

OPA TOWN HALL 2025: CLARIFICATIONS & OFFICIAL RESPONSE

Addressing Concerns, Dispelling Misinformation, and Reinforcing OPA's Commitment

Abstract

This document provides fact-based clarifications, addresses misinformation, and outlines SPI's governance structure. OPA remains committed to transparency, accountability, and preserving the Paulian brotherhood, ensuring truth prevails over divisive rhetoric

March 2025

Table of Contents

1.	Preface from the President & EXCO of the Old Paulians Association (OPA)	4
2.	Understanding the Governance Structure of SPI and OPA's Role	8
3.	Old Paulians' Association (OPA) Town Hall Q&A	12
Т	Theme 1: Mismanagement and Closure of Primary School Hall	12
	Question 1: Did OPA play a role in the mismanagement leading to the closure of the Primary School Hall?	
	Question 2: Was the Chairman of the Board of Managers unfairly removed / accused	
	Question 3: Is the Primary School Hall currently closed?	16
7	Theme 2: OPA's Financial Status and Transparency	18
	Question 4: Why does OPA have a significant cash surplus as a non-profit organization?	18
	Question 5: What happened to money donated by external parties?	19
	Question 6: Why was dinner profit not forwarded to the school?	19
٦	Theme 3: Usage and Development of Paulian House (Clubhouse)	20
	Question 7: Why has Paulian House not been developed according to earlier propos made several years ago?	
	Question 8: Is Paulian House underutilised ('white elephant')?	21
٦	Theme 4: Security and Administrative Issues at SPI Secondary	22
	Question 9: Did OPA change the locks on the Principal's office without authority?	22
	Question 10: Was there an intrusion into school premises?	22
	Question 11: Did the Board Chairman allow the ex-Principal seven days to clear the office af retirement?	
4.	Post-Town Hall Feedback and Allegations	25
F	Poison Pen Letter 1	25
	Allegation 1: Leadership Concerns	25
	Allegation 2: Lack of Engaging Activities	26
	Allegation 3: Financial Discrepancies	27
	Allegation 4: Complacency and Extended Tenure – Is the Current Committee Resistant to Change?	27
	Detailed Written Feedback to OPA Town Hall	29
	Allegation 1: Deflection Instead of Answering Questions	29
	Allegation 2: Mission Council Dominating the Session	29
	Allegation 3: This Was an OPA Town Hall, Not a Mission Council Session	30
	Allegation 4: The Town Hall Did Not Stick to the Objectives	31
	Allegation 5: Financial Transparency and Fund Usage	31
	Allegation 6: OPA Objectives Are Outdated and Should Be Changed	32

	Allegation 7: OPA Dinner Fund Misuse	33
	Allegation 8: Overlapping Roles Between OPA and SPI Board of Governors	33
F	Poison Pen Query-Allegation 9	35
F	Poison Pen Query-Allegation 10	37
5	Other Short Comments / Feedback / Accusations to OPA Town Hall	39
	Feedback / Allegation 1	39
	Feedback / Allegation 2	41
	Feedback / Allegation 3	43
	Feedback / Allegation 4	44
	Feedback / Allegation 5	46
	Feedback / Allegation 6	48
	Feedback / Allegation 7	49
	Feedback / Allegation 8	50
6.	Post-Town Hall: Official Statement from OPA President & EXCO	52
7.	Appendix: Detailed Activity List	54

1. Preface from the President & EXCO of the Old Paulians Association (OPA)

For months, **OPA** and its **EXCO** have been subjected to relentless false allegations, misinformation, and baseless accusations. As the OPA Annual General Meeting (AGM) approaches, these attacks have intensified, led by a **small** but vocal group with questionable motives.

While we initially chose to **rise above divisive rhetoric**, our silence has been misinterpreted as weakness. OPA has always upheld the dignity, values, and **ethos of St. Paul's Institution (SPI)**—an institution built on **integrity, brotherhood, and respect**. However, when falsehoods are weaponized to mislead Paulians, and when **concerned members** seek clarity, it becomes our duty to **address these allegations head-on**.

Even during the **98th OPA Dinner in September 2024**, we witnessed attempts to **boycott and sabotage the event** through deliberate misinformation. Despite this, the event was a **resounding success**, reaffirming the **unwavering support of true Paulians**. Yet, the smear campaigns **did not stop**.

This OPA Town Hall Meeting was not called lightly. Never in our 99-year history has it been necessary to take such measures. But given the increasing spread of misinformation and deliberate attempts to undermine OPA's credibility, we must set the record straight—not for ourselves, but for the integrity of OPA and the Paulian legacy.

Exposing the Division Tactics Aimed at Splitting OPA

One of the most damaging aspects of these **ongoing attacks** is the deliberate attempt to **divide and weaken the Paulian brotherhood** for personal gain. A handful of individuals have **twisted narratives** to fuel distrust and disunity within OPA.

1. "Young vs. Old" - A False Claim to Discredit Leadership

One of the most repeated lies is that senior EXCO members refuse to allow younger Paulians into leadership roles.

- OPA thrives on both continuity and fresh leadership. Leadership is based on service, commitment, and willingness to contribute—not age.
- Younger Paulians have always been part of OPA leadership, both past and present.
- The reality: Serving in OPA requires substantial time and effort—as a voluntary, non-profit organization, it is natural that older members with more availability take on key roles.

- However, OPA has never blocked anyone from participating. Leadership is not handed out—it is earned through dedication and action.
- Ironically, some of the same individuals now pushing this narrative were once in the EXCO. They failed to attend meetings, contributed nothing, and eventually resigned. Is that OPA's fault—or their own failure to commit? Similarly, the lack of participation by the few other individuals any recent events including AGMs raises the question of who is stopping who from contributing?

2. "Race X vs. Race Y vs Race Z" - A Blatant Attempt to Stir Racial Divisions

Another **fabricated** narrative is the false claim of **racial bias within OPA**. This is a **shameful and dangerous attempt to divide Paulians** along racial lines.

- OPA has always called on all members to attend AGMs and participate in leadership elections. The EXCO is democratically elected, and we do not control who gets selected—it is up to the members.
- Our leadership has always had representation from different backgrounds, with Indians, Eurasians, Malays, Chinese, Punjabis, etc. all having played significant roles in OPA's history.
- **Beyond formal positions, countless Paulians of all races** have supported OPA through **volunteering, fundraising, and event organization.**
- SPI and OPA have always thrived on multiracial unity, respect, and camaraderie.
- Every event, fundraising drive, and initiative has been open to all Paulians.
- Participation has always been voluntary. At no point has anyone been excluded or discouraged from joining.
- This rhetoric is an outright lie meant to stir unnecessary racial tensions.

This race-baiting narrative is not about improving OPA—it is a calculated move to create conflict and manipulate members for personal agendas.

A Legacy Built on Brotherhood and Service

For nearly a century, OPA has remained a pillar of support for SPI, its alumni, and the greater Lasallian community.

• From the Christian Brothers to the Brother Directors and Mission Councils, OPA has stood steadfast in its duty.

- We honour the legacy of the founding Christian Brothers who shaped SPI and the many distinguished Paulians who have contributed to society with integrity, humility, and service.
- These individuals built, nurtured, and upheld the Paulian identity standing for excellence, not self-interest.

OPA's Commitment to SPI and the Paulian Brotherhood

Despite the challenges, distractions, and misinformation, OPA remains unwavering in its commitment:

- **Supporting SPI** through direct fundraising, educational initiatives, and development projects.
- **Ensuring transparency** in all financial dealings, with clear records of donations, allocations, and expenditures.
- Preserving the traditions of SPI, ensuring that our heritage and values remain strong for future generations.
- Upholding the dignity of the Paulian identity—conducting ourselves with honour, not through slander and baseless attacks.

A Final Message to the Silent Majority of Paulians

To the **silent majority** who have watched these events unfold, we urge you to **review** the facts, examine the evidence, and see the truth for yourself.

- This Town Hall is not just about defending OPA—it is about protecting our legacy for another 100 years and beyond.
- Let us not allow personal vendettas and self-serving agendas to erode the Paulian brotherhood.
- We stand firm in transparency, fairness, and integrity.

OPA has taken every opportunity to address key questions or feedback raised—both constructive thoughts and accusatory claims—during the **Town Hall** and subsequently on **social media**.

- We have ensured that these questions have been answered, even when the same group of individuals repeatedly raised them.
- OPA remains committed to transparency and truth—we have not deleted, silenced, or ignored any comments. Instead, we have allowed every member to see the full exchange of facts and decide for themselves.

• Unlike those who attempt to **push selective narratives**, OPA believes that **truth and accountability should be assessed by all members**.

We **thank you** for standing with us in **preserving OPA's tradition**, **unity**, **and values** for generations to come.

PRESIDENT AND OPA EXCO 2023-2025

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2. Understanding the Governance Structure of SPI and OPA's Role

The governance of **St. Paul's Institution (SPI)** and its associated bodies is clearly structured, with distinct responsibilities assigned to different entities. As seen in the tables provided, each entity plays a unique role, ensuring the proper management and continuity of SPI.

