



→ Provincial Winner

Kader Asmal Lifetime Achievement Award

Name: Ridwan Samodien
School: Kannemeyer Primary School
District: Metro South Education District

Mr Samodien has over 30 years' experience in education and is still very passionate about learning today. He is a change agent in education and a community builder and has dedicated his life to improving the lives of the marginalised and disadvantaged learners of his community.

Mr Samodien is an accredited and experienced life coach and facilitator and has actively and successfully dealt with the impact of social challenges on the school's learners and the broader school community. As a teacher, one of his main aims is to build the self-esteem of learners to help them to transcend their socio-economic circumstances. This drive includes regular home visits to learners and parents to empathise, encourage and counsel.

Through his participation in different community organisations, Mr Samodien has fostered good relations and collaboration between the school and the community. He

was also a co-founder of Partners for Possibility, by Symphonia for South Africa. His partnerships with financial institutions have assisted the school and the community in empowering the school's learners, staff and parents and the school has received financial contributions from a range of stakeholders.

Despite the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, the school still performs well. Mr Samodien initiated an innovative approach to teaching and learning that ensured that all learners, including learners with barriers to learning, received quality teaching and learning. He is also a driving force for diversity and multiculturalism at the school, which manifests itself in the teaching. Mr Samodien is an innovative lifelong learner and has applied a variety of teaching and assessment strategies over the years to meet the individual needs of every learner in his school. He is dedicated to quality education and the development of learners to become responsible citizens.

Mr Samodien has an excellent relationship with the governing body, community, parents and staff. He has extensive knowledge and experience which has enabled him to become an expert in various fields, which includes not only the subject of his teaching but also his contribution to and impact on the broader society. His leadership skills and management style are exemplary in addressing challenges in the school and community. He is passionate and solution driven in addressing the needs of his learners and staff. He embodies the values and norms of good citizenship and that of the Western Cape Education

Department and inspires learners to be the best they can be despite the many socio-economic challenges they face every day. He also encourages learners and teachers to become active leaders in their different communities.

Over the years Mr Samodien has earned the unqualified respect of his school community, his peers and the community at large. He leads by example, is stern yet fair and gives rewards and recognition where they are due. He has made a lasting impression on his colleagues, learners and the community by being a role model, mentor and coach to many.