



# Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj

Established in 1932

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"Satyameva Jayate" - Truth Alone Prevails

## Celebrating 83 Years of Selfless Service

### MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & TRUSTEE MEETING OF THE SHREE PRETORIA HINDU SEVA SAMAJ

**Held at :** The Boardroom, Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj  
**Date :** Wednesday, 15 July 2015  
**Time :** 19:30

**1. PRAYER & WELCOME**  
**In the Chair - Pravinbhai Daya**

The meeting commenced with a prayer and welcome to all members present. A minute's silence was held for all those members of the community who passed on since the last meeting.

**2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

***In Attendance:*** Jyotibhen Joshi; Kishorbhai Naran; Harshilabhen Kooverjie; Rameshbhai Chhagan; Madhubhen Modi; Bharatbhai Kooverjie; Nareshbhai Kallan; Pravinbhai Daya & Harshadbhai B Pema (seconded). Urvibhen Mehta attended in her capacity as administrator.

***Apology:*** Pranaybhai Devchand; Vineetbhai Rama; Harshadbhai Pema; Sheetalbhen Ranchod Chandrasenbhai Bhana; Mukeshbhai Joshi; Bhadrakanbhai Chiba; Bhaavichbai Chhana; Dhruvbhai Sodha and Vinaybhai Chagan (Finance Administrator).

**3. MATTERS DISCUSSED**

**3.1 Email containing a "Joint Declaration"**

The Chairman explained that he had called up this special meeting at short notice to discuss the Samaj's response to an email received by the office approximately 10 minutes before 5pm on Friday 10 July, which was the last day for submission of applications for inclusion on voters' roll.

The email contained three attachments containing a list of 135 names (many unknown) on a form drawn up by unknown person(s) with no return address. On this form the 135 persons listed unilaterally declared that they “confirm our registration on the voters’ roll”.

Members discussed this joint declaration received and arrived at the following conclusions/decisions:

- 3.1.1 Despite being given ample time to apply to be on the Samaj voters’ roll, the people concerned failed to do so. Instead they sent a so-called joint declaration which is not an application;
- 3.1.2 The people concerned have no legal authority to unilaterally declare themselves as being on the voters’ roll. Only the Trustees and Executive Committee officials, after following due process, may do so.
- 3.1.3 There was clear evidence of extensive fraud in that many names were inserted and signed by the same individual. This was evident throughout the so-called joint declaration;
- 3.1.4 All of the forms containing the joint declaration, except one, came through from an internet café and with no telephone contact details casting further doubts on the legitimacy of these persons. Only one person whose name appears on the joint declaration approached the office directly and having filled in the necessary forms has been placed on the provisional voters’ roll.

In view of the above, it was unanimously agreed by Trustees and Executive Committee members present that the so-called joint declaration be rejected and that none of the persons thereon would be regarded as having applied to be on the voters’ roll. Should these individuals wish to be placed on the voters’ roll they may still apply; however, since the period for applications has expired, their applications will only be considered for inclusion for the 2017 elections.

### **3.2 Involvement of Mukeshbhai Joshi**

At the meeting, our office administrator, Urvibhen Mehta, stated that Gopalbhai Bhatt had visited the office on an unrelated matter on Friday 10 July but had casually informed her that he had been approached by our resident priest, Mukeshbhai Joshi, to sign a form. Upon examining the names listed on the joint declaration it was noted that Gopalbhai Bhatt’s name did in fact appear on the joint declaration form. Unfortunately, Mukeshbhai was not present to explain to the members why he was involved in this matter, despite having given a solemn undertaking just a week prior to this not to get involved in community “politics”. Rameshbhai undertook to enquire from Mukeshbhai the nature and purpose of his involvement. (The next day, on 16 July, Rameshbhai & Urvibhen held a meeting with Mukeshbhai & Gopalbhai Bhatt at which Mukeshbhai confirmed that he had given the declaration form to Gopalbhai; he claimed that some “chokravo”, boys that he did not know, had given him the form and that he had then distributed it to others to complete).

### **3.3 Securing of Samaj Assets**

Harshilabhen raised a concern that in the light of all these attempts by unknown persons to influence the Samaj elections (even fraudulently) and whose intentions in doing so were unclear, every effort should be made to secure Samaj assets. Members agreed to this and she was requested to present a proposal on how this should be done.

**4. Conclusion**

With no further business, the meeting concluded with a prayer at 9:00.

Hari Om Tat Sat

**SPHSS TRUSTEES & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**