond the plenary and breakaway sessions. Ms Lorvica Matthews was invited for a blog interview by The National Education Association (NEA), a significant acknowledgment given NEA's membership base of over 3 million members in the Education Sector in the United States. This interview provided a platform for NAPTOSA's perspectives to reach an even broader audience, further elevating the voice of South African educators on the global stage.

Election Outcomes: A New Leadership Era

The 10th World Congress also marked a significant leadership transition within Education International. After a long and successful tenure, outgoing President Susan Hopgood retired, paving the way for new leadership. Africa, particularly South Africa, celebrated a major victory with SADTU's Dr Mugwena Mahuleke being elected unopposed as the new President of Education International and NAPTOSA's Executive Director, Basil Manuel, being elected onto the EI Internal Audit Committee. David Edwards was reelected as General Secretary, ensuring continuity and stability in the organisation.



Mr Basil Manuel with Dr Mugwena Mahuleka

NAPTOSA's strong presence and active participation in the 10th EI World Congress underscored its commitment to global education. The delegation's contributions to critical discussions and their leadership in key sessions reflect NAPTOSA's dedication to advancing the rights of education personnel and learners worldwide. With the election of a South African President of Education International, NAPTOSA is poised to play an even more significant role in shaping the future of education on a global scale.

As the newly elected leaders of Education International take on their roles, NAPTOSA stands ready to support and collaborate in the ongoing efforts to defend and promote quality education for all.