

The Samaj SMS Policy as passed at a meeting of its executive committee at a meeting held on 25 January 2010.



Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj

Established in 1932

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Samaj SMS Policy

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy document is to provide clear guidelines on the use of the Samaj SMS messaging system.

2. **Preamble**

The rapid advancements in information technology have made it possible for organisations to communicate rapidly with its membership, irrespective of numbers or location. The SAMAJ has decided to keep its members informed on a regular basis on a range of issues, including but not limited to, events taking place, meeting notices, funeral messages, decisions taken by its executive and so forth. The primary technology vehicles currently being used are email and cell-phone SMS text messaging. A website of the SPHSS is also in the process of being established. At an executive committee meeting held on 25 January 2010, the following rules governing cell-phone SMS text messaging was approved.

3. **Rules governing SMS Text Messaging**

- 3.1 The SMS messaging system will be managed by the Secretary-General and/or Assistant Secretary of the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj (SPHSS).
- 3.2 All requests by officials, trustees and members of the public for use of the system must be directed to the Secretariat.
- 3.3 SMS messages sent under the auspicious of the SPHSS will be sent free of charge to members only. Membership is defined in the constitution of the SPHSS as being any Gujarati person residing in the greater Pretoria area.
- 3.4 The free SMS will be sent to only one person per household.

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- 3.5 Additional family members in the same household may apply to receive SMS messages at a cost of R50 per annum per person.
- 3.6 Non-members wishing to receive SMS messages will be required to pay a sum of R100-00 per annum.
- 3.7 Payment for SMS messaging must be made in advance before the end of January for the calendar year in which SMS messages are required i.e. payment must be made before end January 2010 for the 2010 calendar year.
- 3.8 Should a person request to be included on the SMS database during the course of the year, the full amount for the year must be paid. No pro-rata payment is allowed.
- 3.9 Funeral messages of deceased members i.e. members as defined by the SPHSS constitution, will be sent at no charge.
- 3.10 Upon request of a family member, funeral messages of deceased non-members will be sent at a cost of R250-00 to defray costs.
- 3.11 Any Community or non-profit organisation wishing to send an SMS will be charged a nominal fee of R250-00 per SMS message to cover cost of the message. Messages cannot exceed 160 characters (including punctuation).
- 3.12 SMS messages for commercial gain will cost R500-00, subject to the following: (1) message may not be sent under the banner of the SPHSS; (2) approval for content by the secretariat of the SPHSS; (3) messages cannot exceed 160 characters (including punctuation); and (4) not more than 2 commercial messages per month may be sent.
- 3.13 SMS messages to limited, defined numbers and for not-for-gain private functions (e.g. birthdays or wedding invitations) can be sent at a cost of R300-00, subject to the message not being sent under the banner of the SPHSS and subject to approval by the secretariat of the SPHSS. Messages cannot exceed 160 characters (including punctuation).
- 3.14 Since messages are sent via electronic media the Samaj takes no responsibility for failure for transmission caused by network or technical difficulties that are beyond its control. In such an event, the Samaj will refund any payments made. In the event of delayed transmission not caused by negligence of a Samaj official, no refund will be given.
- 3.15 Community members are welcome to forward requests for an SMS message to be sent out at no charge with respect to any community benefit information. Such message, however, will only be sent subject to approval by the secretariat.
- 3.16 The Samaj reserves the right to review the costs as and when it deems necessary

4. ***Approval***

This policy was approved by the executive committee of the Shree Pretoria Hindu Seva Samaj at a meeting held on 25 January 2010.

Ramesh Chhagan

Pravin Daya

Bhaavic Chhana

President

Chairman of Trustees

Secretary General