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Dear Editor

Lenasia South Secondary is a law unto itself



Allegations of mistreatment and systemic issues at Lenasia South Secondary have left parents and students deeply concerned.

One parent shares a heart-wrenching account of their child's experience, shedding light on claims of bullying, bribery and administrative neglect at the once-prestigious institution.

Dear Editor
What has happened to Lenasia South Secondary? From being one of the top schools in Lenasia South and the surrounding districts, it is now

probably one of the worst schools, from drugs, fighting, bullying by students, bribery to get place in the school and now the students are being bullied by teaching staff as well?

I would prefer to remain anonymous to protect my child, but on the 1st day back at school, which was supposed to be an exciting day for my son, it turned into the worst day ever. When he arrived at school, him and several other students were singled out by the teaching staff. The reason they were told was, 1. not paying school fees, 2. not collecting their reports due to outstanding school fees and 3. outstanding textbooks. Mind you, I've completed all the relevant documentation required to exempt him from school fees as he is a SASSA Child Grant recipient, and we have in our possession his report which states that he was promoted to the next grade, also all his textbooks were handed in before the school closed in 2024. These students were never assigned to a class, they were forced to sit outside in the sun and then later in the pouring rain. When my son asked to go to the office to call me to fetch him, he was denied this. While other students were starting active lessons, these children were being bullied by the staff who are supposed to be teaching them. The principal seems to encourage this behavior, because, instead of allowing the children to be sent to class he ignored the actions of his teachers and teacher aides.

What kind of a principal does this? What empathy does he have for his students? What happened to the free education that was promised to us by the government? Does the principal of a government school have the legal right to decide who he wants in the school based on how much of a bribe the parent can pay? Does the principal of said government school have the right to endorse bullying of students by his teaching staff? I am an unemployed parent and as such I can't afford the fees of a private school, but is this the treatment my child will get because I am unemployed? This goes against my child's right as a human, never mind a South African Citizen!

The SGB representatives seem to side with the principal when approached for assistance. What is the use of having an SGB? The Deputy Principal seems to also side with the principal's behavior of treating the children like inferior beings. Why become a teacher if you don't have the will and passion to teach and mold the leaders of tomorrow?... A concerned parent.

GLOBE POST has written to the Gauteng Department of Education for feedback on the allegations raised. Update to follow... Your voice matters! We value your input on the issues shaping our community.

Share your thoughts, concerns and ideas with us - call or WhatsApp 010 230 0325. Together, let's make a difference!

Lenasia South family pleas for help: 12-year-old Shakil Pillay needs heart and double lung transplant



Shakil remains cheerful and optimistic, always responding with "I'm great" when asked how he feels

Ext 1's Shakil Pillay, a kind-hearted 12-year-old boy has spent his life battling a rare and severe heart condition, Fallot of Tetralogy. **GLOBE POST** recently visited the family for an exclusive interview, Mbali Nqubuka reports...

Born on 20 February 2012, Shakil underwent his first open-heart surgery at just eight weeks old and has since endured three more major surgeries. Despite these efforts, his pulmonary arteries remain critically small, and his heart continues to weaken under tremendous strain. Doctors have now recommended a heart and double lung transplant as his only chance for survival – a daunting prospect given South Africa's limited organ donation statistics.

Shakil's parents Bruce and Raeesa Pillay, told **GLOBE POST**: "We were shattered when we learned of his condition. But we promised to give Shakil as normal a childhood as possible, no matter the challenges."

In April 2023, Shakil's health deteriorated further, forcing him to leave school. An emergency angiogram revealed his heart was failing and local surgeons confirmed there were no more surgical options available in South Africa. The family's desperate search for international help led them to Boston Children's Hospital, where doctors offered a potential life – saving procedure. The surgery comes with an estimated cost of \$333,548.16 (over R6 million), excluding travel, accommodation, and post-operative care – far beyond the family's means.

"This surgery could ease the pressure on his heart and give him a fighting chance," said Bruce.

Determined to save their son, the Pillays have launched a fundraiser on BackaBuddy, where people can read Shakil's full story and donate. "We are asking for your prayers, support and contributions to help Shakil make his dreams come true," said Raeesa.