Key Takeaways:

- 1. **OPA is an alumni association**, responsible for fostering unity, preserving Paulian heritage, and supporting engagement between Old Paulians and the school.
- OPA does not own, govern, or manage SPI's school properties—this fall under the jurisdiction of the De La Salle Mission Authority, the Board of Governors or Board of Managers (BOG for SPI Secondary/ BOM for SPI Primary), and the Mission Council.
- The Mission Authority is the legal owner of SPI's properties, ensuring Lasallian values are upheld, while the Malaysian Lasallian Education Council (MLEC) provides educational guidance but has no governance power.
- 4. The Board of Governors or Board of Managers (BOG / BOM) are responsible for property maintenance but does not set school policies, finances, or daily operations.
- 5. The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA/PIBG) focuses on student welfare and school activities but has no authority over governance or administration.

OPA's Commitment and Constitutional Boundaries

OPA has always sought to support SPI and its students, but we must abide by our original purpose and constitutional framework. We cannot act beyond our legal authority or take matters into our own hands, as some individuals misleadingly suggest.

While we share concerns regarding certain mismanagement issues (which will be addressed later), **OPA** is not a governing body on school matters and must respect the rightful owners and decision-makers of the school.

We request all members to study the following two tables carefully **regarding** delineation of role and responsibilities of OPA versus other affiliated entities related to SPI Primary and Secondary.

Distinct Role and Responsibility of Various St. Paul Institution Entities (1/2)

Category	Old Paulians' Association (OPA)	De La Salle Mission of Malaysia (Mission Authority)	Malaysian Lasallian Education Council (MLEC)	Board of Governors / Board of Managers, St. Paul's Institution (BOG/BOM)	Parent-Teacher Association for Primary or Secondary School (PTA / PIBG)
Overview	 Alumni association fostering unity and preserving Paulian heritage. Strengthens ties between Old Paulians and their alma mater. 	Governing body and owner of all physical Lasallian schools in Malaysia. Ensures schools uphold Lasallian identity.	 Sits under the Mission Council, representing the Mission Authority. Works under the Instrument of Government (IOG) to uphold Lasallian 	Governed by the Instrument of Government (IOG), responsible for maintaining school buildings and facilities.	Separate PTA for St. Paul's Institution Primary and Secondary School. Supports student well-being and academic collaboration.
Role	Strengthen alumni connections, uphold Paulian traditions, and engage in school heritage initiatives.	 Upholds Lasallian values and provides educational and spiritual guidance, especially for the last, the lost, and the least. Maintains alignment with the global Lasallian mission. 	Guides schools in sustaining Lasallian education traditions but does not interfere in governance, policy, or administration.		Strengthen parent- school collaboration and assist with student activities at the primary level.

Distinct Role and Responsibility of Various St. Paul Institution Entities (2/2)

Category	Old Paulians' Association (OPA)	De La Salle Mission of Malaysia (Mission Authority)	Malaysian Lasallian Education Council (MLEC)	Board of Governors / Board of Managers, St. Paul's Institution (BOG/BOM)	Parent-Teacher Association for Primary or Secondary School (PTA / PIBG)
Responsibi lity	 As per Article 3 of Constitution 3.1 Foster friendships among Old Paulians and alumni from other Christian Brother schools. 3.2 Strengthen alumni ties with the alma mater through engagement activities. 3.3 Organize social, cultural, and professional events for alumni. 3.4 Work with the school's Board of Governors and Board of Managers to preserve heritage, artifacts, and traditions. 	 Maintain Lasallian educational and spiritual direction across schools. Provide guidance and oversight to school leadership on upholding Lasallian values Ensure Lasallian schools remain aligned with global Lasallian education standards. 	 Ensure Lasallian schools operate within the IOG framework Does not interfere in school administration or policy-making. Act as a supporting advisory body, promoting continuity in Lasallian education values. 	 Maintain school buildings and oversee repairs using the Mission Fund. Ensure facilities are preserved for current and future students. Does not manage school policies, finances, or daily operations. 	 Organize school events, support co-curricular activities, and enhance student learning. Represent parent concerns to school management and contribute to school improvements. Provide financial support for minor school improvements.
Jurisdiction Summary	 Focuses on alumni engagement and heritage. Does not manage school administration, policies, or finances. 	 Owns school properties and ensures Lasallian values. Governs assets, not daily operations 	 Advisory role only. Ensures education aligns with Lasallian ethos but has no governance power. 	 Manages physical upkeep only. Oversees repairs and Mission Fund but does not govern. 	 Supports student welfare and school activities. No role in governance.

A Call for Understanding and Transparency

We urge all **OPA members to study the governance structure carefully**. Many of the recent allegations and false claims stem from a fundamental misunderstanding of OPA's role.

Additionally, a small faction with vested interests has deliberately used this confusion to sow distrust and manipulate perceptions or even shirk responsibilities for actions it had taken that have caused the school to be dragged into a bad light in the media.

Do not fall for misleading narratives—OPA stands for **all Paulians**, not just a select few with hidden agendas **A Call for Understanding and Transparency**

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Do not fall for misleading narratives—OPA stands for **all Paulians**, not just a select few with hidden agendas.

3. Old Paulians' Association (OPA) Town Hall Q&A

Date: Saturday, 8th March 2025 | Location: Paulian House, Bukit Kaya

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Theme 1: Mismanagement and Closure of Primary School Hall

Question 1: Did OPA play a role in the mismanagement leading to the closure of the

Primary School Hall?

Asked by: Capt. Adrian Abraham (written question) **Answered by**: Mr. Lim Hock Thiam (Mission Authority Chairman), with additional comments from Mr. Steven Chan (OPA President)

- OPA had no involvement in the mismanagement of the school hall. Mr. Lim emphasized that the property falls under the jurisdiction of the Mission Authority, and OPA has no legal or operational oversight over its management.
- The unauthorized 5-year lease was signed without consultation with the Mission Authority (MA), Board of Managers (BOM), or any other relevant committee.
- The agreement signed by the former Chairman was not stamped, making it impossible to determine the exact date it was signed.
- The lease terms were highly unfavourable, (fixed at RM1,500 per month as per news reports), which is significantly below market value and inconsistent with fair rental rates for similar properties It was suggested during the Town Hall that a single rental event at the hall could potentially generate enough revenue to cover the school's hall entire annual rental costs. This raises serious concerns regarding financial oversight and governance, highlighting potential mismanagement in the handling of rental agreements and revenue allocation.
- Rental payments were not made in accordance with the lease agreement that was signed.
- The individuals who unauthorisedly leased the hall failed to consider the potential financial liabilities should the government reassess its usage and revoke the RM1 guit rent.
- Furthermore, no due diligence was conducted on the Company (and the individuals behind the Company) leasing the Primary School Hall. The potential for unsupervised access to the school compound (e.g. toilets,

- field, canteen) by individuals from this Company poses a significant security risk to students and staff.
- Attempts to blame OPA are a distraction from the real issue. Instead of holding those responsible accountable, certain individuals are deliberately trying to scapegoat OPA

FMT News Link: https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2024/11/22/school-hall-turned-merrymaking-flashpoint-ordered-closed-after-over-a-year/



Excerpts from School Hall Article

SEREMBAN: For over a year, residents of Taman Bukit Kaya and Taman Labu felt anxious during weekends from the time they woke up to the time they went to bed.

The source of their frayed state was the noisy neighbour, St Paul's primary school, where the hall had been questionably converted to host public revelry.

The school's board of governors (BOG) rented the hall to an events company for RM1,500 monthly without the approval of De La Salle Brothers, the owners of La Salle schools in Malaysia.

They gave the company complete freedom to act as it wished despite the absence of a public entertainment permit from the Seremban city council (MBS).

Large private events, including weddings, complete with fireworks displays and loud music, replaced cocurricular activities for pupils in the hall.

It sparked neighbourhood chaos.

The once-basic hall, where children also played badminton, had undergone significant modifications.

It was equipped with luxury decorations and a sound system fit for grand celebrations, forcing school activities to be moved to another space.

Important Questions to Ask

- 1. Who signed the lease, and did they have legal authority?
- 2. Why was the lease signed without the De La Salle Brothers' (Mission Authority) approval?
- 3. Why the Mission Authority, BOM/BOG and OPA kept in the dark?
- 4. Why was there no official discussion or minuted approval of the lease?
- 5. Was RM1,500 per month a fair rate when each event rentals went up to RM 15,000++?
- 6. Why were students' badminton and other school related activities overlooked in favor of renting the hall for commercial activities at just RM1,500 per month, despite it being originally built for student use?
- 7. Who approved converting a student hall into a commercial event space?
- 8. Did they consider the risk of losing the hall's RM1 quit rent status since this was a noncommercial space?
- 9. Why was there no deposits collected?
- 10. Why were rental payments only made in lump sum after public exposure?
- 11. Who is responsible for tarnishing SPI's reputation over this scandal?

Question 2: Was the Chairman of the Board of Managers unfairly removed / accused?

Asked by: Capt. Adrian Abraham (written question)

Answered by: Mr. Lim Hock Thiam

Clarification details:

- The former Chairman resigned voluntarily and abruptly at an emergency board meeting he initiated..
- In fact, the Mission Council intended to issue a show-cause letter regarding the unauthorised agreement signings, but the former Chairman resigned before the matter could be formally addressed..
- In addition, there were no documented discussions or meetings with any committee or panel prior to the execution of the unauthorised lease. It implies that the decision was made in conjunction exclusively with the former Headmaster..
- To reiterate, OPA had no role in his resignation and had played no role on this matter.

Question 3: Is the Primary School Hall currently closed?

