



Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj

Established in 1932

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"Satyameva Jayate" - Truth Alone Prevails

Celebrating 85 Years of Selfless Service

New Year Speech By Board Trustees

Namaste

I thank the Board of Trustees for nominating me to address you today on their behalf. People have often asked what the point is to have a Board of Trustee when the Executive Committee is expected to do all the work. Well, my answer to them is just look at what happened to big companies like KPMG and McKinsey who have been accused of being part of state capture. All organisations can experience serious lapse in judgement and it is precisely for this reason that a group of people is needed to play oversight role to make sure that no such lapse occurs at the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Semaj.

On behalf of my fellow trustees, I am pleased to report that during our internal auditing process we have found that the Samaj's finances are being properly managed and that the secretariat is maintaining all documents at satisfactory levels. A transparent process was followed when filling a Trustee vacancy and we are pleased that Harshadbhai Keshav, with his wealth of experience in accounting practices, was able join us, thus boosting our oversight role.

We believe that the performance of the Executive Committee since their appointment has been of a high standard, especially when one takes into account important function like Navratri and the recent Diwali Festival.

Some areas of concerns which we would like to highlight include:

1. The successful launch of the women's group was a great leap forward, but more needs to be done to encourage the formation of a strong women's desk.
2. It is disappointing that the youth are still not fully involved in the Samaj activities. It is crucial that attempts are made to address any concerns they may have and get them to participate more fully. If we fail to do this, we will not have a succession plan that harnesses the energy and creativity of your youth.
3. Another concern is the reports of conflicts between and lack of tolerance being displayed by some EXCO members. Leadership is needed to ensure that conflicts are amicably resolved and all members must exhibit the maturity to behave a dignified manner.

Looking forwards, the Gujarati community in particular and all South Africans in general, are facing a very uncertain future. We have widespread corruption, rising crime and unemployment and a host of social problems. The question we need to ask is: are we as a community doing enough to address these problems? If not, what can we do more differently? I think it is important that we get together as a

community and brainstorm how best to meet these challenges as a united community rather than as individuals.

On behalf of my family and my fellow trustees, we wish you Saal Mubarak. May you achieve those objectives you have set for yourself in the coming years but if you don't, I wish you the strength to get up, dust yourself off, and try once again.

Hari Om Tat Sat.

Madhuben Modi