



→ Provincial Winner

## Excellence in Primary School Leadership

**Name:** Mark Agulhas

**School:** Elnor Primary School

**District:** Metro North Education District

**Mr Agulhas has been a principal since 2017 and has 30 years' experience throughout his school career. Previously Elnor Primary School was placed under curatorship for about six years and had been red flagged. Since then the school has been transformed and is now developing into an institution of academic excellence. Under Mr Agulhas' leadership the school has been converted into a well-functioning school with a strong financial wing. Through fundraising he succeeded in constructing five classrooms and improving the school's infrastructure after it burnt down.**

Mr Agulhas' community involvement is outstanding, and he ensures learners' punctuality by taking his morning walk through the community to encourage learners to get to school. As a visionary, he believes that the school is a beacon of hope. He has succeeded in fostering pride in the learners despite

the challenges faced as a community and has a personal vision of ensuring that no child must be left behind.

He believes that his human capital is one of the school's most valuable resources for improving school performance. As such, he understands that professional development is key in ensuring that staff members are developed. He ensures that regular in-service training opportunities are available for staff as well as taking care of staff's mental well-being.

As an instructional leader, he is committed to the core business of teaching and learning, through a shared vision of leading the school for optimal growth. Under his leadership the school has started to invest in the Fourth Industrial Revolution by securing their own Wi-Fi and data projectors at their own expense.

His intellectual capacity enabled him

to represent South Africa as a team leader at the World Maths Olympiad in Hong Kong.

Despite the school being situated in a high poverty and a low socio-economic community, Mr Agulhas believes that nothing should hinder it from becoming a school of excellence. His outstanding collaborative skills are visible throughout his presentation and his

learner-centred approach informs every aspect of his leadership. Mr Agulhas is a hands-on leader who is a worthy nominee for this coveted award.