

NONGQAI

VOL 12 ~ NO 4B ~ SPECIAL EDITION

YOUR NATIONAL SECURITY HISTORY MAGAZINE WITHOUT MALICE

U NASIONALE VEILIGHEIDSGESKIEDENIS TYDSKRIF SONDER KWAADWILLIGHEID



LIEUTENANT GENERAL
DS (SHARMA) MAHARAJ

NONGQAI

YOUR NATIONAL SECURITY HISTORY MAGAZINE WITHOUT MALICE
U NASIONALE VEILIGHEIDS GESKIEDENIS TRYDSKRIF SONDER KWAADWILLIGHEID



TO PRESERVE THE PAST WITHOUT LIVING IN THE PAST
OM DIE VERLEDE TE BEWAAR SONDER OM IN DIE VERLEDE TE LEEF

Publisher | Uitgewer

Nongqai is compiled by S.A. Police Brigadier (Ret) Hennie Heymans (HBH) together with associate editor, Frans Bedford-Visser, former Warrant Officer in the S.A. Railways Police., and recently retired Police Scotland officer.

Hennie lives in Pretoria, RSA. He is passionate about our police, military and national security history and holds a MA Degree in National Strategic Studies.

Frans resides in Scotland, UK, and has a keen interest in preserving the history of our former security forces, especially the Railways Police. He holds a Diploma in Police Services, Leadership and Management.

Any opinions expressed by either Hennie or Frans are entirely their own.

Nongqai word saamgestel deur S.A. Polisie Brigadier (Afg) Hennie Heymans (HBH) saam met mederedakteur, Frans Bedford-Visser, voormalige adjudant-offisier in die S.A. Spoorwegpolisie, en onlangs afgetrede lid van die Skotse Polisie.

Hennie woon in Pretoria, RSA. Hy is passievol oor ons polisie, militêre en nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis en het 'n MA-graad in Nasionale Strategiese Studies.

Frans woon in Skotland, VK, en het 'n ywerige belangstelling in die behoud van die geskiedenis van ons voormalige veiligheidsmagte, veral die Spoorwegpolisie. Hy besit 'n Diploma in Polisdienste, Leierskap en Bestuur.

Enige menings uitgespreek deur óf Hennie of Frans is heeltemal hul eie

Aim | Doel

Our goal is to collect and record our national security history for publication in **Nongqai** for future generations.

Ons doel is om die nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis in **Nongqai** aan te teken en so vir die nageslagte bewaar.

Policy | Beleid

We publish the articles and stories as received; we only correct spelling mistakes. It's important to publish the stories in the form and context as they are received. Police and defence personnel have their own language and sub-culture. We are not a scientific or literary journal. We only work with historical building blocks.

Ons publiseer die artikels en stories soos ontvang; ons korregeer net spelfoute. Dit is belangrik om die stories in die vorm en konteks te publiseer soos dit ontvang word. Die polisie en verdedigingspersoneel het hul eie taal en subkultuur. Ons is nie 'n wetenskaplike of literêre joernaal nie. Ons werk net met historiese boustene.



SHARE YOUR
MEMORIES WITH US

DEEL U
HERINNERINGE MET
ONS

Free!

DOWNLOADS



and more

Visit: www.samirror.com/nongqai.html

STUUR ASB FOTO'S EN STORIES AAN:

Brig. Hennie Heymans: +27 723 361755
heymanshb@gmail.com



CONTENTS

LIEUTENANT GENERAL DS (SHARMA) MAHARAJ (Provincial Commissioner Gauteng)



ADMINISTRASIE | ADMINISTRATION

2: Publisher | Aim | Policy

INHOUDSOPGAWE | CONTENTS

3: Contents

VOORWOORD | FOREWORD

4: Lieutenant-General DS (Sharma) Maharaj: *by Major General (Prof) Doraval Govender*

VOORBLAD STORIE | COVER STORY

6: Lieutenant-General DS (Sharma) Maharaj *by Colonel Logan Govender*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

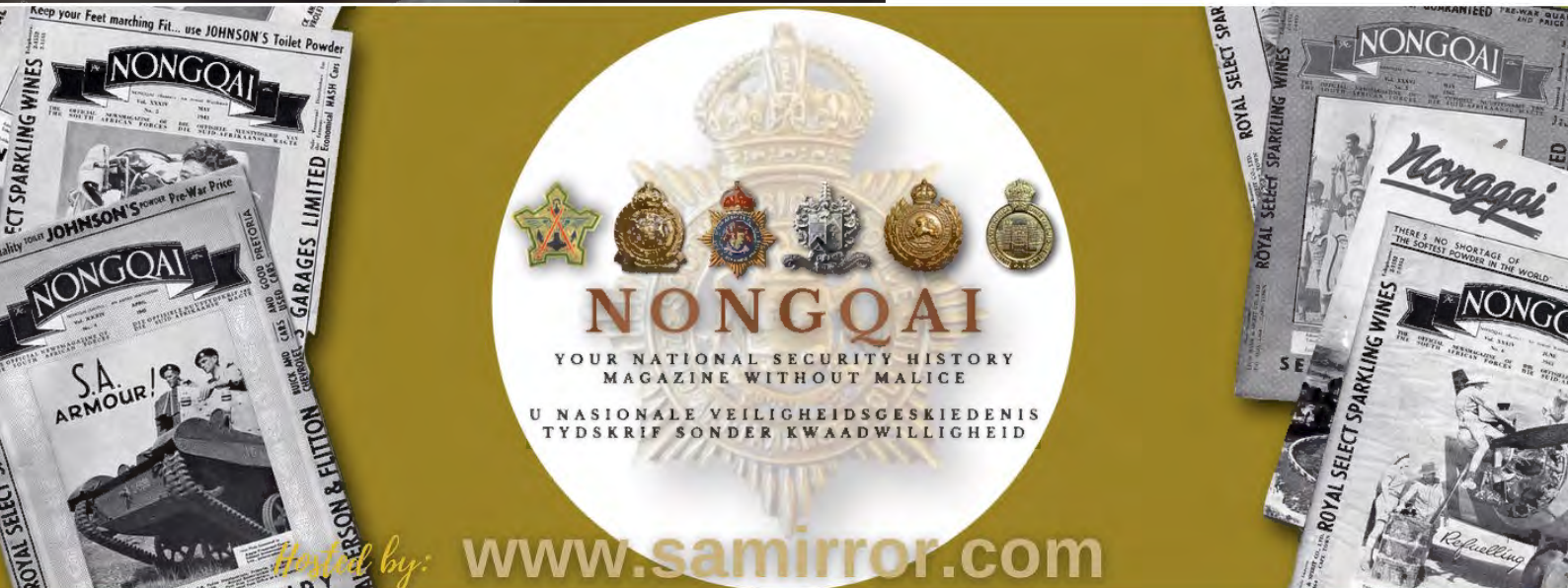
55: Colonel Logan Govender

NAWOORD | AFTERWORD

56: Brig HB Heymans

SLOT | END

57: Vrywaring : Indemnity



Hosted by:

www.samirror.com

Lieutenant General DS (Sharma) Maharaj

By Major General (Prof) Doraval Govender,

As a friend and colleague of the late Lieutenant General Sharma Maharaj, it is indeed a privilege and honour to write a 'Foreword' on this charismatic leader of the South African Police Service. From the time he set foot in Isipingo, he became a popular personality overnight. In the corridors of the Chatsworth police station where I was stationed at that time, the name Lieutenant Sharma Maharaj was mentioned, as hailing from Pietermaritzburg and appointed as Station Commander at Isipingo. This was because of the limited positions that were opened for Indian officers, more especially the post of Station Commander. General Maharaj made history as the first police officer of Indian descent to be appointed as the District Commandant of the Chatsworth district in 1987, and thereafter the first Provincial Commissioner of Gauteng in 1995.

General Maharaj was born on the 29th of July 1946, in Shakaskraal, on the Kwa-Natal North Coast. After turning 18 years old he joined the South African Police (SAP) in Pietermaritzburg in 1964 and was posted to Greytown. He reported for basic training at the Wentworth Police College for Non-Whites (training depot) in 1965. Whilst at Loop Street he was promoted to a second-class sergeant. He thereafter served at the Oribi Police Garage, in Pietermaritzburg for a short while and was promoted to a senior sergeant. He was later transferred to Dundee and promoted to Warrant Officer. Since the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel

Subramonia Pillai and other non-white officers in 1970, Warrant Officer Maharaj and other non-white officers were the next group to be promoted to Lieutenants rank, after having attended a candidate officers' course. This was an encouraging moment for junior members of the police to see signs of career development and scope for promotions for non-white members. During the late seventies, early eighties, the winds of change was blowing through the police, where uniforms were changed to a single colour for all personnel, salaries were improved, equal promotion exams were written, based on the National Diploma in Policing, which was managed by the Department of Education and later Technikon RSA. Incentives were also offered to all members to study at tertiary institutions. On 01 April 1981, history was once again made when non-white members of the police could join the SA Police medical scheme for the first time. In 1980, Lieutenant Maharaj was appointed as Station Commander at SAP Isipingo. He was later transferred to Chatsworth as Station Commander, on promotion to Captain, where he served as Captain and was then promoted to Major, until he became a District Commandant of the Chatsworth District, where he was appointed as a Major and thereafter a Lieutenant-Colonel and a Colonel. He later became a Brigadier and served as the Regional Head: Human Resources Management, in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

He married Shanthi Maharaj. They were the proud parents of

three sons, Ashwin, Anesh and Avinesh who strived to be the best academically. Anesh has followed his father's footsteps. He has recently been appointed to Brigadier, Station Commander at SAPS Honeydew. Avinesh is a pilot and Ashwin works for a government department in South Africa. He also has four grandsons.

Lieutenant General Maharaj was a perfectionist. Education was just a manifestation of his perfection. He was a versatile officer, who always stood aloof in whatever he did. Although a disciplinarian, he maintained a situational leadership style. "Captain Adams bears testimony to this, when he mentions that the District Commandant always consulted with Sharma Maharaj, when it came to operational tactics. In Dundee and district, Sharma was a household name". He was also an eloquent public speaker who was fluent in both Afrikaans and English. I remember attending a conference on Crime hosted by the Provincial government in Gauteng, when General Maharaj was a Provincial Commissioner in Gauteng. The programme Director (human rights activist) was full of praise for his presentation, which was very objective and open without being defensive. General Maharaj, was a professional police officer, he carried himself intellectually, socially and fitted into any space with any person. One would feel proud to have been associated with him. He was a very influential person, who also assisted in bringing about change in the po-

(Cont. on Page 5)

(Cont. from page 4)

lice. He had all the qualities of becoming a National Commissioner. Unfortunately, destiny was against him. The death of General Maharaj,

on 28 November 2001, left a void in policing circles, in both the SAPS and the Tshwane Metro Police, where he was appointed as Head, soon after his retirement from the SAPS in 2000.

Major General (Prof) Doraval Govender, DLitt et Phil, SOE, F.I.S (SA).

Professor in Criminal Justice Studies
University of South Africa.

STUUR ASB FOTO'S EN STORIES AAN:

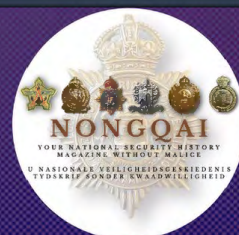
Brig. Hennie Heymans:



+27 723 361755



heymanshb@gmail.com



Below: Row of medals and decorations awarded to Lt Gen Maharaj including miniatures and foreign awards.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL DS (SHARMA) MAHARAJ: ONE OF THE FIRST INDIAN LIEUTENANT GENERALS and THE FIRST INDIAN PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER IN THE GAUTENG PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

By Col Logan Govender



(Some facts concerning the early life and police career of Lieutenant General DS (Sharma) Maharaj as reported in various media reports were found to be incorrect - Logan

Govender, LG.)

Readers should take note of the following factors: -

Maharaj was born in Shakaskraal (not in Pietermaritzburg) but returned to Pieter-

maritzburg as an infant. The confinement period for Indian woman after she gives birth is 40 days. She spends this period at her parents' house, es-

(Cont. on Page 7)

pecially if it is her first child. This is to ensure that she has the best care and gets enough rest, as all meals would be prepared for her. (Mrs Lallie Maharaj).

I think this is still practiced in many Indian families to this day and age.

His early (preschool) schooling was in Nizamia Government Aided Indian School, Pietermaritzburg. When his Dad became seriously ill and was hospitalized his Mom took him, his younger brother and sister and moved back to her parents' home in Shakaskraal. (The placename is Shakaskraal postcode 4430 - HBH). Her father was the Principal of Tinley Manor Primary School. It is where Sharma completed his early schooling whilst his brother and sister attended Shakaskraal Primary School where their Mom's brother was the deputy Principal. His brother and sister returned to Pietermaritzburg to complete their schooling when their Dad was well again. Whilst Sharma only returned back home in Vengada Road, Northdale after he completed standard six **This was probably when he turned 12 or 13 years old around 1959 / 60 - LG).**

He joined the SA Police in Pietermaritzburg (not Greytown) in 1964 (not 1965) and was posted to Greytown. He successfully completed Police Matric by distant learning (not at Woodlands Secondary School); He was transferred to Dundee in the 1973 not in the 80's; He sadly passed on at the MediClinic Medforum Hospital, Pretoria (not Johannesburg) after a major operation on 28 December 2001. His youngest son Anesh did

follow his father's footsteps and joined SA Police. He is a Brigadier and the Station Commander at Honeydew Police Station in Gauteng; He has four grandsons (no granddaughters); As reported in the various media reports.

This information was furnished by his wife, Mrs Shanthee Maharaj, his younger sister Mrs Lallie Maharaj and younger brother Mr Bhairu Maharaj.)

Interviewed Mrs Lallie Maharaj on 28 January 2021

Younger sister of Sharma Maharaj

Her Dad, **Ramkaran Mahaj** (Sharma's Dad too) joined the SA Police in Richmond (N) in the 1950's. Thereafter he was transferred to Pietermaritzburg Central (Loop Street).

He had five children and the eldest was Sharma.

Whilst at Pietermaritzburg Central (Loop Street) **(See Colonel Henry Budhram insert about Loop Street - LG)** Maharaj Snr, worked as a detective. The family relocated to Raisethorpe from Richmond and thereafter Queens Street in the CBD of Pietermaritzburg.

"Dad became very ill and was admitted to Edendale Hospital for approximately six months." **(The only non-White hospital in Pietermaritzburg at the time - LG.)**

During his illness their Mom (who hailed from the Misra-family in Shakaskraal) returned to her parents' home. The daughter and younger son were enrolled at Shakaskraal Primary School where her brother was the deputy principal whilst Sharma was enrolled at a school in Tinley Manor where her Dad (his granddad) was the principal.

However, after Ramkaran became well again he was transferred to Scottsville police station. **(See Colonel Henry Budhram insert about Scottsville police station, - LG)** He later worked at Alexandra Road.

Eventually he was transferred back to Pietermaritzburg Central where he retired in 1975/6.

Whilst they lived at Queen Street, Sharma attended the Nizamia Government Aided Indian School for a short while, thereafter he was taken to his grandparents' home in Shakaskraal, where he received his early schooling from Grade 1 till Grade 8 at Tinley Manor where his granddad was the principal.

After he completed grade 8, he returned to his family in Vengada Road, Northdale, Pietermaritzburg. Her Dad thereafter acquired property in Chetty Road, no 45, where the family home stands to this day.

After Sharma turned 18 years old his Dad took him to Pietermaritzburg Central where he was attested into the SA Police and posted to Greytown. After basic police training, he returned to Pietermaritzburg Central. Later he was transferred to the police garage at Oribi.

Sharma was transferred to Dundee during 1973, she recalls having stayed with the family after her eldest son was born the same year.

Photo overleaf top: Sergeant Ramkaran Maharaj .

Photo overleaf bottom: Their family home at 45 Chetty Road, Pietermaritzburg. According to my knowledge many Indian police members have either visited this home or driven past it.



(Cont. from page 7)

He married Shanthee Maharaj. They were the proud parents of three sons, Ashwin, Anesh and

Avinesh who strived to be the best academically. Anesh has followed his father's footsteps. He has recently been appointed to Brigadier, Station Commander at SAPS Honeydew. Avinesh is

a pilot and Ashwin works for a government department in South Africa. He also has four grandsons.