Asked by: Moderators

Answered by: Mr. Lim Hock Thiam

- The hall remains open but is limited to authorised school activities.
- The City Council did not close the hall but ordered the operator to cease operations, as the activities were deemed unauthorised and not approved by the Council.
- No deposit clause was included in the signed agreement; therefore, no deposit was collected.
- Monthly rental payments were not made in accordance with the signed agreement (paid only in lump sum later).
- As it stands, following the handover from the previous operator who had been renting the hall without proper authorisation, the hall's condition has significantly deteriorated, requiring repairs estimated at several hundred thousand Ringgit (refer to the following pictures for the current state).



- 1. Severely dilapidated condition The hall has been left in a state of disrepair, with damaged flooring, broken ceilings, and deteriorating walls, requiring extensive restoration.
- 2. Significant financial burden Repairs are estimated to cost several hundred thousand Ringgit, a direct consequence of irresponsible leasing and mismanagement.
- 3. Was RM1,500 a month rental worth this damage? The so-called "rental income" pales in comparison to the massive repair costs now needed to restore the hall for student use.

Theme 2: OPA's Financial Status and Transparency

Question 4: Why does OPA have a significant cash surplus as a non-profit organization?

Asked by: Participant via written submission

Answered by: Mr. Steven Chan, Dato' Lai See Ming (Treasurer)

- OPA holds approximately RM1 million, with the majority earmarked for designated purposes such as student welfare, education funds, and specific projects.
- The actual operational funds available are around RM300,000 to RM400,000, which are essential for ongoing expenses and contingencies.
- Funds have been managed prudently over the years, as evidenced by audited financial records dating back to 1995, which show a steady increase in reserves despite strategic expenditures.
- Strategic asset management has played a key role in OPA's financial stability:
 - The sale of Kuala Sawah Land (1996) for RM435,780 and Wisma OPA (2019) for RM760,000 contributed significantly to reserves.
 - Major capital expenditures, such as Wisma OPA (RM690,580) and Paulian House (RM812,638), were undertaken responsibly to support long-term objectives.
- Despite major investments, OPA has consistently maintained financial stability, with cash reserves growing from RM12,903 in 1995 to RM371,545 in 2024 (OPA's cash reserves have grown by 2,779.7% over 30 years, reflecting an average annual growth rate of 11.9%)
- Temporary negative balances in 2017-2018 were a result of strategic fund allocation, not mismanagement. These funds were utilized for planned expenditures related to Paulian House, which, as will be explained in the following questions, serves as a central hub for former Paulians to host meetings, gatherings, and events.
- OPA's goal remains to continue growing its funds responsibly, ensuring that resources are available for **short-**, **medium-**, **and long-term initiatives** that benefit OPA, its alma mater, and the broader community.

Question 5: What happened to money donated by external parties?

Asked by: Participant via written submission

Answered by: Dato' Lai See Ming

Clarification details:

- All external donations are strictly allocated according to donor intentions.
- Transparent records are maintained and annually reported during the AGM.

Question 6: Why was dinner profit not forwarded to the school?

Asked by: Participant via written submission

Answered by: Mr. Steven Chan

- Profits from OPA dinners are constitutionally intended solely for OPA operations and member activities.
- OPA consistently supports the school through fundraising, regular donations, and sponsorships amounting to tens of thousands of Ringgit annually for school expenses, new projects, school equipment, and sports sponsorships (Please refer to <u>Appendix</u> for more details).
- Ticket prices for OPA dinners are often barely enough to cover the actual dinner cost but we have resisted to increase pricing to ensure affordability of all former Paulians (whether OPA members or otherwise). The event is primarily supported by advertisements in the Paulian OPA magazine.
- Several tables at each dinner are allocated for VIP guests, including the LaSallian Brothers and guests from our fellow LaSallian alumni association, a long-standing tradition upheld by OPA.
- Attendees often pay RM70-90 per ticket, a rate lower than comparable eight-course Chinese banquet-style hosted dinners in the market.

Theme 3: Usage and Development of Paulian House (Clubhouse)

Question 7: Why has Paulian House not been developed according to earlier proposals made several years ago?

Asked by: Mr. Terrence George (Class of '93)

Answered by: Mr. Steven Chan

Clarification and Official Position:

This question was raised publicly, insinuating that OPA had vested interests in rejecting Mr. Terrence George's proposal in end of 2021/early 2022. OPA wishes to clarify this matter with full transparency:

- Unsuitable Infrastructure: Paulian House is a modest single-storey bungalow.
 At the time of the proposal, it underwent limited renovations, presenting severe spatial limitations. The structure lacked adequate space and infrastructure to accommodate a full-fledged Food & Beverage (F&B) business.
- Exclusive Use for Members: Paulian House was explicitly established as a gathering space for Paulians without any commercial obligations. The primary intent remains fostering camaraderie and networking among Paulian alumni, not commercial ventures.
- Control and Avoiding External Interference: The proposals, including from Mr. Terrence George or others were turned down then, to prevent loss of managerial control. Allowing external management raises valid concerns over nuisances such as traffic congestion, disruptions to the neighbourhood, and overall loss of OPA oversight.
- Lessons from SPI Primary Hall Debacle: Recent controversies surrounding
 the unauthorized commercial leasing of the SPI Primary Hall to a company
 associated with an alleged Paulian highlight the dangers of renting school or
 OPA-managed properties to individuals without oversight. The resulting public
 scandal further validates OPA's decision to retain full control over Paulian
 House.
- OPA maintains full authority: Being a Paulian does not grant automatic privilege to run Paulian House. OPA will not be pressured or intimidated into handing over control to any individual. Mr. Terrence George is free to rent any other property for his business aspirations, but Paulian House will remain managed by OPA for all Paulians.
- Disruptive Behaviour During Town Hall: Mr. Terrence George's disruptive
 and intimidating behaviour during the Town Hall, including raising his voice,
 slamming the door was unacceptable and undermined the spirit of respectful
 dialogue. This behaviour will have no bearing on the OPA's decision-making
 process.

Question 8: Is Paulian House underutilised ('white elephant')?

Asked by: Mr. Terrence George

Answered by: Mr. Steven Chan

- Paulian House regularly hosts member-exclusive social events such as various meetings, monthly gatherings, class reunions, mah-jong sessions, karaoke sessions and festival celebrations.
- The number of events hosted at Paulian House has steadily increased year-onyear (please refer to <u>Appendix</u> for 2024 events list)
- The Primary SPI Hall debacle, which became a public embarrassment for Paulians, was coincidentally rented out to a company associated with an alleged Paulian. This should serve as a cautionary tale. This incident highlights critical failures in governance, transparency, and due diligence, and should serve as a cautionary tale for all future dealings.

Theme 4: Security and Administrative Issues at SPI Secondary

Question 9: Did OPA change the locks on the Principal's office without authority?

Asked by: Moderators

Answered by: Mr. Lim Hock Thiam, Mr. Steven Chan

Clarification details:

- Lock changes were explicitly instructed by the Mission Authority and done by the BOG due to security concerns following the former Principal's retirement. This was taken solely to protect confidential school documents and exam papers.
- There had been previous reports of the former Principal entering school grounds and subsequently entering the former Principal's office unsupervised, on a non-schooling day, which was deemed highly inappropriate. Immaterial of who one is, no one is allowed unauthorised access to school property after they have retired or without any formal roles.
- The former Principal failed, refused and/or neglected to return the keys, and the Mission Authority never received any formal feedback or request for retention.
 It important to also note that the Principal's office keys were handed over to the School Authorities (PK1) after the locks were changed.
- OPA were not involved in any circumstances.

Question 10: Was there an intrusion into school premises?

Asked by: Moderators

Answered by: Mr. Steven Chan

- At around 12 AM on 24th December 2024, during the construction of the Paulian Arch, a power outage occurred at the school. Amid this, an individual of unknown identity arrived at the school and requested entry into the premises, claiming he needed to retrieve a server box belonging to the former Principal and the school Discipline Master. When the security guards denied his request, he became agitated and left.
- At around 3 to 4 AM, when power was restored, the individual returned.
 While the security guards were attending to the TNB technicians, he bypassed
 them and entered the school compound, heading directly to the school
 computer room. Although the computer room was locked and further secured
 by a metal grill door, he gained access using keys in his possession.

- CCTV footage showed that the individual remained inside the computer room for approximately 30 minutes. Whether he removed or tampered with any system remains unclear. However, this was an intrusion and a breach of security, as an unauthorized individual accessed the school premises at 4 AM.
- Despite this security breach, the school administration did not lodge a
 police report immediately, only doing so 48 hours later following a
 recommendation from the Board of Governors. The school later classified it
 as an internal matter and did not conduct any further inquiry.

Key Concerns Remain:

- o How did the intruder have access to the keys to the computer room?
- Why was he citing the name of the former Principal, who no longer had authority over the school?
- Besides that, why was this intruder also mentioning the current school administration, including the discipline teacher?
- What was the urgency requiring access to the school computer room at around 3 to 4 AM?
- What was the motive behind this incident?
- This incident reinforces the importance of maintaining proper security measures and ensuring that access to school facilities remains strictly controlled.

Question 11: Did the Board Chairman allow the ex-Principal seven days to clear the office after retirement?

Asked by: Moderators

Answered by: Dato' Dr. Bob Samuel

- The Board Chairman explicitly denied granting any permission or receiving any requests for a seven-days clearance period after his retirement.
- Mr. Lim further clarified that school property remains school property. No individual, regardless of past tenure, has the right to enter school premises without formal authorisation.
- There had been previous reports of the former The former principal entering school grounds unsupervised, which was deemed highly inappropriate.

