Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (GET)

Nominee: **Ms Faldila Gassiep**
School: **Fairview Primary School**
Cluster: **Metropole Central and Metropole South**
District: **Metro South Education District**

Ms Faldila Gassiep, the current Intermediate and Senior Phase (InterSen) Departmental Head at Fairview Primary School, teaching Grade 6, is a seasoned teacher with 28 years of teaching experience. She is a very vibrant teacher as evidenced in her style of teaching. Her Mathematics classes are always lively and buzzing with activities. She uses various teaching styles and caters for learners who find Mathematics challenging by offering her time to assist children in the community at no cost. Ms Gassiep uses technology to enhance teaching and learning in Mathematics and makes use of concrete apparatuses to help children represent their thinking about mathematical concepts. She goes beyond the norm and thinks outside the box.

As advocate for Green shoots and Online Mathematics, she has been in the forefront of eLearning Mathematics, eTeaching and of creating and implementing assessments for Mathematics online. She encourages learners to use information and communication technology (ICT) as a learning tool to do research, play educational games and watch educational videos to help them understand subject matter. She believes in developing her learners holistically to become responsible citizens, but with strong community development links to empower the communities that they serve.

As strong believer in seeking knowledge from the cradle to the grave, Ms Gassiep grabs hold of any opportunity to improve her skills by attending courses and workshops. She furthered her studies after her initial teaching qualification by completing an Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) in Mathematics in 2007 at the University of Cape Town. She then completed the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Integration short course at the University of Pretoria in 2018 and also attended Life Skills, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS Education, and Grief and Bereavement workshops.

Her collaborative networking with teachers in her grade and phase from other schools to improve their LITNUM results by sharing best practices helped to improve her school's systemic results for Mathematics pass rate from 40% to 77% in 2018. Her creativity stimulates young minds to engage actively, willingly and enthusiastically in her subject, because her approach to teaching Mathematics is to identify with and relate to her learners' circumstances, background and experiences.

Ms Gassiep shows an undeniable commitment to making a difference in her learners' lives. Her vision is to see that the success of the challenging work she does with her learners is not limited to her classroom and the school only, but beyond the school, and she is therefore nominated as a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (GET) Award.