General Maharaj and his second son, Anesh, the Brigadier and Station Commander of Honeydew.



Gen Keevy was Commissioner during 1964



Platoon Photograph , SA Police Indian Training Depot, Wentworth, August 1965

Front row (L-R): Lance Sergeant DJ Lamech (Troop Sergeant, Drill Instructor); Senior Sergeant Govindsamy Reddy (Law Instructor); Sergeant HL Schourie (Station Commander); Lieutenant-Colonel WA Griffiths (District Commandant, Durban South District); Lance Sergeant DW Reiners (PT & Drill Supervisor); Lance Sergeant M Chetty (PT and Law Instructor).

Second row (L-R): I-Csts. Rathilal. N. Balakrishna, Krishnabathi (Later W/O, Mountain Rise, Pm'burg), Vartharajaloo, Madramuthu, T Naidoo, Yagambaram, Lingappa, CR Moodley, PD Francis (Asst. team Leader), M Moodley

Third row (L-R): I-Csts. Subrayan, N.Naidoo, Rambali, Aramugam, Vasudevan, D Naidoo, MM Govender, I Buccus. T Ramchand, Madurai, Poobalan.

Fourth row (L-R): I-Csts. G Mooppanar (Troop Leader— late), Rabuchund (late), Trivanamalai (late, Mountain Rise, Pietermaritzburg), DS (Sharma) Maharaj, Narainsamy, Rangasamy, S Naidoo, Moonsamy, Mariemuthu, M Bhoolay (late, W/O, Mountain Rise, Pm'burg).

It is not known whether he was posted directly to Loop Street (Pietermaritzburg Central) or was first posted to Greytown thereafter to Pietermaritzburg. However, in the 60's whilst at Loop Street he was promoted to the rank of second-class sergeant. It is reported that he was transferred to the Oribi Police garage, where he was employed as a Spares Clerk for police motor vehicles. Whilst stationed there he was promoted to the rank of senior sergeant.

He was thereafter transferred to Dundee, in Northern Natal. (*The coal mining town of Dundee is situated in a valley of the Biggarsberg mountains in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. It is very rich in coal deposits.*) Whilst at Dundee he served with other prominent Indian policemen Sergeant Bob Sanker (late - Major, Public Relations Officer, Durban; later Chatsworth Police Station and after retirement as a Temporary Major at the District Commandant, Chatsworth) and Captain

AM Adams (later Inspectorate Newcastle), It was reported that Maharaj was the youngest member in the SA Police to have written and passed the promotion examination to Warrant Officer. Sanker also wrote the same examination and passed to Warrant Officer as well at the same time.

STUUR ASB FOTO'S EN STORIES AAN:

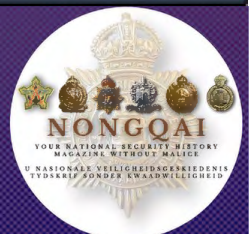
Brig. Hennie Heymans:



+27 723 361755



heymanshb@gmail.com





Above left: Major Bob Sanker



Above right: Captain AM Adams

Insert by Captain AM Adams

Adams joined the SA Police on 29 August 1966 at Dundee. Retired at Tugela (Newcastle) Regional Headquarters as the Training Officer at Inspectorate on 21 June 2000. His first interaction with Maharaj was at the Oribi Police Garage in Pietermaritzburg in 1969. Adams was posted there to assist when the Police Garage experienced a shortage of manpower.

"I knew Lieutenant General Sharma Maharaj since 1969 when he was stationed at SA Police Garage, Oribi, Pietermar-

itzburg. In the short time that I worked with him at Oribi I noticed that the Sergeant had much potential, discipline and commanded respect amongst all. He always thought carefully before he spoke and was never abrupt to anybody. We met for the second time at Dundee after I returned to the station from special duty. He was transferred to my station. I assisted him by acquiring accommodation for him and his family in a house in 27 Bulwer Street in Dundee. Sharma became comfortable and began developing

the Indian members of the police force. He held classes at the old offices of the Police Station preparing the candidates who intended to write police promotion examinations. I remember when Sharma became a Warrant Officer, he was already a popular personality. Major Kieck the District Commander always consulted with Sharma when it came to operational tactics. In Dundee and surrounding districts Sharma was a household name. Lieutenant General Sharma Maharaj was sadly missed after his demise on 2001/11/28."

Media Clipping of the promotion of DS Maharaj (late) (Lieutenant General, Provincial Commissioner, Gauteng) and Bob Sanker (late) (later transferred to Port Natal, Chatsworth Police Station and thereafter as a Temporary Major at the District Commandant's office, Chatsworth) to the rank of Warrant Officer whilst in Dundee.

Transcript: **"FIRST INDIAN**

WARRANT OFFICERS AP-POINTED"

Two of Dundee's leading policemen made history by becoming the first Indians of Northern Natal to be appointed as Warrant Officers. The two sergeants, Bob Shunker (Sanker) and Sharma Maharaj were promoted to the rank of Warrant Officers after successfully completing their promotion examinations.

Warrant Officer Bob Shunker (Sanker) has figured prominently amongst the Indians of Dundee Indian Child Welfare Society, a position which he had held for the past five years.

Warrant Officer Sharma Maharaj, who is 29 years of age, is believed to be the youngest warrant officer in the Republic." **(Maharaj turned 29 years**

(Cont. on page 12)

old in 1975 - LG.)

He later underwent a Candidate

Officer's course and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1979. Other members on the same course were Lieutenant-Colonel Aaron B Pillay (late) and

Captains DJ Lamech; Bob Sewpersad and VC Shanmugham.

FIRST INDIAN WARRANT OFFICERS APPOINTED

Two of Dundee's leading policemen made history by becoming the first Indians of Northern Natal to be appointed as Warrant Officers. The two sergeants, Bob Shunker and Sharma Maharaj were promoted to the rank of Warrant Officers after successfully completing their promotion examinations.

Warrant Officer Bob Shunker has figured prominently amongst the Indians of Dundee as the president of the Dundee Indian Child Welfare Society, a position which he has held for the past five years.

Warrant Officer Sharma Maharaj, who is 29 years of age, is believed to be the youngest warrant officer in the Republic.

* * * * *



Above Left: Lieutenant Colonel AB Pillay (late)

Above Right: Captain DJ Lamech (late) (**Mentioned by Professor Govender in his insert below - LG.)**)



Above: Captain Bob Sewpersad

Scene

WITH M S ROY



LIEUTENANT
CRISTIE
MARIMUTHU
and MALIGA
MARIMUTHU

Cops hold fund-raising dance

THE South African Police Ladies' Club held a fund-raising dance at the RDLI Hall



LIEUTENANT
GEORGE
GOVENDER
and SAVY
GOVENDER



LIEUTENANT
REGGIE
MARIMUTHU
and VASANTHA
MARIMUTHU



PAM and
Lieutenant D J
LAMECH,
Lieutenant
INDIRA
CHETTY and
Colonel
MORGAN
CHETTY,
SHANTI and
Captain
SHARMA
MAHARAJ

News Clipping:

Scene with M S ROY

SCENE WITH M S ROY

Cops hold fund-raising dance at the RDLI Hall

Captions:

Top right: Lieutenant Christie Marimuthu and Maliga Marimuthu

Centre right: Lieutenant Reggie Marimuthu and Vasantha Marimuthu

Centre left

Lieutenant George Govender and Savy Govender

Bottom left

Pam and Lieutenant DJ Lamech, Indira Chetty and Colonel Morgan Chetty, Shanti and Captain Sharma Maharaj"

General Maharaj

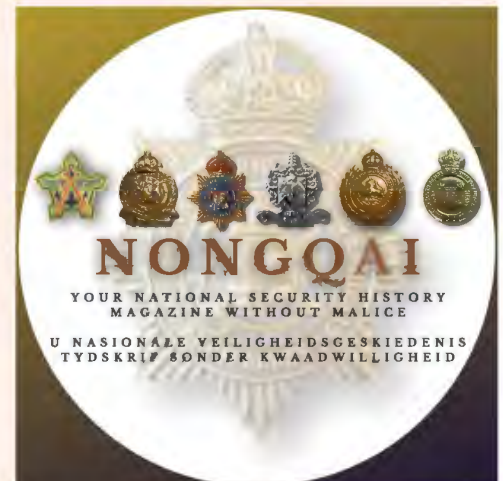
In the early 80's he was transferred to Isipingo as the first Indian Station Commander. (Isipingo is a town situated 19 kilometres south of Durban in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Under apartheid it was first a "whites only" area, but was then reclassified as Indian.) The erstwhile Station Commander, Warrant Officer MRB Barker handed command over to him on his arrival and was apparently transferred to the Free State Province (Orange Free State).

During 1984 after his promotion to the rank of Captain he was transferred to the largest Indian Station in the Republic, viz Chatsworth. (Chatsworth is a large township created by the apartheid government in

the 1950s to segregate the Indian population and create a buffer between the white suburbs to the north and the black townships to the south. Located in the South Durban basin and roughly bordered by the Umhlatuzana River in the North and Umlaas River in the south, the township is undergoing a rapid integration of blacks and Indians.)



Special Grade Chief Sergeant S Pillai (late, Colonel—photo) was the first Indian appointed as the Station Commander of Chatsworth on 18 September 1965.



PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER MAHARAJ

INSERT BY: MAJOR GENERAL (PROFESSOR) DORAVAL GOVENDER:

DLitt et Phil, SOE, FIS (SA).

Professor in Criminal Justice Studies: University of South Africa.



Left: Professor Govender



Right: Prof. Govender as a Major General

Attached find photos of Major Sharma Maharaj and his wife Shanti who attended my graduation in Durban in the late eighties.

I met Lieutenant Sharma Maharaj for the first time when he was appointed as **Station commander at SAP Isipingo**. At that time, I was a Detective Sergeant at the Chatsworth Detectives. My meeting with Lieutenant Sharma Maharaj and his family was because of a burglary that I was assigned to investigate at his residence in Umhlathuzana Township, Chatsworth.

Upon completing my National Diploma in Policing, I was sent on a Candidate Officers (Lieutenant) course to Benoni together with other non-white colleagues, while our colleagues from Pretoria College graduated at a Graduation ceremony held at the Pretoria College Auditorium. We officers from Benoni, were all graduated with a National Diploma in Policing outside on the drill parade ground at Benoni. Gen Chetty and Gen Maharaj, who were then at the rank of Colonel and Captain respectively graduated with us, as the first Police Diploma *graduandi* in 1984. (LG

also received my Diploma at the parade as a Sergeant but only attended the course in 1986.)

The Lieutenant's course candidates during the first part of 1984 were the first officers to undergo a full 3 months officers' course similar to their white counterparts. Although the facilities and amenities were at Benoni and our white colleagues were at Pretoria, the curriculum was the same. We had to travel to Pretoria College to undergo the Roadblock and Shooting range courses for officers, where we were served tea and snacks on the lawn, outside the mess and not allowed in the dining room at Pretoria College.

During this period, Captain Maharaj was transferred to Chatsworth as Station Commander. I am not certain, but I think he took over command from Captain Manickum Govender. I was transferred from Chatsworth to Pinetown prior to his arrival at Chatsworth and to Sydenham Detectives as the first non-white Detective Branch Commander (Warrant Officer). I used to meet him at the commander's meetings at the Durban-West District Headquarters.

Upon completing the candidate officer's course, I was transferred to Isipingo as Branch Commander of the Detectives. Captain Munsami Rungasamy was then the Station commander at SAP Isipingo. As a lieutenant, Captain Maharaj and I met often at the Indian Officers Club, Ladies Club and Sports club meetings. Captain Maharaj was then promoted to Major.

Major Maharaj arranged officer's ballroom dancing lessons with Runga Naidoo's ballroom academy. He encouraged the officers and their wives to join the dance academy. This is where I learnt ballroom dancing skills.

Major Maharaj was more than a colleague, he became a family friend. We used to enjoy healthy drinking of red heart rum and coke at social gatherings. Major Maharaj introduced me and other colleagues and friends to Red Heart Rum, which was his favourite drink.

Major Maharaj became the first District Commandant of the Chatsworth District. I was promoted to major and transferred to Wentworth Detectives as the

(Cont. on Page 15)

branch Commander. I then moved to the College for Advanced Training in Paarl, Boland, Western Cape. I was not privileged to work under Col Maharaj, but always regarded him as a special colleague and friend who was ready to socialise at any level.

At one of our Ladies Club functions, Major Maharaj was on the dance floor when Captain DJ Lamech who was also on the dance floor, passed on while on the dance floor. This was a great loss to us as the Indian Officer's Corps in the South African Po-

church every Sunday. Capt. Lamech was a disciplinarian but a very humble person.

I again met with Lieutenant General Maharaj, when he was the Provincial commissioner at Gauteng. I was at National Head office: Detective Division, as Assistant to the Head: Organised Crime Investigations.

Lieut-Col Mogamberry Perumal succeeded Captain Rungasamy as Station Commander at Isipingo. Lieut-Col P Naidoo who was appointed as the station commander at Chatsworth was later appointed as a Brigadier (Director) Station Commander at

Lieut Gen Maharaj as Provincial Commissioner at Gauteng.

General Maharaj also assisted Major General Ramsaroop with his studies and mentored him in police management. Major General Ramsaroop was appointed to work at Management (Efficiency) Services at Head Office, and later as Area Commissioner at Durban South. When I was promoted to Major General (Assistant Commissioner) at Head office, as Head of Interdepartmental Crime Intelligence Co-ordination, General Maharaj and General Chetty were appointed on a special panel under the direction of National Commissioner George Fivaz, to identify disadvantaged non-white officers and recommend their promotions. Many disadvantaged non-white officers were promoted during this process.

Shantee always prepared tea and snacks and sometimes, lunch or dinner for friends and colleagues who visited General Maharaj at his home in Durban or Johannesburg. She has always been traditional and kept to her customs, despite her husband's high position in the police. Other special friends and colleagues of General Maharaj included Gen Morgan Chetty, Brigadier Indira Chetty, General P Naidoo, Major Gen Ramsaroop, Brigadier Reggie Marimuthu, Christie Marimuthu, Brigadier Harripersad and many other colleagues, including popular public figures and whose names are too many to mention.

2021-01-22 "The following photos were sent to you in relation to the content of my insert."

Professor Govender.



Above (L-R): Capt. Jayraj Sureshchandra, Mrs Savy Govender (wife), Major General D Govender, Lieutenant General S Maharaj, Mrs Shanti Maharaj (wife), Mrs Parvathi Murugan Govender (His Mum).

lice. We lost one of our best drill instructors in the South African Police, under whose able hands many police officers and women completed their basic training. During this period, Captain Lamech who was a pastor at the local community Church and used to pick up my children for

SAPS Daveyton. Lieut Col Mogamberry Perumal succeeded him as Station Commander at Chatsworth. Brigadier P Naidoo was later promoted to Major General and appointed as the Area Commissioner: Johannesburg Area. He later succeeded

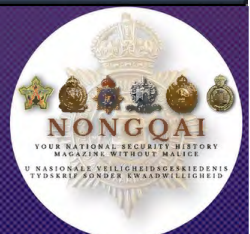
STUUR ASB FOTO'S EN STORIES AAN:

Brig. Hennie Heymans:



+27 723 361755

heymanshb@gmail.com





Above: Captain (Bob) Mogamberry Govender; Detective Warrant Officer L Joseph (late); Major General D Govender and Colonel Mogamberry Perumal.



Above: First three months Candidate Officers Course at Benoni in 1984 for Non -White Officers (Completion of First National Diploma in Policing).

Front (L-R): Det/W/OB Naidoo, W/O Pietersen, W/O M Perumal (late), Det/W/O DD Mampane, Det/W/O A Haripersad, W/O T Singh, Det/W/O L Marimuthu.

Back (L-R): W/O LW Gibson, Det/W/O P Mariemuthu , W/O S Govender, W/O NM Maphanga, Det/W/O D Govender, W/O Murugas, W/O M Wilson (Late), W/O MJ Sibiya.