- Immaterial of who one is, no one is allowed to school property without authorisation after they have retired or without having any formal active roles.
- In hindsight, the Mission Authority's decision to change the lock of the former Principal's office was validated by the subsequent security breach. Had the locks remained unchanged, the intruder could have accessed even more sensitive materials such as exam papers and students' data - in fact, exams were ongoing during this period.
- Furthermore, the constant questioning during the Town Hall by certain individuals demanding to know who changed the padlock is completely irrelevant. This appears to be an intimidation tactic, attempting to divert attention from the real issue.
- The focus should not be on who changed the lock, but rather:
 - Why are unauthorized individuals entering school property without authorisation after retiring?
 - Why are they doing so on non-schooling days?
 - What legitimate purpose does anyone have when they no longer hold any formal position in the school?
- No one is above the law. The priority should be protecting the integrity of school property and ensuring security—not defending the actions of individuals with no rightful access to the premises.
- Ironically, individuals like Mr Terrence which clarified on the matter was heard shouting, "St. Paul is my school!" during the Town Hall—yet this same person seems perfectly fine with unauthorized individuals entering the premises without permission, outside official school hours.
- So, which is it? If they truly respect St. Paul's as "their school," why are they condoning blatant security breaches? Does their so-called "ownership" mean that rules and regulations don't apply to them, or do they believe enforcement should be selective, favouring certain individuals while disregarding others?
- <u>Security is non-negotiable</u>—school property is not a playground for those
 who no longer have any formal role. Defending unauthorized entry is
 indefensible.
- Let this be made absolutely clear—any attempts to shift focus away from these critical security concerns will not be entertained.

4. Post-Town Hall Feedback and Allegations

Poison Pen Letter 1

Platform: WhatsApp Message

Source: Anonymous

Subject: Urgent Need for Leadership Change in the Old Paulian Association Dear Old Paulian Association Members,

I hope this message finds you well. It is with a sense of urgency and responsibility that I write to you regarding the current state of our association. Over the past few years, it has become increasingly apparent that the leadership under the present committee is not serving in the best interest of our association's potential growth and purpose. As we approach our next Annual General Meeting (AGM), I urge you to consider the necessary changes needed to revitalize our collective efforts.

Allegation 1: Leadership Concerns

Claim:

"During the recent town hall session, it was concerning to observe that our committee seemed to lack control and autonomy. The mission representatives dominated the discussions, providing explanations and answers instead of our OPA president. Such dynamics undermine the expected leadership roles within our association."

- The Mission Authority has full legal ownership of school properties, and matters related to SPI property (such as the Primary School Hall controversy) fall directly under their jurisdiction. OPA had zero legal oversight or authority over these issues, which is why the Mission Authority representatives took the lead in answering those questions (Refer to OPA Governance Structure).
- The OPA President and EXCO were present and engaged throughout the Town Hall, answering all questions related to OPA's operations, finances, and Paulian House management.
- The false claim that OPA is "not in control" is a manipulative attempt to mislead members. The real issue is that the Mission Authority's answers directly contradicted the smear campaign orchestrated by these individuals, exposing their deception.
- If OPA had taken the lead in answering Mission Authority-related matters, these same individuals would have accused OPA of overstepping boundaries. This

proves their real intention isn't about "OPA control" but about fabricating any possible excuse to undermine leadership.

Allegation 2: Lack of Engaging Activities

Claim:

"Our association's activities have unfortunately dwindled to repetitive sessions of mahjong, beer drinking, and occasional weekend potlucks. While these activities may offer social interaction, they do little to foster growth, community engagement, or alignment with our broader objectives."

- OPA regularly organises a diverse range of events catering to all Paulians, including charity drives, fundraising for school projects, sports tournaments, alumni networking sessions, and mentorship programs.
- In total, we organised or participated in over 45 events for 2024, which makes it an average of 3-4 events monthly and makes this claim of lack of engaging activities baseless. While we encourage more events, we welcome our alumni to join, support and propose new events.
- Events such as Monthly OPA Fellowship Breakfasts, Festival Celebrations,
 OPA Annual Dinners, Annual OPA/SPI Games Carnival, educational talks,
 fundraising for OPA and SPI Primar and Secondary are among the
 initiatives that actively foster Paulian identity and community spirit beyond
 casual social gatherings.
- The so-called "mahjong and drinking" claim is deliberately misleading. OPA DOES NOT organise mahjong activities—these are small, self-organised gatherings or recreational activities by a group of alumni who frequently donate to the upkeep of Paulian House. The mahjong area is limited to a maximum 2 tables in a single room, making up less than 10% of the total Paulian House space it is worth noting that many of these members playing mah-jong as a recreational activity in OPA clubhouse (now Paulian House) for over 3 to 6 decades; these very individuals assists in the upkeep of the Paulian House, and are also among the most active and supporting members for all other OPA events.
- Paulian House is an alumni space, and like any private club, members are free to use it in line with the association's rules.
- We invite individuals to engage actively in OPA events and contribute constructive suggestions. The invitation is always open.

Allegation 3: Financial Discrepancies

Claim:

"It has come to light that both the secretary and treasurer receive an annual payment of RM 7000. Over the last decade, this amounts to nearly RM 70k, funds which could have greatly contributed to supporting our school and community initiatives."

OPA Response:

- This is a gross misrepresentation of facts. The monthly sum of RM 500 which comes up to RM 6,000 per annum (which was agreed in the 2024 AGM) it is not a salary but an honorarium for time, effort, and expenses incurred in fulfilling these demanding roles as provided for in the OPA constitution.
- This amount breaks down to RM 500 per month per role (only for Secretary and Treasurer role), and was only increased from RM 300 monthly during the last AGM in 2024 after members approved that the workload and responsibility had increased.
- The reality is that fulfilling the roles of **Secretary and Treasurer requires significant more personal time, travel expenses, and administrative effort**, including maintaining records, organising meetings, preparing reports, and handling financial audits.

It is regrettable that those making these false allegations have never volunteered for these roles, despite OPA's repeated invitations at past AGMs. Furthermore, many of these individuals have neither attended AGMs nor actively participated in OPA events beyond the annual dinner.

Allegation 4: Complacency and Extended Tenure – Is the Current Committee Resistant to Change?

Claim:

"The extended tenure of the current committee has led to complacency, stagnation, and abuse of power."

- OPA leadership is elected democratically at every AGM, and any member has the right to contest and propose new ideas. Yet, those making these allegations have rarely, if ever, stepped forward to serve in any meaningful capacity.
- Leadership continuity is critical for any alumni association. The current EXCO consists of individuals with proven dedication, experience, and a track record of delivering results, as evident in:

- The successful execution of the 98th OPA Annual Dinner despite attempted sabotage and boycotts.
- The facilitation of major school donations and sponsorships, including RM1 million for SPI Secondary.
- The continued preservation of Paulian House as an alumni space, despite external pressure to commercialise it.
- We believe in a balanced representation of both younger and senior members. Serving on the EXCO requires a significant time commitment, and many younger Paulians, when approached, have prioritised career and family obligations, which is understandable.
- The OPA EXCO has been run on a peaceful transition of leadership over the years, not as competing factions. Unfortunately, some individuals now seek to introduce political-style division and hostility into an alumni association, which goes against our values.
- However, we are committed to ensuring new leaders have the necessary experience, integrity, and commitment to serve—not just a desire for position or personal gain.
- OPA has seen past cases where individuals who made the most noise about "change" joined the EXCO, only to contribute nothing, skip meetings, and resign shortly after.
- The SPI Hall scandal underscores the risks of appointing leaders without proper scrutiny. The OPA should be cautious to prevent the recurrence of such errors, where self-interest and negligence compromise governance and damage the school and alumni's reputation.

Detailed Written Feedback to OPA Town Hall

Platform: Facebook

Source: Ravivarma Sanmugam

Allegation 1: Deflection Instead of Answering Questions

Claim:

"Mr. President, a town hall session means people ask questions, and you need to answer with facts. The question from Bro. Abraham was not answered but instead diverted with a long-winded "moving forward" response that didn't actually address the question."

OPA Response:

- The Town Hall was **structured to address all submitted and live questions**, and every effort was made to provide factual responses backed by available information.
- Questions related to school property and governance were addressed by the Mission Council Chairman because these matters fall under their jurisdiction, not OPA's. If Mission Authority matters were answered by OPA instead, we would have been accused of speaking beyond our scope.
- The claim that answers were "diverted" is **baseless**—the responses were **comprehensive**, **clarifying governance structures**, **financial transparency**, **and OPA's actual role** instead of misleading members with false narratives.

Allegation 2: Mission Council Dominating the Session

Claim:

"The Mission Council representative, instead of answering Bro. Terence M. George's question, went on a long explanation about the Mission Council itself. This raises the concern that the Mission Council is implying that all donations raised by OPA should be under their purview."

- At no point did the Mission Council state or indicate that OPA donations fall under their purview. This is a blatant misrepresentation and a deliberate attempt to twist facts.
- There were instead explaining about the governance of physical buildings related to the SPI Primary Hall issue. This scandal, which became an embarrassment for any proud Paulian and OPA member, has been a recurring concern raised by multiple OPA members since this incident

<u>became public knowledge</u>. At the same time, <u>some have insinuated or even</u> <u>accused that OPA is avoiding responsibility</u>—but isn't addressing this issue openly part of the very transparency being demanded?

