



Alumni Association Annual AGM 2021

Date 30 October 2021
Time 10h00 to 17h00
Venue Pholela High School
Bulwer KZN

AGM REPORT BACK

Published: 6 November 2021

Greetings Alumni

We would like to thank you for your financial contribution towards the organizing and the successful hosting of our 2021 Annual General Meeting.

We are aware that the majority would have liked to be physically present at our renovated and upgraded school but due to the pandemic and other commitments, some of you decided to support the initiative by donating to cover the costs of the event.

We are humbled and honored to report back to you that indeed we were able to have our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at our beloved school.

The event was well attended by 40 attendees including the ones who joined the meeting virtually. To the 27 alumni that supported the event but were not with us at the meeting, we say "Siyabonga kakhulu" and we hope to see you in 2022.



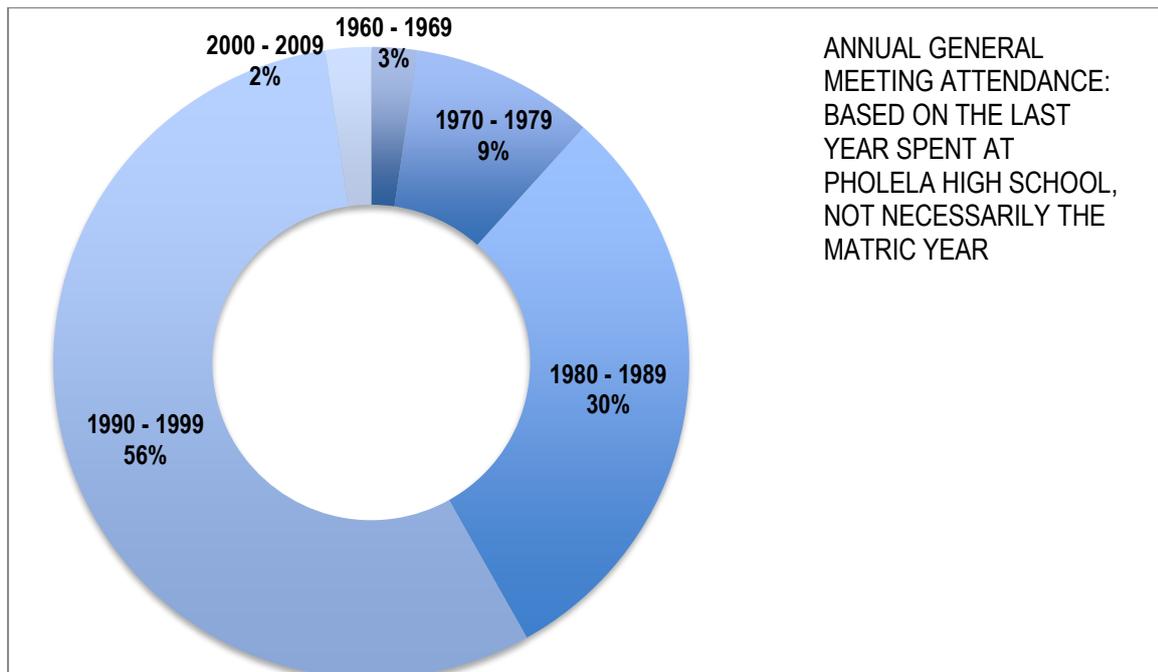
We would like to thank our AGM attendees for exercising patience when there were delays and minor glitches. Due to circumstances beyond control, the proceedings commenced later than the scheduled time. We have learnt from the experience of organizing the 2021 AGM and shall ensure much improvement in the future as we look forward to 2022.





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GRAPH 1: GENERATIONAL ANALYSIS OF AGM 2021 ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOLING YEARS

The AGM took place on 30 October 2021 at Pholela High School. The reason for hosting it at Pholela High School was to give an opportunity for the members of the Alumni Association an opportunity to see and have an experience of the refurbished school.

The AGM planning committee had hoped that the meeting would be graced by the presence of KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Kwazi Mshengu as well as the former KZN Premier and Alumnus, Mr Willies Mchunu. However, due to the unfortunate timing of the AGM clashing with the Local Government elections, Mr Mshengu could not attend. Mr Mchunu could also not attend due to circumstance which made it impossible for him to attend even though he so wished to be present. We however prerecorded messages of support via audio-visual means.

The AGM guest speaker was Mr Hloniphizwe J Mtolo, who is a Pholela High School alumnus, class of 1985. He delivered a message centered on how he, coming from humble beginnings, was able to craft a successful career for himself. He attributed some of his success to the effort he put into his schoolwork whilst he was at Pholela and that he still continues to do so.

He urged the Pholela alumni community to support the Alumni Association and rally behind its leadership. Mr Mtolo pledged to give support to the Association and emphasized that giving back does not necessarily have to be monetary, but it can be time and skills as well.



