

# VICE CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**2010**

**Mr Mandla Gagayi**

*Sports Administration, Department of Student Affairs*

Recognising the need for formal sport in Grahamstown East schools, Mr Gagayi established an Under 19 Soccer League in 2007. Due to the success of the programme, the Department of Education, 18 Primary and High Schools, Makana Municipality and the Department of Sport, Recreation and Arts and Culture came on board to extend the services. Over the past three years, the programme has grown to include a Netball and Soccer League that caters for all primary and high school age groups. Mr Gagayi has established relevant committees to manage the various leagues and organised accredited training for 33 match referees. The Makana Soccer and Netball league was recognised by the Cacadu Municipality as the most organised and successful of the 9 local Municipalities.

Asked to comment on Mr Gagayi's contribution, one referee had this to say:

*"Mr Gagayi has played a huge role in the development of sport in our communities and schools and his program has made positive impact on how local federations are administered and the foundation he has laid has made him a role model in our schools and communities ... Due to Mr Gagayi's commitment to sport development our schools have experienced the revival of sport within schools and this has led to the reduction in misbehaviour within schools."*

Another referee commented,

*"Through Mr Gagayi's community outreach programs of soccer and netball, our local municipality has developed strong relations with Rhodes University and our communities benefit from this relationship."*

A third referee commented as follows:

*"I grew up in the township knowing that Rhodes was the gorilla on the hill that you did not go near. .... [W]e did not like Rhodes and were terrified of the place. We have changed our minds now and see the willingness of the University, the mutual benefits and the possibility of more partnerships like this."*



RHODES UNIVERSITY  
Where leaders learn

**RUCE**  
community  
engagement