



NONGQAI

**Vol 16 No 10B - South African Police
Candidate Officer's Course -
Mechanical School - Benoni - 1984**



**SUIDER-AFRIKA VEILIGHEIDSTUDIES & MAGTE-GESKIEDENIS
SOUTHERN AFRICA SECURITY STUDIES & FORCES HISTORY**

Cover Photograph

Class 6 / 1984 Non-White Candidate Officer's Course, SA Police,
Mechanical School, Benoni

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE
NON-WHITE
CANDIDATE OFFICER'S COURSE
MECHANICAL SCHOOL
BENONI
1984

VOLUME 02

PUBLICATION: 10-10-2025

Brigadier Hennie Heymans

Special Edition Nongqai Please!

Thank you.

Kind regards.

Logan

FOREWORD



Advocate Karen Pillay, daughter of late Colonel (Dickey)
Rungasamy Munsamy – [KP]

In South Africa, during the 1970's and 80's, the notion of the police officer being unskilled had to be addressed. This was also being done at the time, internationally, in countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States of America where initiatives were specifically developed and implemented to uplift the police officer to a more respected role in society, to one of a 'professional'. Thus, these countries were striving to promote education, professionalism and technical expertise in policing.

These practices and learnings soon spilled over and was endorsed for implementation in South Africa. Professionalising the police force, would make the police more skilled and effective in fighting crime and in so doing improving public perceptions. The culture in policing in South Africa during this period, was steadfast and promoted high levels of obedience and discipline amongst the rank and file. Policing was an integral part of society and a key arm of control for the government.

Whilst the first Indian commissioned officers were promoted in the 1970's after undergoing internal vocational training to equip them for management or supervisory roles, the approach in the 1980's had evolved to one of promoting more formalistic education with the introduction of formal qualifications, such as the National Diploma-Police Administration. This qualification was first developed and offered by the Department of National Education, in the country and was promoted across racial groups. This publication is therefore focused on the achievements of the first group of non-commissioned officers of colour, of the South African Police, who were the first to complete the National Diploma (policing) qualifications. These Officers were honoured and praised for their achievements and what followed, was them being selected subsequently to undergo the course for Commissioned Officers-another formative programme, hosted by the South African Police Force. This course was held at first, at the Police Mechanical School in Benoni. The successful completion of the

Candidate Officers' Course made the Officers eligible to be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant- the first rank of Commission, then.

Having obtained their formal qualification must have been prestigious moments in their respective careers as it was also trying time in the history of South Africa where activism was on the increase. In conjunction with these achievements was the compulsory completion of the Candidate's Officers course. Whilst these academic achievements set them apart from the other colleagues, they offered them opportunities to become 'agents of change' and they now turned their focus of becoming police 'professionals' aspiring to greater heights in rank and file. It also spurred individuals into specialisation in various areas of policing e.g. administration, crime detection, police operations, etc.

To have reached a Commissioned ranks in this era of policing, was no doubt an important career achievement that made great police men and women. It laid the foundation for a growing breed of professionals that were not only patriotic but also dedicated to growing and building the country. An era of policing that must be remembered and go down in the history books... we salute every individual Officer that succeeded and contributed to the building of the South African Police and the country, from thereon.

"if I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it at the beginning." – Mahatma Gandhi



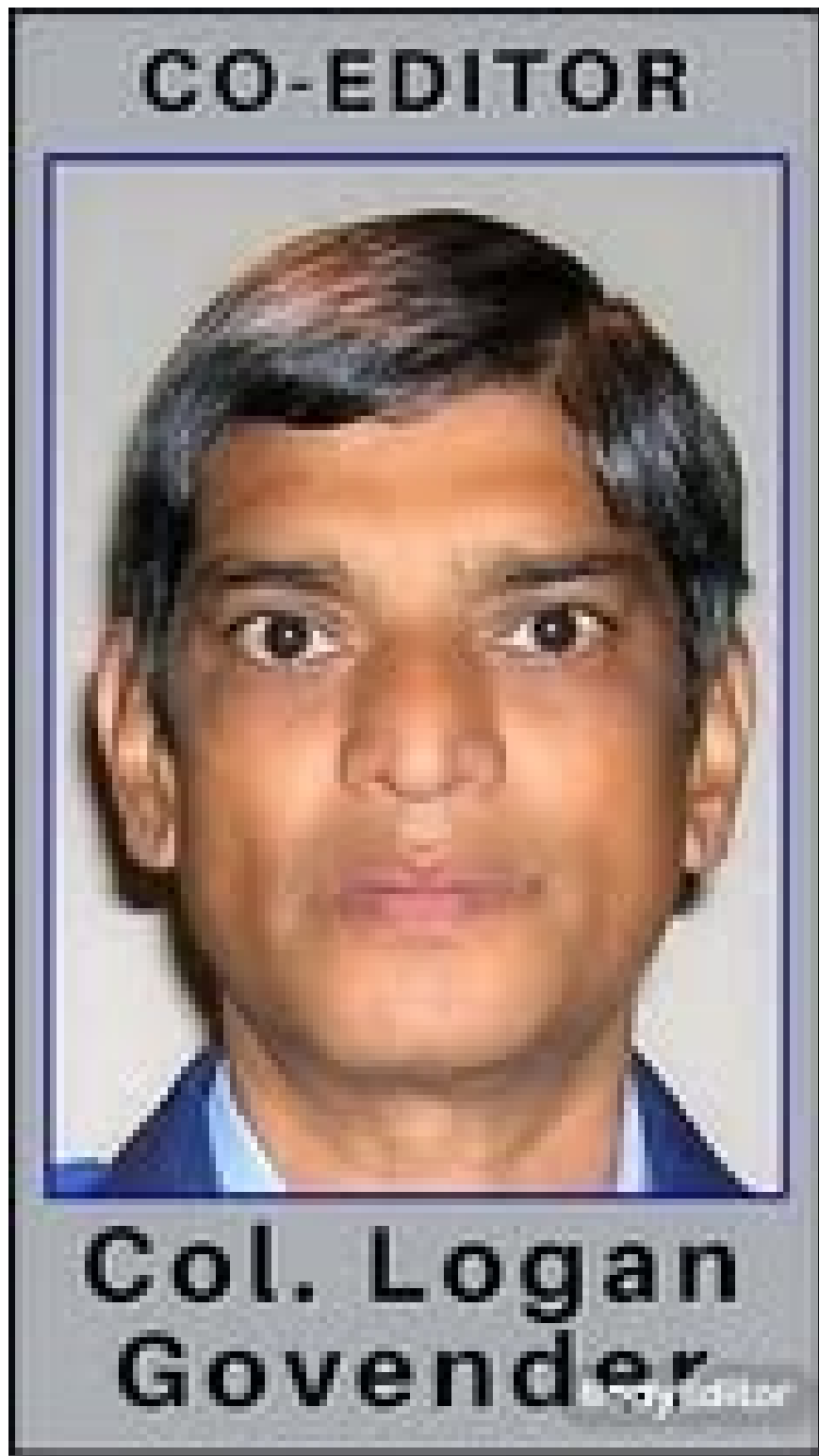
Late Colonel (Dickey) Rungasamy Munsamy

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE
NON-WHITE
CANDIDATE OFFICER'S COURSE
MECHANICAL SCHOOL
BENONI
1984
VOLUME 02



Class 6 / 1984 Non-White Candidate Officer's Course, SA Police,
Mechanical School, Benoni

(Researched, authored, set out, edited and forwarded for
publication by Logan Govender [LG] with the information obtained
from various sources and other police members and individuals.)



(LG)

“The Nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten” –
Calvin Coolidge

P R E F A C E

During July 1984 only fifteen Warrant Officers consisting of Black, Coloured and Indian descent that completed the National Diploma (Police Administration) hosted by the Department of National Education, qualified to attend a Candidate Officer's Course. They descended upon the South African Police, Mechanical School, Benoni to attend and the candidates if successful will be commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant in the South African Police. The course was completed during December the same year. The National Diploma graduation ceremony was hosted at the South African Police, Mechanical School, grounds in Benoni, Gauteng during December 1986. The duration of the course was for 3 months. They received tuition in various aspects of Police Administration, Financial Administration, Stores, Maintenance of Motor Vehicles, the various administrative boards of enquiry such as fitness to remain in the Force, Medical Boards, Injury Boards, Vehicle Boards, Styles and Principles of Leadership, Public Speaking, Crime Investigation and Techniques, Preservation of Evidence, Departmental Trials and other aspects of Police functions and duties to equip one to function as a Commissioned Officer. The course was both stimulating and empowering to say the least. I attended a similar course during the same period however, in 1986. Seemingly, the Candidate Officer's Courses for Non-White members were suspended from 1980 till 1984 when the National Diploma was introduced by the Department of National Education. From 1981 this qualification became an essential requirement for all South African Police members amongst other criteria such as, :

- holding the rank of a Warrant Officer;
- having a stipulated number of years' service as a Warrant Officer;
- the successful passing of a psychometric test, and finally

- a recommendation by the District Commandant.
before one was nominated to attend the Candidate Officer's Course.