- This is not solely an OPA issue—it <u>falls under the governance of the Mission Authority</u>. Ignoring this distinction creates a false narrative that OPA has control over matters beyond its jurisdiction. The expectation that OPA should assume responsibility for governance-related matters is misguided and disregards the actual roles of different entities.
- This "cowboy mentality"—where governance is bypassed and unauthorized individuals make unilateral decisions—is exactly what caused the SPI Primary Hall lease issue in the first place. Ironically, OPA is now being pressured to act beyond its authority and shut down Mission Council from speaking, risking a repeat of the same governance failure that led to this problem.
- Clarification was necessary because there has been a persistent and deliberate misrepresentation of the governance structure concerning school properties and finances. Many members have been misled by false claims that OPA had control over school matters.
- The Mission Authority is the legal owner of school properties—it was critical to explain this distinction to correct misconceptions and prevent further misinformation.

Allegation 3: This Was an OPA Town Hall, Not a Mission Council Session

Claim:

"The Town Hall was supposed to be for OPA members, Repeating the same point in different forms but it ended up becoming a Mission Council town hall session instead."

- We acknowledge there is a genuine lack of awareness among many OPA members regarding role of OPA versus other associated entities for SPI which is why the role and responsibility table was specifically produced to educate all members.
- However, some individuals are using this argument to deflect from the facts—
 repeating the same point in different ways does not transform
 misunderstanding into truth, nor does it justify pushing false narratives.
- The OPA Town Hall focused entirely on OPA-related issues, but the Mission Authority had to answer questions where their jurisdiction was

- involved—particularly those related to the **Primary School Hall controversy** and governance issues.
- If the Mission Authority had not clarified their position, members would have been left with the same false narratives that OPA had control over SPI property matters.
- OPA responded to all questions related to its governance, financials, and member concerns—any claim that OPA did not engage is a deliberate distortion of facts.

Allegation 4: The Town Hall Did Not Stick to the Objectives

Claim:

"In order to have a fruitful Town Hall, everyone should stick to the objectives instead of going off-topic in their responses."

OPA Response:

- The **primary objective** of the Town Hall was to **clarify misinformation**, **provide transparency, and address all concerns raised**.
- Some questions required additional context—for example, understanding the role of the Mission Authority was critical to dispel false claims that OPA had control over school properties and matters.
- Those who now complain about 'going off-topic' are the same individuals
 who previously demanded more detailed explanations. OPA addressed
 questions factually and comprehensively—if someone expected misleading
 one-liner responses that fit a certain narrative, that was never going to happen.

Allegation 5: Financial Transparency and Fund Usage

Claim:

"The explanation of the funds available, and the actual amount that is accessible to OPA, was clear. Please make this information available to members."

- OPA financials are fully transparent and disclosed annually at the AGM.
 Members are encouraged to review the audited financial reports that have always been made available.
- Claims that OPA is hiding finances are completely baseless, and those spreading such rumours have consistently failed to provide any evidence to support their allegations.

OPA remains committed to financial accountability and ensures funds are
used in line with constitutional objectives reported without fail at every
AGM- given the sensitive nature of financial information, we encourage
any OPA member requiring more details to reach out to OPA directly for
further substantiation.

Allegation 6: OPA Objectives Are Outdated and Should Be Changed

Claim:

"OPA's objectives may be decades old and out of sync with the expectations of members today. The committee should consider realigning objectives and propose constitutional amendments at the next AGM."

- OPA operates based on its constitution, which outlines its role as an alumni association—this includes community-building, supporting Paulian identity, and facilitating engagement between alumni and the school.
- Any member has the right to propose changes to the constitution during the AGM, but those making these claims have never proposed any formal amendments despite repeatedly criticizing OPA.
- If members genuinely believe there should be a constitutional review, they are encouraged to submit proposals through the proper channels rather than making baseless complaints on social media.
- We strongly encourage every member to <u>first understand OPA's core</u> <u>objectives</u>, as <u>outlined</u> in the <u>Governance table</u>. These objectives were established to strengthen alumni connections, uphold Paulian traditions, and support school heritage initiatives, all guided by the four principles in Article 3.
- These objectives remain as relevant today as they were when first established—unless the author is suggesting that alumni connections, traditions, and heritage no longer matter.
- While we welcome any constructive feedback to further strengthen these
 objectives based on valid rationale, attempts to frame this as an "old vs.
 young" issue are both misleading and false. OPA's mission has always been
 about unity across all generations of Paulians, not division.
- The principles guiding OPA are not about age but about continuity, shared values, and collective purpose.
- If the author is implying that core values such as unity, tradition, and service no longer hold significance, then the burden falls on them to justify why such principles should be abandoned—not on those who continue to uphold them.

Allegation 7: OPA Dinner Fund Misuse

Claim:

"Regarding funds raised during the OPA dinner, it's an issue of aligning the actual objectives of OPA with the expectations of members."

OPA Response:

- OPA dinner funds are used in line with the association's constitution, and proceeds go towards supporting alumni activities, operational expenses, and select contributions to school projects. Given we are a not a profit organisation, this has been the expectations and understanding from members all this while.
- It is also important to understand OPA dinner dynamics. Ticket sales barely cover the actual dinner cost—members receive an 8-course meal for RM70-RM90 per person, which is often below market rates for similar events.
- However, there have been instances where OPA dinners served as a platform to raise funds for the school, such as for the ECM Hall and the extension of the administration block. For this, we explicitly mention the purpose during the OPA dinners.
- There are other active school alumni in Seremban charging 2-3 times more
 for their dinner tickets with comparable menu, yet OPA has deliberately kept
 pricing affordable to ensure all members can participate. OPA covers VIP
 tables for invited guests, including LaSallian Brothers and
 representatives from fellow LaSallian alumni association, as part of its
 commitment to tradition and alumni engagement.
- Additional revenue is generated from advertisements in the OPA magazine, which supplements the costs and funds future initiatives. Those who claim OPA is "misusing dinner funds" need to review past AGM reports—there has never been any mismanagement or improper usage of funds.

Allegation 8: Overlapping Roles Between OPA and SPI Board of Governors

Claim:

"Some members of OPA are also Board of Governors for SPI, leading to concerns about overlapping roles."

OPA Response:

 It is normal for alumni to serve on school boards—this is a common practice across alumni associations to provide representation and ensure school interests are protected.

- There is no conflict of interest unless proven otherwise. Individuals making these claims need to substantiate their allegations with evidence rather than insinuating wrongdoing.
- The real issue is not **overlapping roles**—it is **certain individuals trying to create a narrative of impropriety where none exists**.
- OPA only represent less than 20% in BOG at the appointment by the Mission Council at their discretion this means non-OPA members can also be appointed to represent as former student of SPI Primary or Secondary.

Poison Pen Query-Allegation 9

Platform: WhatsApp

Source: Anonymous

Claim: "The Paulian Arch was funded by individual Paulians, not OPA. So this is not

from OPA then?"

- It is important to understand the background and facts pertaining to this matter. The Paulian Arch was originally planned to be funded from the YTL RM 1 million funds a decision made by the former school administration. We must understand YTL's generous funds were designated to replace old furniture as well as to address areas in the Secondary school buildings requiring urgent repairs. (Refer to News Link).
- OPA in response felt it should be a Paulian initiative instead of using the YTL fund and initiated a fund raising program. Let's set the record straight— OPA is the custodian for all Paulians who choose to donate through OPA.
 If funds are contributed through OPA, then it is rightfully a donation from OPA members.
- Most importantly it's <u>called "The Paulian Arch"</u> which defines a testament to the unyielding spirit and solidarity of Paulians.
- This attempt to separate OPA from its own members is yet another divisive tactic aimed at creating unnecessary controversy. Who is OPA at the end of the day? OPA is not just the EXCO—it is all Paulian alumni.
- The notion that OPA somehow claims credit for donations is misleading. OPA
 does not function as a business entity with independent revenue. It
 serves as an intermediary for alumni contributions, ensuring that
 donations are channelled towards meaningful initiatives.
- When OPA facilitates a donation, it is on behalf of its members, acting as a bridge for Paulians who wish to give back. Let's not be vindictive and try to diminish OPA's role. It is disingenuous to suggest that OPA has no part in it, just because individual Paulians contributed. If we follow this flawed logic, any initiative facilitated by OPA but funded by Paulians would not be considered an OPA effort—how does that make sense?
- OPA is not about self-glorification or "Syok Sendiri"—it exists to serve all Paulians, foster unity, and uphold the values of our alma matter. Its role is to unite and support alumni, students, and the school—not to seek personal credit or play politics.

•	to discredit OPA's efforts while simultaneously facilitation should take a hard look at their own

Poison Pen Query-Allegation 10

Platform: WhatsApp

Source: Anonymous

Claim: "Recently, SPI Primary asked for a contribution. I told them to ask OPA. The

School HM told me OPA is not giving."

