



# **FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT ZAINODEEN MOOSA**

**DATE: 13TH SEPTEMBER 2015**

*All praise is due to Allah alone, Lord of all that exists. And may His peace and blessings be upon our noble Prophet, the final Messenger, Muhammad, and upon his family and companions.*

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As I began to compose this report, I realised how quickly my first year has passed as Chairperson of the Newclare Juma Masjid (NJM). It has been a year with many rewarding moments, as well as some challenges. Though a year of transition, we made solid progress on many fronts, including building our strategic, financial, social, educational and governance platforms, while establishing exciting new ones that were solely lacking and exposing the institute on various fronts. We have built from a base that was no-existent – as the previous committee did not do a hand-over, hence the incoming Management team (Committee) literally started from scratch...

I am honoured to be leading the institute. The legacy of this institute and the importance it holds within this

community over many decades is all inspiring. At a personal level, I am truly humbled to lead and partner the incredibly talented and dedicated group of people (the Management team), who volunteer their time, service and expertise to this institute (NJM). As another year comes to an end, and we look forward to the start of a new year, with all the existing and ongoing projects, we are hopeful, with the help of Allah (SWA) that we will continue to meet the needs of our community and offer the services they most require. For this we thank Allah, the Most High, without His aid nothing is possible.

**Scorecard as per NJM's Strategic Plan**

**Education**

To enhance the existing Islamic education system into a vibrant and sustainable model.

Our strategic intent with Education is to create and provide a holistic experience that will commence with the little ones; have formal Madressah in the afternoons and eventually advance to Adult classes – thus providing the community a complete educational programme based on Islamic fundamentals. Our challenges are many amongst others the high teacher turnover rate. Over the last three (3) years) we had a staff turnover of over 60%, which is totally unacceptable if we were to achieve our objectives from an educational perspective. To this end we have started some initiatives to remedy the situation.

1. **Teacher Development and Awards:** In this regard we had three (3) Development initiatives during 2014-15 and one Awards Event.
2. **Develop a vibrant youth programme:** This is work in progress, however we have started with holiday programmed (In the Winter break) which was fairly successful and hope to build on this initiative. Youth programmes are extremely important in that it will go a long way to address and remedy the social evil that is prevalent in our community.
3. **Umrah Excursion for 2016 :** This initiative we will postpone until 2017
4. **Pre School:** Create a sustainable Pre-School (Crèche). We started out in February 2015 with 20 children and have grown to 35 within six months. The objective was to function financially without the assistance of the NJM and Algamdulillah that objective has been achieved.
5. **Islamic Bursary Scheme:** We have established an Islamic bursary fund and currently we are assisting three individuals from within the community. Hopefully this fund can grow and we will be in a fortuitous position to assist more kids – thus creating a community that becomes vibrant and Islamically empowered.

Our challenge will remain that we do not have an official Hufaath division. We do not have sufficient learners attending regularly and we do not get financial backing from parents in the form of school Fees being paid consistently.

## Social & Poverty

Create a vibrant and proud community through ongoing development and empowerment initiatives.

Our community is deprived at a social and economic level. If we want to change the trajectory of this community we need to seriously pay attention to this stream in that this situation can only be changed with the collective 'buy-in' from all. We cannot and should not only assist the community when certain Islamic calendar events take place. To this end we have identified some initiatives that should serve as a catalyst to transform our community.

- 1. Set-up a functional data base tool:** We have a functional and accurate database of potential recipients for Zakaah in our community. The database has been cleaned-up in the sense that duplication has been illuminated to a large degree. Furthermore we are partnering with various organizations and they are very complimentary in how we manage and operate with regards to parcel distribution. Since our election we have distributed over 2000 parcels.
- 2. Elderly Outreach Programmes:** NJM facilitate monthly luncheons for the elderly within the community. Every quarter we embark on initiatives where the elderly can enjoy excursions. We have already taken 60 members to Warmbaths. The next initiative is to take at least 60 people to the Eastern Cape (George Knysa) for 7 days.
- 3. Affordable Qurbani Project (including voucher system):** This initiative is run on an annual basis with huge success and support from the community.
- 4. Annual Mass Community feeding initiative:** This initiative has become a huge success in that we invite the entire Newclare community (irrespective religious belief) to break-fast during Ramadaan.
- 5. Establish Cultural Programmes:** Various cultural programmes have been initiated to further enhance and develop the community into a solitary unit. Examples to site are the Maulood, Qiraat Jalsas etc.

## Finance & Sustainability incl. Properties

Ensure that we have transparent and robust financial policies and initiatives in place that will ensure sustainability.

Financial Prudence and management of funds have always and will always remain pivotal to the success of this institute. Hence it is important to ensure certain financial practices become entrenched and accepted practices. To this end we embarked on ensuring certain things become non-negotiable:

### A: Operational and Governance

- 1. Clean Audit:** We have achieved that through our Independent Auditors
- 2. Develop a Finance Policy:** We have fiscal policies in place to manage and govern our (NJM's), spend.
- 3. Financial Investment:** This aspect will receive attention during the next year.