The White Candidates were tutored at the SA Police, Training College in Pretoria West whilst the Non-White (Black, Coloured and Indian) Candidate Officer's received their tuition at the SA Police, Mechanical School, Benoni, Johannesburg (Gauteng).

The Senior Staff Officer of the South African Police, Commissioner, Major General JAB Laubscher conferred the Diplomas on the Officers and member on parade in December 1984.

The Candidate Officer's from Durban travelled by passenger rail to Benoni Railway Stations. They were transported by police vehicles from Benoni station to the Mechanical School on the day before the course commenced.

Late Colonel Morgan Chetty, former Lieutenant General, Deputy National Commissioner, South African Police Service and Late Captain (Sharma) DS Maharaj, former Lieutenant General, Provincial Commissioner, Gauteng Province were also on parade to receive their National Diploma (Police Administration).

(LG)

CONTRIBUTION BY MAJOR GENERAL OSWALD D REDDY



Major General Oswald D Reddy

OFFICER'S COURSE

During the 1980s, several stalwart individuals including these candidates, played a pivotal role in challenging the apartheid-era barriers within the South African Police (SAP), paving the way for greater inclusion of non-white officers in the future.

The criteria used to select these candidates were Warrant Officers who have already completed their National Diploma in Policing. This indicates that these candidates were already driven, ambitious

determined and self-starters and therefore ideal candidates for the officer's course.

I remember attending the officer's course at Paarl in 2007. I found the course stimulating and empowering however being away from my family for six weeks took an emotional toll on me.

I can only imagine how difficult it may have been for these officers who worked in a system rooted in racial segregation. For an Indian officer to be away from home, in Benoni for such a long period during the 1980's would have been extremely foreign and trying for these officers. These trailblazers however proved their competence and continued to strive academically, professionally and personally. Their perseverance contributed significantly to the transformation of SAPS in the post-apartheid era, fostering a more representative and equitable policing institution.

"Great leadership is not about control. It is about empowering people." Brigitte Hyacinath

Background

As I reflect on my input for this volume 2, I feel compelled to recognise and honour the contribution of all Indian Officers who rose above the challenges of the previous era, and their personal circumstances, to make their dreams a reality. They proved that through education, integrity and hard work that anyone can break barriers and overcome obstacles to advance their careers.

I again acknowledge the initiative and efforts of Colonel (Ret) Logan Govender and team to document and record the contribution that former police officers of Indian origin made in service to the people of South Africa.

Introduction

As I mentioned in my previous submission, there were 2 streams of promotion when I enlisted in the SAP in 1982, namely, the Regulation 16 (6) so-called “free promotion” based on experience and longer years of service in a rank, and the Regulation 16 (4) promotions based on “educational qualifications” and a shorter period of service in the rank.

The internal police examinations were done away with, and the SAP linked the National Diploma in Police Administration to an external distance learning institution called Technikon RSA.

There were 14 modules which allowed candidates to complete the National Diploma within 3 years. On completion of the first 5 modules, the recipient was awarded a National Certificate and could be promoted to the rank of Sergeant. On completion of the second 5 modules, the recipient was awarded the National Higher Certificate and could be promoted to Warrant Officer. On completion of the last 4 modules, the recipient was awarded the National Diploma and could be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

National Diploma Officers 1984

There were many non-white police officials, including myself, who realised that if they wanted to earn a better salary and progress in their policing careers, they had to seize this merit-based opportunity for advancement. They enrolled and when they completed their National Diploma, they were afforded an opportunity to attend an Officer’s Course in Benoni and later in Paarl.

My submission will focus on a few of these officers who I worked with during my 39-year career in the police.

COLONEL THILUK SINGH

Unfortunately, an Individual photograph is NOT available.