Above: General Maharaj; Brig Reggie Mariemuthu; Gen M Chetty and Col Christie Mariemuthu at the National Diploma Graduations at Benoni in 1984.

Below: Lieutenant Generals Morgan Chetty and Sharma Maharaj at the National Diploma Graduation in Benoni in 1984.

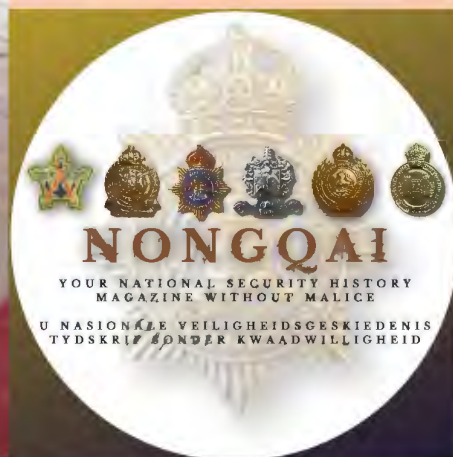




Above: All members on the parade ground at Benoni in 1984 awaiting graduation.



Left: 2016-02-16
Major General D Govender;
Lieutenant General P Naidoo,
Provincial Commissioner
Gauteng (succeeded Lieutenant
General Maharaj) and
(Deputy Provincial Commis-
sioner, Gauteng) Major Gen-
eral Bester.



Interview with Colonel Henry Budhram

19 January 2021

Colonel Henry Budhram joined the SA Police at Pietermaritzburg Central (Loop Street) in 1972. Posted to Alexandra Road. He retired on 1 January 2014 as the Head of Crime Prevention, Pietermaritzburg Cluster. Prior to that he was the first Indian Communications Officer for Natal Midlands Division. Popularly known as a historian amongst Police Officers in Pietermaritzburg for his knowledge of matters in respect of past Police members, in the Pietermaritzburg and surrounds. Budhram was the first Chairperson of the SA Police, Hindu Services in Natal Midlands. Currently the Chairperson of the Shri Vishnu Temple, Pietermaritzburg.

"Pietermaritzburg has produced two of the highest-ranking Indian Officers in the South African Police. Lieutenant General Morgan Chetty was one, who became the Deputy National Commissioner of SA Police Services and Lieutenant General Sharma Maharaj, the other, who became the first Indian Provincial Commissioner for Gauteng.

Budhram recalls that Maharaj resided in 45 Chetty Road, Northdale, Pietermaritzburg after having relocated from Queens Street, Pietermaritzburg and Vengada Road, Northdale. Maharaj's father was a detective based at Pietermaritzburg Central (Loop Street) up until 1974/5.

He came to Alexandra Road where I was stationed on numerous occasions to charge suspects.

Sharma Maharaj joined the SA Police in the early 60's at Loop Street and was transferred to Greytown. After his basic police training, he was posted back to Loop Street and worked alongside Sergeant Jerry Holland (late, Warrant Officer). The Station Commander was Captain Furniss.

Maharaj was a keen sportsman and played soccer for the Indian police team. During 1966 / 67 / 68 Budhram, as a youngster used to watch them play at the Northdale Stadium. Former police members Sookai; Dudley Maharaj (goal keeper); Captain R Michael; Mariappa and his brother Buckus and Katiah were the other Indian police soccer legends of the time.

Maharaj was transferred to the Oribi Police Garage in the Spares Department.

Later he was transferred to Dundee. Another prominent member was stationed there. Bob Sanker (late, Major previously stationed at Plessislaer.)

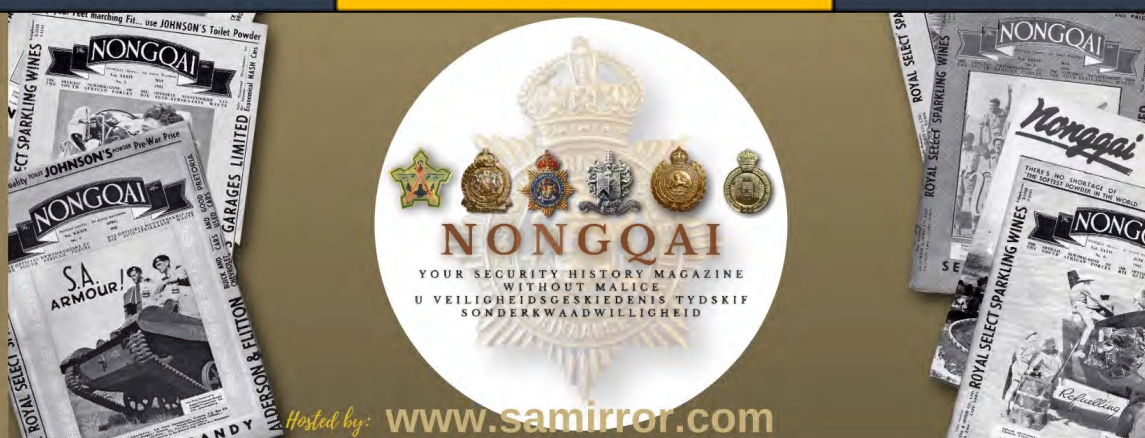
Whilst stationed in Dundee, Maharaj often travelled by his private car to Pietermaritzburg, where he would park his car at the parking grounds of Alexan-

dra Police Station. He would come into the charge office and inform members to keep an eye out for his motor vehicle, Budhram was on duty on some of these occasions. He would thereafter walk across the road to the Harry Gwala (Jan Smuts) Stadium to watch his favourite team and sport during his days off. Budhram remembers a Cup Final match involving Maritzburg and Hellenic which was watched by both Maharaj and himself.

Maharaj, Lieutenant Colonel AB Pillay, Bob Sanker, Vernon Shanmugham (late, Captain, Mountain Rise), DJ Lamech (late, Captain, SA Police, Indian Training College, Wentworth) and Bob Sewpersad were on the same Officer's Course.

After taking up his post as Station Commander of Isipingo, Budhram once again met Maharaj whilst he was visiting his sick Mom in a hospital in Pietermaritzburg.

Budhram regularly interacted with Maharaj after his appointment as the Provincial Head of Human Resource in relation to official matters. He found Maharaj to be straight forward and an upright Officer. He did not tolerate incompetence and corruption as a rule."



Insert: Captain Kercy Pillay



Pillay joined SA Police at Pietermaritzburg Central (Loop Street) in 1979. Retired as the Head of a Special Project Team in Plessislaer. Tracking suspects in serious offences, such as murder, robbery and rape. Retired in 2012 as a Captain. Presently an Attorney in Pietermaritzburg.

"Whilst at SA Police, Indian Training College, Wentworth in 1979. I was in Troop 29. The Troop made a guard of honour at the opening of the Isipingo Police Station during 1979 between March and April."

Insert Captain (Bob) Mogamberg Govender



"I know D. S. Maharaj came to Isipingo in the 80s as a Lieutenant from Dundee. He drove an old shape Toyota Corolla NDE 500. He was in Isipingo for about 3 years and thereafter he was transferred to Chatsworth.

When he arrived at Isipingo the station commander was MRD Barker. Later Barker was transferred to the Free State and Maharaj became the station commander. Isipingo was a Municipality run by Indians and certain individuals wrote a letter to the District Commandant and Isipingo thereafter became managed by non-white members. I lived at the house within the station grounds which was previously occupied by Lt. R. D. Coetzee."



Interview with Captain (Bob) Mogambery Govender

Govender joined the SA Police in Pinetown on 20 June 1966.

He retired as a Captain, the Station Commander of Montclair, Durban on 30 April 2000.

Interviewed Captain Bob Govender on Wednesday 13 January 2021, who worked with Maharaj at SAP Isipingo.

"Maharaj arrived at Isipingo as a Lieutenant. Warrant Officer MR Barker was the Station Commander but he was transferred upon Maharaj's arrival.

Isipingo became a station run by Indians after the Mayor, Mr Falcon Khan and the Town Clerk, Mr Reddy of Isipingo, mooted for the station to be managed by Indians seeing that it was situated in an Indian area and the population consisted of predominantly Indian. The District Com-



mandant at the time Colonel Horak obtained the necessary approval from Head Office.

Colonel Avenant and Captain W Harmse were also based at district (No 75) Durban South District.

Lieutenant DS Maharaj was appointed the first Indian Station

Commander in the early 80's.

Govender recalls that he owned a Toyota Corolla with registration NDE 500. He rented a home in Umhlathuzana Township in Chatsworth and drove from Chatsworth to Isipingo daily.

Lieutenant DGS Pillay was his second in command at Isipingo and Govender, a Warrant Officer became the Branch Commander of the Enquiry Staff.

Maharaj remained at Isipingo for 3 or 4 years, from 1980 - 1983 when he was promoted to Cap

tain, he was transferred to Chatsworth as Station Commander.

Govender was based at Isipingo from 1969 to 1989.

Maharaj was a strict disciplinarian."

Interview with Brigadier NG (Natty) Govender

Govender joined the SA Police on 18 April 1980 at Glendale, KwaZulu Natal. Retired in December 2017 as a Brigadier, Provincial Head of Organisational Study and Strategic Management.

"Brigadier NG (Natty) Govender related in the 1980's passing the Police English examination paper was an arduous task for many however, Maharaj arranged to tutor those struggling to pass the subject to enable them to easily understand and sit the examination for the English paper and to successfully complete it. It became a known fact that many passed after the tuition from Maharaj.

He used to lecture students at The SA Police, Indian Training College, Wentworth. Govender



an instructor at the College at the time, was usually delegated to formally introduce him to the students as the guest speaker.

When another Indian Police District was proposed to be established in Phoenix, he informed Govender to join him at the new

District when it opened, however this did not materialise with the advent of democracy.

Govender was present at the Passing Out Parade at Kings Park Stadium on 1987-12-10 when the Senior Chief Deputy Commissioner of the SAP, General RPJ van Vuuren, made the announcement about the establishment of the first Indian Police District in Chatsworth.

Maharaj was fluent both in English and Afrikaans."



MAJOR Sharma Maharaj, station commander of Chatsworth Police Station.

Above: Media clipping: The Crime Watch by the Daily News.

Transcript

THE CRIME WATCH

Crime Reporter

The crime rate in Chatsworth is dropping according to Major Maharaj, SAP Station Commander there. "We are constantly patrolling the area and the very pres-

ence of a police vehicle acts as a deterrent to would be criminals." he told the Daily News Crime Watch.

Last week Crime Watch went to the Chatsworth Police Station, the only one, manned entirely by Indians, after a statement in the House of Delegates by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, that Indian policemen were tops.

Mr le Grange praised Indian SAP members

and said in many areas where the police stations were manned predominantly by Indian policemen, the crime rate had dropped significantly.

Major Maharaj's task is to maintain law and order in the growing township of about 500 000. The Chatsworth police station was established more than 20 years ago in two small cottages in Unit 2 - one used for the uniformed

members, and the other used for detectives. There was a total of 20.

The staff has ... and the police station is in the heart of the township.

"We have to provide for Chatsworth proper, Mobeni Heights, Silverglen, Kharwastan, Umhlatuzana and Welbedacht. This is a total of 39 hectares and it is not an easy task," Major Maharaj said.

"However, we do our best to maintain law and order."

"Because of the large area we have to cover our response time can be anything from five to 15 minutes, depending on the area and the availability of vans. We try to get to the scene as quickly as possible. If we have no vehicles available, we ask the flying squad or another police station for help," said Major Maharaj.

"I would like to appeal to people who might witness a crime, please to tell us. They will find us more helpful than they think," said Maharaj.

Special provision is also made for single members of the police force who live outside the area. There is a police barracks at present housing about 36 policemen."

Policemen get promotions

Media Clipping overleaf top: Policemen get promotions

Transcript

"POLICEMEN GET PROMOTIONS"

Six senior Indian police officers in Durban have been promoted to top posts.

Chatsworth's station commander, Captain Sharma Maharaj,

had been promoted to the rank of Major and the station's CID Branch Head, Lieutenant Hans Jissok, has been promoted to Captain.

Promoted to the rank of captain are Wentworth's acting Station Commander, Lieutenant Govindsamy Reddy; Lieutenant Bob Sanker of the police public relations directorate at CR Swart

Square; Lieutenant VR Naidu of the Security Police in Durban and Lieutenant DJ Lamech of the SAP Training College at Wentworth."

Media Clipping: First Indian Commander of Police District

(Cont. on Page 23)



Above left: Major Sharma Maharaj, left, with Captain Hans Jissok

Below left: Major Sharma Maharaj

Above right: Captain Bob Sanker



A Chatsworth Police Officer has made history by becoming the first Indian to take command of a police district in South Africa.

The Senior Chief Deputy Commissioner of the SAP, General RPJ van Vuuren, made the announcement in Durban today during the passing out parade of Indian policemen and women at the King's Park Stadium.

General van Vuuren announced that the new Indian police district would be based in Chatsworth and Major Sharma Maharaj would be the commander.

Major Maharaj is at present the station commander at the Chatsworth Police Station.

Initially four police stations would come under the control of the police district which has yet to be

named. The stations are Chatsworth, Isipingo, Cato Manor and Sydenham.

At the passing out parade six police constables received trophies for coming out tops during their training.

The best male student was Constable Gonaseelan Padayachee, the best rifle shootist, Constable Manogaran Reddy and the best small arms shootist, Constable Omesh Bikrumlal.

In the woman's section, Constable Roshela Rambally was declared the best student, Constable Koreena Kaulasar best rifle shootist and the best small arms shootist was Constable Premaloshni Padayachee."

(Cont. from page 22)

appointed.

Transcript

**"FIRST INDIAN COMMANDER
OF POLICE DISTRICT AP-
POINTED"**

Crime Reporter: 1987-12-10

Interview with Brigadier Chris Thaver

15 January 2021.



Brigadier Chris Thaver joined the SA police on 10 January 1969. He retired in April 2000 as a Brigadier, Head of Management Services, KwaZulu Natal Provincial Headquarters.

Whilst based at the District Commandant's office. Durban West (No 76) District he had numerous encounters with Captain DS (Sharma) Maharaj, the Station Commander of SA Police, Chatsworth. Maharaj regularly attended meetings and crime conferences at the District. He became aware of Maharaj's knowledge and his boldness as a commissioned Officer. They became well acquainted with each other. Thaver refers to Maharaj - "A distinguished Officer, filled with charisma who had a special form of magnetism that was notable when he entered the office or space where there was a group of people. Always neatly attired, uniform and trousers well pressed and shoes cleaned and polished to a mirror

shine. Maharaj was fluent both in English and Afrikaans."

During 1984 Thaver was nominated for a Candidate Officer's Course in Benoni. After successful completion of the course, he was reposted to Durban West district as a Lieutenant. The District Commandant Colonel TE Botha appointed him as one of his Staff Officers.

After Thaver's commission, he interacted with Maharaj on another level, as they would attend meetings and social gatherings as fellow Officers. Thaver accompanied other more Senior Officers to conduct audits and inspections at all stations within the Durban West district including Chatsworth, where Maharaj was the Station Commander. Thaver refers to Maharaj- "As a knowledgeable Officer within the district. He stood head and shoulders above many others in his knowledge and leadership qualities."

The Chatsworth (No 77) District commenced on 1988-02-01.

Maharaj informed Thaver that before the official announcement of the establishment of the new district, Head Office nominated the Commanding Officer of the SA Police, Indian Training College, Wentworth, Colonel Morgan Chetty as the first Indian District Commandant, however Chetty is reported to have declined the post and suggested Maharaj instead.

The new Chatsworth District Headquarters occupied the ground floor office space of Chatsworth Police Station. These offices were previously occupied by the Chatsworth Detectives. The Officer's nominated to work at this District were: -

- Major DS Maharaj - District Commandant;
- Major R Manilal - District CI Officer;

(Cont. on Page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

- Captain Rungasamy Mun-samy;
 - Lieutenant Chris Thaver.
- The stations that fell under the

Thaver was transferred out in 1990 to the Provincial Headquarters Efficiency Services, Durban as a Lieutenant.

