

BIOGRAPHY

LEDWABA RC

PRINCIPAL: JIYANA SECONDARY SCHOOL

A dedicated and passionate educator, I began my academic journey at Matladi Secondary School, where I completed my matric before pursuing higher education at the University of Limpopo. In 1995, I obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree together with a Higher Education Diploma, laying a strong foundation for a lifelong career in education.

In 1996, I started my teaching career at Dr Harry Gwala Comprehensive School. Driven by a commitment to personal and professional growth, I continued my studies while teaching full-time. In 1998, I completed a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree at Vista University, followed by a Diploma in Life Orientation.

My leadership journey progressed steadily over the years. In 2017, I was promoted to the position of Departmental Head. In 2018, I was appointed Deputy Principal at Masiqhakaze Secondary School. A major milestone in my career was achieved in 2022 when I was appointed Principal of Jiyana Secondary School.

Throughout my career, I have remained deeply committed to the well-being and success of learners. In 2006, I identified a serious challenge affecting learner performance: many learners attended school hungry, which negatively impacted both their behaviour and academic progress. In response, I began providing food from my own resources and contributed R500 monthly from my salary towards supporting disadvantaged learners. With the assistance of school vendors, neighbouring schools, and School Governing Body members, the initiative grew into a sustainable feeding programme that supported many learners in need, even before formal nutrition programmes were introduced in secondary schools in 2009.

My leadership has consistently produced strong academic results. In 2018, Masikhakaze Secondary School improved its matric pass rate from 81.25% to 85.25%. Since joining Jiyana Secondary School in 2022, the school has maintained exceptional matric results:

- 2022: 96.4%
- 2023: 92.6%
- 2024: 97.4%
- 2025: 99.6%

These achievements include an outstanding 82% bachelor's pass rate in 2025 and 72.9% Bachelor pass rate in 2024, reflecting a strong commitment to academic excellence and quality education.

I embrace a transformational leadership style that prioritises communication, motivation, mentorship, and teamwork. This approach has fostered a culture of unity, accountability, and shared purpose among both staff and learners.

As a lifelong learner, I have continued to invest in my professional development. Between 2019 and 2020, I completed a Leadership and Management course at University of KwaZulu-Natal and obtained a certificate in the field. I am currently pursuing a Diploma in Leadership and Management at University of Pretoria, which I expect to complete at the end of 2026.

Under my leadership, Jiyana Secondary School has developed into a top-performing institution, consistently achieving outstanding academic results and earning recognition as one of the leading schools in the Ekurhuleni North District over the past four years.

I strongly believe that effective leadership empowers others to grow. During my tenure at the school, one principal, two deputy principals, and three departmental heads have emerged from the leadership structures I helped develop and mentor. I also encouraged and supported one of our educators, Mr Chabalala, to participate in the 2025 National Teaching Awards. He achieved first position at both district and regional levels and represented the Ekurhuleni Region at provincial level in the category of

Excellence in Physical Sciences Teaching, where he obtained third position. This achievement reinforces my belief that strong leaders inspire and produce future leaders.

In conclusion, my journey in education reflects a lifelong commitment to academic excellence, servant leadership, learner development, and community upliftment. Through dedication, resilience, and a passion for empowering others, I have consistently worked towards creating positive and lasting change within the schools and communities I have served. I remain committed to nurturing future leaders, improving educational outcomes, and building school environments that inspire growth, discipline, innovation, and success. My vision is to continue making a meaningful contribution to the education sector by leading with integrity, compassion, and excellence.