I first met Col Singh in 1982 when I was posted to Wentworth police station as a student. He was a Warrant Officer at the time. He initially worked in the administration and was later appointed as the Commander of the Wentworth CPU (crime prevention unit) where I also worked. He proved to be a man of integrity, was highly competent and experienced in various facets of police work. He was always leading and guiding us in the correct way to become good police officers. He shared his knowledge and policing experiences with us.

After attending the Officer's Course in Benoni, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and transferred to the Special Guard Unit in Durban where I was stationed after completion of my basic training at the Wentworth training college in 1984, so we worked together again.

He carried himself with respect and dignity and led by example as a commissioned officer. Many of us aspired to be like him.

PROFESSOR (DR) MAJOR GENERAL (GEORGE) DORAVAL
GOVENDER



Major General (Professor) (George) Doraval Govender

I know General Govender since 1985 when I joined the SAP angling club and we met for the first time. He was the chairperson of the Club at that time, and I recall going on a deep-sea fishing trip with the club members.

Although I never had the opportunity to work under his command, my first impression of him was that he was a highly competent, respectful, humble and disciplined officer in the SAP. He had also completed the Officer's course at Benoni in 1984 and after being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, was appointed as the Branch Commander of the Detective branch at SAP Isipingo.

In 1985, I was transferred to the SGU in Pelican Park, Western Cape so our paths did not cross for many years. However, I was aware of his steady progress in the SAP detective component. He had completed various other qualifications and attended numerous international and local training courses.

In 1991, I was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and transferred from Cape Town to Lenasia, Soweto. I am aware that in 1991, General Govender was transferred to the SAP College for Advanced Training in Paarl where he served as a lecturer.

Our paths crossed again from 2004 when we both served as Area Commissioners and Cluster Commanders in Gauteng Province.

General Govender has inspired and motivated me to be like him since the first time I met him in 1984. He is one of the most highly qualified police officer in South Africa and still serves as a role-model to me and many current and former police officers of all races in South Africa and abroad.

He continues to lead by example and has distinguished himself as a highly respected published academic from UNISA. I see him not only as a colleague but as a mentor. I remain in awe of his humility despite his legendary achievements as a professor. I know him as a man of integrity and believe that he is a true role-model proving that you can achieve anything in life that you set your heart and mind to achieve.

COLONEL JOHNNY GOVENDER



Colonel Johnny Govender

I met Colonel Govender for the first time in 1991, when I was transferred to the Lenasia Police station in Soweto, as a Lieutenant to work under his command. He was serving as the Station Commander and held the rank of Captain at that time. The warm welcome, reception and induction I received was unprecedented in policing. He assisted me with state

accommodation. My first impression of him was that he was a father figure to all the police officials serving under his command. He had completed the Officer's course in Benoni in 1984 and on promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, was posted to SAP Lenasia as the Station Commander.

I found him to be a disciplined, humble, highly competent and experienced officer who was willing to share his knowledge and experience with everyone, especially us young officers.

He appointed me as the head of the Community Service Centre and shortly thereafter as the head of the Lenasia crime prevention unit.

He became my mentor who trusted, empowered, supported and guided me in my career. Further, he provided me with the resources to carry out my duties of fighting crime including supporting the social crime prevention initiatives, dealing with drug dealers, unlicensed liquor outlets and other criminals in Lenasia.

Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to rank of Major and was transferred to the District Commissioner's office in Soweto.

He contributed immensely to my progress and advancement in the police because of his leadership and guidance and I remain indebted to this remarkable officer and gentleman.

Conclusion

The calibre of officers of that bygone era cannot be found. There were no allegations of corruption and criminality against them as is the order of today. They carried themselves with honour and dignity, wearing their uniforms with pride and providing a service above self to the people of South Africa.

They sacrificed their family, health and personal time for their personnel, the communities they served and the SAP without thanks or appreciation.

Therefore, I will always place on record my thanks and appreciation to each of them for their leadership and guidance that helped shaped my career.

I honour and salute them with gratitude, love and respect.



From left to right, (George) Doraval Govender (alighting from the passenger side); Mogamberry Perumal at the rear door (Source Brigadier R Marimuthu –[RM])



Candidate Officers attentive in the lecture hall.
Seated up front, George Govender;
Behind, Anesh Haripersad
(Source Major General (Professor) (George) Doraval Govender
[DG])



Attentive Candidate Officers at the lecture hall.

