



Balraj Arunasalam, DTM

International President 2017-2018

Daniel Rex

Chief Executive Officer

March 30, 2018

Dear District 72 Leaders and members,

The purpose of this letter is to address the concerns that were brought to our attention related to a video contest conducted by the district. In recent weeks the organization has received many messages from concerned members and leaders from District 72 and its clubs. The majority of these question the integrity of the contest and its results. It is disheartening to hear that members felt that there was a lack of integrity and to also hear reports of potential harassment and bullying.

Toastmasters International enables individuals to become better communicators and leaders. In part, this occurs through a positive and supportive experience; harassment and bullying is prohibited as stated under Policy 3.0: Ethics and Conduct. Complaints about such conduct must be managed through the processes in Policy 3.0: Ethics and Conduct. Let us all do our part to support a respectful environment even when disagreements and conflict occur.

We have reviewed the report of the committee that was organized to review the contest. Generally, it is accurate and we concur with the conclusions. However, we believe it fell short in one key area: how and by whom the contest was organized. The organization believes any contest is undermined when the organizer of a contest participates in the contest as an entrant and is part of the judging process. We see no way to avoid a conflict of interest when this happens.

Therefore, any disciplinary motion raised at a District Council Meeting must be ruled out of order by the chair as the motion would not have followed prescribed processes.

Toastmasters disciplinary processes are defined and described in Protocol 3.0: Ethics and Conduct. The processes described therein are the only method through which discipline can be enacted at the district level.

The core values of Toastmasters are Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence. As members and leaders, we must exemplify these values. We urge you to focus to move on from this issue and focus on the district mission in the best interests of the members, clubs and District 72.

Sincerely,

Balraj Arunasalam
International President

Daniel Rex
Chief Executive Officer