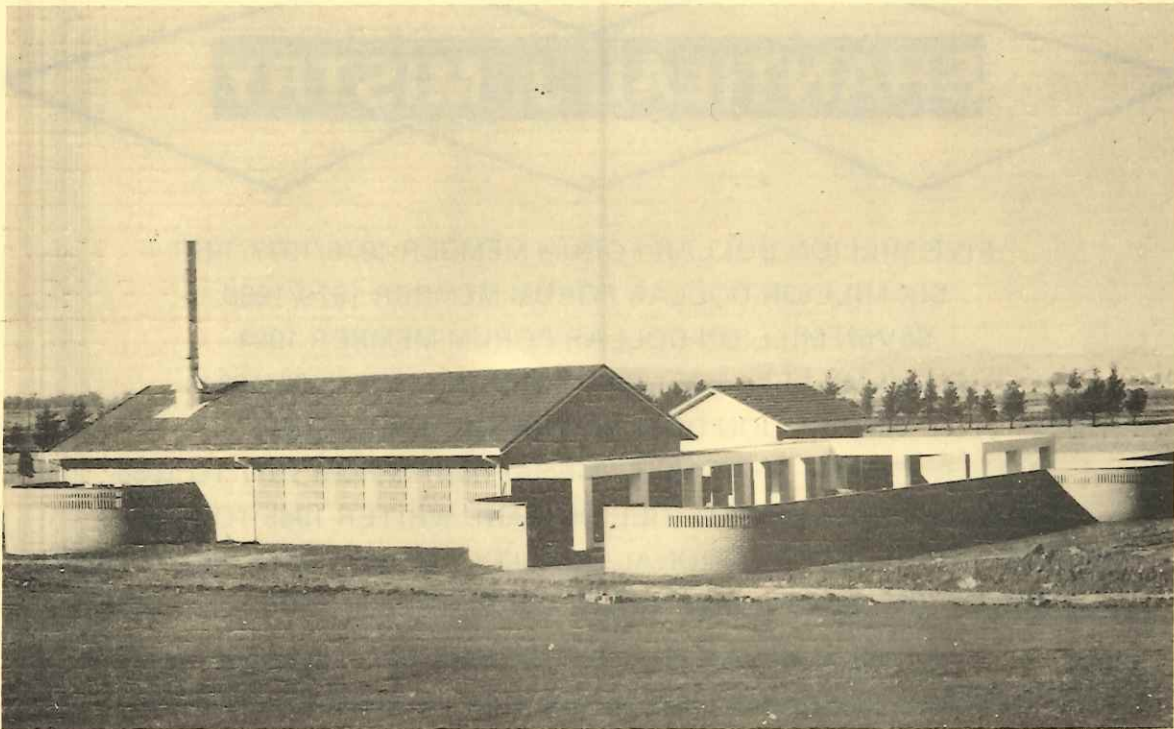


AUM
THE HINDU CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE



**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
AVALON CREMATORIUM**

by

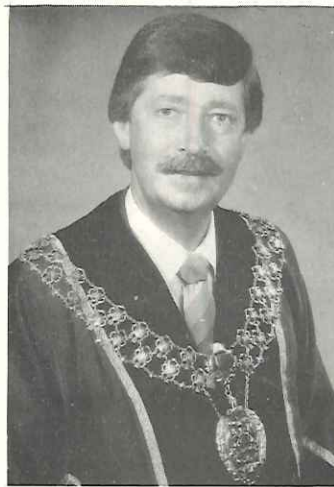
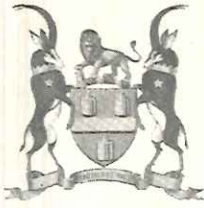
**HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
COUNCILLOR C E FABEL**

DATE:	SUNDAY 28 JULY 1985
VENUE:	AVALON CREMATORIUM/CEMETARY
TIME:	10H00 (10 am)

ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE AVALON CREMATORIUM

A Message from

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
COUNCILLOR ERNIE FABEL, JP



The Lenasia Management Committee, in close liaison with the Hindu Crematorium Committee, commenced negotiations with the Council as far back as 1979, regarding the construction of the Avalon Crematorium. The Committee pursued this development with a resolution of purpose and determination and its endeavours have culminated in an extremely well finished, expensive and functional building.

This construction serves as a monument to those who so unreservedly perform in the interests and well-being of the community and has been constructed at an estimated cost of one million rand to serve the inhabitants of Lenasia and its environs. This Crematorium, with its modern features, must be rated as one of the best in the country.

As previously mentioned, the Hindu Crematorium Committee of Lenasia, has for many years been at the forefront in initiating the development of this Crematorium and it is therefore fitting that this Committee should be entrusted the task of conducting the official opening of the Avalon Crematorium.