Despite his condition, Shakil continues to dream big. "Looking at him, you'd never know the battles he faces every day," added Bruce.

"He is determined to grow up and make a difference in this world. Thank you and God bless," Bruce and Raeesa concluded. To support Shakil's fight, visit his fundraiser on BackaBuddy and share his story.

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Victory for learners and parents at Bilal Combined School



The parent team, led by Ridwan Mahomed, in blue shirt, flanked by Faiyaz Mohamed and Lebo Mabasa, address the crowd to announce the good news after being addressed by principal Saeed Mahomed, during this peaceful action on Wednesday, 22 January

In a heartfelt win for the community, learners of Bilal Combined School returned to class on Thursday, 23 January, after a determined group of parents and stakeholders demanded solutions to the sudden closure of grades 10 to 12 and the uncertainty of Grades 8 and 9.

The movement, led by Ridwan Mahomed, Joy Govender, Lebo Mabasa, Faiyaz Mohamed and Jameel Limbada, rallied more than 50 'protestors' outside the school from 6am on Wednesday, 22 January to address concerns over school closures and

communication failures. "This victory is about more than just reopening the school," emphasized Ridwan Mahomed. "It's about creating a transparent, supportive environment where our children can thrive." Joy Govender, a concerned grandparent added: "I'm relieved the children are back in school. For years, rumors about the school closing have been circulating, creating unnecessary anxiety. We need certainty that our children are in a stable environment and receiving the education they deserve." The community's frustration stemmed

from a lack of transparency, with parents discovering that the Department of Education had not issued any directive to close the school, as previously feared. Financial concerns were also raised. "We understand the financial constraints, but accountability is crucial. The education of underprivileged children cannot be compromised," said Mabasa. The team expressed its gratitude to key supporters, including Zandie Dabula, National President TJ Kruger and Shaun Desai of Operation Dudula, principal Saeed Mahomed, local activists Fayaz Mohamed

and Ayesha Rafiq and **GLOBE POST** for its extensive media coverage in an effort to help resolve the crisis. The organising team announced plans to establish a Parent-Teacher Association to prevent future disruptions and ensure a collaborative approach to governance. Govender added: "We need to ensure that our children's education is not compromised." The community hopes this marks a new chapter for Bilal Combined School, driven by unity and a shared commitment to quality education. **This is a developing story...**

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Gibson Pillay Learning Academy's Class of 2024 shines



GPLA's pass rate reflects its commitment to excellence

Lenasia South's Gibson Pillay Learning Academy has started the new academic year on a high note, celebrating not only the acquisition of a second premises but also a stellar academic performance by the Class of 2024.

The school boasts an impressive 100% Matric Pass Rate, with remarkable achievements that underscore its commitment to excellence in education. The Class of 2024 achieved an astounding 93% Bachelors Pass rate, collectively

earning 92 distinctions- an average of two distinctions per student. Their performance was further enhanced by 75 B-symbols and a 100% pass rate in ten of the eleven subjects offered at the school. These subjects include critical gateway courses such as English, Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Accounting, solidifying the school's reputation as an academic powerhouse. Leading the charge in academic excellence is Head Boy Jayden Van Wyk, who earned

five distinctions in Afrikaans, Business Studies, Accounting, Tourism, and Life Orientation. His remarkable performance was matched by Kamogelo Moremi, who also achieved five distinctions in Life Orientation, History, Tourism, Business Studies and Mathematical Literacy. Equally impressive were the Headgirl, Angelina Kassoma, and Deputy Headgirls, Angel Bitso and Tianna Kisten, along with Caitlin Matthews, Lwazi Mollo, Luyanda Msagala, Philasande Nxumalo, Sade Smith, and Kheto Xulu, each of whom secured four distinctions. Other notable achievers include Chantie Chettie, Tondani Mashau, Macaella Petersen, Khanyisile Shabalala, and Thando Molefe, who earned three distinctions each. Many other learners also contributed to the school's success, achieving one or two distinctions each. The accomplishments of the Class of 2024 reflect Gibson Pillay Learning Academy's dedication to its motto, "Education is Wealth." With their exceptional results, these graduates have not only honored their school's legacy but also set a high standard for future classes. The newly acquired second premises and these extraordinary academic results signify a bright future for Gibson Pillay Learning Academy. As the school continues to grow, it remains committed to equipping learners with the tools and knowledge they need to excel on their journey of lifelong success.



