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03 October 2018

Mrs A.M. Motshekga

Minister  
Department: Basic Education  
Sol Plaatje House  
222 Struben Street  
**PRETORIA**  
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Dear Mrs Motshekga

#### **MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR WORLD TEACHERS' DAY ON 5 OCTOBER 2018**

The Education Sector Committee (ESC) of the South African National Commission (SANATCOM) for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) supports the annual celebration of World Teachers' Day on 5 October 2018 and its theme namely: *The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher.*

In keeping with the theme this year, World Teachers' Day marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) that recognises education as a fundamental right, and entitles everyone to free compulsory education which ensures inclusivity and equity for all children. We support the UNESCO statement that *"education transforms lives: it is the driver of economic and social development; it promotes peace, tolerance and social inclusion; and is key to eradicating poverty and achieving personal fulfilment"*. We also agree with UNESCO and underscore that *"Teachers are the means through which education is transmitted. Without teachers the goal of universal primary and secondary education, a fundamental human right, cannot be met"*.

This important event offers an opportunity for us to celebrate teachers by appreciating South Africa's teachers and the teaching profession, and reflecting on issues related to teachers and teaching. We affirm the DBE position that teaching is a "noble profession that requires passion, commitment, tolerance, perseverance, character and the dedication to make a difference in the lives of a diverse group of young and older children". Furthermore, we applaud all the initiatives undertaken by DBE to raise teaching standards, raise the profile of teachers and restore respect to the teaching profession.

We appreciate all the efforts of the DBE to realise that the right to education also means the right to a qualified teacher. We are mindful that inclusive, equitable and good, quality education is a collective responsibility in which all stakeholders make an effort to be accountable, including Departments, teacher organisations, teachers, learners and parents. In this regard we also appreciate the collaborative efforts of the DBE to work with relevant stakeholders to make visible the success stories:

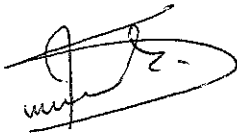
- where trained and qualified teachers were successfully deployed to remote or rural areas;

- where teachers have made a difference for marginalised or vulnerable children;
- relating to what South Africa has done, and is still doing to motivate teachers to remain in teaching and improve the quality of teaching; and
- where financial, and other support is provided from Governments, teacher organisations and the private sector to increase recruitment and training of teachers.

We pledge our support to all past, current and envisaged initiatives to raise the profile of teachers and teaching. We want to urge that the Department work tirelessly to upskill and upgrade the qualifications of under-qualified and unqualified teachers in line with UNESCO's call.

Let us join you in celebration as we appreciate all South Africa's teachers and all our collective efforts to inspire confidence in the teaching profession.

Yours faithfully



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**JOE SAMUELS**  
**CHAIRPERSON: EDUCATION SECTOR COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

**SAQA'S MISSION**

*"To ensure the development and implementation of a National Qualifications Framework which contributes to the full development of each learner and to the social and economic development of the nation at large"*