This event is scheduled to be held on 28 July 1985.

Another indication of the enthusiasm of the Hindu Crematorium Committee is its willingness to effect certain additions to the Crematorium and to bear the costs thereof over and above the substantial financial contribution made by this Committee to the Council for the construction of the Crematorium. An interested community actively participates in projects that will serve it and the Community of Lenasia is no exception.

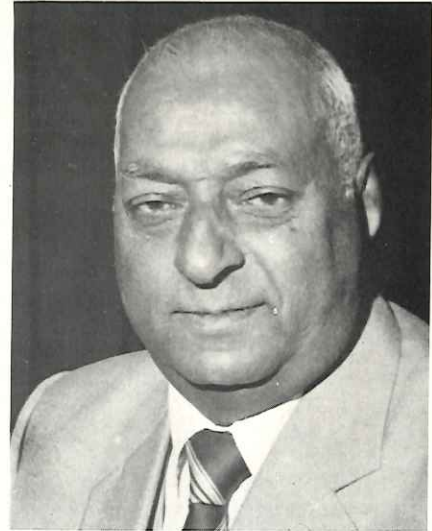
This country is entering into an era of meaningful political change based on consensus and it is through the process of negotiation that benefits can be obtained to uplift the quality of the lives of our people. Demands will be made on the community to adapt itself to the changes and I believe that through tolerance and understanding, the people constituting this great nation, will succeed and prosper.

Message from

MR E L BEHARIE

CHAIRMAN: HINDU CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE

LENASIA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



The Hindu Crematorium Committee, since its inception in 1979, initiated the planning and development of the Avalon Crematorium. Today the community of Lenasia has a much needed facility and due credit must be accorded to the Committee for its endeavours and unstinting efforts.

Community interest was significant in this project. R40 000 was collected and handed over to the City Council of Johannesburg to commence with the construction of the Crematorium. Further additions are still to be made to the Crematorium and funds will be required. The Community will be called upon, once again to play its role, as it has so ably done in the past.

The Avalon Crematorium today stands as a hallmark to the steadfast belief of those who believe in the process of negotiations. Our past negotiations with the City Council of Johannesburg has been brought to fruition, despite the years that have elapsed. We have succeeded in providing for our Community to the best of our abilities and we will endeavour to do so in the future.

The Hindu Crematorium Committee expresses its thanks and appreciation to the City Councillors, the Director, Housing Department and his staff for their earnest co-operation and assistance.

I also wish to thank the past and present members of the Lenasia Management Committee for pursueing this development to its logical conclusion. Your efforts and determination through the years is indicative of the interest you have in the well-being of your Community.

In conclusion, I must stress that this facility is open to all. By this token we extend our hand of friendship to Johannesburg and all its inhabitants.

Message from

MR M P WILSNACH, JP

THE DIRECTOR, HOUSING DEPARTMENT



The history of negotiations for the erection of a crematorium goes back to January 1980 when the Lenasia Management Committee, during an interview with the Council's Management Committee, made an urgent appeal to the Management Committee for funds to be provided for the erection of a crematorium.

At this meeting the Management Committee agreed to the request and funds for the planning of the project was placed on the next year's budget.

The estimated erection costs based on sketch plans, was R350 000. During the planning stage, the Hindu Crematorium Committee was at all times consulted and the official opening of the Avalon Crematorium is a tangible example of what can be achieved by truly dedicated civic and religious leaders.

The high cost of erecting a modern crematorium is taunting, but this did not deter the Lenasia Management Committee or the Hindu Crematorium Committee.

The final cost of the crematorium that is now being opened, is \pm R1m. The Hindu Crematorium Committee was at one stage advised that because of the escalation in the construction cost, it was imperative for the Hindu community to make a contribution and this committee in a very short space of time, collected and handed over an amount of R40 000 to the Council.

During the negotiations, meetings with the Johannesburg Management Committee, the Lenasia Management Committee, religious and residents' committees, architects and officials were the order of the day. Everybody agreed that quality should be the only criteria for this essential amenity for the people of Lenasia, who presently are required to use facilities situated many kilometers away from Lenasia. The enthusiasm and co-operation was greatly appreciated by the Council, who, at the request of the Lenasia Management Committee, agreed to provide the remainder of the capital for the project.

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure for me to be able to work with Mr E L Beharie, the Chairman of both the Lenasia Management Committee and the Hindu Crematorium Committee, and the courtesy and co-operation of the committees is sincerely appreciated.

I have no doubt that the completion of this project will be an encouragement to these committees to even greater achievements in the future and also responsible local organisations.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing them and other local committees every success in planning and developing community facilities in Lenasia.