Front row, from left to right, George Govender; M Perumal; Reggie Marimuthu

Second row, from left to right, Anesh Haripersad; Bala Naidoo; Petersen

Third row, from left to right, Mampane; Murugas; Johnny Govender; Gibson

Fourth row, from left to right, Mampanga; Tiluk Singh; Christie Marimuthu; Wilson

(Source of photograph and names [DG])



Candidate Officer's without headdress

Front row, from left to right, Bala Naidoo; AK Peterson: M Perumal; DD Mampane ; Anesh Haripersad; Tiluk Singh; Reggie Marimuthu

Rear row, from left to right, Louis Gibson; Christy Marimuthu; Johnny Govender; NM Maphanga; D Govender; Murugas; M Wilson; MJ Sibaya

(Source Photograph and names [DG])



Candidate Officers with headdress

Front row, from left to right, Bala Naidoo; AK Peterson: M Perumal; DD Mampane ; Anesh Haripersad; Tiluk Singh; Reggie Marimuthu

Rear row, from left to right, Louis Gibson; Christy Marimuthu; Johnny Govender; NM Maphanga; D Govender; Murugas; M Wilson; MJ Sibaya

(Source photograph and names [DG])



Candidate Officers applying the finish “spit and polish” to their Sambrownes the night before their graduation parade.

From left to right, Anesh Haripersad; Louis Gibson; George Govender

(Source [DG])



Candidate Officers standing “at ease” on parade at their graduation ceremony during December 1984 at S A Police, Mechanical School, Benoni

(Source [DG])



Inspection of the parade of Candidate Officers at their Graduation Ceremony during December 1984 at SA Police, Mechanical School, Benoni by Major General JAB Laubscher
(Source [DG])

50c + (5c AYB
GST)

SERVAMUS



S.A. POLISIETYDSKRIF FEBRUARIE 1985
POLICE MAGAZINE FEBRUARY



**Col. Chetty sets
an example**

Media Clipping

Colonel Chetty sets an example

(Source Servamus February 1985)

A New Milestone

by Capt. Thayne Heath



Two brothers, Lt.'s Reginald (with glasses) and Christie Marimuthoo, obtained the National Diploma in Police Administration in the same year (1984) and were welcomed to the Officers' Corps at the same passing out parade. Here they are with their proud wives, Rhoda and Maliga.



Maj. P. Matjeke receives the Diploma in Police Administration.

SERVAMUS FEBRUARY 1985

During December last year 24 Coloured, Asian and Black members of the S.A. Police reached an important milestone in their respective careers when they received the National Diploma in Police Administration at a passing out parade at the S.A. Police Mechanical School in Benoni. One of these members is the well-known Col. M. Chetty, the Commanding Officer of the S.A. Police Training College for Asian members in Wentworth, Durban.

15 of these members, after completion of a 12-week officers' training course, were also welcomed to the officers' corps by Maj.-Gen. J.A.B. Laubscher, Senior Staff Officer of the S.A. Police, who was the guest speaker at the parade and who also presented the diplomas.

In addressing the members on parade and their friends and relatives who attended the ceremony, Gen. Laubscher congratulated the members on behalf of the Commissioner and the S.A. Police as a whole with the attainment of these goals. He also conveyed the congratulations of the Department of National Education to the recipients of the National Diploma. He said that both achievements are of outstanding importance to any member of the S.A. Police.

HE WENT ON to say: "You must set an example for others to follow. Ask yourself as often as possible: 'How do others (my subordinates) see me? Do I set an example that my subordinates can follow and that my superiors will approve of?' If the reply to this is positive, and you are honest in estimating this, you will be a successful officer."

Gen. Laubscher concluded his speech by saying that the S.A. Police will always form "the thin blue line of defence" against the state of anarchy. "We will therefore, at all times, live up to our motto: 'WE PROTECT AND SERVE' ★

25

Media Clipping

A New Milestone

(Source Servamus February 1985)

Transcript

A NEW MILESTONE

(by Captain Thayne Heath)

During December last year (1984 – [LG]) Coloured, Asian (South African Indian – [LG]) and Black members of the SA Police reached an important milestone in their respective careers when they received the National Diploma in Police Administration at a passing out parade at the SA Police, Mechanical School in Benoni. One of these members is the well-known Colonel Morgan Chetty. (The other recipients could not be traced [LG])

Chetty, the Commanding Officer of the SA Police Training College for Asian (South African Indian – [LG]) members in Wentworth, Durban.

