



SHREE PRETORIA HINDU SEVA SAMAJ

MINUTES OF THE BI-ENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHREE PRETORIA HINDU SEVA SAMAJ HELD ON SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2009 AT 15:00 AT THE SAMAJ AUDITORIUM

1. REGISTRATION & PRAYER

According to the attendance register a total of 182 people attended this first BGM under the new constitution. The meeting opened with a prayer at 15:15 as well as a minutes silence for those community members who passed away since the last AGM.

2. WELCOME

In his opening address, the president of the Interim Executive Committee (IEC), Prakashbhai Hira, extended a warm welcome to the trustees, advisory board members, fellow executive committee members and the general public. He expressed his deep appreciation to the community for turning up in such large numbers at what he considered a historic moment in the affairs of the Samaj.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

In response to a question from the floor, Prakashbhai explained that the minutes of the previous AGM as well as matters arising thereof will not be read at this meeting. He explained that the IEC can only give account of and report on those activities of the Samaj since it took over on 30 July 2009. This explanation was accepted by all present upon the motions of Narotambhai Valjee and Navnitbhai Bhima.

4. SECRETARIAL REPORT

Rameshbhai Chhagan, joint interim secretary, read out the secretarial report that reflected the activities of the IEC over the last few months. In his report he highlighted the achievements of the various portfolios of the Samaj in the rather short time they had been in office, such as the hosting of the Navratri celebrations, Krishna Jayanti festival, the drafting and adoption of a new constitution, upgrading of ablution facilities, activities for senior citizens, collection of rentals, etc. This report was unanimously and unreservedly accepted by all present. Rameshbhai thanked Pramodbhai Kassin for the assistance he has received and continues to receive with the mass e-mailing facility.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 Letter of apology received from Mahindrabhai Sita for not being able to attend the BGM due to family commitments

- 5.2 Letter from Mahindrabhai Sita confirming his willingness to serve as Trustee as per his nomination.
- 5.3 Verbal apology received from Natubhai Ranchod who could not attend due to the untimely death of his mother.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Anielbhai Soma presented his teams financial report, copies of which were distributed to members present. In his report he highlighted the following:

- The Financial Report is unaudited; it was not submitted for an audit as the treasurers did not receive copies of all books of records which the auditors would need to base their audit on;
- Total misappropriation of funds traced thus far is approximately R2 million, excluding any monies not deposited, penalties for early withdrawal and interest lost;
- Outlined the steps, efforts and progress made towards recovering the misappropriated funds;
- Progress of disciplinary hearings against accountable officials;
- Systems and controls implemented to prevent a repetition of misappropriation.

A fuller report is available from Anielbhai Soma or Himalbhai Ramjee.

7. CONFIRMATION OF AUDITORS

Upon the recommendation of Anielbhai Soma and Prakashbhai Hira, the house unanimously supported the proposal that Price-Water Cooper (PWC) be retained as Samaj auditors.

8. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

In his presidential report, Prakashbhai focused initially on the need for us, as a community, to learn from the bitter experience of failing to exercise due care and diligence in managing the affairs of the Samaj; of his joy at how the community have rallied behind the interim executive in its efforts to restore the Samaj's pride and dignity (and lost funds) and of his gratitude to his team for the hard work they put in to restore this confidence. In the latter part of his address, he mentioned the following important and urgent goals that the incoming committee should focus on:

- The establishment of a retirement village;
- Innovative teaching methods by the Gujarati school;
- Deepen the community's understanding of Hindu dharma;
- Alternative arrangements for crematorium facilities
- A plan to combat crime;
- The renovation of Samaj premises in Laudium;
- The development of further properties in Marabastad that has been allocated to the Samaj;
- The economic development of and support to the community

He ended his address by thanking his family and all those community members that had provided advice and support to him through this difficult time.

9. ELECTIONS

9.1 **Appointment of Electoral Officers**

Prakashbhai informed the house that he had asked Narendrabhai Patel and Mansukhbhai Chhiba to serve as joint electoral officers. This was agreed to unanimously. Narendrabhai then explained that the election process will follow the stipulations as laid down in clause 10 of the constitution.