The Chatsworth (No 77) District ceased to exist from around January 1993 with the advent of de-

just his discretion but interviewed and consulted with each officer or member and enquired what their preference was and after in-depth investigation only transferred them to the respective stations if there was a need.

Photograph: Members at the Chatsworth District in 1988.

A social function. Courtesy Brigadier Chris Thaver



Chatsworth (No 77) District were as follows: -

- Chatsworth;
- Cato Manor;
- Isipingo;
- Sydenham.

Sometime in 1990 the Chatsworth District Headquarters moved to Cato Manor, the premises occupied by the Indian Female College, previously occupied by the SA Police, Dog Unit Durban.

mocracy projected in 1994.

He (Thaver) was there when the Chatsworth District opened and during 1994 and he was ironically instructed by the Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant General WH Steyn to manage and oversee its closure. His instructions were that all personnel, mechanical transport, office furniture and equipment were to be transferred out according to his discretion. Major Thaver was an experienced and an accomplished officer and did not use

In late 1993 Maharaj was transferred to Provincial Headquarters, Durban and appointed the Head of Human Resource Management as a Brigadier.

Prior to the first Democratic General Election of South Africa on 27 April 1994, some of the members were tasked to guard strategic points such as airports, power stations, schools whilst others were used to monitor the polling booths at the numerous locations throughout the country.

(Vervolg op bladsy 26)

(Cont. from page 25)

Senior Officers were tasked to observe, monitor and visit members wherever they were posted.

Brigadier Maharaj asked Colonel Thaver to accompany him to the areas located on the South from Durban up to the Wild Coast. Thaver was armed with a side arm and an R1 Rifle. They visited members from Durban to Port Edward including many stations in between. A decision by the Government due to the high turnout of voters, caused the

Elections to be held over to the next day.

Maharaj booked a room for Thaver and himself at the Wild Coast Sun for the night to obviate travelling back to Durban which is a few hours' drive away. Thaver recalls that Maharaj reprimanded a number of police members at polling booths as their hair was either long or they were inappropriately dressed.

A few weeks later Thaver once again accompanied Maharaj to Northern Natal. They needed to use the convenience. A white

policeman pointed to the Non-white toilets outside. Maharaj then asked for the white toilet and was pointed to inside of the station. They utilized the one inside the station. He instructed the Station Commander to remove all discriminatory signs found in the station. Thaver - Maharaj remarked " We are in a new South Africa, remember."

General Johan van der Merwe was Commissioner till 1995.

General George Fivaz succeeded him thereafter."



Above left: General J van de Merwe. Last Commissioner of the former South African Police.

Above centre: General George Fivaz, the first National Commissioner of the new South African Police Service and

Above right: One of Gen. Fivaz' four deputies, Deputy National Commissioner Morgan Chetty—the first Indian to hold this high post in the SAPS. Gen Chetty was also the first Indian to become a Major General in the former South African Police. Gen's Chetty and Maharaj were indeed pioneers!

SHARE YOUR IMAGES & STORIES WITH US
OUR HISTORY IS IN YOUR HANDS
ONS GESKIEDENIS IS IN U HANDE
DEEL U FOTOS EN VERHALE MET ONS

SAPS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lt Gen Maharaj: President of the SAPS Football Association



SAPS Football Association Executive Committee

Back (L-R): Sgt D Lichtenstein (Secretary), Maj R Behari-Ram (member), Maj AH Lamoer (member), Maj S Sathiaselalan (Assistant Secretary)

Front (L-R): Maj JS Pereira (Vice Chairman), Lt-Gen S Maharaj (President), Commissioner G Fivaz, Col R Marimuthu (Deputy Chairman)

Soccer management team

After the appointment of General George Fivaz, a decision was adopted that there should be a national executive committee established for the SAPS. It was called the SAPS Football Association Executive Committee that comprised of the above-mentioned Officers and Officials — Brigadier Beharie Ram.

Insert by Brigadier Anesh Haripersad

28/06/2020



"At police passing out parade held at Kings Park during 1987, General Van Vuuren announced that a new Indian District would be opened. He also stated that Major Maharaj has been appointed as the Commanding Officer, he further indicated that the following stations would be under his command which include: Chatsworth, Isipingo, Cato Manor and Sydenham. Major Maharaj was assisted by the Head of Detectives, Ray Mathura. Initial-

ly, the Chatsworth District was based at Chatsworth station. At a later stage the entire staff and the District Head Quarters relocated to Cato Manor. He also pursued officers to further their studies, he was well articulated and well-respected officer in Port Natal and became the first Indian Police officer to hold such high office with integrity. He displayed his managerial expertise of the policies and Na-

(Cont. on page 28)

tional Orders of SAPS. I was transferred to SAPS Isipingo from the VIP Unit Durban as a result of my promotion. Due to organizational restructuring Colonel Maharaj was transferred to the Provincial office. The fol-

lowing officers who worked under the command of Colonel Maharaj attained the highest ranks in SAPS prior to their retirement, Lt General Naidoo, Major General Ramsaroop and Major General Pillay and Brigadier Haripersad. Colonel Maharaj had great communication skills in both lan-

guages, i.e. English and Afrikaans. In addition, he motivated, instructed and disciplined members/officers and gave people credit for their accomplishment and acknowledging their mistakes."

Insert by Brigadier Hari Badul



Brigadier Hari Badul
Joined SA Police at Glendale in 1965. Retired as the Acting Cluster Commander, Pietermaritzburg

Insert by Brigadier Hari Badul

General Maharaj was a member of the SAPS Hindu Society. He was a knowledgeable Officer and Administrator. The General became a formidable leader in the police. He had a high code of ethics. I will al-

ways remember him as my mentor.



Above: Members of the Uniform Branch and Detectives of the Chatsworth District and surrounds

Policewomen hold ball



"POLICEWOMAN HOLD BALL

The South African Police Ladies' Club held a Valentine's Ball last Saturday evening at Durban City Hall. A large number of South African Police members were there for an early celebration of the day for lovers.

Far left: Chatsworth's District Commissioner, Lt-Colonel SHARMA MAHARAJ and his wife Shantee.

Neatr left: Captain Reggie Marimuthu and his wife Vasantha

Below: Major Indera Chetty, Brigadier Barry Henn and his wife Ina and Colonel Morgan Chetty were there to toast the occasion."



Interview with Colonel Bazil Armugam

Interviewed on 14 January 2021



Bazil Armugam (above) joined SAP on 1980-09-29 at Ham-marsdale, KZN. Retired as a Colonel in May 2015 based at Provincial Headquarters Inspectorate, KZN.

In 1992 he was transferred from Pietermaritzburg Central (Loop Street) directly to the Chatsworth (No 77) District. The District Commandant was Colonel DS (Sharma) Maharaj. The District CI Officer was Lieutenant-Colonel Hans Jissok (Major General).

The following is a list of Officers based at the District.

- Major RP Govender;
- Major VR (Chris) Naidoo;
- Captain S Francis (Human Resource- Head);
- Captain NG (Natty) Govender;
- Lieutenant K Soobrathie;

- Lieutenant DS Naidoo (Finance Clerk);
- Lieutenant Bazil Armugam (Spent 1 year from 1992 to 1993);
- Warrant Officer Saravana Govender (District Clerk);
- Sergeant Nair (Finance Clerk); serving Colonel;
- Constable (Gringo) Govender (Finance Clerk) serving Colonel

The stations and satellite stations that fell under the Chatsworth (No 77) District jurisdiction were as follows: -

- Bayview (Satellite);
- Cato Manor;
- Chatsworth;
- Chesterville (Satellite);
- Isipingo;
- Malagazi (Satellite);

- Sydenham.

A large number of Officers were based at Chatsworth for the purpose of being trained to equip them to operate at a proposed new Indian District scheduled to be established in Phoenix, he undertook to enlist the skills and acumen of officers to join him at the new District when it opened, however this did not materialise with the advent of democracy.

The Chatsworth (No 77) District ceased to exist from around January 1993.

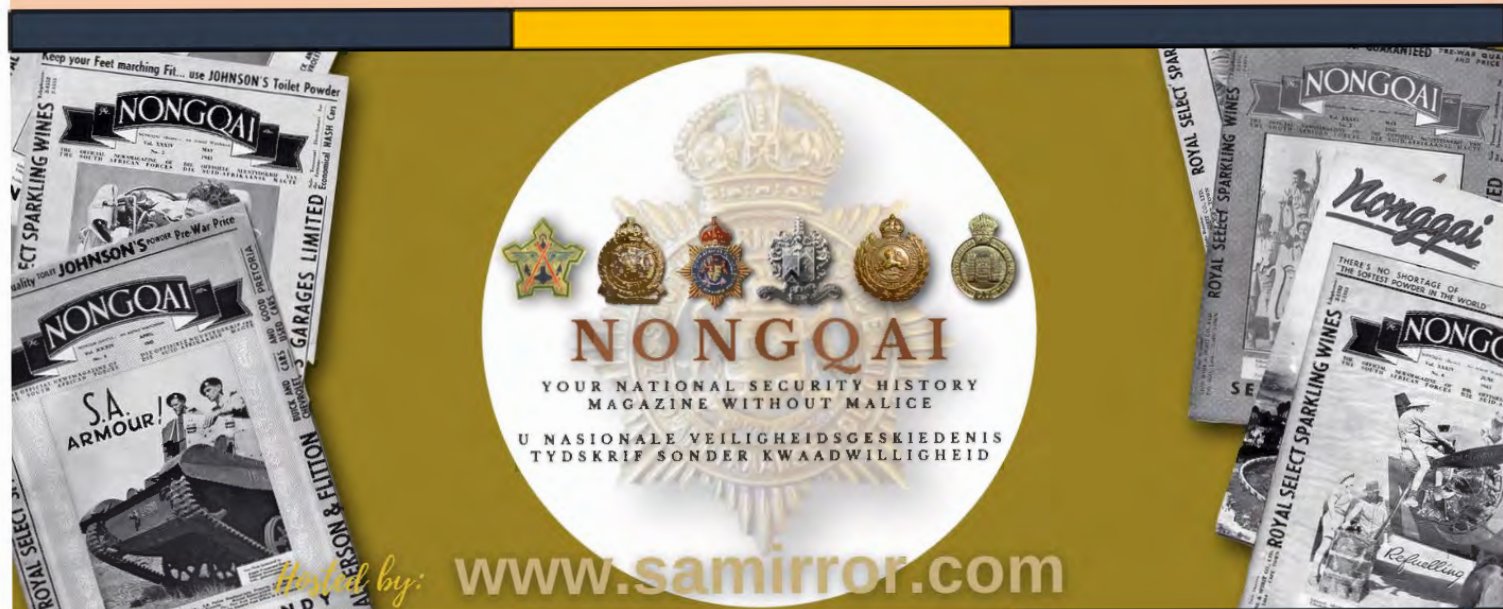
Officers and Staff were transferred out.

Arumugam - "Absolutely wonderful person; Strict disciplinarian; Offered assistance to whoever requested it; An intellectual officer; fluent in both English and Afrikaans, speak and write; a mentor to many."

A group photograph of 18 men, likely military or police officers, posed in two rows. The front row is seated, and the back row is standing. They are wearing various uniforms, including dark suits, light-colored suits, and dark uniforms with ties. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Front row from left to right - Lieutenant-Colonel Dan Naidoo; Lieutenant-Colonel S Francis (Provincial Loss Control); Major T Naidoo; Temporary Major Bob Sanker; Major General Hans Jissok; Lieutenant General DS (Sharma) Maharaj; Lieutenant-Colonel VR (Chris) Naidu; Brigadier Anesh Haripersad; Brigadier Reggie Marimuthu; Temporary Lieutenant Naidoo.

Photograph: Courtesy Colonel Bazil Armugam.



Local brigadier tipped to land key post in Gauteng

Big police

shuffle

A local senior officer is likely to take over the commanding police role in Gauteng when a major SAPS reshuffle is announced today, writes a **Daily News Correspondent** in Pretoria.

DURBAN policeman Brigadier Sharma Maharaj has been tipped as the police chief in Gauteng — and the new commissioner for KwaZulu-Natal has been named as Major-General Chris Serfontein.

This means the incumbent police commissioner of this province, Lieutenant-General Colin Steyn, has failed in his application for the top job.

He has three years to go before retirement.

National police commissioner General George Fivaz was widely expected to announce nine new provincial commissioners in Pretoria at 3pm today.

Pipped

An informed source said General Serfontein, at present regional commissioner of Eastern Transvaal, would be named KwaZulu-Natal's new police chief.

The source said General Steyn's age had counted against him.

The job of provincial commissioner is usually for a period of five years.

A source in Gauteng's Safety and Security Ministry said Brigadier Maharaj had pipped General Simon Tsoka, Brigadier Frans Malherbe and Brigadier Johan Deyssel to secure the top post.

Brigadier Maharaj was described by the source as being a hands-on policeman, having worked under pressure and being human resources-oriented.

Merit

"The selection process was fair and equitable in that the job was thoroughly advertised.

"It was the first time people were interviewed, the appointment was completely based on merit, the person's capacity and capability to deal with policing in any particular province was considered and all candidates were looked at in connection with where they could possibly serve," said the high-ranking police source.

It is understood that Gauteng's Safety and Security Minister Ms Jessie Duarte forwarded the name of Brigadier Maharaj to General Fivaz for approval.

Brigadier Maharaj has been a policeman for 30 years — all of them in KwaZulu-Natal.

In 1987 he was appointed district commissioner of Chatsworth and later appointed as head of human resources at police headquarters in Durban.



SHARMA MAHARAJ
New post

Press Cutting: Local brigadier tipped to land key post in Gauteng.

Big police shuffle

Transcript

(This was probably published on 12 May 1995 as the announcement was made on that day - LG.)

Local brigadier tipped to land key post in Gauteng

BIG POLICE SHUFFLE

Caption of photograph Sharma Maharaj New post

A local senior police officer is likely to take over the commanding police role in Gauteng when a major SAPS reshuffle is announced today, writes a Daily News Correspondent in Pretoria.

Durban policeman, Brigadier

Sharma Maharaj, has been tipped as the police chief in Gauteng, and the new commissioner for KwaZulu-Natal has been named as Major-General Chris Serfontein. This means the incumbent police commissioner of this province, Lieutenant-General Colin Steyn, has failed in his application for the top job. He has three years to go before retirement.

National Police Commissioner General George Fivaz was widely expected to announce nine new provincial commissioners in Pretoria at 3pm today.

Pipped

An informed source said General Serfontein at present regional commissioner of Eastern Transvaal, would be named KwaZulu-Natal's new police chief.

The source said General Steyn's

age had counted against him.

The job of provincial commissioner is usually for a period of five years.

A source in Gauteng's Safety and Security Ministry said Brigadier Maharaj had pipped General Simon Tsoka, Brigadier Frans Malherbe and Brigadier Johan Deyssel to secure the top post.

Brigadier Maharaj was described by the source as being a hands-on policeman, having worked under pressure and being human resources oriented.

Merit

"The selection process was fair and equitable in that the job was thoroughly advertised.

"It was the first-time people were interviewed, the appointment was completely based on merit,

(Cont. on Page 33)

the person's capacity and capability to deal with policing in any particular province was considered and all candidates were looked at in connection with where they could possibly serve," said the high-ranking police source.

It is understood that Gauteng's Safety and Security Minister Ms Jesse Duarte forwarded the name of Brigadier Maharaj to General Fivaz for approval.

Brigadier Maharaj had been a policeman for 30 years - all of them in KwaZulu-Natal.

In 1987 he was appointed district commissioner of Chatsworth and later appointed as head of human resources at police headquarters in Durban."

The Transcript (Right)

"TOP DURBAN POLICEMAN EXCITED AT GAUTENG PRO- MOTION

Caption

General Sharma Maharaj

Post Reporter

A top Durban policeman with an illustrious record in the South African Police Services is excited at being appointed the province commissioner of Gauteng.

Lieutenant General Sharma Maharaj, 48, from Umhlathuzana was appointed by National Police Commissioner General George Fivaz on Friday.

But making in-roads into the SAPS is nothing new to Lieutenant General Maharaj.

He was the first Indian to take command of a police district in South Africa when in 1987, while the station commander of Chatsworth, he took control of a new police district that included Chatsworth, Isipingo, Cato Manor and Sydenham.

