Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominee: **Ms Edna Loxton**
School: **Hillcrest Secondary School**
Cluster: **Eden and Central Karoo**
District: **Eden and Central Karoo Education District**

Ms Edna Loxton started her teaching career in 1984 and is in her 36th year of teaching. She has dedicated her life to improving the lives of the marginalised and disadvantaged learners of her community.

As a teacher, one of her primary aims from the start of her career was to build the self-esteem of learners and to take them beyond their socio-economic environment which is having such devastating effects on the children of our country. Part of this drive includes regular home visits to learners and parents to emphasise, encourage and counsel.

Through participation in various organisations, Ms Loxton has actively and successfully dealt with the impact of social challenges on the learners of the school and especially the broader community where the school is located.

Her activism and relentless drive to tackle the social challenges of teenage pregnancies, discrimination, diversity and inclusivity have resulted in a change in attitude by the community of Hillcrest, with the school as its core of action. She was responsible for drawing up the teenage pregnancy policy of the school.

She has been on the governing body of her school for more than 25 years. This has provided her with extensive knowledge and experience of school governance and led to her becoming an expert in the field. Consequently, she became a trainer and coach to schools in the Mossel Bay area. The district office has also made use of her expertise to provide training in this regard.

With diligence and passion, Ms Loxton has consistently continued with the teaching of the values and norms of good citizenship and worked hard to ensure that it is instilled in learners to make them aware of their role in society and to encourage them to become active and well-balanced citizens. Learners have been taught to expect only the best of themselves despite the many negative socio-economic challenges that they face daily.

Ms Loxton has also been the coordinator for sports, cultural awards, spelling bees and job shadowing at her school, as well as trauma counsellor and peace builder, values in education champion and cultural activist.

While she has been a very successful Mathematics and Physical Sciences teacher, she also has a love of languages and encourages her learners not to view English as a foreign language, but as a powerful tool for self-reliance, asserting themselves and building self-esteem.

Ms Loxton is an innovative lifelong learner and has applied a variety of teaching and assessment strategies learned over the years to meet the individual needs of every learner in her class and the school as an educational institution. The results in her teaching subjects speak volumes for her dedication to quality teaching and learning. She was also responsible for introducing Xhosa as Home Language at the school, thereby ensuring further cultural diversity and inclusivity.

She is leaving a large footprint at her school. She is well loved and respected, and learners from all walks of life pay tribute to the impact she made on their lives: educationists, doctors, engineers and the ordinary man in the street.

This educator has made a lasting impact on her colleagues, the learners and the community by being a role model and a mentor. She is someone who gives life to the words of Paulo Frere: "Education does not change the world. Education changes people. People change the world."

Ms Loxton is a principled leader who is worthy of being nominated to receive this coveted Lifetime Achievement Award.