



MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

As we enter the 22nd year of the National Teaching Awards, we are proud that we have matured and strengthened our processes, as we continue to celebrate, acknowledge and appreciate our teachers, our **HEROS**.

In this our 22nd year the demands of the 4th Industrial Revolution culminated with the pressures of curriculum recovery and other natural disasters that we have faced as a country it has necessitated that we work differently and more smartly. Change means an opportunity for new beginnings...

As a result, the 22nd NTA, which will take place on 20 October 2020 has been benchmarked against the world wide teacher awards/prizes' adopted from the African Union Teacher Prize, Commonwealth Education Awards and the Global Teacher Prize. In this way the DBE will be able to reach a broader audience of teachers.

The DBE would like to firstly, thank all the teachers who entered the National Teaching Awards but more especially those who took the time to nominate their colleagues. Thank you for recognising excellence, hard work, dedication and commitment.

We would like to congratulate all the winners; you are indeed an inspiration to the teaching fraternity. Your ability to teach goes beyond any standardized teacher rating scale.

The learners you teach are often exposed to a barrage of dark elements through music, television and the Internet. Many may come from broken or child headed homes. Our learners are forced to grow up faster than they should. Teachers have the capacity to impact their students for eternity's sake. Some may have never heard one inspiring word. Yet, YOU—amazing teacher—have the ability to sow seeds of love and hope into your students. Teachers are experts at uplifting, encouraging, and bringing joy to our respective classroom environments. Teachers go above and beyond the call of duty.

To the teachers that entered and were not placed and the teachers that did not enter for various reasons, you too are our HEROS. Don't you ever forget your worth. You are a conduit being used to impact future generations—believe it!

Today and during the month of October which is Teachers' month we will continue to celebrate our **HEROS**. No one has more passion for her content than you do, we see your passion. We acknowledge that real learning goes beyond the textbook, thank you for your creativity.

To the world you may be just a teacher, but to your learners you are a HERO! William Butler Yeats said, "*Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.*" Continue to light the fire beneath your learners.

Department of Basic Education