Transport

The transportation of over 4000 children to the venue with some 60 bus loads involving 9 bus companies was indeed a feat. Children were transported in the early hours of the morning from as far and wide as Leslie in Mpmulangana, Brits in the North West; Rosheen, Sebokeng, Evaton, and Orange Farm in South Gauteng; Lenasia and Lenasia South, Governing bodies, the media, bus companies, taxis, venue providers, and all other service providers for a wonderful day and an extraordinary event. May Allah grant all unlimited barakah, thawwab and rick in their lives for their support and help. May you always open your hearts to the Children of Islam.

Food Distribution:
A massive operation of packaging and distributing 5000 break snack packs and lunches was undertaken both before and during the event. Children were given a packet of biscuits, a soft drink and a packet of chips during the break and also provided with a wholesome pie, banana, apple, and another soft drink for lunch – all free of charge through gracious part/full sponsorships.

Volunteers:
Over 150 Volunteer Marshalls were assigned to various clusters including the Steering Committee; Security, Bus, Venue, Logistics, Welcome, Registration, Programme, Logistics, Food and Catering, Media & Communications, Bus Logistics, Food Distribution.

Quotes:

Mouallima Amina Kaldine, Baitul Ilm

Thank you so much for your time. The 2nd Children of Islam Jalsa in commemoration of the 1400th Year of the revelation of the Holy Quran was a huge success, largely due to help like yours. We are so thankful for taking time out of your busy life and the lives of those around you. Your support was fantastic. You deserve it! Sheikh Ibraheem Ali, Mudeer of Madressas Al Bayaa.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of such a dynamic team of energetic people. Through this experience I have come to understand "UBUNTU" (Togetherness; Oneness) much better. The process of empowerment can be a success. In this you show trust, responsibility, guidance and support plus have fun at the same time. What I like is the manner in which the team communicates to each other verbally. This team displayed good manners, politeness, energy, courage, always willing to go the extra mile and initiave. Rashid Booyens, Bus Marshall Coordinator.

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Objectives of the jalsah included reinforcement of the Muslim identity; instilling confidence; building bonds; cooperation; highlighting importance and messages of the Qur'an; promoting Islam as a way of life; promoting unity in a multicultural and diverse ummah; for the pleasure of Allah. (Inshallah)

Indeed this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for every learner/child (indeed also for adults) where children from diverse backgrounds and the rainbow ummah of Islam shared in the spirit of brotherhood/ ukhuwa and unity, to be part of the biggest gathering under one roof… Alhamdulillah… For those who attended, it was an experience well appreciated as something that will be embedded in memories forever and will impact educationally and positively on their lives… inshallah.

Highlights

The children participated in an interactive extravaganza of Quranic recitation, plays, historical stories and musical performances. The inspiring story of Tuan Guru (imam Qadi Abdus Salaam), an Indonesian judge and scholar who was exiled to South Africa and imprisoned on Robben Island during the Javanese freedom struggle against the colonial Dutch Government is one of the inspiring accounts of early Muslims relayed to the children. Tuan Guru wrote the entire Qur'an from memory during his 13 years of incarceration on Robben Island. Tuan Guru’s role was played by Qari Zahier Zardad, who is the 7th generation descendent of the Imam, and whose melodious recitation enthralled the audience, drawing parallels to the Tuan’s recitation to his prison guards some 300 years ago.

The legendary Zain Bhikha, a local favourite, brought his inspirational and melodious tunes to the event. A rendition of the SA National Anthem was sung by the Bosmont Muslim was a crowd pleaser, as were various nasheeds and songs.

An inspirational play From the Dark ages to the Golden ages focussed on Muslim inventions inspired by the Quran. The children were also given the opportunity to learn about the House of Wisdom, a place of learning opened by Al Khwarizmi, the father of Algebra. They were also introduced to Ibn Al-Haitham, the mathematician who first championed the scientific methodology.

The Jalsah’s aim of highlighting the importance and message of the Holy Qur’an was achieved in celebratory style. It also strengthened the bonds of friendship and unity between SA’s varied community of Muslims, as well as presented a face of Islam that promotes diversity and unity in a multicultural and diverse ummah; for the importance and messages of the Qur’an; promoting Islam as a way of life; promoting unity in a multicultural and diverse ummah; for the pleasure of Allah. (Inshallah)

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Gratitude

A Special thanks goes to Dr Halit Eren – Director General of the Istanbul based Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) who kindly invited representatives of Awqaf SA to attend the international inauguration of the 1400th Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur’an during Ramadan 1431. The inaugural meeting was attended by His Excellency Zain Kalla, Zeinoul Abedien and Sr Amina Cajee.

The inauguration was officiated by the Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan.