



# PROTEC Connect

Issue 2 | February 2022

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## Balan's message

Dear Friends of PROTEC,

Welcome to the first edition of PROTEC Connect in 2022, which is already escalating into a year of big things happening in our world.

This year we celebrate our 40th anniversary, which is a remarkable milestone for any organisation. Throughout this year we will keep you updated on news, events and activities related to our 40th celebrations.

In this edition we also proudly share some highlights from our Class of 2021 matric results, and I'm sure you join us in heartily congratulating our youngsters who achieved so much through two pandemic years.

Another noteworthy achievement for PROTEC is our appointment as the implementation partner in South Africa for the exceptional GE (General Electric) Next Engineers programme – which is a big bold step taken by GE in four cities around the world. Read more about it below.

We also introduce you to Julie Vivier, who we welcomed into our team as Fundraiser and Business Development in August, and who you will no doubt hear a lot more from in the coming months.

Thank you for your interest in and support of PROTEC as we focus our energies on ensuring that our youngsters embrace opportunities for successful careers in the fields of STEM.

Balan Moodley  
CEO, PROTEC



## PROTEC turns 40

Our 40-year milestone highlights PROTEC's powerful track record in driving growth in STEM careers, in line with the vision of our founding organisation: "To empower South African youth with optimal scientific, maths, technology, engineering and life skills to access and succeed in STEM-based careers."

PROTEC was established in 1982 in Soweto by a group of concerned engineers from the SA Institute of Civil Engineers, specifically to help high school children in disadvantaged communities prepare for successful careers in STEM fields. The programme launched with 67 students, and since then it has provided opportunities for over 30 000 students to pursue engineering, science, technology, and a wide range of related careers. The early success of the project led to PROTEC's expansion into a national programme, and later the addition of the teacher support programme.

### PROTEC's vision was pertinent in 1982 and it is critical today.

This year we aim to mark our anniversary with an array of exciting events, activities, competitions for our beneficiaries, opportunities for our alumni to share their stories, reflections and accolades, a refreshed website, a special logo, and more.

Please join our 40th anniversary journey – we have high hopes for a great 2022!

[For more information on our planned events,  
please enquire here.](#)

## Class of 2021's matric results rock!

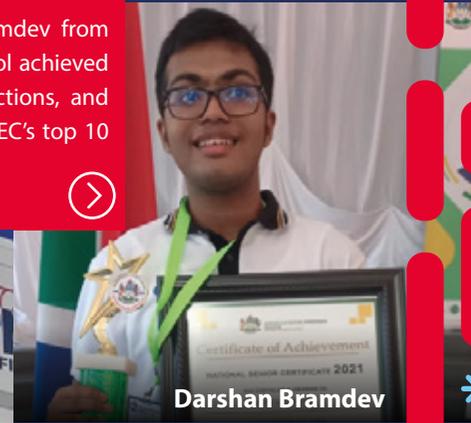
PROTEC's Class of 2021 rose to the challenges throughout their pandemic-ravaged final two high school years, and emerged triumphant with a 99.5% pass rate and a 78.2% bachelor pass rate, marking a great start to PROTEC's 40th anniversary year.

Of the 367 matriculants around the country in PROTEC's primary support programme for learners with the potential to improve their performance, 365 passed, 287 achieved bachelor passes, and overall they achieved a total of 430 distinctions.

### Highlights of the Class of 2021 results:

- PROTEC's top 2021 achiever is Phindile Xaba from PROTEC Tongaat branch. She attended Sacred Heart Secondary School and achieved seven distinctions. Phindile was awarded Top Girl Learner in Maths and Physical Sciences in the 'Learning against Adversity' category in the Pinetown District. This year she will be studying computer sciences and information technology at the University of KZN
- PROTEC Stanger's Darshan Bramdev from Stanger Manor Secondary School achieved 96% in English and five distinctions, and came in second overall in PROTEC's top 10 students
- PROTEC Tongaat's Ntuthuko Ngcobo from Nondenisa Secondary School achieved 99% in mathematics
- PROTEC Nelspruit's Michael Maseko from Sitintile Secondary School achieved 99% in Physical Sciences and five distinctions
- Five of PROTEC's top 10 learners are female

PROTEC Stanger's Darshan Bramdev from Stanger Manor Secondary School achieved 96% in English and five distinctions, and came in second overall in PROTEC's top 10 students



Darshan Bramdev



**99.5% pass rate  
and a 78.2%  
bachelor pass  
rate**

PROTEC's whole-school programme in Tshwane is sponsored by Telkom and aims to improve STEM-field performance. The project's 334 learners achieved an **84.1% matric pass rate**, with five students achieving five and more distinctions.