Lieutenant General Maharaj is

Top Durban policeman excited at Gauteng promotion



Gen Sharma Maharaj

Post Reporter

A TOP Durban policeman with an illustrious record in the South African Police Services is excited at being appointed the provincial commissioner of Gauteng.

Lt-General Sharma Maharaj, 48, from Umhlathuzana, was appointed by National Police Commissioner General George Fivaz on Friday.

But making in-roads into the SAPS is nothing new to Lt-Gen Maharaj.

He was the first Indian to take command of a police district in South Africa when in 1987, while the station commander at Chatsworth, he took control of a new police district that included Chatsworth, Isipingo, Cato Manor and Sydenham.

Lt-General Maharaj is married to Mrs Shanthee Maharaj and has three sons, Ashwin, 26, a Department of Foreign Affairs staff member, Anesh, 24, a teacher, and Avinesh, 23, who is planning a career in the air force.

Mrs Maharaj told **Post** her husband was very excited at his appointment and she was very proud of him.

She said the family would be moving from their home in Umhlathuzana where they have lived for the past 17 years to settle in Gauteng.

married to Mrs Shanthee Maharaj and has three sons, Ashwin, 26, a Department of Foreign Affairs staff member, Anesh, 24, a teacher, and Avinesh, 23, who is planning a career in the air force.

Mrs Maharaj told **Post** her husband was very excited at his ap-

pointment and she was very proud of him.

She said the family would be moving from their home in Umhlathuzana where they have lived for the past 17 years to settle in Gauteng.



Police chief to restore faith'

By BOETI ESHAK

The newly appointed Gauteng police commissioner is determined to restore community faith in the police and boost morale in the service.

Lieutenant-General Sharma Maharaj, 49, was one of the new provincial police commissioners appointed by the Commissioner of the South African Police Services, George Fivaz, on Friday.

Speaking from his Durban home yesterday while preparing to move to Johannesburg, Lt-Gen Maharaj said: "I want to make community policing a reality. At present it seems to be a concept only and nothing concrete is being done."

"If we get community policing off the ground the public will have more confidence in us. Community involvement is vital in preventing and solving crime."

"We also need to address the fears and frustrations of SAPS members. While some have genuine fears and others too high expectations, we need to boost the overall morale of members."

"The SAPS will go a long way if we can get our own house in order."

Gauteng's Minister for Safety and Security Ms Jessie Duarte welcomed Lt-Gen Maharaj's appointment, saying he was principled, honest and clear on the need to transform the force into a service.

"He is the kind of policeman we need right now. He is a man of action and is committed to dealing firmly with the many challenges which face us in this province," she said. She said Lt-Gen Maharaj had worked in one of the most difficult areas of the country.

Lt-Gen Maharaj is married to Shantee and the couple have three grown children.

Press Cutting: Police Chief to Restore Faith

Transcript

"HOPEFUL

Lt-Gen Sharma Maharaj

'POLICE CHIEF TO RESTORE FAITH'

By Boeti ESHAK

The newly appointed Gauteng police commissioner is determined to restore community faith in the police and boost morale in the service.

Lieutenant-General Sharma Maharaj, 49, was one of the new provincial police commissioners appointed by the Commissioner of the South African Police Services, George Fivaz, said on Friday.

Speaking from his Durban home yesterday while preparing to move to Johannesburg, Lt-Gen Maharaj said: "I want to make community policing a reality. At present it appears to be a concept only and nothing concrete is being done."

"If we get community policing off the ground the public will have more confidence in us. Community involvement is vital in preventing and solving crime."

"We also need to address the fears and frustrations of SAPS members. While some have genuine fears and others too high expectations, we need to boost the overall morale of members."

tations, we need to boost the overall morale of members.

"The SAPS will go a long way if we can get our house in order."

Gauteng's Minister for Safety and Security Ms Jessie Duarte welcomed Lt-Gen Maharaj's appointment, saying he was principled, honest and clear on the need to transform the force into a service.

"He is the kind of policeman we need right now. He is a man of action and is committed to dealing firmly with the many challenges which face us in this province," she said. She said Lt-Gen Maharaj had worked in one of the most difficult areas of the country.

Lt-Gen Maharaj is married to Shantee and the couple have three grown children."



BRIGADIER SHARMA MAHARAJ

Top post for Brigadier

FAROOK KHAN

NeighbourNews Reporter

FOR the first time in 17 years, Brigadier Sharma Maharaj left his Chatsworth home, boarded a plane for Johannesburg and yesterday started work as the new police chief of Gauteng.

"I am going to miss Chatsworth very much. For 17 years it has been my home," said Brigadier Maharaj.

"The first thing I have to do is to settle into my new job, then I will have to find a house and then get my family up there," he said.

Born in Pietermaritzburg, Brigadier Maharaj and his family lived in Queen Street.

He attended the Nizamia Government Aided Indian School and then went to Woodlands High School where he matriculated.

He distinguished himself at the Wentworth Police College and when he finished his studies took up a post in Dundee in 1965.

From there he went to Isipingo until 1978 and by this time, he was tipped for high office.

He was made district commissioner of Chatsworth in 1987, and then head of human resources in Durban.

Media Clipping: NeighbourNews Reporter

Transcript

"Brigadier Sharma Maharaj"

Top Post for Brigadier

Farook Khan

NeighbourNews Reporter

For the first time in 17 years, Brigadier Sharma Maharaj left his Chatsworth home, boarded a plane for Johannesburg and he started work as the new police chief of Gauteng.

"I am going to miss Chatsworth very much. For 17 years it has been my home," said Brigadier Maharaj.

"The first thing I have to do is to settle into my new job and then get my family up here," he said.

Born in Pietermaritzburg, Brigadier Maharaj and his family lived in Queen Street.

He attended the Nizamia Government Aided Indian School and then went to Woodlands High School where he matriculated.

He distinguished himself at the Wentworth Police College and when he finished his studies took up a post in Dundee in 1965.

From there he went to Isipingo until 1988 and by this time, he was tipped for high office.

He made district commissioner of Chatsworth in 1987, and then head of human resources in Durban."

Gauteng one of the nine provinces of South Africa. The name means the "City of Gold". Situated in the Highveld, Gauteng is the smallest province in South Africa.

Highly urbanised, the province contains the country's largest city, Johannesburg, its administrative capital, Pretoria, and other large areas such as Midrand and Vanderbijlpark. As of 2019, Gauteng is the most populous province in South Africa with a population of approximately 15 million people according to estimates.

41,000 police members were under his Command in Gauteng.



Lieutenant General Maharaj in civilian dress addressing a gathering at a function

Cop chief wants people involved in crime fight

Media Clipping: Cop Chief wants people involved in crime fight

Transcript

March 12, 1995 Unknown Media Report

COP CHIEF WANTS PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CRIME FIGHT

By BOETI ESHAK

THE newly appointed Gauteng police commissioner is determined to restore the community's faith in the police service and to boost policemen's morale.

Lieutenant-General Sharma Maharaj, 49, was one of nine new provincial police commissioners appointed by the National Commissioner of the SAPS, George Fivaz, last Friday. (5 May 1995 — LG)

Gen Maharaj, who moved into his Johannesburg office on Tuesday, (9 May 1995 — LG) said he had set himself a two-pronged priority.

"I want to make community policing a reality. At present it appears to be a concept only and that nothing concrete is being done," he said.

"If we get community policing off the ground, the public will have more confidence. Community involvement is vital in preventing and solving crime."

"I also believe that we need to address the fears and frustrations of SAPS members. While some have genuine fears and others too high expectations, we need to boost the overall morale of members.

"The SAPS will go a long way if we can get our house in order."

Gen Maharaj, who was born in Shakaskraal on the North Coast said the task of overseeing the most densely populated and largest police region in the country was a challenging task. He

1995, MARCH 12, 1995

Cop chief wants people involved in crime fight

By BOETI ESHAK

THE newly appointed Gauteng police commissioner is determined to restore the community's faith in the police service and to boost policemen's morale.

Lieutenant-General Sharma Maharaj, 49, was one of nine new provincial police commissioners appointed by the National Commissioner of the SAPS, George Fivaz, last Friday.

Gen Maharaj, who moved into his Johannesburg office on Tuesday, said he had set himself a two-pronged priority.



SHARMA MAHARAJ
New commissioner

"I want to make community policing a reality. At present it appears to be a concept only and that nothing concrete is being done," he said.

"If we get community

policing off the ground, the public will have more confidence. Community involvement is vital in preventing and solving crime.

"I also believe that we need to address the fears and frustrations of SAPS members. While some have genuine fears and others too high expectations, we need to boost the overall morale of members.

"The SAPS will go a long way if we can get our own house in order."

Gen Maharaj, who was born in Shakaskraal on the North Coast, said the task of overseeing the most densely populated and largest police region in the country was a challenging task. He would do his best to confirm Commissioner Fivaz's faith in him.

"I am looking forward to working with Jesse Duarte, Gauteng's Minister for Safety and Security," Gen Maharaj added.

"I met her on Friday. She is a dynamic person, committed to the safety and security of Gauteng."

Ms Duarte welcomed Gen Maharaj's appointment, saying he was principled, honest and clear on the need to transform the force into a service.

"He is the kind of policeman we need right now. He is a man of action and is committed to dealing firmly with the many challenges which face us

in this province," she said.

The experience he had in KwaZulu-Natal in human resources development gave him the sensitivity required to develop a representative police service in Gauteng.

She added that Gen Maharaj had an excellent track record, having worked in one of the most difficult areas of the country.

Gen Maharaj joined the SAP in 1964 in Greytown, and was posted to various Natal police stations.

He was commissioned a lieutenant in 1978, based in Durban. In 1980 he was appointed commander at Isipingo — the first black person to hold this position in the SAP, and two years later was station commander at Chatsworth police station.

Gen Maharaj scored another first in 1988 when he was appointed district commissioner for Chatsworth, providing policing for more than 500 000 people. He is the only black person to have held this position in the SAP.

Two years ago he was appointed regional head of human resource management in Natal, and on Friday he assumed his latest position.

Gen Maharaj is married to Shanthee and the couple have three grown-up children, none of whom has followed their father's career.

would do his best to confirm Commissioner Fivaz's faith in him.

"I am looking forward to working with Jesse Duarte, Gauteng's Minister for Safety and Security," Gen Maharaj added.

"I met her on Friday. She is a dynamic person, committed to the safety and security of Gauteng."

Ms Duarte welcomed Gen Maharaj's appointment, saying he

was a principled, honest and clear on the need to transform the force into a service.

"He is the kind of policeman we need right now. He is a man of action and is committed to dealing firmly with the many challenges which face us in this province," she said.

The experience he had in KwaZulu-Natal in human resources development gave him the sen-

(Cont. on Page 38)

(Continued from page 37)

sitivity required to develop a representative, police service in Gauteng.

She added that Gen Maharaj had an excellent track record, having worked in one of the most difficult areas of the country.

Gen Maharaj joined the SAP in 1964 in Greytown, and was posted to various Natal police stations.

He was commissioned a lieutenant in 1978, based in Durban. In 1980 he was appointed commander at Isipingo - the first black person to hold this position in the SAP, and two years later was station commander at Chatsworth police station.

Gen Maharaj scored another first in 1988 when he was appointed district commissioner for Chatsworth, providing policing for more than 500 000 people. He is the only black person to have held this position in the SAP.

Two years ago, he was appointed regional head of human resource management in Natal, and on Friday (LG-12 May 1995 - LG) he assumed his latest position.

Gen Maharaj is married to Shantee and the couple have three grown-up children, none of whom has followed their father's career.

GAUTENG: PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER AND AREA COMMISSIONERS



Above: Provincial Commissioners and Area Commissioners appointed.

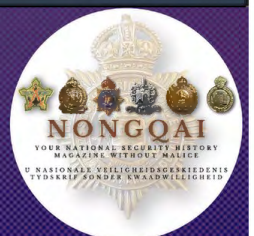
First row at the back: 2nd person is Lieutenant General L Lebeya (Head of Hawks)

3rd Assist Commissioner De Lange: Area Commissioner East Rand; 5th Assistant Commissioner M Mphanga: Area Commissioner Soweto; 6th Assistant Commissioner A Mashego Area Commissioner Pretoria; 7th Assistant commissioner P Naidoo: Area Commissioner Johannesburg; Assistant Commissioner AK Peterson: Area Commissioner North Rand;

No 3 seated Deputy Provincial Commissioner: W Mpembe, Lieut Gen Sharma Maharaj (Names courtesy of Professor Govender)

STUUR ASB FOTO'S EN STORIES AAN:

Brig. Hennie Heymans:  +27 723 361755
 heymanshb@gmail.com



EXTRA ORDINARY MERIT AWARD FROM PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT



Media Clipping: Extra ordinary merit award

Dr. Almeida, Portuguese State Secretary congratulates Commissioner Maharaj on his achievement.

Media Clipping:

Extra ordinary merit award from the Portuguese Government.

Dr. Rui Almeida, Portuguese State Secretary hands over an extraordinary merit award in the form of a medal, to Commissioner Sharma Maharaj. Gauteng's

police chief for the work which the police undertook in the Portuguese Community. Gauteng's Area Commissioners attended the function.

Caption right: General Maharaj addressing the guests



Media Clipping: Westbury gangs running amok, vows, pc (overleaf)

Transcript

"Westbury gangs running amok", vows, PC

"Neo Ntsoma

By Selby Bokaba

Crime Reporter

In a bid to curb renewed gang-related violence in Johannesburg's coloured township's, Gauteng police commissioner Sharma Maharaj yesterday promised to increase the number of members of the gangster violence investigative unit.

Even as Maharaj toured the vio-

lence-ravaged township of Westbury yesterday, news filtered through that yet another man was shot and wounded at a shopping complex in Newclare, west of Johannesburg, in apparent on-going gang violence.

The man whose name was not released, was rushed to the nearby Helen Joseph Hospital, where he was reported to be stable.

Maharaj was accompanied by high-ranking police officials in his tour of Westbury.

"We need to increase the capacity of the investigative unit to 40 members, to augment the public

order policing unit from Soweto, who are patrolling the area 24 hours a day. We have identified the problem and various activities of the gangsters are targeted," he said.

He said there were four bands of gangsters involved in the warfare who were fighting over the drug trade and territory.

Caption

Concern ... Westbury resident Glen Steyn tells Gauteng Police Commissioner Sharma Maharaj and Director Azwinndini Nengovhela how gangsters

(Cont. on page 40)

broke into his office and threatened staffers."



NEO NTSOMA

By SELBY BOHARA
Crime Reporter

In a bid to curb renewed gang-related violence in Johannesburg's coloured townships, Gauteng police commissioner Sharma Maharaj yesterday promised to increase the number of members of the gangster violence investigative unit.

Even as Maharaj toured the violence-ravaged township of Westbury yesterday, news filtered through that yet another man was shot and wounded at a shopping complex in Newclare, west of Johannesburg, in apparent ongoing gang violence.

The man, whose name was not released, was rushed to the nearby Helen Joseph Hospital, where his condition was reported to be stable.

Maharaj was accompanied by high-ranking police officials in his tour of Westbury.

"We need to increase the capacity of the investigative unit to 40 members, to augment the public order policing unit from Soweto, who are patrolling the area 24 hours a day. We have identified the problem and various activities of the gangsters are targeted," he said.

He said there were four bands of gangsters involved in the warfare who were fighting over the drug trade and for ter-

Concerned ... Westbury resident Glen Steyn tells Gauteng Police Commissioner Sharma Maharaj and Director Azwinndini Nengovhela how gangsters broke into his office and threatened staffers.

Press Cutting: SAPS investigations flawed (Overleaf)

Transcript

'SAPS investigations flawed'

"Johnny Steinberg

The current institutional design of investigation and intelligence-gathering is flawed and hampered SA's fight against organised crime, sources within the detective service said at the weekend.

While investigative units specialized in particular crimes, crime syndicates in SA were fluid and versatile, and seldom remained in a single line of illegal business for long.

The result was that police investigation was fragmentary and failed to keep track of particular organizations and people, said one source.