OPA Response:

- This is a blatant lie, and the motive behind such a false claim must be questioned. OPA EXCO has never received any request from SPI Primary, let alone from the School HM, for any donation in recent months.
- In fact, OPA EXCO recently met with the SPI Primary HM during the Town Hall, and no such donation request was ever raised. If the author is genuinely concerned about the truth, they are free to present actual evidence instead of fabricating falsehoods. If not, it begs the question—is this an attempt to tarnish OPA and its EXCO in the lead-up to the upcoming AGM elections?
- Let's set the record straight. We have always helped our alma matter willingly, and whenever the Primary or Secondary SPI administration requests for help.
- Recent donations in the last year via OPA to SPI Primary include:
 - i. C78 Student Welfare Fund donation totalling to 10,518.30
 - ii. Lego Education Spike set donated for Robotic classes amounting to RM5,200.
 - iii. RM6,000 secured from Mr. John Chacko to support remedial classes.
 - iv. RM 1,000 donated to former SPI Primary Headmaster's retirement
 - v. RM10,000 donation from alumnus Dato' Sim Keng Piao, channelled via OPA to SPI Primary.
 - vi. Sponsorship of 20 Bata cash vouchers through an MFOLSA project.
 - vii. RM12,000 from the Gordon Hall Scholarship Fund, benefiting 40 students with RM300 each (with support and affiliation with OPA given the majority of trustees being OPA members).
- OPA has never ignored or refused any legitimate request from the school for donation drives. We have always stepped forward when approached, in line with our commitment to supporting SPI Primary and Secondary.
- The real question is this—why would someone who pretends to be a leader in Paulian activities and insinuates that they are advising the HM resort

to spreading blatant lies? If they claim to act in the best interest of the school, where are their facts? Where is their evidence?

 Misleading members with falsehoods while posturing as an advocate for the school is not leadership—it is deception. If the author has any integrity, they should either present verifiable proof or admit their attempt to mislead members for personal gain.

5. Other Short Comments / Feedback / Accusations to OPA Town Hall

Platform: Facebook (Responses from OPA Town Hall Live Video Feed)

Feedback / Allegation 1

Commenter: Mr. Aaron Tan

Claim: "So much of shitty stuff happening in the OPA!!! Well done to the members!! So many hidden agendas!!! For own interest not for the glory of the school anymore!!! Bravos!!! That is why most young Paulians doesn't want to get evolved with the school anymore!!!"

Response to Aaron Tan's Comment

Claim 1: "OPA has hidden agendas and serves personal interests rather than the school's glory."

- While we acknowledge that the author may not have a full understanding
 of the matter, we have already addressed these remarks previously.
 However, given the damaging nature of these allegations, it is important to
 clarify the facts once again.
- OPA operates transparently, with all financials and decisions presented and more importantly, agreed based on majority votes during AGMs. If there were any actual wrongdoing, members are encouraged to present facts and evidence rather than resorting to baseless accusations.
- Interestingly, some individuals making these claims had **business proposals** rejected or failed to gain influence within OPA. The real question—are these accusations about transparency, or personal dissatisfaction?

Claim 2: "Young Paulians don't want to get involved anymore because of OPA's actions."

- Young Paulians have always been welcomed. Many choose not to step up into the EXCO or OPA activities due to career, family, and personal commitments, which is understandable.
- OPA has never blocked anyone from participating. Ironically, some of the same individuals now making this claim were once part of EXCO but rarely attended meetings and eventually resigned. If they didn't contribute when given the opportunity, is that OPA's fault?

• The "young vs. old" narrative is a misleading distraction—OPA requires both continuity from experienced members and fresh leadership to ensure progress.

Moving Forward Together

- We welcome Mr. Aaron Tan and all Paulians to actively participate in OPA activities and provide constructive feedback for the betterment of all members.
- We also encourage younger Paulians (20s-40s) to become life members and engage in future AGMs to help shape OPA's direction.

OPA remains focused on **unity**, **transparency**, **and long-term progress**. Let's strengthen the Paulian spirit—**not divide it**.

Commenter: Mr. Kalaiselvam Muniandi

Claim 1: "BOG chairman gave me 7 days to clear my office."

Claim 2: "Total Lies"

- The Board of Governors (BOG) Chairman explicitly denied ever granting a 7-day clearance period. No formal approval or request was given or received for this arrangement.
- The Mission Authority has confirmed that school property remains under their jurisdiction. Once a tenure ends, no individual—regardless of position—has the right to enter school premises without authorisation or formal roles.
- There were previous reports of the former Principal entering school premises and office areas unsupervised after his tenure ended. This was deemed inappropriate and raised security concerns.
- To put things to perspective, SPI Secondary has had <u>17 past Brother Directors and 7 Principals before the former Principal's retirement</u> in SPI's illustrious history, and never once in history have Mission Authority and BOG encountered such uncooperative behaviours or these types of issues. Every previous leader has transitioned with professionalism and respect for school governance.
- Dato' Dr. Bob Samuel has served with honesty and integrity as a BOG
 Committee member and later as Chairman for over five decades, working
 under nine school heads—including during the tenure of the Brother
 Directors. Is the author implying that a man with such a longstanding and
 respected service record is a liar?

Key Questions That Remain Unanswered

- If such permission was granted, where is the official documentation or written approval supporting this claim?
- Why was there **no official request made to the Mission Authority** regarding the need for extended access?
- If access was granted, why were there subsequent reports of entry into the school premises and office, outside school hours linked to individuals using past authority?

Final Position

- The decision to change the locks was fully justified due to security risks following these incidents. This decision was further validated when a school intrusion occurred shortly after, with the intruder using the former Principal's and Discipline Teacher's names as justification to force enter the premises between 3AM to 4 AM (refer to Response on School Intrusion).
- School property is **not for personal discretion**—the rules apply equally to everyone, **regardless of past roles**.

If Mr. Kalaiselvam Muniandi believes otherwise, he is encouraged to provide documented proof rather than unverified claims.

Commenter: Mr Terence M. George

Claim: "We need a competent committee & better well-being of both schools. Guess this town hall wasn't transparent."

- The OPA EXCO has addressed these concerns comprehensively in multiple responses before—both during the Town Hall and in follow-up clarifications.
- Every question raised was answered to the best of our ability, despite repeated disruptions, raised voices, and aggressive questioning tactics by some individuals.
- While the Town Hall had a set timeframe, OPA has since taken additional effort to further explain key matters in this document in detail for transparency.

Final Position

- The Town Hall was fully transparent, and those claiming otherwise are those who did not get the answers they wanted to hear.
- OPA will not entertain repeated attempts to stir conflict under the guise of "concern".
- The facts have been laid out clearly—those genuinely interested in understanding are encouraged to review the full clarifications provided, rather than making vague insinuations.

Commenter: Mr. Jerome Yan

Comment: "I believe this is being addressed now because of the misinformation and false accusation that OPA is responsible for the school hall issue."

OPA Response:

- We appreciate the constructive engagement like this and open to understanding rather than straight off brushing pertinent facts.
- To address the lack of understanding by some quarters, we have shared the
 role and responsibility breakdown of all entities involved in SPI Primary and
 Secondary governance. This has been a key source of confusion, leading
 some to mistakenly believe OPA had legal or operational control over school
 properties, finances, or governance.
- The following entities govern school-related matters:
 - De La Salle Mission of Malaysia (Mission Authority) The legal owner of all Lasallian school properties in Malaysia.
 - Board of Governors (BOG) / Board of Managers (BOM) Manages
 Secondary or Primary school property maintenance and facilities.
 - Malaysian Lasallian Education Council (MLEC) An advisory body that promotes Lasallian education but does not control school policies or administration.
 - Parent-Teacher Association (PTA/PIBG) Focuses solely on student welfare and school activities for both Primary and Secondary SPI, with no governance role.
- To reiterate. OPA does not manage SPI school properties, finances, or policies. Our role is strictly alumni engagement, fostering unity, and preserving the Paulian spirit.
- Irresponsible small quarters—some with vested interests—have used this issue as a platform to sow distrust and hatred among members. Their goal is not to seek truth but to manipulate emotions and create division. We urge all members to see through these tactics and focus on facts, not misleading narratives.
- Misunderstanding these roles has led to misplaced allegations that OPA was incompetent in addressing school matters—when in reality, <u>governance and</u> <u>authority</u> is handled by other entities.



Commenter: Mr Vicknish Gopal

Feedback: "Won't be attending anymore OPA Annual Reunion Dinners. As the President has clearly stated surplus from the dinner is not meant for the SCHOOLS (Primary & Secondary). All old boys who attend have a mindset that their contributions on the tables will help the school. But clearly NO."

- As explained in detail in the previous section (*link to OPA Dinner Fund Misuse*),
 OPA dinner funds are used strictly in line with the association's constitution.
 Proceeds from the dinner go towards supporting alumni activities, operational expenses, and select contributions to school projects. Given that we are a non-profit organization, this has always been the expectation and understanding among members.
- It is also important to clarify the financial dynamics of the OPA dinner. Most ticket sales are used to cover the actual dinner cost—members receive an 8course meal for RM70-RM90 per person, which is often below market rates for similar events elsewhere.
- Additionally, OPA would like to clarify that ticket prices remain the same regardless of whether the menu is normal, halal, or vegetarian. As caterers/restaurants charge per table basis, halal and vegetarian options typically at a higher price. However, OPA has ensured that all Paulians pay the same ticket price, regardless of dietary preference, by covering any additional costs ourselves.
- The dinner itself is not structured as a fundraising event, and any small surplus generated is allocated to OPA activities, not as a direct school donation. Additionally, OPA covers the cost for VIP guests, including LaSallian Brothers, former Headmasters, and representatives from the LaSallian Alumni school network, as part of our commitment to honouring those who have contributed to our institution and fostering camaraderie among fellow LaSallians.
- OPA generates additional funding for its activities primarily through advertisements in the OPA magazine. This revenue helps offset the full cost of the dinner, and any remaining proceeds, where available, are allocated towards operational expenses and future initiatives. There have been years where OPA barely broke even despite sponsorships, yet we have maintained our stance not to increase ticket prices beyond the current rate, ensuring the event remains accessible and affordable for all Old Paulians.
- For those who believe that OPA is "misusing dinner funds," we encourage reviewing past AGM reports—there has never been any mismanagement or improper use of funds. The financial reports have always been transparent and audited, ensuring all funds are properly accounted for.
- We warmly welcome all members, including Mr. Vicknish Gopal, to continue celebrating the fellowship and camaraderie of future OPA events, including

- annual dinners. OPA remains a platform for all Paulians to come together, regardless of different backgrounds.
- OPA emphasizes that it along its members continue to support our alma matter through various donations, fund raising drives as outlined in the Detailed Activity list.
- For those who wish to contribute directly to SPI Primary or Secondary, OPA can facilitate this process upon the donor's request, as has always been the common practice. Anyone with specific donation interests is encouraged to approach OPA privately or publicly—regardless of the amount, as this remains a personal choice. OPA is always happy to facilitate this process in a transparent and accountable manner.
- A notable example is alumnus Dato' Sim Keng Piao (Class of '98), who
 recently made a public donation specifically for SPI Primary, SPI Secondary,
 and OPA separately—all of which were successfully channelled through
 OPA. Many other members also choose to donate privately, and we fully respect
 and welcome any approach that aligns with the donor's preference.

