



SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
ZAINODEEN MOOSA

DATE: 25TH SEPTEMBER 2016

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 (pbuh), and upon his family and companions.

As the second term of our three (3) year tenure draws to a close it is imperative to take stock of how the NJM was managed and evaluate if we as a Management team are still on track with our strategic plan and initiatives for the broader Newclare community. The year has indeed been filled with many amazing initiatives and many disappointments or challenges.

We have moved away from being in a period of transition. The plans that were conceptualised were being implemented during the 2nd year. As a reminder the purpose of the NJM Strategic Plan focused on the maintenance of the Masjid, Madressah and establishing a functional social centre that would cater for the needs of the community. Furthermore to promote an Islam that is spiritually and philosophically linked to our culture.

Our key strategic themes would focus on:

- Good Governance
- Community Upliftment
- Efficient and Effective Property Management
- Improved Islamic Education and
- On-going Masjid Programmes.

Our guiding principles centred on:

- Remain community focused (Bring the best out of people)
- Adhere to the principles of the Shariah
- Be pioneering (Be innovative and do things differently) and
- Transparent and Accountability.

This year we consolidated on our mandate on various fronts viz. implementing our governance frameworks (i.e. financial, social and educational).

The legacy of the institute is slowly being re-build and sound values and principles are applied as a yardstick by the Management Committee who so tirelessly give-up their family and personal time to maintain and uplift the institute. Again I want to re-iterate that I am honoured and humbled to lead and partner a committed, dedicated and remarkable team of individuals who possess a wide range of skills and expertise.

As the third (3rd) year of our term approaches there is much that must still be done and with the help of the Almighty and the individuals from the community we (the management team) will continuously meet and service the community.

In closing I am reminded of four (4) Quranic verses for us to reflect on:

1. *No one besides Allah (swa) can rescue a soul from hardship (53:38)*
2. *Allah (swa) is sufficient for us (3:173)*
3. *Indeed Allah (swa) will help those who help Him. Indeed Allah (swa) is exalted in might, all powerful(22:40)*
4. *Never will Allah change the condition of a people, until they change themselves (13:11)*



Education

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

Our strategic resolve with Education is still to provide a holistic experience that will commence with the pre-school; have the formal Madressah in the afternoons and have adult classes – thus providing the community a complete educational programme based on Islamic fundamentals. This aspect is not to the desired standard that we have set ourselves. Our challenges remain many; amongst them is to get qualified teachers at all three levels that will provide a consistent and high standard of education. The Pre-school remains a challenge in that we do not have qualified teachers with the necessary experience that could provide the desired pre-school education and facilitation required at a junior level; furthermore we had to re-shuffle the complete staff because of various incidents that could have compromised the NJM brand. The Madressah too needs a complete re-engineering. The current modus operandi is not working – we teach from day-to-day but we are not making a significant impact 'Islamically' on the community. Perhaps the Madressah model is out-dated in its current format, perhaps an education indaba is required to resuscitate it. Our adults (18 yrs plus) including reverts are seriously neglected and we do not have a co-herent plan in place to address this matter. Education in our third year in office will definitely be a focal point. This is where we spend at least 50% of our income – with no tangible return on investment. We have not produced any gufaath from this institute in years, let alone send anyone for further Islamic training, which is totally unacceptable. To turn this around and ensure we reach our objectives from an educational perspective we have initiated some initiatives to remedy the situation.

1. **Recruitment:** We will be advertising shortly for qualified teachers to teach at both Pre-School and the Madressah
 2. **Bursary Schemes:** We have started a bursary Scheme, where we have earmarked four (4) categories of Upliftment.
 - **EDF** – Focus on getting people with potential up-skilled in this discipline – who could eventually manage the Pre-School. In this regard we have allocated three (3) bursaries
 - **University** – We have allocated a bursary to one student for year one and will review for year two (or pass on to a bigger organization, i.e. Zanzaf who deal with such matters)
 - **Islamically** – We have identified one learner who will be pursuing an Alim course – which we will cover.
 - **General** - We have identified four candidates that will receive general upskilling to become self-reliant.
 3. **Gifz School:** We have started this initiative this year and currently have five (5) students. Although this programme is in its infant stage – we are of the view that in years to come this initiative will benefit the institute and the community at large.
 4. **Inspection:** We will be running an independent inspection to assess the state of the Madressah and review so that we can craft a way forward that would dictate that we adjust to the current Islamic environment and state of our community.
 5. **Teacher Development and Awards:** In this regard we had two (2) Development initiatives including First Aid training and have for the second year hosted an Awards Event.
 6. **Develop a vibrant youth programme:** This is work in progress; however we have partnered with the Youth movement and co-hosted an Indonesian delegation. In fact we anticipate sending at least 3 students/learners to Indonesia on this initiative.
 7. **Umrah Excursion for 2016** : This initiative we will postpone until 2017/18
- 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.