15 of the members, after completion of a 12-week Officers training course, were also welcomed to the officer's corps by Major General JAB Laubscher, Senior Staff Officer of the SA Police, who was the guest speaker at the parade and presented the diplomas.

In addressing the members and their friends and relatives who attended the ceremony, General Laubscher congratulated the members on behalf of the Commissioner and the SA Police with the attainment of these goals. he also conveyed the congratulations of the Department of National Education to the recipients of the National Diploma. he said that both achievements are of outstanding importance to any member of the SA Police.

He then went on to say: "You must set an example for others to follow. Ask yourself as often as possible: 'How do others (my subordinates) see me? Do I set an example that my subordinates can follow and that my superiors will approve of' If the reply to this

is positive, and you are honest in estimating this, you will be a successful officer.”

General Laubscher concluded this speech by saying that the SA Police

will always form “the thin blue line of defence” against the state of anarchy. “We will therefore, always live up to our motto: ‘We Protect and Serve.’”

Caption

Two brothers Lieutenants Reginald (with glasses) and Christie Marimuthoo (Marimuthu – [LG]) obtained the National Diploma in Police Administration in the same year (1984) and were welcomed into the Officer’s Corps at the same passing out parade. Here they are with their proud wives, Rhoda and Maliga.

Caption

Major P Matjeke receives the Diploma in Police Administration.

I successfully completed the National Diploma in Police Administration during November 1983, while I was still serving as a Constable. Following my promotion to the rank of Sergeant in 1984, I received notification from Head Office (Compol) to attend the passing-out parade for the officers who had completed the same qualification. During this ceremony, held in December 1984, I was formally awarded the National Diploma in Police Administration by Major General JAB Laubscher. Although I had achieved the academic qualification earlier, I only met the required service criteria to be eligible for the Candidate Officer’s Course in 1986, marking the next significant step in my career.” – [LG]



PhotoScan by Google Photos

Sergeant [LG] Awarded the National Diploma (Police Administration) by Major General JAB Laubscher



PhotoScan by Google Photos

Sergeant [LG] After being awarded by National Diploma (Police Administration) by Major General JAB Laubscher

Diploma ceremony as 25 become police officers

By BOETI ESHAK

TWELVE Indians were among the 25 senior policemen who passed out as officers at a diploma ceremony in Benoni this week.

The officers, from all over South Africa, attended the impressive passing out parade and diploma ceremony which was held at the South African Police Mechanical School in Pretoria.

High-ranking police officers were on hand to witness the ceremony, including Major-General J A B Laubscher, Senior Staff Officer of the SAP from Pretoria.

The policemen who had successfully completed a gruelling three-month course qualified for the national diploma in Police Administration.

"These achievements are of outstanding importance to any member of the SAP," the guest of honour, Major-General Laubscher said.

"A policeman, be he an officer, a non-commissioned officer or a constable, will always be in the limelight. When he satisfies members of the public, the praise is little; when he does anything which the public (or sections of the public) does not like, the outcry against such action is loud and echoes beyond our borders.

The SAP serve members of the public from all walks of life; from the highest in political, academic and socio-economic spheres to the uneducated labourer and, therefore, we must be prepared at all times.

"It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that members be educated to be constantly prepared.

"The members who underwent the officers' course prepared themselves for a new status in their career. You were taught new ideas and gained certain knowledge during this course. What you are going to do with this knowledge and these ideas, depends on how you approach it and how you are going to utilise it as new officers."

Among the officers who graduated were two Durban brothers — Cristy and Reggie Marimuthu.

Detective-Lieutenant Cristy Marimuthu, 30, was promoted to the branch commander's office in Sydenham while his brother, Reggie, 28, who is also a Detective-Lieutenant, has been promoted within the CID division at the C R Swart police station.

Lieutenants Murugas and Johnny Shanmugum will take over duties as station commanders in the Transvaal. Lt Murugas will be in charge of the Actonville police station while Lt Shanmugum will assume duty at the new Lenasia police station.

Lt Dorisval Govender of Isipingo and Lt Anish Harripersad of C R Swart Square in Durban were among the successful police officers. They are seen here with Major-General J A B Laubscher.