Top achiever, Shenikah Ledwaba from Reitumetse Secondary School in Soshanguve earned seven distinctions, which included 99% in Accounting.

Also noteworthy are the matric results from the AngloGold Ashanti Project in Diepsloot in northern Johannesburg, which include a **100% pass rate and a 95% bachelor pass**.

The top three learners are all girls – Glory Nkiwane achieved six distinctions; Rebecca Sithole, five; and Angela Sithole, also five.

Balan Moodley congratulates the beneficiaries and their facilitators on the results. "We are seeing the result of their hard work and wholehearted commitment throughout the programme. We wish our PROTEC Class of 2021 every success as they embark on the next chapter of their lives."

Professor Francis Faller, Visiting Adjunct Professor at Wits University and Higher Education representative on the PROTEC Board, also applauded the students and PROTEC team for the excellent 2021 matric results, and encouraged the matriculants who did not achieve bachelor passes: "There is a vast world of opportunities for students who did not achieve a bachelor pass or who choose not to attend university; students must understand that it doesn't necessarily take a university degree to be successful and a valuable contributor to their local economies."



Ntuthuko Ngcobo

PROTEC Tongaat's Ntuthuko Ngcobo from Nondenisa Secondary School achieved 99% in mathematics



Michael Maseko

Top achiever Phindile Xaba says consistent hard work from day one and commitment helped her achieve her award-winning results. She also thanked Marion Takis, PROTEC Tongaat Branch Manager, for her encouragement and advice, as well as her family who was always there for her.



PROTEC Nelspruit's Michael Maseko from Sitintile Secondary School achieved 99% in Physical Sciences and five distinctions





## GE's programme set to inspire tomorrow's engineers

PROTEC has launched GE's inaugural Next Engineers – a global 5-year further education readiness programme – to the first cohort of 750 high school students across Johannesburg this year, in a mission to inspire and equip the next generation of engineers.

PROTEC was selected by the GE Foundation through FHI 360 in mid-2021 as the South African NGO best equipped to be the implementation partner, growing the country's pool of engineers. **GE has committed up to R40 billion internationally over five years to the programme, which will reach over 3 500 Johannesburg students.**

### Next Engineers features three programmes:

**Engineering Discovery for Grade 8 students (500 students and 200 parents per year over five years). The aim is to build awareness and expand understanding of engineering work through creative, hands-on, and inspiring activities.**

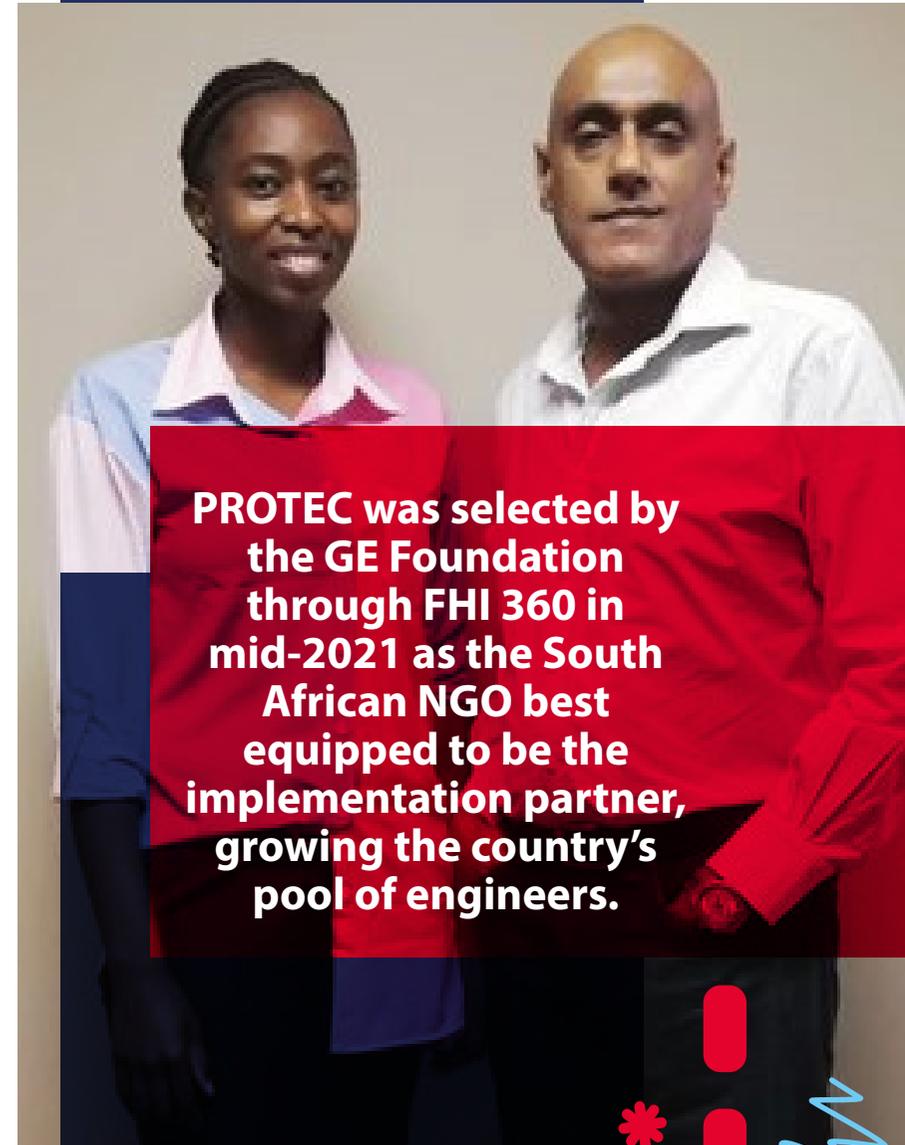
**Engineering Camp for Grade 9 students (200 students per year in a week-long camp at Wits University) Students will be immersed in the engineering process, interacting with engineering leaders and completing real-world design challenges.**

