

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WAHEED CAMROODEEN

(By Y A Bhamjee0

As the *Lenasia Times* approaches its remarkable 50-year milestone, it is impossible to celebrate this achievement without remembering the man whose vision, sacrifice and humanity laid its foundation (*Marhoom* – the late) Waheed Camroodeen.

Though he returned to his Creator many years ago, his presence continues to echo through every page, every headline and every story that the newspaper has carried. Time may have passed but his legacy remains as alive and meaningful as ever.



The Man Behind the Mission

Waheed Camroodeen was a gentle soul blessed with a kind heart, a calming disposition and the rare ability to listen with patience and sincerity. He was more than the owner of the *Lenasia Times* - he was its moral compass, its quiet strength and its unwavering guardian.

What made him truly exceptional was his humility. He walked the same streets as the people he served, lived among them, understood their struggles, and celebrated their joys. He lived in the parts of Lenasia where hardship was common, yet he never turned away from the lived experiences of those around him. Instead, he made their stories the heartbeat of his newspaper.

A Vision Born in Difficult Times

The *Lenasia Times* was born during the oppressive years of apartheid - a time when communities were silenced, stories erased and truth was dangerous. Yet Waheed Camroodeen refused to let the voices of Lenasia be lost.

With courage and conviction, he created a platform that allowed: free political thought, honest expression, community dialogue and resistance through storytelling.

Initially serving the Indian community of Lenasia, the paper gradually expanded to embrace broader regions, including parts of Soweto and surrounding districts, becoming a respected, multicultural publication. This evolution reflected his belief that journalism was not just about reporting - it was about connecting people.

A Legacy That Outlives the Man

Although he is no longer here to witness the approaching 50-year milestone, his spirit remains woven into the fabric of the *Lenasia Times*. It is his dedication, his sleepless nights, his courage under apartheid and his love for community that carried the paper through decades of change.

He remains: a pioneer of grassroots journalism, a custodian of community memory, a defender of truth, and a symbol of service.

Why We Remember Him Today

As we reflect on the near half-century journey of the *Lenasia Times*, we honour the man who ensured that Lenasia's stories - its struggles, triumphs, hopes and identity - were never forgotten.

His work was never about fame. It was never about power. It was always about people.

He gave them a voice. He preserved their history. He held their dignity.

And today, long after his passing, his influence continues to guide the spirit of the newspaper and all who understand the value of community journalism.

A Light That Continues to Shine

May Allah grant Waheed Camroodeen the highest stages of *Jannah* (paradise), fill his grave with peace and *Noor* (light), and reward him for every life he touched and every truth he preserved.

As the *Lenasia Times* approaches its 50-year anniversary, we remember not only a newspaper, but the remarkable man who gave it purpose.

A pioneer. A storyteller. A servant of the people. A legend of Lenasia.

In cherished remembrance of *Marhoom* Waheed Camroodeen