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 10. Daleview Secondary – 87.8%
 11. Willowmead – 87.5%
 12. Lotus School of Excellence – 87.7%
 13. Lenasia South Secondary – 85.8%
 14. Fred Norman Secondary – 85.2%
 15. Lawley Thutholefa – 82.7%
 16. Southview High – 78.3%
 17. Bilal Combined School – 69.2%
- Congratulations to all the learners and educators for their hard work and dedication!



Excitement on their first day of school!

Lots of joy for little ones on their first day at Wasalaam Nursery and Pre-School

The air was filled with excitement and happy chatter as learners arrived for their first day at Wasalaam Nursery and Pre-School on 15 January. The little bundles of joy stepped into their new learning environment with wide-eyed curiosity, marking the beginning of a beautiful educational journey. Parents, armed with cameras and big smiles, captured these special moments as their children settled into their classrooms. For many, it was a bittersweet moment-watching their little ones take their first big step towards independence. The learners, however, had no time for nerves. With warm

welcomes from the dedicated teachers and vibrant, playful spaces to explore, they quickly embraced their new surroundings. From colourful building blocks to cheerful songs, the first day was a perfect mix of learning and fun. The day was a resounding success, with big smiles on little faces as the learners began forming friendships and exploring their classrooms. Wasalaam Nursery and Pre-School continues to create a nurturing environment for children, ensuring that their first steps in learning are filled with love, laughter and lasting memories.

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NEED A CLEAN BATH?



By Ps Radha Moodley
Faith Bible College

The beginning of each New Year spurs people on to be more mindful of God.
They remember and believe that God is the only One who can bless and prosper them. Almost every church sets a time of fasting and seeking God intensely. The Word of God does instruct us to seek first the Kingdom of God, in other words to seek first God's way of doing things. A lot of fasting, repentance of sins and confessions of serving God with all our hearts, takes place. Some even go ahead and make desperate vows before God. Vows to be quick to forgive and not harbor resentment and hatred; vows to be faithful and committed in their marriage; vows to tithe faithfully and attend Church regularly.....and many other vows. But know this, you honour God when you perform or fulfil your vows. Are there any vows that you have made that are still behind you? Attend to it.
Cleanliness is not next to Godliness,

cleanliness is godliness. Jesus, having had His last supper with His disciples prepared them for the Cross and for His departure to the Father. As He started to wash the feet of the disciples, Peter resisted. This resistance would have left Peter divided from Jesus. Peter didn't want that and therefore asked Jesus to wash him from head to feet. To this, Jesus responded, that he was clean since he had bathe in the morning, but he was not pure. Purity is not based on bathing and clean clothes. That's good! But it's deeper. By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus demonstrated humility that's not portrayed by outer actions but by a genuine heart conversion. A heart that says, "I will love even though I should hate you." Jesus should have hated Judas Iscariot who was about to betray Him to His false accusers. But do you know what He did? After supper, He served Holy Communion to all His disciples, drinking from one cup. He could have looked at Judas and shouted out, "You are My traitor." But instead, He served him the communion. Jesus, being the epitome of love, demonstrated it. He did this! Nobody else did this for Him. The shower does not work apart from you. You have to go under the shower, open the tap, apply the soap and allow the water to rinse off. God does not work apart from you but with you. Don't just pour water on yourself and run out. Rub yourself with soap on the outside and rub and wash yourself with the Word of God daily. If you don't wash your body, you will remain dirty; if you don't wash your spirit, you will remain spiritually unclean. As you keep feeding your spirit with the Word of God, it will wash and clean you of sins on the inside (Titus 3:5).