**Engineering Academy, for grades 10-12 students (50 students per year in three cycles over five years) featuring classes and workshops at Wits University, where students will learn to think and act like engineers and prepare for tertiary education.**

The Next Engineers programme launched in October 2021 in four cities – one in the UK, two in USA, and one in Johannesburg – and will expand to 25 cities, reaching over 85 000 students by 2030.

**Balan says, "South Africa is severely under-engineered, and this programme promises to find ways to unpack sustainable solutions that address skills shortages in engineering disciplines."**

Next Engineers is coordinated by Luyanda Mamane, a PROTEC alumnus and a qualified Aeronautical Engineer from Wits University, as the project manager reporting to PROTEC Senior Project Manager, Duduzile Ngoepe.



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**PROTEC's Next Engineers Coordinator is Luyanda Mamane, a PROTEC alumnus and a qualified Aeronautical Engineer from Wits University. Here she is with Balan Moodley**

## We welcome Julie

Julie Vivier joined PROTEC in August 2021 as Fundraiser and Business Development, adding her many years of relevant experience and training to our team.

Julie, who grew up in Johannesburg, has worked with a wide range of both local and multinational organisations and NGOs, including Oxfam, Joburg Child Welfare, and Cotlands, in the fields of socio-economic development, global corporate social responsibility, child protection, HIV, gender-based violence, and more.

Before her years with NGOs, she spent several years with SABMiller, Liberty Life, and the African Institute of Corporate Citizenship.

**PROTEC Connect asked Julie for more insight into who she is:**

### What strengths do you bring to PROTEC?

I have learnt to take negative responses and work with funders to improve the funding application process. It is also vital for a fundraiser to be a team player who understands the dynamics of relevant communities, and how to interact with different people. I have worked hard at mastering these skills.

### What, in your opinion, makes PROTEC special?

Firstly, PROTEC's 40-year history is impressive. As an NPO it has weathered many storms and emerged stronger. Year on year, the programmes have grown, the learners' results have improved and there are always new and exciting things happening across all our branches. From a professional point of view, PROTEC's finances, benchmarks and audits have generally been clean throughout the period of operation.

### What is your vision for PROTEC in 2022?

To expand the number of partnerships where we move from 'money giving' to actively involving our donors in various events and projects, such as our 40th anniversary programme, where they can add value to learners with initiatives such as hosting online discussions around engineering, 4IR, etc.

### What have been highlights in your career?

- I was a representative at the World Summit on Sustainable Development on behalf of a multinational
- I was correspondent link to the World Bank
- I was also part of the initial team to develop the JSE Socially Responsible Index

### What do you spend time on when not at work?

I thoroughly enjoy arts and crafts such as jewellery making and mosaic work.



## Our 'Best NPO in Education' award from Prestige

PROTEC is the proud winner of the Corporate Livewire South Africa Prestige 2020/2021 Best NPO in Education Award.



Balan says that the Prestige judges were impressed by PROTEC's proven track record since 1982, and made particular mention of the excellent 2020 matric results achieved against almost impossible odds throughout hard lockdowns. He says, **"We're extremely delighted to win this important award, and to be recognised for our consistent good results."**

Prestige Awards recognise small and medium organisations that have proved to be the best in their market over 12 months. Judging criteria includes service excellence, quality of service provided, innovative practices, value, ethical or sustainable methods of working, consistency in performance.

  
**KEEP IN TOUCH** 

We're calling on our sponsors, donors, supporters, and alumni to share your insights about PROTEC and what we are doing, or about STEM careers in general, or your own success stories with PROTEC.

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