Social & Poverty

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

Our community remains deprived at a social and economic level and will remain so if we persist in feeling like victims and look to others outside of our community to rescue us. The only way to change is if we change our condition ourselves. If we work in unison and as a collective this is not impossibility. The strategy has to change from one that only focus on short-term goals viz. parcel distribution and a 'hand-out' mentality to one where we empower the community and create a proud self-earning, community whose reliance is on each other and not outsiders – that must be deemed a bonus and not a necessity. Furthermore, we cannot and should not only assist the community when certain Islamic calendar events come up. To this end we have identified and re-activated 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. We are partnering with various organizations and they are very complimentary in how we manage and operate with regards to social issues and distribution of food parcels, clothes and other charity related initiatives. Furthermore we have agreed to hold an Indaba post Ramadaan with all the local masajids to work together and ensure that we further optimise our working relationship and eliminate duplication of initiatives.
2. Since our election we have **distributed over 3000 parcels.**
3. **Elderly Outreach Programmes:** NJM facilitate monthly luncheons for the elderly within the community – these have become so popular that we have to utilise a bigger venue. In future we anticipate having guest speakers to further impart knowledge and certain programmes that could had value to this increasing popular social event
4. **Affordable Qurbani Project (including voucher system):** This initiative is run on an annual basis with huge success and is well supported by the community.
5. **Annual Mass Community feeding initiative (Mass Iftaar):** This initiative has become a huge success in that we invite the entire Newclare community (irrespective religious belief) to break-fast during Ramadaan. This event is hosted on the third (3rd) Saturday of Ramadaan.
6. **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.
7. **Eid Clothes / Eid Gift parcels:** The children received Eid Clothes and Eid Gift parcels every year during Ramadaan.

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 central to the success of this institute. The financial state of the institute is much healthier now than when we inherited the institute two years ago, despite the economic state of the country.

1. Overview of Financial state:

Accounts	Previous Committee	2014 (Ramadaan)	2015 (Ramadaan)	2016 (Ramadaan)
Zakaah				
Lilaah				

2. Summarised Budget required to run the NJM on an annual basis

SUMMARISED BUDGET	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
	2013	2014	2015	2016
	1 100	1 200	1 500	1 700

A. FINANCE

Operational and Governance

1. **Clean Audit:** We have achieved this through our Independent Auditors and hope this standard would be maintained.
2. **Develop a Finance Policy:** We have fiscal policies in place to manage and govern our (NJM's), spend.

Sustainability

1. **Increase Revenue collection:** Our biggest drivers have always been around two initiatives, i.e. Ramadaan and The Annual Golf Day.
2. **Other Initiatives:** Other initiatives like the Annual Dinner and High Tea will assist and go a long way to ensure sustainability.

3. **Ensure Properties are maintained and refurbished:** The masjid property, madressah and Community Centre (Starr Street) is continuously being maintained and refurbished to maintain a reasonable standard

as well as being made more accessible to the community.

Concerns / Threats:

1. **Ramadaan collection:** This will always remain the signature fund raising initiative, however the collectors are not getting any younger. Three (3) of our collectors are well in their seventies and the risk is that their health may not allow them to assist the institute in the near future. We pray Allah (swa) continuously bless them and their respective families for their contribution are invaluable. Furthermore, two (2) of our collectors were involved in an attempted robbery, fortunately they were not injured – thus this demonstrate that the collections is not an easy task and extremely dangerous – These collectors place the life’s literally at risk and we pray that they continuously serve with distinction
2. **Annual Golf day:** This event is also very popular and has been running for the last 16 years. We have players who have supported the event loyally from as far as Rustenburg and its patrons have always been generous and unstinting.

3. Other initiatives such as **monthly street collections** are not taking off because we do not have enough community members that have come forward to do street collections even when we offered to pay them a percentage of the collections being made on a monthly basis. **School Fees** is another stream of income that has unfortunately not been as successful as anticipated. **Debit Orders** too have not been as successful as originally anticipated – however we will not give up and hope to re-launch these projects in the near future. We hope that with your support and assistance we can create less reliance on the two main income streams. We must bear in mind that other income streams must be found because the generosity through the patrons is not ever-lasting because as the NJM we are competing against other masajieds in the same market and the pot is getting smaller especially with the economic slump we experiencing at a macro-level.

B. PROPERTIES

1. HOY STREET PROPERTIES

This set of properties was intended to ensure that the NJM become partly self-reliant through the rental (as an income) generated from the property. Sadly this is not the case. In fact to the contrary this property has become like an albatross on the institute. The lack of rental payments from the tenants has placed the institute in a precarious financial predicament because the debt has increased since we took office.