Commenter: Capt. Adrian Abraham

Claim: "This is called diverting attention with nonsense. We want to focus on OPA matters."

OPA Response:

- If answering **OPA-related questions that have been circulating for months** is considered a "**diversion with nonsense**," then what exactly do these individuals define as "**focusing on OPA matters**"?
- Was discussing the **school hall fiasco a diversion** when certain individuals **used it to attack OPA**?
- Was clarifying the removal of the former BOM Chairman a diversion, when it was those very individuals who first spread the issue across WhatsApp groups?
- Weren't these the same individuals who previously spread allegations about hall mismanagement and the BOM Chairman's removal, blaming OPA and even calling for the OPA President and the entire EXCO to step down?
- If raising these issues was valid then, how is OPA addressing them with facts now suddenly considered a diversion or distraction? OPA has a duty to answer all questions to the best of its ability, no matter how tough or accusatory they are.
- However, it is clear that the author is not being rational and lacks judgment in demanding justification. This entire episode appears to be a poorly orchestrated attempt to shift and pin the blame on innocent parties while ignoring the actual facts.
- We will not be forced into a narrative dictated by a few individuals who only accept answers that fit their agenda.
- Perhaps it's worth asking: Who is really trying to divert or distract from the truth?
- OPA remains committed to full transparency for the benefit of ALL members—not just those who conveniently shift narratives when it suits them.

Commenter: Mr. Harbindar Singh

Claim: ""The truth may come from anywhere - as long as we have the truth. Remember that the property is owned by the Mission and the Mission should address any questions related to the property."

OPA Response:

- Thank you for your feedback. We appreciate the openness to constructive discussion, especially when it pertains to regulatory governance rather than emotional sentiments.
- Unfortunately, some have distorted these discussions for personal narratives and gains, attempting to paint OPA in a negative light while defending the wrong for their own vindictive reasons.
- You are absolutely right—the property is owned by the Mission, and any
 questions related to its ownership and governance should be addressed by
 the Mission itself.
- OPA remains committed to transparency and factual discussions, ensuring that truth and accountability prevail over speculation and misinformation.

Commenter: Mr. Voon Chee Man

Feedback 1: "OPA should not allow this matter to be brought to OPA members. This

is not the right platform! Please be professional!"

Feedback 2: "Let the truth be told & transparency to all."

OPA's Response:

Who Decides the "Right Platform"?

- When OPA was falsely accused, these same 'individuals' demanded transparency.
- Now that OPA has provided transparency, suddenly it's deemed "unprofessional."
- OPA does not answer to selective preferences—we serve all Paulians, not just a vocal few.

Accountability Must Work Both Ways

- OPA has been unfairly attacked with baseless claims of mismanagement and hidden agendas.
- Now that we have clarified governance structures, financial transparency, and our actual jurisdiction, those making accusations want to shut down the conversation.
- If 'one' demand transparency, 'one' must also accept it—even when the truth doesn't fit 'ones' narrative.

Convenient Contradictions Exposed

- If OPA stays silent, we are accused of hiding information.
- If OPA provides answers, we are accused of being "unprofessional."
- So, what exactly do these individuals want—transparency or silence?

Why Is the Town Hall a Problem Only Now?

• The same individuals who **aggressively demanded accountability** attended the Town Hall- with majority online on the Facebook 'live' feed.

- They asked their questions—even in aggressive, disruptive or even accusatory manners—we let everyone speak. In the ethos of transparency, we never stopped anyone from speaking in the face-to-face Town Hall, nor deleted anyone's FB comments even if some were amplifying the false narratives.
- The real issue? They didn't like the answers because it didn't support their false claims.

Let the Truth be Told - Exposing the Cloak of Secrecy

- We know who these 'individuals' are, and we have nothing to hide or fear as we have professionally answered all points and not hid or stopped anyone from sharing or even accusing OPA we nevertheless have the right to also counter these narratives rather than sitting quietly to preserve decorum which has clearly allowed for this to intensify.
- Some hide behind the **cloak of secrecy**, pretending to be 'concerned Paulians' while **operating anonymously to spread false narratives**.
- A small group are actively working behind the scenes, feeding misinformation to amplify attacks against OPA and EXCO, and then gain sympathy as the 'truth seekers' for the upcoming AGM.
- Whoever they are and whatever their motives, OPA will always stand for truth, transparency, and accountability to ALL Paulians—not just a select few.

A Reminder: OPA Exists for ALL Paulians

- OPA has always been transparent and open to constructive feedback.
- Our goal is to foster camaraderie, preserve our heritage, and support our alma mater—not to be dragged into personal vendettas.
- A small group with vested interests is trying to use OPA as a platform to sow distrust and division. Don't fall for it.

OPA remains committed to serving the silent majority—those who truly care about the Paulian brotherhood, not personal agendas.

6. Post-Town Hall: Official Statement from OPA President & EXCO

A Necessary Response to Baseless Allegations and Misleading Narratives

Over the past few months, a coordinated effort has been made to undermine the credibility of the Old Paulians' Association (OPA) through misinformation, half-truths, and outright false allegations. These narratives, spearheaded by a small group of individuals, have intensified as we approach the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM).

As an alumni association that has upheld **99 years of tradition, camaraderie, and service**, OPA has always **chosen decorum** over engaging in baseless accusations. However, **remaining silent** in the hope that reason would prevail has been **mistaken for weakness**. More and more concerned Paulians have urged OPA to **set the record straight**, which led to the **OPA Town Hall** as an avenue to clarify these matters transparently.

Misuse of the Paulian Identity & False Narratives

It is deeply disappointing that after a century of integrity and unity, certain individuals have weaponized the Paulian identity to push personal vendettas and false victimhood narratives.

- Former leadership figures who previously held formal roles within the school, now acting through **proxies** to paint themselves as victims while deflecting scrutiny for their past **mismanagement and unauthorized actions**.
- Individuals with personal business interests that were never granted approval, now using intimidation tactics and misinformation to paint themselves as martyrs.
- Ex-OPA EXCO members who had a direct opportunity to serve but failed to contribute, rarely attended meetings, and ultimately resigned abruptly.
- Individuals with a track record of sowing discord—jumping between two
 separate student leadership and co-curricular units, where they sidelined
 teachers and advisors, hijacked leadership for personal control, and
 ultimately resigned when their lack of own lack transparency was
 questioned for example failing to provide any records of meeting minutes.

This is not the Paulian brotherhood we were taught to uphold. <u>Paulian values</u> emphasize service, not self-glory.

OPA's Commitment & The Path Forward

OPA remains steadfast in preserving the integrity, traditions, and unity of our alumninetwork. We serve, not for power, but for the betterment of all Paulians.

Many of us on the EXCO have sacrificed personal time, finances, and resources to serve OPA and support our alma mater beyond our formal capacities. To receive these false allegations, character attacks, and manipulation of facts is not just disappointing—it is an insult to the legacy of OPA.

The events surrounding the **SPI Primary Hall scandal** should serve as a stark reminder of how quickly a <u>century-old legacy can be tarnished by a single lapse in oversight. Let us not repeat that mistake</u>.

We are not hiding behind anonymous names, nor will we be intimidated by baseless attacks. But as we move forward, choose wisely—for a hundred-year heritage can be undone by a single misguided decision.

Likewise, we urge all OPA members to review the 2024 activity list in the next section and judge for themselves—whether OPA is inactive, incompetent, or lacking vision, or rather, actively serving the Paulian community for the betterment of all. We also encourage both existing and former students who have yet to formally join OPA to become members, share their suggestions, and provide constructive feedback to further strengthen our efforts as we move forward into 2025 and beyond.

The Future of OPA Is in Your Hands

Our responsibility is not just to defend OPA, but to ensure it thrives for another 100 years. We call on all Paulians who believe in the truth, integrity, and the true spirit of brotherhood to stand firm against misinformation. Let us keep our alma mater's legacy intact and ensure that OPA remains a pillar of unity, not a platform for self-interest and division.

Let us remember:

OPA is not a political party—we are here to serve, not to seek power and selfglory.

