

AUM

SHREE PRETORIA HINDU SEVA SAMAJ

(Established in 1932)

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Report on Meeting Held with a Delegation of Past Samaj Officials on Sunday 12 September in the Seva Samaj Board Room at 10:00

1. Welcome & Prayer

The meeting opened with a welcome and prayer by the President at 10:10. A special word of welcome was extended to the senior/respected members of the community who were invited by the president as independent observers.

2. Attendance

The following people were in attendance:

Officials

Prakashbhai Hira (President of SPHSS); Pankajbhai Joshi (Chairman of Board of Trustees); Pravinbhai Daya (Deputy President); Rameshbhai Chhagan (Secretary-General)

Past officials

Jivanbhai Kalyan; Baboobhai Gokal; Gunvantbhai Soda; Nalinbhai Kalan; Narothumbhai Valjee; Dayalbhai Govind

Independent Observers

Mohanbhai P. Lalla, Ramanbhai Rama Goolabh; Mansukhbhai Chhiba; Bharatbhai Kooverjee

3. Matters Discussed

In their letter requesting the meeting, the past officials had cited the following as reasons for asking for a meeting:

Breakdown in communication with the internal structure of the Samaj;

Strategic vision and direction given to the Samaj;

Creating an environment that precludes the efficient functioning of the Samaj;

Lack of transparency;

Furthermore they were extremely concerned by the following recent events that has come to their attention

The resignation of the head of Education committee;

The immediate suspension of the current CFO;

The immediate resignation of the entire Education Committee;

The self-imposed suspension of the 3 senior executive members

Narotambhai stated that the main aim of the meeting was to ask the executive to forget and forgive but then implied that there was collusion taking place between the President and the Chairman.

In their response, the President and Chairman highlighted the following:

- The President and Chairman consulted with each other with regards to important matters that impacted on the reputation and image of the Samaj. This oversight and collaborative role is spelled out in the Constitution and Code of Conduct. Pankajbhai expressed his dissatisfaction at the remark made by Narothambhai as ill-advised and ill-informed as no evidence of wrongdoing was being presented;
- Pankajbhai expressed that none of the past officials, who claimed to be concerned, had ever phoned or written to him expressing their concerns.
- When Harshabhen had resigned, both the President and Chairman had communicated with her in writing to retract her resignation but she had steadfastly refused. The resignation of her education committee was explained as a concerted effort to destabilise the Samaj. Despite senior officials having met with them to help resolve any differences and despite an apology being tendered for not communicating timeously with them, they continued to insult the leadership of the Samaj. This was followed by anonymous articles and SMS's being fed to the media to bring further disrepute to the Samaj and its officials.
- The suspension of the current CFO was sub judice as a proper inquiry was being formed and it was not communicated to the community, as it would be unfair on the person concerned. It was made clear that there were numerous incidents that had led to this state of affairs but which could not be discussed. The fact that the past officials had been informed about this was again further evidence of a breach of the Samaj code of conduct.
- Prakashbhai explained that the difficulty that was being experienced was the unwillingness of some officials to perform their duties as per the constitution and rules as laid out by the committee. Cliques were formed and this formed the basis of the organised revolt by some officials.
- Prakashbhai explained that despite their destabilising effort, the Samaj is functioning better than it ever had; all commitments are being fulfilled and all programmes of the different portfolios are progressing without any hitches.
- Comments made by the independent observers included that as far as they could see, the Samaj was running properly (Mansukhbhai Chiba); that just as you would discard a few rotten apples in the interests of the other apples, those who refused to serve within the confines of the Samaj constitution should be discarded (Ramanbhai Rama); the President and Secretary General were libelled as being arrogant whereas those making the claim do so only to suit their own ends (Bharatbhai Kooverjee).

4. Conclusion & Prayer

The meeting concluded with the past officials conceding that they have a better and fuller understanding of the facts and they could not point out any specific behaviour's that were objectionable. They undertook to discuss their findings with the other officials. The meeting concluded with a prayer at 11:45

Ramesh Chhagan

Secretary-General (SPHSS)