"When specialized investigative units were established, we were feeling around in the dark," said a source in the organized crime

unit.

"We know now that few syndicates specialize in one product."

"They respond very quickly to the changes in supply and demand. A gang which was importing drugs yesterday, could be exporting stolen cars tomorrow.

"With our current investigative structure, intelligence-gathering on a single syndicate becomes impossible."

"Intelligence on one organisation is dispersed among the files of four, maybe five separate police units."

"Organisations slip through our fingers simply because we are not designed to track them," the source said.

Several sources in the detective service said their time would be better spent monitoring targeted organisations, rather than targeted crimes.

One source said that the estab-

lishment of crime-specific investigative units was motivated by public relations pressures than by a cogent crime-fighting strategy.

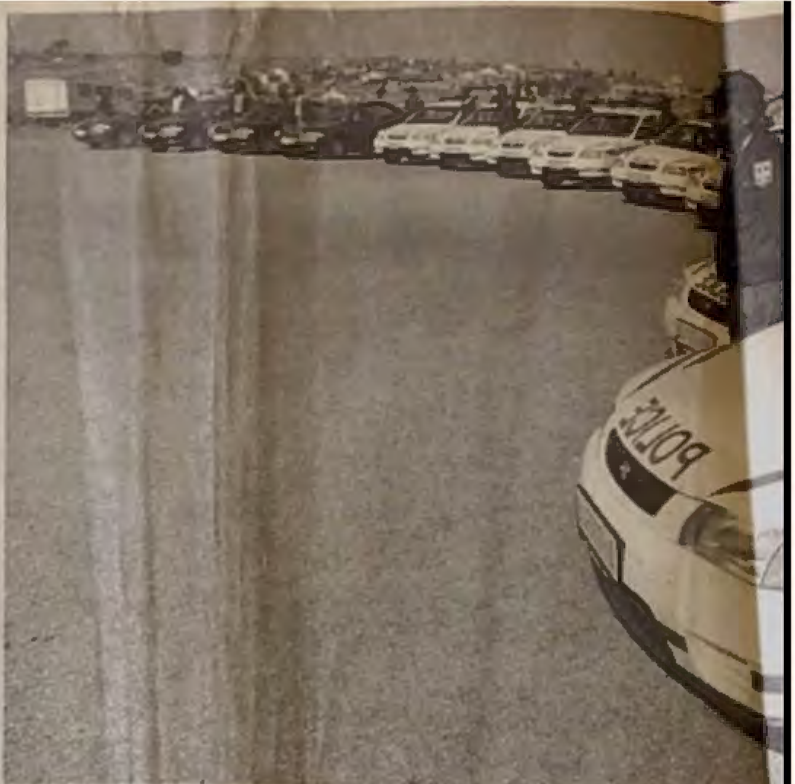
"When there is a spate of one particular crime-taxi violence, say, or heists - everyone asks the commissioner what he is doing about it.

"And so, the police establish a special crime-specific unit and say, 'well, this is what we are doing about it'. However, whether this is the best way to tackle syndicates is another question entirely, the source said.

Wilfried Scharf, an associate professor of criminology at the University of Cape Town, said that confining the investigation of organised crime to specialised units hampered the capacity of ordinary policemen to fight crime.

"These specialised units take skill, information and investiga-

(Vervolg op bladsy 41)



Gauteng police commissioner Sharma Maharaj, left, and Safety and Security MEC Paul Mashatile were at the handing over of 14 new police campaigns in Alexandra, Mamelodi and Orange Farm.

SAPS investigations 'flawed'

Jonny Steinberg

THE current institutional design of investigation and intelligence-gathering in the SA Police Service (SAPS) was flawed and hampered SA's fight against organised crime, sources within the detective service said at the weekend.

While investigative units specialised in particular crimes, crime syndicates in SA were fluid and versatile, and seldom remained in a single line of illegal business for long.

The result was that police investigation was fragmented and failed to keep track of particular organisations and people, said one source.

"When specialised investigative units were established, we were feeling around in the dark," said a source in the organised crime unit.

"We know now that few syndicates specialise in one product.

"They respond very quickly to changes in supply and demand. A gang which was importing drugs yesterday, could be ex-

porting stolen cars tomorrow.

"With our current investigative structure, intelligence-gathering on a single syndicate becomes impossible.

"Intelligence on one organisation is dispersed among the files of four, maybe five separate police units.

"Organisations slip through our fingers, simply because we are not designed to track them," the source said.

Several sources in the detective service said their time would be better spent monitoring targeted organisations, rather than targeted crimes.

One source said that the establishment of crime-specific investigative units was motivated more by public relations pressures than by a cogent crime-fighting strategy.

"When there is a spate of one particular crime — taxi violence, say, or heists — everyone asks the commissioner what he is doing about it.

"And so the police establish a special crime-specific unit and say, 'well, this is what we are doing about it'. However,

whether this is the best way to tackle syndicates is another question entirely," the source said.

Wilfried Schärf, associate professor of criminology at the University of Cape Town, said that confining the investigation of organised crime to specialised units hampered the capacity of ordinary policemen to fight crime.

"These specialised units take skill, information and investigative resources, and, above all, responsibility, away from police stations," said Schärf.

"The result is that they have neither the mandate nor the capacity to fight organised crime. In the Western Cape, there have been cases where a criminal organisation has moved into a particular area because the organisation knows that the local police station is very weak."

Detective service spokesman Reg Crew said that the structure of investigation and intelligence was under constant examination. "Nothing is cast in stone," he said. "If it becomes clear that there are problems, we will look very carefully at our structures."

(Continued from page 40)

tive resources, and, above all, responsibility, away from police stations," said Scharf.

"The result is that they have neither the mandate nor the capacity to fight organised crime. In the Western Cape, there have been cases where a criminal organisa-

tion has moved into a particular area because the organisation knows that the local police station is very weak."

Detective service spokesman Reg Crew said that the structure of investigation and intelligence was under constant examination. "Nothing is cast in stone," he said.

"If it becomes clear that there are problems, we will look very carefully at our structures."

Police apprehend drug lord suspect in morning swoop

By JIMMY SEEPE

Part of R1,5-million seized linked to heist

POLICE investigating some of the major drug kingpins in Gauteng on Friday made an important breakthrough with the arrest of a suspected Nigerian drug lord.

They seized R1,5-million in stolen American dollars and traveller's cheques in a Johannesburg northern suburbs' home.

Members of the South African Narcotics Bureau surprised the suspect in the early hours of Friday morning and seized R200 notes and American dollars, as well as the traveller's cheques.

Police have established that some of the traveller's cheques were stolen in a hold-up of the Mercantile Bank of Lisbon on Monday.

The seizure of the traveller's cheques has led the police to believe robbery syndicates could be connected to Nigerian drug lords.

The suspected drug lord is believed to have used several aliases, including Prince Stan Abeawuchi.

He had been under surveillance by the narcotics police for several months.

Police also seized a small quantity of cocaine from the suspect.



BREAKTHROUGH... Police commissioner Sharma Maharaj has his hands full in combating drug dealing

There are fears that he could have informers in the police force (who alert him to looming raids), and it's rumoured that he had been detained in the past but was able to buy his way out of trouble.

The suspect is alleged to have offered bribes to some of the police

who arrested him, and that he will also be charged on that count.

A few months ago Gauteng police commissioner Sharma Maharaj announced that Nigerians controlled much of the drug trade in Johannesburg.

Maharaj said 117 Nigerians were arrested in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, for drug dealing between January 1997 and March this year.

He said well over a million people lived in Hillbrow, which had a very high refugee population.

The Johannesburg narcotics squad had only 22 members who were faced with the very difficult task of combating drug dealers.

He said some hotel and apartment-block owners in the area were suspected of co-operating with drug dealers and used public address systems in foreign African languages to alert them when drug raids were taking place.

Raids were carried out on average twice a week.

In some cases, charges against dealers had to be withdrawn because of a shortage of staff in police forensic science laboratories, Maharaj said.

2-6-98

Press Cutting: Date imprinted 2-6-98

Police apprehended drug lord suspect in morning swoop.

Transcript

"POLICE APPREHEND DRUG LORD SUSPECT IN MORNING

SWOOP

Part of R1,5 - million seized linked to heist

By Jimmy Seepe

Police investigating some of the major drug kingpins in Gauteng on Friday made an important

breakthrough with the arrest of a suspected Nigerian drug lord.

They seized R1,5 - million in stolen American dollars and traveller's cheques in a Johannesburg northern suburbs' home.

(Cont. on Page 43)

Members of the South African Narcotics Bureau surprised the suspects in the early hours of Friday morning and seized R200 notes and American dollars, as well as traveller's cheques.

Police established that some of the traveller's cheques were stolen in a hold-up of the Mercantile Bank of Lisbon on Monday.

The seizure of the traveller's cheques has led the police to believe robbery syndicates could be connected to Nigerian drug lords.

The suspected drug lord is believed to have used several aliases, including Prince Stan Albeawuchi.

He had been under surveillance by narcotics police for several months.

Police also seized a small quantity of cocaine from the suspect.

There are fears that he could have informers in the police force (who alert him to police raids), (**LG-I am shocked**) and its rumoured that he had been detained in the past but was able to buy his way out of trouble.

The suspect is alleged to have offered bribes to some of the police who arrested him, and he will also be charged on that count.

A few months ago, police chief Sharma Maharaj announced that Nigerians contributed to much of the drug trade in Johannesburg.

Maharaj said 117 Nigerians were arrested in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, for drug dealing between January 1997 and March this year.

He said well over a million lived in Hillbrow, which had a very high refugee population.

The Johannesburg narcotics squad had only 22 members,

who were faced with the very difficult task of combating drug dealers.

He said some hotel and apartment block owners in the area were suspected of co-operating with drug dealers and used public address systems in foreign African languages to alert them when drug raids were taking place.

Raids were carried out on average twice a week.

In some cases, charges against dealers had to be withdrawn because of a shortage of staff in police forensic science laboratories, Maharaj said.

Caption

BREAKTHROUGH... Police commissioner Sharma Maharaj had his hands full in combating drug dealers."

Below: General Maharaj addressing Officers at Gauteng.



Gauteng's police commissioner hates crime so much that he once wept at news of a sexual assault on corpses in a mortuary. Yet he is on the brink of completing six years at the helm of what's been called the world's crime capital. ROWAN PHILP this week shadowed Commissioner Shama Maharaj for a very full morning

"I'd like to have left knowing hijackings were rare. But we pulled a lot back when many said things were spinning out of control."

"This is a false promise man! What if a nine-year-old girl had been raped — would it

Maharaj — an enthusiastic Mercedes owner — took along his personal taxi, but insists on the full ritual of the "BMW Highway Patrol" he described in 1995.

"Let's talk seriously to BMW about this tomorrow. That unit has had more survivors than any other armored unit in the province — we can't give them silly cars to chase people at 190km/h."

Then, quickly, Maharaj ends the era of the police war in Gauripur.

"You know, you arrive to ask questions of someone's house in one of those damned vans and the person thinks you want to put them inside it."

"Communications," he says to support services from Simon Mjumbi, "you will not order any more of those vans."

7:20am: Camera-interviews

Sitting with Gauring's heads of detectives, criminal investigations, support services, and uniformed police, Maharaj listens to a report on the day's press reports — and his day

Later, he will say, "This honestly

production of more — if you do
you get considered, if you don't
you get considered."

But the real anger begins with

his lower briefing to his staff. He says: "A policeman committed suicide last night. But I've been told that the doctor on call refused to come. The members went to his house and he still refused to come, saying they

"This is a false promise man! What if a nine-year-old girl had been raped — would it

During the day, Maharaj will use the example of the rape of a little girl four times to point up these warning signs with

Dr. Alexandru pota
dona

At a meeting shared with several statisticians, station commander Joe Loukides lays it on the line. "We are concerned with reducing rear-end, bicyclings and jay-walkers, commuters — crimes like theft of motor vehicles are not priorities. There are no bicycles in London, Madrid or

age, comparable with any other company. With age, we are targeting the broad

As the new station commences at Chatham, Mahany once again returns to his old neighborhood.

Says Naidoo: "This man is a

...things can't happen without the

"All things I've seen him get
 careful just bearing that some
 leaver in a Chafworth mortuary
 was having sex with the
 corpse — his high expecta-
 tions for humanity, I suppose."
 Maharaj walks out of the

Maharaj, whose two pet hates are preaching and corruption,

NO NONSENSE: Maharaj is unimpressed with an officer who didn't bother to wear a tie

Source: *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1934, 103, 1031.

Item: Mobile headquarters for anti-crime project
Operation Takedown — a truck in central London

Two featured superintendents work an operational map for Mahara.

shifts of 250 policemen have been working 24 hours a day for

They have been making roadblocks, raiding buildings and "saturnating" areas where fugitives are believed to be hiding.

FOUR FAMILY: Sharma Mahant with other police officers in Sunnyside Park in Pretoria. **Picture:** SYDNEY SESHEBETI

12.00 *Inside Police* "You did so well until Deputy, then you'll see me a no. Michael" he says. "Michael"

... off his station by pressing it against his Superintended...
... but the wheels have fallen off since then, haven't they?" Mahany says quietly, and lets it hang "What happened?" But then the detective boss

The judge's decision was a relief to the prisoners, who had been told that they would be released. The judge's decision was a relief to the prisoners, who had been told that they would be released. The judge's decision was a relief to the prisoners, who had been told that they would be released.

2pm: Lunch — the commissioner's home in Hamburg.

What? The commander is looking at his dog, Mahariq. Is he laughing? No, he's crying.

"Why aren't you arresting them?"

"And don't speak English any more, you can't speak it properly." But the Afghans detected his sarcasm.

Mahariq proudly displays the family picture on his mantel piece—his abba and the three sons, his mablae son the teacher, his youngest son the air force lieutenant, and Izwatula before he leaves.

"I'd like to have left knowing his things were only a case thing, which unfortunately they

He is too nervous to spend a moment properly either, so a colleague tries to explain, only making it more confusing.

A striking Mahatma remark: "My wife, Nanette, introduces their grandson, Thakshi."

Mahatma is retiring in June, he says, because he'd like to go

[illegible][illegible]

(Cont. on Page 45)

Later he will say. "This lovely profession of ours - if you do, you get condemned."

But the real anger begins with his own briefing to his staff. He says: "A policeman committed suicide last night. But I've been told that the doctor on call refused to come, saying they must cut the man's body down and bring it over to his house. (Shocked - LG)

"This is blerrie nonsense, man! What if a nine-year-old girl had been raped - would the child have had to go to his house, too? I want a report on this and I want it today!"

During the day, Maharaj will use the example of the rape of a little girl four times to shut up those excusing sloppy work in the field.

09:30am: Alexandra police station: At a meeting blurred with arrest statistics, Station Commander Joel Mothiba lays it on the line: "We are concerned with reducing murders, hijackings and rapes, Commissioner - crimes like theft of motor vehicles are not priorities. There are no hijackings on London Road any longer, commissioner. With rape, we are targeting shebeens daily - they are reduced, but not enough yet."

Maharaj nods and smiles.

He makes a fuss about the neat station grounds. As the Station Commander of Chatsworth, he turned the stations notoriously chaotic grounds into "a park" within two weeks of his arrival, according to his then clerk, Mugs Naidoo, now Johannesburg's Area Commissioner.

Says Naidoo: "This man is a [stickler] for punctuality and neatness. He believes the big things can't happen without the small things. I've have seen him get tearful after hearing that a cleaner in a Chatsworth mortuary was having sex with the

corpses - his high expectations for humanity, I suppose."

Maharaj walks out of the meeting with a proud smile.

Then he learns that one of the officers at the station has been arrested on a charge of selling rhino horn. Maharaj, whose two pet hates are poaching and corruption, fumes as he heads for Pretoria.

11am: Mobile Headquarters for anti-crime project Operation Tshwane - a truck in central Pretoria:

Two flustered superintendents work on an operational map for Maharaj.

One - Superintendent Kobus Erasmus - explains that two shifts of 259 policemen have been working 24 hours a day for four days on the operation.

They had been manning roadblocks, raiding buildings and "saturating" areas where fugitives are thought to be hiding.