HINDU CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE

OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS



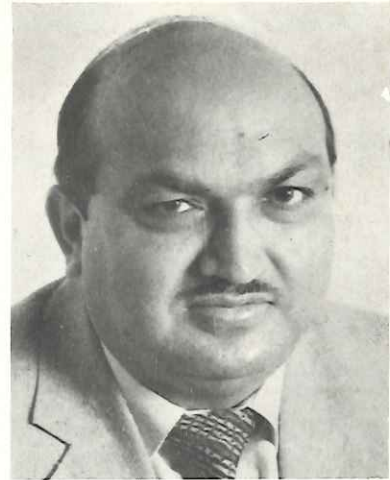
Standing L to R: MAGAN BHAI KALIDAS; MANILALBHAI MORAR (V Chairman); RANCHODDBHAI PEMA· KISHORE J MISTRY; KESHAVBHAI LALA (Asst Secretary); RANCHODDBHAI DAYA; MAGANBHAI CHITTA; LALABHAI GOSAI

Sitting L to R: CHIMABHAI NARAN; (DENIS) CHINSAMY PILLAY; E L BEHARIE (Chairman); SHANTILAL J MISTRY (Treasurer); MANICKUM NAIDOO (Asst. Secretary)

Message of Goodwill from

SHANTILAL JAIRAM MISTRY

**CHAIRMAN OF THE
TRANSVAAL HINDU SEVA SAMAJ**



Our best wishes to the Hindu Crematorium Committee on the completion of the New Hindu Crematorium in Lenasia. On this important occasion, I feel it is my duty as Chairman, with the Officials and Members, of the Transvaal Hindu Seva Samaj, to pay tribute to all those devoted and dedicated Officials, who were responsible for this gigantic venture. We acknowledge with deep gratitude the personal sacrifice and valued contribution made by all Officials of your organisation.

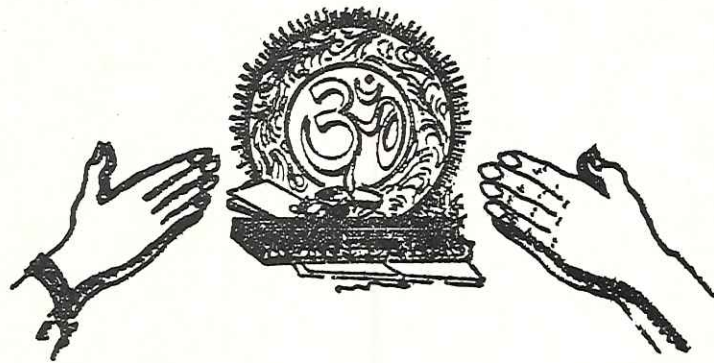
The only Crematorium available to the Hindu Community of Johannesburg and the East and West Rand to date was the one in Brixton which served our Hindu Community for over 50 years. The Hindu Crematorium Committee has carried out this magnificent task with strong desires to necessitate funeral procedures in Lenasia and for people living in Western Transvaal. Our Organisation has supported this just cause and with this in mind has donated the sum of R10 000,00 towards this project.

In conclusion we pray that the Almighty grant these dedicated men the strength to continue with their services to Humanity.

Message from

MR K SINGH

OFFICIAL: SHRI SANATHAN VEDH DHARMA SABHA
LENASIA



Prem Namesté,

“Look to this day!
For it is Life, the very Life of Life.
Lie all the verities and realities of your existence,
The bliss of growth
The glory of action
The splendour of achievement,
For yesterday it was but just a dream
And tomorrow only a vision.
But Today . . . well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
Look well, therefore, to **THIS DAY!**”

With these great words of the poet Kalidas, let me take this opportunity, on behalf of the SABHA and its Members, to express joy and happiness at your magnificent effort in making the crematorium a reality.

It is with immense joy that I send this message of goodwill to your committee on this wonderful occasion. Our sincere gratitude and congratulations to the Crematorium Committee for the wonderful work done to make this a reality. We also wish to thank everybody else who in some way has assisted in making this project a reality.

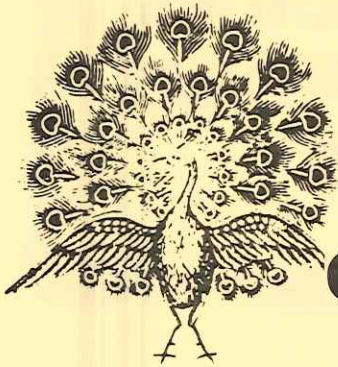
It must be remembered that it was a hard struggle but in the end courage, faith and perseverance has paid dividends.

As Macloed has said:

“Courage brother, do not stumble;
Though thy path is dark as night,
There’s a star to guide the humble;
Trust in God and do the right.”

Once again, my organisation’s best wishes on your achievement and may this day of the Official Opening be showered with all the Almighty’s blessings and goodwill.

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