Thaipusam 2025

Thaipusam, also known as Thaipooam, is a prominent Hindu Tamil festival celebrating the triumph of Lord Murugan over the demon Surapadman. It is observed on the first full moon day of the Thai month, coinciding with the Pusam star. The festival marks the victory of good over evil, with Lord Murugan wielding a vel, a sacred spear gifted by Parvati, to defeat the demon. Devotees partake in rituals that involve piercing their skin, tongues, or cheeks, and some even walk across burning coals as acts of devotion and self-discipline. These rituals symbolize atonement for sins and a deep reaffirmation of faith. Thaipusam is celebrated widely among Tamil communities in India and across the globe, with major gatherings in Malaysia and Singapore. Although the main festival lasts one day, preparations begin weeks in advance with fasting and purification, and the festivities often span several days. This year, Thaipusam will be observed with great enthusiasm on 11th February 2025.

Significance: Thaipusam holds profound spiritual and cultural importance as it showcases intense penance and sacrifice to demonstrate devotion and seek blessings. Devotees undertake acts of physical endurance, such as piercing their bodies with skewers, carrying ornate 'kavadis,' and embarking on pilgrimages to Murugan temples. These acts symbolize perseverance, unwavering faith, and the willingness to overcome hardships to achieve spiritual growth. Thaipusam also serves as a vibrant expression of cultural identity, religious fervor, and community solidarity among Hindu Tamil communities. Above all, the festival is a powerful reminder of the eternal victory of virtue over evil.

Story credit: **BROADER HINDU COMMUNITY NETWORK NPO**
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Moodley family triumphs at SA 6 Day Circuit Race



Kovalan Moodley with his twin, Komalan show off their spoils after the race



Race organiser, Eric Wright, with Wendy Moodley

Komalan, Kovalan and Wendy Moodley made history at the SA 6 Days Circuit Race last from 28 to 3 January, showcasing dedication and resilience. Komalan expressed pride in competing alongside his twin brother for the first time, said: "Crossing the finish line together in first place as twins is truly historic. Wendy

also shone, becoming the first female in her category to complete an impressive 300 km." Komalan told **GLOBE POST**: "Our faith kept us strong. We ran 435 km over 6 days, completing 870 laps on a tough 500m concrete track, braving extreme weather conditions." Their journey, marked

by commitment and discipline, saw them averaging 73 km per day through heavy rain, strong winds, and scorching heat. The Moodleys extended their gratitude to race organiser Eric Wright, their sponsor Gonie Moodley of Trend Pack, and loved ones who supported them with meals and

supplements. Komalan added: "A special thanks to my daughter Wendy, who seconded us while competing herself." Their victory is a testament to perseverance and faith. "We give all the glory to God, the author and finisher of our faith," Komalan concluded.

Vlakfontein Men's Forum: Empowering communities and combating GBV



From left: Timothy Molelekeng, Njabulo Radebe, Dr David Molapo, Steve Mahumane, Thandisizwe Luphuzu, Bennett Ndzoko and Moses Nkabinde

This Forum, in partnership with Unisa Institute for Social and Health Sciences, is dedicated to fighting gender-based violence (GBV), promoting equality and empowering communities with vital information.

The organisation hosts empowerment seminars, focusing on educating men and boys, grooming them into responsible leaders through mentorship and skill development. Vlakfontein Men's Forum's director Bennett Ndzoko, told **GLOBE POST**: "Our mission is to equip communities with the tools they need to foster respect, accountability and positive change." The Forum places strong emphasis on men's empowerment, addressing accountability, mental health and well-being. They engage schools and communities through dialogues that encourage open conversations about

pressing social issues. To date, the forum has impacted seven regions within the City of Johannesburg, collaborating with key stakeholders such as: Lenasia South SAPS Social Crime Prevention, Lenasia South Thuthuzela Centre, City of Johannesburg Municipality and Social Development. Their work extends to numerous schools in Vlakfontein, Zakariyya Park and Lenasia South, involving both primary and high school learners. "We groom boys to become better men through our mentorship programmes. The goal is to build a better future," added Ndzoko. Through their initiatives, Vlakfontein Men's Forum continues to foster a culture of respect, leadership and social responsibility, ensuring a safer and more equal society for all.



South Africa leads the G20 Presidency from 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025, under the theme: Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability.



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