Media Clipping

Diploma ceremony as 25 become (commissioned – [LG]) police officers

(Source [DG])

Transcript

DIPLOMA CEREMONY AS 25 BECOME POLICE OFFERS

Twelve Indians were among the 15 senior policemen who passed out as officers at a diploma ceremony in Benoni this week. The officers, from all over South Africa, attended the impressive passing out parade and diploma ceremony which was held at the South African Police Mechanical School in Benoni. High-ranking police officers were on hand to witness the ceremony, including Major-General J AB Laubscher, Senior Staff Officer of the SAP from Pretoria. The policemen who had successfully completed a gruelling three-month course qualified for the national diploma in Police Administration. "These achievements are of outstanding importance to any member of the SAP" the guest of honour, Major-General Laubscher said. A policeman, be he an officer, a non-commissioned officer or a constable, will always be in the limelight. When he satisfies members of the public, the praise is little; when he does anything which the public (or sections of the public) does not like, the outcry against such action is heard and echoes beyond our borders. "The SAP serve members of the public from all walks of life; from the highest in political, academic and socio-economic spheres to the uneducated labourer and, therefore, we must be

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Captain Sharma Maharaj; Christie: Colonel Morgan Chetty and Reggie after their graduation
(Source – [RM])



Cristie and Reggie with the Course Leader after their graduation
(Source – [RM])



Mom; Reggie; Rhoda and young daughter after their graduation
(Source – [RM])



Photograph of Detectives on the course

Front row, from left to right, Cristy Marimuthu; Bala Naidoo; Reggie Marimuthu

Rear row, from left to right, Anesh Haripersad; Doraval (George) Govender; Mpanga



Lieutenant Johnny Govender and I [LG] after the parade

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME OF THE OFFICERS THAT GRADUATED



Lieutenant General Morgan Chetty



Lieutenant General (Sharma) DS Maharaj



Major General (George) Doraval Govender



Brigadier Bala Naidoo



Brigadier Anesh Haripersad



Brigadier Reggie Marimuthu



Colonel Johnny Govender



Late Colonel (Selva) Mogamberry Perumal



Colonel Cristy Marimuthu



Reunion of SA Police, Candidate Officers' - Course 6 / 1984. Held at La Montagne Ballito from 8th -11th September 2023.

From left to right, George Govender (Major General [Professor]; Martin Mpanga (Major General); Mrs Naledi Mpanga; Mrs Roda Marimuthu; Reggie Marimuthu (Brigadier); Cristy Marimuthu (Colonel); Mrs Lily Naidoo; Bala Naidoo (Brigadier)
(Source Brigadier Bala Naidoo)

MAJ GEN GEORGE GOVENDER (RETIRED)

Dear colleagues and ladies. Good day. Big thank you to Brigadier's Bala Naidoo and Reggie Marimuthu for their extra effort in making this Reunion of Course 6 of 1984 a success. Colleagues, I feel refreshed to see us coming together after approximately 40 years, since we graduated as the first Non - white Diploma graduandi Lieutenants on the parade ground of Benoni Mechanical College. We were also fortunate to graduate together with two of our senior officers, late Deputy National Commissioner Morgan Chetty and Lieutenant General Sharma Maharaj (Former Provincial Commissioner of Gauteng). Walking the road since 1984, amidst challenges and high career risks, and being able to attend this reunion, is indeed a great achievement. My thanks go to the almighty, who made this 40 years journey possible. My career in the South Africa Police (SAP) and the South Africa Police Service (SAPS) has always been exciting with many successes on the way. I had the occasion to work with, interact and enjoy the company of excellent colleagues and superiors, who always appreciated my contribution. There were times, when it was difficult to satisfy some individuals, however this is too few to mention. Since the non-white officers were a diverse group, competition was great in the police. This was healthy in a way, because it kept one on his toes to make sure you walk a straight path to qualify for promotions, otherwise you are left behind because of your own foolish mistakes. The biggest lesson I learnt in the police is to educate yourself to the fullest,