Mr H Mtolo



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The AGM is a meeting of the Association wherein the Central Committee gives a report on the work it has been doing, including plans and the key strategic issues that are of interest to the organisation and the school. The meeting received presentations from the Chairperson of the Pholela High School Alumni Association Central Committee, Mr Siyabonga Mdubeki, the Secretary, Mr Gugu Khumalo, as well as the convenor of the Academic Excellence Committee, Mr Mthokozisi Hadebe together with Professor Paulus Zulu. Mr Mdubeki gave a full report of the activities of the Central Committee and also motivated Alumni to support the Alumni Association in its quest to pursue its objectives. He further emphasized the need for Alumni to take part in empowering the school to optimally utilize the new schooling facility and infrastructure that had been setup at Pholela. His report was supported by the report given by Mr Gugu Khumalo which contained secretarial as well as treasury matters.

What came out of Mr Khumalo's presentation is that the rate of payment of subscription fees (R300) amongst Alumni is very low. These revelations challenged the Central Committee as well as Alumni to focus on marketing efforts to recruit paying members and to educate members about the importance of being a member in good standing, including fundraising in general.



Prof P Zulu

Professor Zulu, a proud member of the Pholela High School Alumni Association, announced a donation of a number of books that he has at his home. The incoming Central Committee will make means to collect the books and present them to the school together with other books that the association has collected in the last year or two through individual efforts.

The Academic Excellence sub-committee is an important part of the Central Committee as it focuses on empowering the teaching staff and the management of our school to be able to deliver better results. The Academic Excellence sub-committee also gave a brief report on the activities that they have undertaken and a brief peak into the plans in the pipeline.

Mr Maphanga, a fellow alumnus who is currently the Head of Department (Science) represented the principal who could not attend. He conveyed a message from the School Management Team (SMT). Mr Maphanga expressed their gratitude for the efforts that the Alumni Association have put towards getting the better results that the school achieved last year 2020, which was in the region of 90% pass rate. Mr Maphanga stressed the pupil's negative and sometimes-violent attitude challenges they are facing as the teaching staff. He requested that the Alumni Association assist in that regard if possible. He however acknowledged the efforts put in by Dr B Kubheka and Dr S Tshabalala in addressing some of the health and psychosocial issues with the pupils.



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The message that was resounding at the 2021 AGM, is that of encouraging the members of the Association to plough back to the school that was home, away from home to most of them during the most important years of their lives. The members are urged to take interest in the tasks that have been given to the Central Committee and volunteer to use their expertise by serving in the relevant sub-committees and also to use their networks to be able to contribute to the rebuilding of the school.

The 2021 Annual General Meeting also dealt with ratification of decisions taken by the Central Committee in between the AGMs, constitutional matters relating to clause 7 and clause 10 of the constitution, and also election of the new (in-coming) Central Committee members to office for the next three years. This part of the proceedings was facilitated by Mr Nhlakanipho Sokhela, an Attorney who is also an alumnus.



Mr. N Sokhela

It is worth noting that the composition of the incoming Central Committee fairly addressed the much-needed continuity and gender parity. It is hoped that the new Central Committee will take the Association to another level of organizational maturity. This will not happen without the necessary buy-in and support from members of Alumni.

As we bid farewell to the outgoing Central Committee members, we would like to thank them and greatly appreciate the work they did thus far under challenging times.

Former Central Committee 2018 - 2021



Chairperson:
Siyabonga Mdubeki



Deputy Chairperson:
Xolani Mhlaluka



Secretary:
Gugu Khumalo



Treasurer:
Brenda Kubheka

A big thank you!



Committee Member:
Ayanda Zuma



Committee Member:
Bonnie Tshabalala



Committee Member:
Sijabulisiwe (Sja) Tshabalala



Committee Member:
Sifiso Cele



Committee Member:
Vuyo Sibisi



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We hereby present to you the newly elected Central Committee members are as follows:

New Central Committee: 2021 - 2023

 Chairperson: Siyabonga Mdubeki (1986 - 1990)	 Deputy Chairperson: Mthokozisi Hadebe (1986 - 1990)	 Secretary: Sifiso Cele (1992 - 1994)	 Treasurer: Gugu Khumalo (1992 - 1993)	
Ayanda Zuma  1987 - 1991	Sijabulisiwe (Sja) Tshabalala  1986 - 1990	Sandile Ngwane  1992 - 1993	Ntokozo Madlala  1989 - 1994	Immaculate (Ratu) Lesetla  1990 - 1993
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS				

As the newly elected central committee we are excited about the next three years and look forward to carrying out the responsibilities given to us by Alumni. We affirm our commitment to serve, and to working in partnership with Alumni on various projects and initiatives from time to time.

Let us continue to put our efforts together to be the change we want to see in society, and most specifically the change we want to see at Pholela."

We thank you...