Once a Paulian, Always a Paulian

7. Appendix: Detailed Activity List

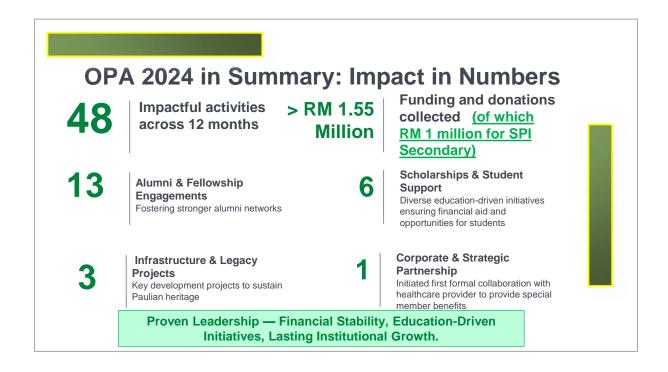
OPA's 2024 Activities – A Testament to Our Commitment

As part of our commitment to transparency, **OPA will be sharing a comprehensive list of 48 activities conducted throughout 2024**. Due to time constraints, we were unable to present this in full during the Town Hall, but it is vital for all members to recognize the scale and impact of OPA's contributions.

These activities span across alumni engagement, student support, fundraising efforts, heritage preservation, community-building initiatives, and LaSallian networking—further reinforcing that OPA is not just an EXCO, but a collective effort of its members who have actively participated, organized, and engaged in numerous initiatives for the betterment of OPA, our alma mater, and the broader LaSallian network.

This record stands as undeniable evidence that OPA has consistently worked to strengthen camaraderie among Paulians, support the school, and uphold the values of service and brotherhood that define our legacy.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS. While some choose to sow doubt and division, **OPA and its members continue to grow from strength to strength.** We look forward to **even greater engagement in 2025 and beyond**, ensuring that OPA remains a pillar of unity, tradition, and progress for all Paulians.



January 2024: Laying Strong Foundations for the Year

A Commitment to Strengthening Education & Alumni Relations

	Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
	4 Jan	Securing Funding	RM1 million donation to SPI Sec from YTL Foundation through support of the Patron	✓ A strategic investment ensuring sustained educational excellence.
	6 Jan	Alumni Engagement	First OPA monthly fellowship breakfast – attended by Paulian Bikers	✓ Strengthening alumni networks through shared traditions.
	10 Jan	Student Support	Gordon Hall Student Welfare Fund distribution	✓ Financial relief supporting students' educational journeys.
	27 Jan	Long-Term Commitment	Signing of LSCTSWF Trust Fund for tertiary education	✓ Establishing a legacy of educational support.
_	28 Jan	Strengthening Alumni Network	OPA President's RM8,000 donation to alumni association	✓ Reinforcing alumni-driven initiatives for collective growth.

[✓] We Bridge Legacy & Future — Securing Finances, Empowering Education.

February 2024: Strengthening the Paulian Legacy

Expanding Infrastructure and Fostering Community Ties

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
1 Feb	School Administration	Press Conference on SPI Pri turning co-ed	✓ Transparency in school evolution, reinforcing open dialogue.
4 Feb	Infrastructure Expansion	Completion of Paulian House Patio extension	 Expanding capacity for alumni and student engagement.
16 Feb	Alumni Engagement	CNY 7th Day Lou Sang Gathering	✓ Honoring cultural traditions that strengthen the community.
24 Feb	Leadership Engagement	OPA Committee with Bro David Liao	✓ Strengthening relationship with the Brotherhood

Building Legacy — Strengthening Infrastructure, Honoring Heritage, Empowering Paulian's.

March 2024: Investing in the Future

Empowering Students, Strengthening Leadership & Expanding Global Reach

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
6 Mar	Technology in Education	RM5,200 donation for robotics equipment	✓ Empowering students with future-ready skills.
11 Mar	Global Alumni Engagement	OPA China Trip (Nanning & Guizhou)	✓ Strengthening global alumni relationships.
30 Mar	Governance & Leadership	98th AGM successfully conducted	✓ A testament to OPA's structured and accountable leadership.

✓ Future-Ready Investments — Enhancing Education, Expanding Networks, Strengthening Governance.

April 2024: Honoring Traditions, Building the Future

Sustaining Educational Commitment & Preserving Cultural Identity

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
3 Apr	Scholarship & Student Support	RM500,000 ACVTF Trust Deed Vocational Fund pledge over 10 years	✓ A structured, long-term financial commitment to students.
6 Apr	Alumni Engagement	St George Alumni Annual Dinner	 ✓ OPA President awarded Georgian award by Deputy Education Minister
13 Apr	Cultural Heritage	Blessing of St Paul's Statue	✓ Preserving the legacy that defines Paulian identity.
15 Apr	Scholarship & Student Support	Meeting with new Primary SPI HM via C78 Student Welfare Fund Initiators	✓ Continued engagement and support of Alma Matter

✓ We Bridge Legacy & Future—Securing Finances, Empowering Education.

May 2024: Strength in Unity

Alumni Engagement & Recognition

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
4 May	Alumni Engagement	OPA Fellowship Breakfast – Celebrating members	✓ Strengthening alumni bonds through shared traditions.
24 May	Alumni Engagement	Fellowship & donor discussions on student welfare	✓ Strengthening donor relations to ensure sustained support for students.
28 May	Heritage & Branding	Launch of OPA 125th Anniversary Merchandise	✓ Strengthening Paulian identity and legacy through thoughtful branding.

Strength in Unity—Celebrating Milestones, Strengthening Bonds, Preserving Paulian Identity

June & July 2024: Honoring Our Own

Strengthening Alumni Networks & Values

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
19 Jun	Alumni Engagement	High-profile alumni fellowship event	 Strengthening networks and fostering unity among distinguished alumni.
13 Jul	Education & Mentorship	Lasallian Values Talk by ex-HM Mr. Hilary Sta Maria	✓ Reinforcing Paulian values and inspiring future generations.













✓ Strength in Tradition — Fostering Leadership, Strengthening Networks, Preserving Paulian Values..

August 2024: Strengthening Community & Corporate Partnerships

Sustaining Growth Through Meaningful Alliances

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
10 Aug	Sports & Community	Annual OPA/SPI Games Carnival	✓ Reinforcing unity through sportsmanship.
20 Aug	Financial Support	RM5,000 donation from YB Cha Kee Chin	✓ Strengthening financial backing for key initiatives.
21 Aug	Strategic Partnerships	MOU signed with CMH Specialist Hospital	✓ Expanding healthcare collaboration for the Paulian community.
21 Aug	Alumni Engagement	Passing of OPA Pendant Flag to Dr Appasamy on a mission to Artic Circle Marathon.	✓ Showcasing Paulian spirit and sharing good name of SPI
24 Aug	Alumni Engagement	Pre-OPA Annual Dinner Gathering with C70 hosted by Justice Lee S.K.	 ✓ Encouraging of camaraderie among fellow OPA members

[✓] Strength in Collaboration—Building Alliances, Sustaining Growth, Supporting the Paulian Community.

September 2024: Celebrating 125 Years of Paulian Excellence

Honoring Milestones & Strengthening Leadership

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
7 Sep	Heritage & Celebration	98th OPA Annual Reunion Dinner	✓ Strengthening Paulian alumni relationships.
7 Sep	Fundraising Success	RM30,000 raised for school initiatives	✓ Expanding financial support for critical projects.
15 Sep	Alumni Engagement	St Andrew Alumni Association Annual Reunion	✓ Expanding inter-school networks and shared goals.

Legacy That Endures—Celebrating Excellence, Elevating Support, Expanding Networks

October 2024: Strengthening Community Bonds & Infrastructure

Alumni Engagement, Heritage, and Infrastructure Improvements

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
12 Oct	Alumni Networking	Xavierian Club Kuala Lumpur Annual Reunion Dinner	Strengthening inter-school ties & Lasallian unity.
19 Oct	Heritage & Celebration	St John's Institution 120th Anniversary	Honoring Lasallian heritage & traditions.
22 Oct	Fundraising Support	RM3,000 donation from YB Nicole Tan to OPA	Financial support for ongoing OPA initiatives.
31 Oct	Infrastructure Upgrade	Construction of a storage room in Paulian House	Enhancing OPA's facilities for better event management.

[✓] Honoring Heritage—Strengthening Bonds, Securing Support, Building for the Future

November 2024: Academic & Cultural Milestones

Recognizing Achievements & Supporting Excellence

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary		Impact
2 Nov	Academic Excellence	OPA Scholastic Award presented to Dev Prsannan	✓	Recognizing outstanding student achievement.
2 Nov	Community Achievement	Paulian Team reached Annapurna Base Camp	✓	Showcasing perseverance and determination.
30 Nov	Scholarship Support	Gordon Hall Scholarship distribution	✓	Directly benefiting young Paulians.

 Nurturing Excellence — Celebrating Achievements, Encouraging Perseverance, Supporting Education.

December 2024: Closing Strong & Looking Ahead

Ensuring Long-Term Development & Strengthening Alumni Bonds

Date	Activity Type	Activity Summary	Impact
1 Dec	Alumni Celebration	Old Xavierian 100th Anniversary Reunion Dinner	✓ Strengthening inter-school alumni relations.
21 Dec	Community & Festivities	OPA Christmas Carols & Party	 ✓ Fostering camaraderie through festive celebrations.
24 Dec	Infrastructure & Legacy	Paulian Arch Project Groundbreaking Ceremony	✓ A tangible investment in the school's future.

✓ A Future Secured — Preserving Tradition, Strengthening Bonds, Building for Tomorrow.