

AL AZHAR MASJIED

Keizersgracht Street, District Six
P O Box 12583, Mill Street, Cape Town 8010

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1 Shawaal 1433/19 August 2012

As-salāmu ʿalaykum wa ragmatoelah wa barakatu

Dear Mureeds

It was during Ramadaan 1432/2011 that the mureeds of the Al Azhar Masjied commenced with the process of electing a new executive committee which culminated in an Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was held on the 9 October 2011, indeed an historic event in the history of the Al Azhar Masjied.

Alhamdoelillah, I am pleased to report that my dedicated team and I, with your support and the guidance and mercy of Allah (SWT), have managed to add a fair amount of substance to the vision and mission which we as an executive committee formulated at the start of our term of office .i.e.

To establish the Al Azhar masjid, as the leading, progressive, Islamic institution that fosters holistic growth in society, which will leave a legacy to future generations Insha-Allah.

In line with this vision, we have introduced a functional committee structure and proper governance parameters to ensure optimal and efficient functioning of the committee and its various sub-structures. We have formalized the employment of the Imaam as well as other key employees of the masjid. Together with the Imam, a leadership forum (Lajna) comprising other sheighs, imams and experts was established to provide a leadership platform that can address succession in the Imam at the Al Azhar as well as a forum for debate, exchange of information in relation to community issues and formulation of informed responses to such issues. This initiative is an attempt to provide scholarly direction and leadership to the many critical issues that we face as a community.

Considerable progress has been made on the education front. It was indeed an historic occasion when, on the 18 April 2012, the masjid opened its doors to host youth from the surrounding area and elsewhere for afternoon madrassah classes. I am informed that the last madrassah at the masjid was held more than 80 years ago! This initiative is a collaborative effort with the Islamic Life Madrassah (ILM), based in Kensington, which was started under the leadership of our resident Imam, Sheigh Ismail Keraan. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive of ILM for sharing their expertise in this regard and the teachers, for making themselves available to teach at the madrassah. We currently have 22 learners from ages 6 to 16. The learners have completed their first exams in June and have started the 3rd school term. The parent's interest and support as evidenced by their attendance at the end of term parent's meetings is very encouraging. It establishes a sound foundation for the future development and growth of the madrassah.

The adult education programme comprising lecture series on selected topics, which is being hosted on a Tuesday evening, is very well attended, Alhamdoelillah. Already, two topics have been completed namely, Nikaah- effective communication and Gadj. We are looking to expand the topics and lecturer base to ensure a multi-disciplinary approach and to make the learning experience holistic, Inshallah. The Ramadaan programme that was launched, attempted to widen the scope of speakers and topics. We hope to improve on this initiative in the future Inshallah.

The physical changes at the masjid, is often the most talked about. Alhamdoelillah, with the help of sponsors and your contributions we have replaced the entire roof of the masjid. Furthermore, the new carpet that we are enjoying was donated by a sponsor. The Executive and indeed the entire Al Azhar community are most grateful for this generous donation. We pray that Allah (SWT) reward you abundantly Inshallah Ameen. We have also restored the old mimbar with the assistance of generous donors. Shukran for your contributions in this regard. There are a number of areas that require attention including the upgrading of the ablution facilities, carpeting of the mezzanine section and the replacement of parts of the ceiling. We hope to address these projects in the near term Inshallah and will call on you for assistance in this regard.

We have launched a pledge form which you have received so that the masjid can receive a sustainable income to cover its regular expenses. I urge you to support this initiative since it provides the masjid with a predictable and sustainable income base which in turn facilitates planning from our side. Your support in this initiative is critical to the financial wellbeing of this masjid. I hope that the pledge forms are taken up with the commitment and enthusiasm that is the hallmark of the masjid's mureed base Inshallah.

In order to keep up with the fast pace of technology, we have launched a masjid website. The website will be a source of information going forward as well as a means to interact with the mureed base on ideas and suggestions. Please take a moment to visit the site: www.alazharmasjied.co.za.

The successes that we have achieved thus far can only have been realized with your support and the guidance and mercy of our Creator, the Almighty Allah (SWT). I pray that Allah (SWT) guides us further so that we can fulfil our mandate and vision for the masjid Inshallah. We can all congratulate one another on a very successful year and a successful Ramadaan, Alhamdoelillah. Eid Mubarak!



Dr Ismail Jakoet

Chairman