- **City of Johannesburg (CoJ) - R550k (W&L and electricity not being paid by tenants but billed to the NJM)**
- **Tenants as a collective - R450k (Non Payment over 2 years)**
- **Debt written off - R500k (Prior to us coming into office)**
- **Total - R1.5 million**

Concern / Threat: Currently our single biggest threat to survival as an institute falls under this category. Tenants are abusive and exploitive and blatantly refuse to pay rent. 90% of the tenants are delinquent.

- The tenants have placed the institute at risk.
- We have received various legal threats from the CoJ and have incurred legal cost to abate law suits and other legal implications.

- We have incurred legal cost to assist in evicting the tenants
- **CURRENTLY:** We have engaged with potential property Developers who are keen to assist in developing the property to ensure sustainability for the NJM. Subsequently we have given all the tenants an eviction notice to vacate the premises on or before 31st October 2016.

Community Centre

Sustainable programmes and empowerment to engage community challenges

The Newclare Community Centre (NCC) has become pivotal to restore the pride of the Newclare community. In this regard it is being 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, job creation, development, empowerment initiatives (through life skills and coaching) and educational needs.

- 1. Partnerships:** The strategy is to form partnerships with organisations that are like-minded in our vision. To this end we have forged one such partnership with Zanzaf and others are in the pipeline.
- 2. Job Creation initiatives:** We regularly employ people from the community during NJM initiatives on an ad-hoc basis to assist with security work, packing of parcels, fetching and delivering of parcels etc.
- 3. 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-reliant 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

Ultimately we want to enhance the level of Islamic Education and spirituality within the Newclare community. Although we have made significant strides much more can be done. This will remain a major goal for the third-year of our term and will be linked to specific outputs for the Emaam.

- 1. Spiritual Programmes - Ramadaan:** Although there is a rigorous programme during Ramadaan in place this is not sustained throughout the year and needs to be addressed. 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 the musalies who wish to break their fast in the Masjid. Furthermore, meals are provided daily for families less fortunate. There is also provision made for brothers who wish to perform i'tikaf (seclusion) in the Masjid during the last ten (10) days of Ramadaan. Due to the large number of attendees in the Masjid for the taraawih prayers, short talks were delivered every night after the

- 2. Eshaa prayers – with great success.** After fajr salaah the musalees recite surah Yaseen-this practice has now become an entrenched practice in the masjid throughout the year.
- 3. Future Challenges: Need the Emaam to play a greater role in this regard.**
 - On-going Leadership and spiritual guidance
 - Develop a sustainable spiritual year plan
 - 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

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 AND FINAL COMMENTS ON YEAR TWO OF MY CHAIRMANSHIP

I maintain my commitment to continue the proud tradition of NJM as a purpose-led institute; furthermore, the leadership team also commit and dedicate themselves to the responsibilities defined in our Credo. We remain committed to improve the institute and up-skill our employees as best we can with the resources available.

The transformation journey of the institute and community is not an easy one; however, I firmly believe that it is do-able through the grace of Allah (swa). For this to happen we should let truthfulness be our yardstick in everything we do. Let us be of those who will uplift the weak and restore their rights if Allah (SWA) wills; Let us be of those who rebuild the community. Let us be of those who put the community first. Support the Executive Committee if our actions and utterings are based on Al-Quran and the Sunnah and guide us where we stumble and become waylaid. You owe us no obedience, no friendship, no loyalty... ONLY remain a compass for us to deliver on our mandate. *Umar ibn al-Khattab* said *"There is no Islam without unity, no unity without leadership, and no leadership without obedience."* As a committee judge us on what we deliver and how we grow the community at a spiritual, social and economic level and not by our personalities. I urge you as a community, to be honest, yet firm in your assessment of the institute.

My purpose is to point out what and how the community can be developed, your duty is to assist and help drive that agenda. Let us be critical yet constructive. Let us deliberate in a respectable manner and come up with solutions jointly. Let us be constructive and build the community. There will be occasions when we agree with each other, there will be occasions where we disagree. Sometimes my view points will be ignored, on other occasions it will be accepted. The truth is we are slaves of Allah (SWA) and must adhere to Al Quran and the Sunnah.

As a community you have rights and obligations inter alia:

- Support the institute at a social, spiritual, financial level;
- Ensure that the spend is in the interest of the community;
- Ensure that you protect the assets of the Institute;
- Hold the Committee accountable;
- Promote the institute and ensure that it remains prosperous and;
- Ensure that justice prevails.

My appeal to you as a community is as follows:

- Suppress selfish motives;
- Work for the solidarity of the Muslims as a whole and your community in particular;
- In running the affairs of the Institute you are our partners;
 - Help us (as a committee) and provide us with your sound advice.
 - If we follow the right path laid down by Allah (SWA) and His Prophet (SAW) support us. If we deviate, correct and admonish us.
 - Strengthen us with your advice and suggestions.

Jaza-ka-Allah



Zainodeen Moosa
25 September 2016