He proudly points out that 98 arrests have been made - half for petty offences, half for serious stuff - but mumbles over the point that no arrests for violent offences have yet been made that day.

Maharaj lets him off the hook, shifting his focus to a spontaneous brainstorming session with the officers gathered on how to keep Pretoria's large nightclubs safer from fire and stampedes.

He personally changes the schedule of one roadblock before leaving.

12.00: Sunnyside police station, Pretoria:

Maharaj kicks off his station inspection by praising its acting station commander, Superintendent Gawie Alberts, for having made the best of Pretoria's four "priority stations" last year.

It's the last time Alberts will smile that day.

In the first of a series of blunders, Maharaj is served beef rolls for lunch - forbidden in terms of his Hindu faith.

The commissioner tries to shrug off the annoyance, until he notices the detective commander present at the meeting hasn't bothered to wear a tie.

While the commander is banished to find one, Maharaj listens to a few "successes" mentioned by the other commander until he snaps: "And don't speak English any more, you can't speak it properly."

But the Afrikaner detective is too nervous to speak Afrikaans properly either, so a colleague tries to explain, only making it more confusing.

A shaking Maharaj roars: "Bly still (Be quiet)."

"Crime is up commissioner," the commander admits.

"You did so well until December 31 - but the wheels have fallen off since then, haven't they?" Maharaj says quietly and lets it hang. "What happened?"

But then the detective boss who's returned with his tie explains that "some" prisoners have been "released" after someone bungled their date for court appearances.

After blinking several times, Maharaj snarls: "Are you saying rapists and serious criminals just walked out of prison - because someone forgot a date? How many? Where are they? Why aren't you arresting them?"

"Are serious criminals on the street for no reason, or are these two as confused as I think they are?"

"You will give me a report by four this afternoon!"

In the van Maharaj boils. The idea that serious criminals may have been released simply because a policeman was too lazy

(Cont. from page 45)

to diarise a court date leaves him trembling.

The next day, though, his intuition proves correct - the two detectives were confused: not a single suspect had been released without a hearing.

2pm: Lunch at the commissioner's home in Randburg.

Maharaj proudly displays the pictures on his mantelpiece - his eldest son the diplomat: his middle son the teacher: his youngest son the air force pilot. His wife Shantee, introduces their

grandson, Thashil, 3. Maharaj is retiring in June, she says, because he'd lose out on his severance money if he hung on beyond his 55th birthday.

"After 37 years in service of my country, it's time for Sharma Maharaj," he says with a smile. "My greatest fear is how much I'll miss this big family I've had with the police all these years."

Maharaj says that in his six-year tenure he has concentrated on targeted anti-crime operations rather than on patrols, and on convictions rather than merely arrests.

He presided over a change in Gauteng's police brass from less than 20% black in 1995 to more than 50% black and will oversee the launch of the new municipal police forces in Johannesburg and Pretoria before he leaves.

"I'd like to have left knowing that hijacking was only a rare thing which, unfortunately, they are not. But we pulled a lot back when many said things were spinning out of control - hijackings after 1997, cash-in-transit heist after 1999 - I did my duty."

And then the second half of his day begins."



Above: Lieutenant General M Naidoo successor General Maharaj in Gauteng.

STUUR ASB FOTO'S EN STORIES AAN:

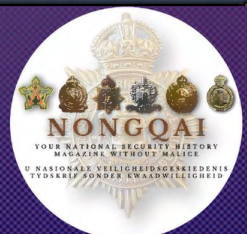
Brig. Hennie Heymans:



+27 723 361755



heymanshb@gmail.com





Komm. Sharma Maharaj, polisiehoof in Gauteng, open die nuwe polisiekantoor in Diepkloof, Soweto. Dit is die eerste polisiekantoor in Gauteng wat voltooi is met die geld wat deur die Heropbou-ontwikkelingsprogram gegee is om nog kantore te bou in gebiede met 'n hoë misdaadrisiko. Dit het R10,5 miljoen gekos om die gebou te voltooi.

Foto: PIETER VAN ZYL

‘Moordenaars is vyande van gemeenskap’

Pieter van Zyl,
Misdaadverslaggewer

“Moordenaars van polisiebeamptes dink hulle is vyande van die polisie, maar hulle is vyande van die lewe van die gemeenskap. Die polisie beskerm die lewe van die mense in die gemeenskap,” het dr. Mathole Motshekga, premier van Gauteng, by die opening van die nuwe polisiekantoor in Diepkloof gesê.

Altesame 65 polisiebeamptes is verlede jaar in Soweto vermoor.

Vyf is tot dusver vanjaar in dié gebied vermoor.

Die jongste slagoffer is insp. Stanford Mkhwanazi (36) van die Naledi-polisiekantoor wat Woensdagoggend net ná een uur met 'n skietwond in die bors in Emdeni-Suid gekry is. 'n Ent van die luierende polisiemotor is sy gewonde kollega, sers. Tecksun Vuma (34), gekry.

Dié moord het die Soweto-gemeenskapspolisiëringsraad radeeloos gelaat omdat duisende mense die vorige naweek deelgeneem het aan die bekendstelling van 'n veldtog teen moorde op polisiebeamptes.

Die gemeenskapspolisiëringsforum van groter Soweto het gister-

oggend weer 'n optog na die Protea-landdroshof gehou om 'n memorandum te oorhandig wat beter beskerming van polisiebeamptes bepleit.

Motshekga het Vrydag by die opening van die Diepkloof-polisiekantoor aangekondig dat Maart 'n fokusmaand vir veiligheid en sekuriteit gaan wees.

Mnr. Paul Mashatile, LUR vir veiligheid en sekuriteit, het gesê dié nuwe polisiekantoor van R10,5 miljoen is van geen nut as die polisiebeamptes wat dit beman as deel van die gemeenskap beskou word en uitgemeor word nie.



Above: Not sure about a proper caption for the photograph. It was apparently taken during a medal parade for members of Gauteng who sadly lost their lives during the course of the execution and function of their duties.

(Perhaps readers will hopefully provide further information - LG. | This was taken at the Johannesburg Municipal Offices – HBH)

Below: Not sure about a proper caption for the photograph. It was apparently taken during a medal parade for members of Gauteng who sadly lost their lives during the course of the execution and function of their duties.



Top-brass policemen retire with distinction

gauteng
gatherings
FAKIR HASSEN

WRITE TO
GAUTENG GATHERINGS
PO Box 1204, Crown Mines, 2025
or e-mail: fakir@netactive.co.za
or phone (011) 837 1510
or fax (011) 837 1510

DESPITE the odds against them during the apartheid era two Indian policemen persevered to become high-ranking officers. Deputy National Police Commissioner Morgan Chetty and Gauteng Provincial Commissioner Sharma Maharaj spoke at a farewell reception in their honour at the Lenasia South Civic Centre, organised by the Gauteng branch of the Hindu Society of the South African Police.

years." Commissioner Sharma was always admired for his fluent use of the Afrikaans language, which he uses often. The commissioner is also credited as being one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Hindu Society within the police force, and the appointment of a full-time pundit (priest) to minister to the religious needs of Hindu members.



The SAPS Hindu Society Gauteng branch bids farewell to Deputy National Commissioner Morgan Chetty and Gauteng Commissioner Sharma Maharaj, both retiring, in Lenasia South. Members of the society, from left, Morgan Chetty, Gringo Govender, Jenny Naidoo, S.G. Moodley, Sharma Maharaj and Ashwin Singh

Media Clipping: Top-Brass policemen retire with distinction

Transcript

"TOP-BRASS POLICEMEN RETIRE WITH DISTINCTION"

Gauteng Gatherings

Fakir Hassen

Despite the odds against them during the apartheid

Transcript

"TOP-BRASS POLICEMEN RETIRE WITH DISTINCTION"

Gauteng Gatherings

Fakir Hassen

Despite the odds against them during the apartheid era two Indian policemen persevered to become high-ranking officers.

Deputy National Police Commissioner Morgan Chetty and Gauteng Provincial Commissioner Sharma Maharaj spoke at their retirement function at the Lenasia South Civic Centre, organised by the Gauteng branch of the Hindu Society of the South

African Police.

???? years."

Commissioner Sharma was always admired for his fluent use of the Afrikaans language, which he uses often.

The Commissioner is also credited as being one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Hindu Society within the police force, and the appointment of a full-time pundit (priest) to minister to the religious needs of Hindu members."

Press Cuttings

Press Cutting: About Town

Transcript

"ABOUT TOWN"

"Herald People

Sunday Tribune 2001-06-17

A farewell bash for Retiring Provincial Commissioner for Gauteng, Sharma Maharaj and Depu-

ty National Commissioner, Morgan Chetty, was held at the International Convention Centre last week.

(Cont. on Page 50)

From top Right Clockwise

1. Sharma and Shanthee Maharaj, Morgan and Indera Chetty

2: Raj and Malthi Ramsaroop

3: Renila and Anesh Maharaj, Yashnee Chetty

4: Roshan Beharielall, Pravsha Ramnarian, unknown

5: Marian Munien & Bavika Chetty

6: Priscilla Maharaj and Ratan Singh

7: Ncamsile Mkhize, Priscilla Pillay, Anita Naidu, Premi Nair, Niri Nayager

8: Harkin Mansoor, Shamshan Kholia and Shabie Akoonjee

IT TOWN

HERALD PEOPLE

EVENT IN FOCUS CALL **RANJITH KALLY (031) 308 2387**
SUNDAY TRIBUNE HERALD 2001-06-17

A FAREWELL BASH FOR RETIRING PROVINCIAL POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR GAUTENG, SHARMA MAHARAJ, AND DEPUTY NATIONAL COMMISSIONER, MORGAN CHETTY, WAS HELD AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE LAST WEEK



8



7

■ ABOVE: Marian Munien and Bavika Chetty
LEFT: Priscilla Maharaj and Ratan Singh

Pictures: RANJITH PILLAY



1

■ Sharma and Shanthee Maharaj, Morgan and Indera Chetty



2

■ Raj and Maithi Ramsaroop



6

■ Ncamsile Mkhize, Priscilla Pillay, Anita Naidu, Premi Nair and Niri Nayager



3

■ Renila and Anesh Maharaj, Yashnee Chetty



5

■ Haroon Mansoor, Shamshan Kholia and Shabie Akoonjee



4

■ Roshan Beharielall, Pravsha Ramnarian and Rajen

A tribute to an Officer and a gentleman

Dronacharya Sharma Maharaj
(A true legend)

It all started on the 29th of July 1986, when I was attested and posted to SAP Chatsworth. Prior to this special day in my life, my late dad R/Lt NB Govender had joined the Reserve SAP in order to fulfil his dreams of being a policeman in 1966.

During the years of my schooling career, I heard my dad speak of an incredible officer whom he admired, respected and was an inspiration to all the policemen that served under his command. This was none other than Sharma Maharaj. I felt then, that I had already known this incredible officer, even though I had not met him personally at that stage. Tragedy struck our family when my dad passed away on the 28th of March 1986 in a motor vehicle collision whilst on duty.

On the 29th of July 1986, I reported to SAP Chatsworth as a student and was welcomed by the Station Commander, Major DS Maharaj. It was an experience for me, meeting the incredible officer in person and also finding out at that moment, that it was his birthday on this special day of mine. I worked under his command for 12 months and departed for basic training to Wentworth College. In 1988/01/01, I was posted to the DC Chatsworth office from Wentworth College where Colonel Maharaj was appointed as the DC of the first Indian District no 77 and made history at that stage. In 1993, the DC office saw its demise and the Colonel was thereafter appointed in 1994 as the Provincial HRM Head as a Brigadier and reported to Regional Provincial office. In 1995/03/30, this legend made history once again when he was appointed as the Provincial Commissioner of Gauteng.



Colonel K 'Gringo' Govender

The first Indian Lt General to be appointed as a Provincial Commissioner. In 1996/03/01, I was appointed to Gauteng Province at the Area Commissioner's office North Rand.

After a bit of history, we now acknowledge the legend himself. He served the SAPS for 36 years and 309 days of actual service to his country. He served all these years with honour, pride and dignity. His charm, charisma, responsibility, knowledge and insight, human relations, professionalism and management ability is what made him stand out from the rest. If you were a worker, you automatically gravitated to him and him to you, but if you were a shirker (not committed to the organization) he could not tolerate such incompetence and corruption as well. His desire for excellence, dedication, determination and discipline allowed him to stand head and shoulders above the rest. He wore his uniform in such a manner, that his shoes were shining just as brightly as his brass. He portrayed extraordinary leadership qualities that allowed his peers and subordinates to enjoy self-growth and development. The trait that stands out the most in this in-

credible officer is that of being a total disciplinarian amongst others. During his career from inception in 1964/09/23 to the end in 2001/07/28, this incredible officer's history and his calling to serve the community had been remarkable and flawless.

Our relationship over the years grew to a point where he was always my commander that exuded an aura of inspiration to all the lives that he touched, including mine. He became a father to me personally, whom I loved and adored, and always will. I will be failing in my duty if I don't mention a remarkable woman (known to us all as Aunty Shanthi – the spouse of the legend), who played a pivotal role in the lives of policemen and policewomen.

There's a saying: "behind every successful man, there is a woman, but nobody knows the fact that women choose only successful men." Aunty Shanthi did just that. I was a very fortunate and blessed individual who joined the SAPS as a member and became a member of a remarkable Maharaj family.

In closing, I would like to share, what I will always remember which created our bond forever. My father once told me: "If I could give you one thing in life, I would give you the ability to see yourself through my eyes" - only then would you realise how much I really love you and how special you are to me.

Sir, you always said that one should choose to leave behind a legacy when it's our calling and you did just that. Blessed to have crossed paths with you Sir and until we meet again.

I salute you.

Remembered with honour
always and forever.

Right: R/Lieutenant N (Bob) Govender (standing), late father of Colonel Gringo Govender. Lieutenant Bob Govender was killed in a motor vehicle accident whilst on duty. He sadly passed on 28 March 1986. (Thank you for having served. I salute you Sir ! I included this to honour someone who sacrificed his leisure time to serve both the South African community and the Police - LG.) Sitting on the left is Col Jordaan and Lt Pillai is sitting on the right.



Press Cutting: Dedicated Maharaj brought honour to SAPS

Transcript

"DEDICATED MAHARAJ BROUGHT HONOUR TO SAPS"

Former Gauteng police commissioner Sharma Maharaj, who died yesterday, brought dignity and respect to police services in the country, National Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi said.

Maharaj, who was 55, leaves behind a grieving family and a host of men and women who looked up to him.

He was a dedicated policeman who joined the South African Police when he was 19. He worked his way up to the rank of Brigadier and was appointed regional chief, human resources, in Durban in 1992.

On March 4 1995 he reached the pinnacle of his career when he was appointed commissioner for Gauteng, serving as the province's top cop until his retirement on July 27 this year.

The soft-spoken, but hard-hitting policeman was renowned for his intolerance of incompetence and corruption and setting a high level of professionalism. Selebi said: "His loyalty and dedication to the police, his commitment to the community he served and his steely determination made

him a giant among men."

Nomvula Makanyane, Gauteng MEC for Safety and Liaison, said: "... he was a man of great stature who has done a lot to deal with crime in this province and the country as a whole."

Gauteng Premier Mbhazima Shilowa described Maharaj as "an epitome of the loyal, honest and unflinchingly courageous policemen and women that our country needs in the fight

against the scourge of crime".

"Maharaj refused to sit idle, even after retiring earlier this year," he said.

Maharaj leaves behind his wife Shantee, three sons and a granddaughter. ...

Staff Reporter and Sapa

Caption to photograph

Maharaj ... a giant among men"



aj ... a giant among men.

Former Gauteng police commissioner Sharma Maharaj, who died yesterday, brought dignity and respect to police services in the country, National Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi said.

Maharaj, who was 55, leaves behind a grieving family and a host of men and women who looked up to him.

He was a dedicated policeman who joined the South African Police when he was 19. He worked his way up to the rank of brigadier and was appointed regional chief, human

Dedicated Maharaj brought honour to SAPS

resources, in Durban in 1992.

On March 3 1995 he reached the pinnacle of his career when he was appointed commissioner for Gauteng, serving as the province's top cop until his retirement on July 27 this year.

