

➤ Provincial Winner



Excellence in Primary School Leadership

Name: Mr Mogamat Rosdine Desai
School: Heideveld Primary School, Heideveld
District: Metro Central Education District

Mr Mogamat Desai refers to his school as a “family” so that good, sound morals and values are instilled, not only in educators, but more importantly, the school community at large because of their circumstances. According to Mr Desai, teamwork gets the dream to work. He is a talkative individual and enjoys communicating with other individuals to hear their point of view. The school’s mission and vision focus on ensuring a safe and secure school environment, increased parental involvement, maximising teacher development across all subjects in conjunction with the use of technology, improving numeracy and literacy, providing learners’ involvement in co-curricular activities and improve teacher interaction through nurturing teamwork.

Heideveld Primary School finds itself in a gang-infested community and serves learners of impoverished communities surrounding the school. Due to the circumstances in the community (drug abuse and socio-economic problems), learners are neglected by their parents and because of this he ensures that educators meet regularly with parents and he always takes notice of parents’ concerns as “their child becomes my

child” (loco parentis) once they put their foot into the institution. He knows his entire staff’s abilities and always has educators in mind for professional development.

He has fostered many links with organisations, institutions, religious bodies, and influential individuals. Heideveld Primary has ongoing partnerships with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that assist learners with literacy and numeracy and music therapy for learners who have suffered trauma. The therapists avail themselves to assist learners who suffer from learning disabilities which means that inclusive education is included in their mainstream educational institution. *Sakhikamva Foundation* exposed learners to coding and robotics. The school also collaborates with the Cape Academy (Maths, Science and Technology) to expose learners to aeronautics. The computer lab was brought to fruition when they partnered with a philanthropist to upgrade their computer laboratory. His drive to know more also led to work with tertiary institutions and to look at the latest trends in education.

The motivation and encouragement he had provided educators with to



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grow, has seen a newly appointed educator becoming a lead teacher in Life Orientation for the district. His passion for sports also encouraged other educators to coach cricket in the broader community. His passion for helping the community inspired another educator to form part of an NGO which is of service to organisations or communities that are suffering.

As a principal, he arranges in detail which school objectives should be focused on extensively. He communicates with his School Management Team (SMT) and explains in detail how professional development can impact them in a positive manner. Once this has been achieved, it is their duty to cascade the

professional development opportunities to the educators in their grades and phases. He opts for an open-door policy so that the staff feels comfortable in approaching him for their professional and personal development. His SMT creates action plans and strategies from these objectives. He does so with empowerment in mind as the SMT would be developing and growing professionally. His problem-solving abilities and motivation skills allow him to assist and support their ideas.

His approach to a changed mindset with an emphasis on commitment is mainly to encourage educators to pledge to deliver not only teaching knowledge but also the teaching of morals, values, and policies.



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