



# PRETORIA HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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13 September 2016

Dear Parents, Learners, Staff and members of the PHSG Community

## THE WAY FORWARD

In continuing our efforts to keep the PHSG community informed on developments as they unfold and on the way forward following our previous communiques, which can be found on our website, we would like to address the following:

### **No. 1 – The allegation relating to the use of African languages on the school premises.**

As the school management and governance leadership, we wish to remind everyone that there is no restriction on the use of home languages or multilingualism outside of the classroom. PHSG under no circumstances restricts the ability of learners to use their home languages in the appropriate spaces. In fact we encourage multilingualism within the school premises to the extent necessary, particularly the use of African languages in social spaces.

Clearly, classes are taught in the language of instruction and that is the only language that should be used in that classroom. Outside the classroom, learners are welcome and encouraged to speak in the language of their choice.

To the extent that investigation as instituted by the MEC, might determine that the above has not been practised in the past, we record that this would be unacceptable.

### **No. 2 – The allegation pertaining to the variety of hairstyles**

In terms of the MEC's requirements, we plan to open discussions on acceptable hair guidelines as part of the review and possible revision of the Code of Conduct. We undertake to ensure the inclusivity of the consultation, and that all views will be considered to the extent necessary.

The possible revised Code of Conduct will be subjected to further scrutiny and refinement at workshops with all our PHSG community.

In terms of some of the recommendations from the MEC, the school would like to highlight the following at this time.

The MEC also issued clear instructions that "all hostilities" must cease. ***We encourage all members of the PHSG community to play an active role in normalizing and stabilizing the school, so that effective learning and teaching can continue.*** Everyone must

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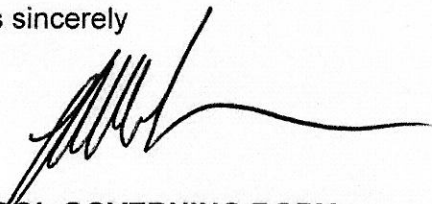
understand that PHSG is a school, which must be managed and governed in terms of applicable legislation and policies, and we will strive to implement these without fear or favour.

We feel that it is important to highlight that another clear instruction from the MEC was that learners have an unqualified right to quality basic education and that this must be ensured at all times. Part of this is to ensure that teaching and learning occurs in a conducive and safe environment.

Transformation is a journey, not an event. As PHSG, we are committed to provide all our learners with an environment that encourages their holistic growth, both socially and academically.

We ask for the support of all parties as the school moves forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several vertical strokes followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

**SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY  
PRETORIA HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**