The soft-spoken, but hard-hitting policeman was renowned for his intolerance of incompetence and corruption

and setting high levels of professionalism.

Selebi said: "His loyalty and dedication to the police, his commitment to the community he served and his steely determination made him a giant among men."

Nomvula Mokonyane, Gauteng MEC for Safety and Liaison, said: "... he was a man of great

stature who has done a lot to deal with crime in this province and the country as a whole."

Gauteng Premier Mbhazima Shilowa described Maharaj as "an epitome of the loyal, honest and unflinchingly courageous police men and women that our country needs in the fight against the scourge of crime".

"Maharaj refused to sit idle, even after retiring earlier this year," he said.

Maharaj leaves behind his wife Shantee, three sons and a granddaughter. - Staff Reporter and Sapa

Press Cutting: Police mourn death of stalwart Maharaj

Press Cutting: Police mourn death of stalwart Maharaj

Transcript

POLICE MOURN DEATH OF STALWART MAHARAJ

By Thomad Msbasa

The Gauteng Provincial Commissioner's Office yesterday expressed its deepest condolences on the death of its former Commissioner, Dronacharya Sharma Maharaj. Who died at the Nedforum Hospital in Pretoria yesterday morning.

Comm Maharaj, who retired as Provincial Commissioner at the end of July this year, was born in Pietermaritzburg in 1946. He joined the SAPS at the age of 19, serving in various positions in KwaZulu-Natal, where he was the station commander in Isipingo and Chatsworth.

He also served as District Commissioner for the Chatsworth station until 1993, when he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier and appointed Regional Chief for Human Resources in Durban.

Comm Maharaj was appointed Provincial Commissioner for Gauteng in 1995, and commanded over 41, 000 officers until his retirement on July 27 this year, when he was appointed to lead the newly established Tshwane Metro Police.

The Provincial Government said it received news of Comm Maharaj's death with "great sadness", describing him as an epitome of the loyal, honest and unflinchingly courageous policemen and women that our country needs in the fight against the scourge of crime.

"During his tenure as Commissioner in Gauteng he demonstrated visionary leadership and dedication in turning the tide

Police mourn death of stalwart Maharaj

By THOMAS MABASA

THE Gauteng Provincial Commissioner's Office yesterday expressed its deepest condolences on the death of its former Commissioner, Dronacharya Sharma Maharaj, who died at the Nedforum Hospital in Pretoria yesterday morning.

Comm Maharaj, who retired as Provincial Commissioner at the end of July this year, was born in Pietermaritzburg in 1946. He joined the SAPS at the age of 19, serving in various positions in KwaZulu-Natal, where he was station commander in Isipingo and Chatsworth.

He also served as District Commissioner for the Chatsworth station until 1992, when he was promoted to the rank of brigadier and appointed Regional Chief for Human Resources in Durban.

Comm Maharaj was appointed Provincial Commissioner for Gauteng in 1995, and commanded over 41 000 officers until his retirement on July 27 this year, when he was appointed to lead the newly-established Tshwane Metro Police.

The Provincial Government said it received news of Comm Maharaj's death with "great sadness",

describing him as an epitome of the loyal, honest and unflinchingly courageous policemen and women that our country needs in the fight against the scourge of crime.

"During his tenure as Commissioner in Gauteng he demonstrated visionary leadership and dedication in turning the tide against crime in the province," said Premier Mkhazima Shilowa.

"True to his selflessness and unflinching commitment to serve the people, Maharaj refused to sit down, even after retiring from the SAPS earlier this year, and chose to continue playing an active role in the ongoing fight to root out crime from our midst."

Director Sally de Beer added: "Even though Commissioner Maharaj had recently retired, he kept in constant contact with his former colleagues and he will be sorely missed."

"His loyalty and dedication to the police, his commitment to the community and his steely determination made him a giant among men," she said.

● Comm Maharaj is survived by his wife, Shantee, three sons and a granddaughter.

against crime in the province," said Premier Mkhazima Shilowa.

"True to his selflessness and unflinching commitment to serve the people, Maharaj refused to sit down, even after retiring from the SAPS earlier this year, and chose to continue playing an active role in the ongoing fight to root out crime from our midst."

Director Sally de Beer added: "Even though Commissioner Maharaj had recently retired, he kept in constant contact with his former colleagues and he will be sorely missed."

"His loyalty and dedication to the police, his commitment to the community and his steely determination made him a giant among men," she said.

*Comm Maharaj is survived by his wife, Shantee, three sons and a granddaughter.

OBITUARIES



SHARMA MAHARAJ

Top cop knew how to turn on the charm

SHARMA Maharaj, who has died at the age of 55, was one of the first black police officers to be given a top rank in post-apartheid South Africa, when he was made provincial commissioner of police for Gauteng early in 1995.

With 41 000 policemen under his command, an entrenched apartheid legacy and a spiralling crime rate, this was one of the most difficult policing jobs in the country, and would have tested the skills of a far more experienced officer than Maharaj.

As it happened, the needs of the time demanded that a black policeman be given the job, and because of the discriminatory policies of the past the pool of possible candidates was a very small one.

Added to the normal difficulties of being catapulted into a hot seat like this somewhat prematurely, Maharaj was faced with the extraordinarily tough challenge of having to institute a whole new culture of policing in the province.

The son of a policeman, Maharaj joined the force in 1965. Because of his colour he was never entirely part of the old order, but the old order had shaped him to the extent that he found it very difficult to adapt to a new environment where civilians exercised oversight and police officers were no longer a law unto themselves.

Maharaj's most daunting challenge after becoming commissioner was to transform the police into a non-racial force.

Acting on the instructions of his no-nonsense, dynamic politi-

cal boss Jesse Duarte, Maharaj found himself having to confront his old white superiors from the apartheid days and in many cases get rid of them — the kind of opportunity many black policemen might have relished in their dreams but one which, in reality, took much courage and put Maharaj under considerable personal strain.

Maharaj had a high public profile, and took to it well. He was good at turning the talk — he knew how to turn on the charm when he wanted to impress journalists or divert attention from the shortcomings of his force.

He was extremely defensive and hypersensitive to criticism and that the police were having little if

any impact against crime in Gauteng. He was quite masterful at using statistics to show the opposite of what they actually meant.

Maharaj was jealously protective of his turf and very resentful of what he saw as attempts from the national police headquarters in Pretoria to hijack projects which he felt should be under his control.

His relations with Meyer Kahn, the brewery executive who was brought in to turn back the tidal wave of crime, were particularly tense. Kahn's bawling, intrusive style irritated him considerably. Adding insult to injury, as far as Maharaj was concerned, was that Kahn was a civilian with no police background.

A counter-argument was that if Maharaj's own managerial talents had been more evident, head office would not have felt quite as compelled to run projects in Johannesburg — Kahn's much-trumpeted "Project Oil Spot" being a high-profile example of this — from Pretoria.

Because of a lack of faith in Maharaj's abilities, crime-fighting projects were often structured around him, rather than with him in the centre. This created an atmosphere of confusion and made his job even more difficult than it already was.

Maharaj was born in Maritzburg on July 29 1946, and completed his schooling at the M.L. Sultan Technical College in Durban.

He did his basic training at the Wentworth Police College in Durban before returning to Maritzburg as a constable, and served there as a non-commissioned officer until 1977. The following year he was promoted to lieutenant.

Maharaj served as station commander in Isipingo and as district commissioner of the Chatsworth District.

In 1992 he became a brigadier and was transferred to the regional head office in Durban where he served as regional chief of human resources.

In July this year he took early retirement from his job as Gauteng police commissioner, and became head of the Metro police force in Pretoria.

Maharaj is survived by his wife Shantree, and three sons, one of whom is a police superintendent. — Chris Burnton

Caption to the photograph: Sharma Maharaj

Sharma Maharaj, who has died at the age of 55, was one of the first black police officers to be given a top rank in post-apartheid South Africa, when he was made provincial commissioner for Gauteng in 1995.

With 41 000 policemen under his command, an entrenched apartheid legacy and a spiralling crime rate, this was one of the most difficult policing jobs in the country, and would have tested the skills of a far more experienced officer than Maharaj.

As it happened, the needs of the time demanded that a black policeman be given the job, and because of the discriminatory

policies of the past and the pool of possible candidates was a very small one.

Added to the normal difficulties of being catapulted into a hot seat like this somewhat prematurely, Maharaj was faced with the extraordinarily tough challenge of having to institute a whole new culture of policing in the province.

The son of a policeman, Maharaj joined the force in 1965. Because of his colour he was never entirely part of the old order, but the old order had shaped him to the extent that he found it very difficult to adapt to a new environment where civilians exercised oversight and police officers were no longer a law unto themselves.

Maharaj's most daunting challenge after becoming commissioner was to transform the police into a non-racial force.

Acting on instructions of his no-nonsense, dynamic political boss Jesse Duarte, Maharaj found himself having to confront his old white superiors from the apartheid days and in many cases get rid of them — the kind of opportunity many black policemen might have relished in their dreams but one which, in reality, took much courage and put Maharaj under considerable personal strain.

Maharaj had a high public profile, and took it well. He was good at talking the talk — he knew how to turn on the charm when

he wanted to impress journalists or divert attention from the shortcomings of his force.

He was extremely defensive and hypersensitive to criticism that the police were having little if any impact against crime in Gauteng. He was quite masterful at using statistics to show the opposite of what they actually meant.

Maharaj was jealously protective of his turf and very resentful of what he saw as attempts from the national police headquarters in Pretoria to hijack projects which he felt should be under his control.

His relations with Meyer Khan, the brewery executive who was brought in to turn back the tidal wave of crime, were particularly tense. Khan's buccaneering, intrusive style irritated him consid-

erably. Adding insult to injury, as far as Maharaj was concerned, was that Khan was a civilian with no police background.

A counter-argument was that if Maharaj's own managerial talents had been more evident, head office would not have felt quite as compelled to run projects in Johannesburg - Khan's much-trumpeted "Project Oil Spill: being a high-profile example of this" from Pretoria.

Because of a lack of faith in Maharaj's abilities, crime-fighting projects were often structured around him, rather than with him in the centre. This created an atmosphere of confusion and made his job even more difficult than it already was.

Maharaj was born in Pm'burg on July 29 1946, and completed his schooling at the ML Sultan Technical College in Durban.

He did his basic training at Wentworth Police College, Durban before returning to PMBurg as a constable, and remained there as a non-commissioned officer until 1977. The following year he was promoted to lieutenant.

Maharaj served as station commander in Isipingo and Chatsworth police stations and thereafter as district commissioner of Chatsworth District.

In 1992 he became a Brigadier and was transferred to the provincial head office as a regional chief of human resources.

In July this year he took retirement as police commissioner and head of the Metro police in Pretoria.

Maharaj is survived by his wife Shantee, and three sons, one of whom is a police superintendent.
-- Chris Barron

ACKNOWLEDEMENTS: LOGAN GOVENDER

I am grateful to the undermentioned persons who contributed to this compilation of the life and police career of Lieutenant General DS (Sharma) Maharaj: -

1. Professor D Govender for his insert, "Foreword" and photographs. He has been an inspiration and encouragement to me from the onset;
2. Brigadier Hennie Heymans (in addition for his inspiration and encouragement) and Frans Bedford -Visser for publishing;
3. Finally, my appreciation and thanks to a kind and humble Auntie Shantee for her patience and her trust in me with the most important part of her life, photographs and memorabilia of her late beloved husband, Lieutenant General Sharma Maharaj;
4. Auntie Lallie and Mr Bhairo Maharaj, younger sister and



brother of the late Lieutenant General Maharaj;

5. Brigadiers Chris Thaver; Anesh Haripersad; NG (Natty) Govender and Hari Badul; Colonels Henry Budhram; Basil Arumugam;

Gringo Govender and Captains Bob Govender and Kercy Pillay for their relevant inserts and information without which this publication would not have been possible;

6. Last but not least my dear family for their patience, perseverance, endurance and understanding.

Logan Govender

NONGQAI

NAWOORD | AFTERWORD

The wise words of my sergeant at SAP King's Rest comes to mind after reading, editing and compiling this Special Edition of the Nongqai: "You cannot keep a good man down!" Lt Gen Sharma Maharaj fits the mould! Yes, indeed you can't keep a good man down!

General Maharaj was a pioneer policeman who followed in his father's footsteps. His father would have been very proud of him! The General had an illustrious career in the SA Police and SA Police Service. He was a keen police officer with both feet firmly on the ground.

I never served under the General, but I was fortunate as I met him on several occasions in private capacity. He impressed me and he had a commanding presence. He knew where he came from and he knew where he was going to take the police under his command. I observed him closely: he was polite, firm and determined to achieve his goals.

We are living in difficult times and under trying circumstances yet Col Logan Govender has once again excelled with this edition. I always say: "A bad photo is better than no photo at all!" We know you the readers will understand: Sometimes we have problems to reproduce clear copies of photos or newspaper cuttings. We have enhanced all copies to the best of our ability.

It is our aim to compile our South African National Security History and to foster a love for our history without glorifying the past. Both General Maharaj and Col Govender were builders of the SA Police / SA Police Service and innovators, as such. They

protected and served the public of South Africa! They did what they had to do in a decent and orderly fashion.

Their conduct did the Police proud!



Die wyse woorde van my sersant te SAP King's Rest kom by my op na die lees, redigering en samestelling van hierdie spesiale uitgawe van die Nongqai: "U kan 'n goeie man nie *onderhou* nie!" Luitenant-generaal Sharma Maharaj is deel van die spreekwoord! Ja, inderdaad, mens kan nie 'n goeie man *onderhou* nie!

Generaal Maharaj was 'n pionier-polisieman wat in sy pa se voetspore gevolg het. Sy pa sou baie trots op hom gewees het! Die generaal het 'n roemryke loopbaan in die SA Polisie en SA Polisie diens gehad. Hy was 'n kranige polisiebeampte met albei voete stewig op die grond.

Ek het nooit onder die generaal gedien nie, maar ek

was gelukkig dat ek hom by verskeie geleenthede in private hoedanigheid ontmoet het. Hy het my beïndruk en hy het 'n gebiedende teenwoordigheid gehad. Hy het gewet waar hy vandaan kom en hy het gewet waar hy die polisie onder sy bevel sou neem. Ek het hom fyn dopgehou: hy was beleefd, vasberade en vasbeslote om sy doelwitte te bereik.

Ons leef in moeilike tye en onder moeilike omstandighede tog het kolonel Logan Govender weereens uitgeblink met hierdie uitgawe. Ek sê altyd: "n Slegte foto is beter as geen foto nie!" Ons weet dat u as lesers sal verstaan: Soms het ons probleme om duidelike kopieë van foto's of koerantknipsels in die tydskrif weer te gee. Ons het alle foto's en skêrsnitte na die beste van ons vermoë verbeter.

Dit is ons doel om ons Suid-Afrikaanse nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis op te stel en 'n liefde vir ons geskiedenis te kweek, sonder om die verlede te verheerlik. Beide generaal Maharaj en kol Govender was bouers van die SA Polisie / SA Polisie diens en innoveerders.

Hulle het die publiek van Suid-Afrika beskerm en gedien! Hulle het op 'n ordentlike en ordelike manier gedoen wat hulle moes doen.

Hulle gedrag het die polisie trots gemaak!

NONGQAI

VRYWARING & © | INDEMNITY & ©

SLOT | END



Dear reader

Please note that in this quasi-historical magazine we make use of various sources and consequently it is obvious that the document contains various diverse and personal opinions of different people and the author of the Nongqai cannot be held responsible or be liable in his personal capacity.

Geagte leser

Vir hierdie kwasiehistoriese tydskrif maak ons van verskeie bronne gebruik en bevat die dokument uiteraard uiteenlopende en diverse persoonlike menings van verskillende persone en die opsteller van die Nongqai kan nie in sy persoonlike hoedanigheid daarvoor verantwoordelik of aanspreeklik gehou word nie.

© 2020 Brig. HB Heymans (SAP Ret.)

STUUR ASB FOTO'S EN STORIES AAN:

Brig. Hennie Heymans:



+27 723 361755

heymanshb@gmail.com