since the government carried the costs to educate you. Being educated, allowed you to keep a back door opened to pursue a second career. When new leadership and policies start to impact negatively on your career, you must look at other avenues even if you have to sacrifice your salary and power position. When I went on early retirement from the police after 36 years of service, having served as a Major General for 12 years, at police station level, area level and Head Office level. I joined the University of South Africa (UNISA) and obtained my Doctorate degree in 2012. The biggest challenge was to relinquish your power position as a police officer and the benefits offered to senior officers in the police. I later realized through research, that this so-called legitimate power is very dangerous, it affects families negatively and many police officers suffer a backlash because of the loss of this power position. I had a very successful career at the University, where I became an internationally rated researcher with a NRF rating awarded by the CSIR. After 13 years, I retired from the University as a full Professor. I presently do work for several Universities in South Africa and Internationally, because of my passion for Education. I had a very successful working career, working for almost 49 years before joining my new career as a pensioner. My participation in the Comrades Marathon and training for this endurance race by running many marathons, over many stressful years in senior management positions, helped me beat PTSD in my early days. Today, due to health reasons I keep walking and cycling to manage old age symptoms.



Editor in Chief of Nongqai, Brigadier Hennie B Heymans, [HBH].



"Our course leader Brig Schenck passed away recently. My sympathies and condolences to his family, friends and then Candidate Officers Course of 1984. See Course photo. Found the original. This is the best print I got. This photo is important because

it has late Brig Schenck, our course leader. If time permits." - Major General (Professor) (George) Doraval Govender.

AFTERWORD

Advocate (Lieutenant General) Sally Khan

B.Proc, LLB (UNISA)

MBA (Mancosa) LLM

Contract Law (UP)



Advocate (Lieutenant General) Sally Khan

As I reflect upon the narratives, photographs, and recollections that fill these pages, I am struck not only by the history they preserve, but by the courage, resilience, and dignity of the officers whose

stories are told. The journey of the Non-White Candidate Officers of the South African Police during the 1980s was not merely a passage through a training college or the attainment of rank; it was, in truth, a struggle for recognition in a society that withheld it, and a testament to perseverance in the face of systemic exclusion.

This special edition of Nongqai does more than document events of 1984, it honours men of vision and determination, who, despite formidable odds, chose service above self. They carried themselves with integrity, lived by the highest standards of discipline, and paved a path for those who would follow in a transformed South Africa.

It is especially significant to acknowledge that among these officers were

individuals who rose to the very pinnacle of leadership in the South African Police Service. The late Lieutenant General Morgan Chetty, who went on to serve as Deputy National Commissioner and Lieutenant General (Sharma) DS Maharaj, who became the Provincial Commissioner of Gauteng, and, stand out as shining examples of how excellence, discipline, and perseverance can transcend barriers. Similarly, Major General (Professor) (George) Doraval Govender not only served with distinction within the SAPS but also contributed to academia as a respected professor and international scholar. Their careers are living proof that the seeds planted in Benoni in 1984 yielded a harvest of leadership that continues to inspire.

These trailblazers did more than achieve personal success; they transformed the institution itself. They demonstrated that officers of integrity, regardless of race or background, could lead with vision, competence, and honour. Their journeys remind us that leadership is not about privilege or entitlement, but about service, humility, and the capacity to empower others.

It is my hope that this volume not only preserves their legacy but also fosters reflection on the strides made in policing, and the

ongoing is using it as a blueprint. That's what I'm doing. Don't ever use it to copy and pursuit of equality, professionalism, and excellence in law enforcement.

It is fitting that we pause to acknowledge not only their contribution to policing, but also their personal sacrifices, their time away from families, their perseverance against prejudice, and their resilience in the face of challenges that stretched beyond the parade ground. In recognising them, we reclaim a chapter of history too often overlooked, and we affirm the truth that service, when guided by honour and humility, leaves an indelible mark on both institutions and people.

To those who served, and to their families who shared the weight of that service, I extend my deepest respect and gratitude. May this volume stand as a living record of your journey, a tribute to your endurance, and an inspiration to future generations.

I commend Advocate Karen Pillay and Logan Govender for their dedication in researching and compiling this invaluable record. May we continue to remember and honour these officers, whose contributions remain an indelible part of South Africa's policing history.

“The past is never merely history it is the legacy upon which the present stands, and the light that guides the future.” (anon)

Advocate (Lieutenant General) Sally Khan



Captain DME Lazarus



Captain (Sooks) P Sookaloo laying a wreath at a Commemoration Service in Pietermaritzburg. His Dad was a World War 11 veteran

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“agnoscere et honorare servientibus” –

“to acknowledge and honour those who served”

“Soli Deo Gloria” - “To God Alone Glory”

Logan Govender