### B: Sustainability

- 1. Increase Revenue collection:** Our biggest drivers have always been Ramadaan and The Annual Golf Day. This year we have embarked on additional initiatives (i.e. Annual Dinner, High Tea, Monthly Collections Debit Orders and School Fees) and hope it will assist and create less reliance on the two main income streams. Some of these initiatives remain a challenge, however great planning and manpower would certainly assist in making it a success.
- 2. Ensure Properties are maintained:** The masjid property, madressah and Community Centre (Starr Street) is being revamped and made more accessible to the community.

### C: Future:

- 3. Financial Investment:** This initiative did not receive the necessary attention as we were pre-occupied to restore financial stability and fiscal maturity to the NJM. This objective is most certainly relevant going forward to ensure sustainability.

### D: Obstacles:

- 4. Build a functional Collection System:**
- 5. Reduce Property Debt with City of Johannesburg:**
- 6. Install Pre-paid meters in the Hoy Street Property:**
- 7. Ensure rent is collected from tenants Increase:** Currently our single biggest threat to survival as an institute falls under this category. We do not have enough people coming forward to assist with monthly community collections; we owe the CoJ over R500k; Over 80% of the tenants are delinquent and refuses to pay rent – we are currently in the process of getting an eviction order via the courts (which is further draining our precarious financial state).

## Community Centre

Sustainable programmes and empowerment to engage community challenges

The Community Centre is pivotal to restore the Newclare community to its past glory. In this regard it has been utilised in a multi-faceted manner. The centre is viewed as the place that will serve as the catalyst and a 'one-stop shop' to engage the community with all its challenges ranging from substance addictions, welfare issues, employment and educational needs.

**1. Draft a concept paper for the Development**

**Centre:** We the NJM Management have adopted a concept paper for Centre and will share it with the community in the near future.

**2. Design sustainable programmes and empowerment initiatives to engage communities:**

The design is at an advance stage and we will engage the community further to make this a reality.

**3. Job Creation initiatives:**

We have intentionally started 'Job Creation initiatives. We employed people during the Ramadaan period that assisted with security work, packing of parcels, fetching and delivering of parcels, ad-hoc work. Interviewed people from the community to

work for Burger King and other larger Johannesburg related employment initiatives.

**4. Life Coaching:** We have facilitated life Coaching programmes very successfully. We are currently running a second programme at the Centre. The programme is facilitated by qualified coaches on Friday evenings.

Ultimately we want to alleviate poverty and ensure that the Newclare community become self-sustained and its members become productive members of society.

## Masjid

Ensure that the Masjid becomes central to the community its uplifting the community spiritually through structured programmes

**1. Ramadaan:**

Ramadan is a very busy time at the NJM. In order to reflect the spiritual uplifting of the community, the Masjid tries its utmost to ensure that it provides a comfortable environment for worship. A small Iftaar (breaking fast) meal is provided daily for those who wish to break their fast in the Masjid. Also meals are provided daily for families less fortunate. There is also provision made annually for brothers who wish to perform i'tikaf (seclusion) in the Masjid. Due to the large number of attendees in the Masjid for the taraawih prayers, short talks were delivered every night after the Esha prayers – with great success. After fajr salaah the musalees recite

surah Yaseen-this practice has now been continued throughout the year.

**2. Eid Clothes / Eid Gift parcels:** The children received Eid Clothes and Eid Gift parcels.

**3. Future Challenges:**

- Develop a sustainable spiritual year plan
- Ongoing Leadership and spiritual guidance
- Optimise the quality of programmes during mass gatherings (i.e. Shabaan, Ramadaan etc.)
- Engaging the communities spiritual needs

## Improved Communication

Keep communities informed through social media

**Digitalising the NJM:** This remains a challenge – as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are looking at ways to ensure we remain relevant and continuously turn to technology to communicate with the community.

**Social Sites/Tools:** Social networking sites such as Facebook, What's App are also utilised to help promote events.

### OUR INSPIRATION

The challenges we face in this ever-changing socio-economic environment will require time, vigilance and dedication to solve. As the Management Committee we realize we are on a journey. Every day, though, I am inspired by yet another story of how we have delivered on Our Credo - To maintain the Masjid, Madressah and Social Centre and ensure that it caters for the needs of the community to promote an Islam that is Spiritually & Philosophically linked to Culture.

## **MY COMMITMENT**

I am committed to continuing the proud tradition of NJM as a purpose-led institute. The leadership team will further dedicate themselves daily to the responsibilities defined in our Credo. We'll also continue our commitment to our employees, and to the community in which we operate. I describe myself as a realistic optimist, and despite our challenges, I firmly believe that we will transform the NJM and the community in the foreseeable future – through the grace of Allah (SWA).

## **Jaza-ka-Allah**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zainodeen Moosa', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Zainodeen Moosa

13th September 2015