9.2 **Request to Re-Open Nomination Process**

Anielbhai Soma requested that the nomination process be re-opened to allow people to nominate new candidates for the various positions. Rameshbhai Chhagan voiced his objection to this, stating that doing so would firstly be unconstitutional as nominations had closed two days prior to the elections. Furthermore, the request for nomination had been sent out well in advance of the election and as such everyone had been given ample opportunity to nominate their preferred candidates; thirdly, he argued, opening up the nomination process would result in a chaotic situation prevailing, thus delaying the process. Anielbhai countered by alleging that as Prakashbhai had allowed him to submit his nomination after the closing date, it was only fair that everyone else should be afforded this opportunity as well. Prakashbhai replied that he had allowed Anielbhai to submit his nomination after closure solely because Anielbhai had appealed to him to be allowed to do so, on the grounds that he had arrived back from an overseas trip on the day the nominations closed and that he therefore did not have any time to exercise his democratic right. Prakashbhai acknowledged that his decision to allow Anielbhai to submit his nomination after closure was, strictly-speaking, irregular but he asked for the community's indulgence as there were a special set of circumstances. He undertook not to allow such a situation in future. The members agreed to condone this action and not to reopen nominations.

9.3 **Election Results**

The presiding officers allowed each candidate whose position was contested to say a few words in support of his/her candidature. This process allowed those who may not have been well-known to all community members, the opportunity to support their nominations. After all due processes were followed and there being no objection by any community members, the presiding officers announced the following election results:

Executive Committee

President	Prakashbhai Hira	phira@iafrica.com	082 3302341
Deputy President	Pravinbhai Daya	ppdaya@oldmutual.com	082 923 9157
Secretary General	Rameshbhai Chhagan	ramesh.chhagan@exxaro.com	083 609 1446
Assistant Secretary	Tershiaben Calien	tershia@wvz.co.za	083 304 4005
Chief Financial officer	Anielbhai Soma	aniel@mweb.co.za	083 638 0900
Treasurer General	Himalbhai Ramjee	himal.ramjee@isolve.co.za	082 653 4993

Executive Committee: Portfolio Heads

Education	Harshaben Dayal	hdayal@hsrc.ac.za	082 563 5649
Religion & Culture	Jagdishbhai Makan	jayfum@global.co.za	082 550 0595
Youth (Navyug Mandal)	Rakeshbhai Ravjee		072 096 4399
Facilities Management & Funerals	Kishorbhai Dajee Naran	ldmfriendly@mweb.co.za	082 573 0132
Bursary Fund	Pranaybhai Devchand	pranayd@telkomsa.net	083 422 8981
Health, Welfare & Gender	Jyotiben Joshi	jyoti@mmjoshi.com	012 374 4144
Special Projects	Sanjaybhai Govind	govind@iafrica.com	082 411 2949

Trustees:

Chairperson	Pankajbhai Joshi	pjoshi108@hotmail.com	012 322 8271
Member	Vrujlal (Vijaybhai)	vijay@icon.co.za	012 328 6730
Member	Mahendrabhai Sita	msita@mweb.co.za	082 960 4000
Member	Amarlal Kanjee Soma	amarlal@childwelfare.co.za	083 301 8336
Member	Devidasbhai Ramjee	drdramjee@yahoo.com	013 986 0196

By broad consensus, the house agreed that the number of votes received by candidates was not to be disclosed.

10. General & Closing Remarks

- 10.1 Prakashbhai Hira addressed the community in his capacity as president and appealed to them to exercise their rights as captured in the new constitution. In particular, he mentioned clause 8.6 which gave the community the right to have access to all Samaj records and clause 9.3 which binds the executive to respond timeously to community complaints and concerns.
- 10.2 Prakashbhai thanked Dharmeshbhai Ramjee who has volunteered to write up Samaj books on a monthly basis.
- 10.3 In response to a query, Anielbhai Soma stated that audited financial statements covering the period 1 August 2009 to 31 December 2010 will be presented at the next AGM that should take place around April 2011.
- 10.4 Mansukhbhai Chhiba requested that the new officials leave no stone unturned in recovering stolen funds.
- 10.5 Kishorebhai Naran requested clarification on the status of payment of rentals from Marabastad tenants prior to 2008. Sanjaybhai responded that as a result of a lack of records such information is difficult to obtain.
- 10.6 Jitenbhai Govind wanted to know why other officials and trustees were not being charged for their "negligence". Rameshbhai Chhagan and Prakashbhai Hira explained that the IEC had decided that only those officials who were directly responsible for managing the Samaj's finances were being asked to account for their actions. However, this decision will be reviewed should the forensic audit reveal that other officials were also culpable.
- 10.7 Rameshbhai informed the house that copies of all documentation (Secretarial Report, Financial Report and the President's Report) can be requested from him.

11. Prayer & Closure

With no further business, the AGM closed with a shantipath prayer at 18:00 after which refreshments were served.



Rameshbhai Chhagan
Secretary General: SPHSS