Islamic Charity Projects Association

Sunday 2nd December 2018

The Annual Sydney Multicultural Mawlid Concert

Media Release

Under the patronage of Darulfatwa -the Islamic High Council of Australia and led by the Islamic Charity projects association (ICPA) the annual Sydney Multicultural Mawlid Concert held on Sunday 2nd December 2018 at Sydney Sports Centre, Sydney Olympic Park under the slogan *"Muhammad, a guide and more for every era"*. The Mawlid concert was attended by a number of Government representatives including the Hon. Minister Ray Williams: MP Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Michael Daley: MP Member of the Legislative Assembly and Leader of the Opposition, Ambassadors, consul generals, ministers, councillors, community leaders, distinguished sheikhs, imams, organisations representing Lebanese, Iraqi, Syrian, Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian, Somalian, Sudanese, Pakistan, Indian, Afghanistan, Turkish, Bosnian, African, Harrar and numerous media representatives.

The opening VIP reception was opened by Chairman of Darulfatwa – Professor Sheikh Salim Alwan Al Husainyy who welcomed delegates and spoke about the Mawlid celebration and the important role Darulfatwa has played over the past two-decades in promoting moderation and peace. This was followed by a speech from president of the ICPA Hajj Mohamad Mehio who spoke about the exemplar manners of the prophet peace be upon him and how Muslims always strive to take him as an example and guide across all eras. Minister Ray Williams also spoke about the importance of social cohesion and how celebrations such as the Mawlid contribute to the government commitment of social cohesion and harmony. The opening reception was sealed by a speech from newly appointed opposition leader Michael Daley who thanked the Muslim community and particularly the ICPA and Darulfatwa for their positive contributions to Australian society and lead towards peace, harmony and our success together through multiculturalism.

The concert was opened by his eminence Sheikh Ibrahim El-Shafie who welcomed attendees and stated in his opening speech "Your attendance here today reflects in a small way the world-wide keenness of Muslims to celebrate the commemoration of

the Mawlid, each culture adorning their celebrations in their own colour and taste. Muslims of every race, colour, language, gender and age, gather on this occasion, just as you have gathered here today to share this joyous and blessed event". This was followed by a recitation of the holy Quran.

His Eminence Professor Sheikh Salim Alwan Al Husainyy Chairman of Darulfatwa - the Islamic High Council of Australia delivered a speech stating: *Muhammad*, seeking blessings by your traces is a tradition you taught your companions. It was passed down to the preceding Muslims, who passed it to the latter. For, it was you who told the barber to shave the right and the left sides of your head after you performed your final Hajj. It was you who called upon *Abu Talha Al-Ansariyy* and gave him from the hair and said to him, "divide it among the people" as is related in the two *Sahih* books. I swear by *Allah*, that if I had in my possession one of your relics, it would be more valuable to me than having the silver and gold that is on earth or in the earth, O best of *Allah*'s creations. His eminence added: "Brothers and sisters in belief: and here we are today altogether in this place and at this time, with our different languages, colours and classes. We gather testifying in the Oneness of God, and united in the love of *Muhammad*, rejoicing the birth of Prophet Muhammad, the trustworthy one. We all consider that the origin of the celebration of the Prophet's birth, which refers to gathering people, reciting *Qur'an*, reciting what is narrated about the events of his birth and the stories of his advent, peace be upon him, is a good innovation. We all agree that the person who does it would be rewarded due to the benefit contained in such practices. This includes honouring the status of the Prophet peace be upon him and showing the joy and good tidings that surrounded his honourable birth. This was agreed upon by the reliable scholars, muhaddiths, jurisprudents and their statements about this are one". Hence, praise be to *Allah* for this great endowment and may Allah keep us steadfast in upholding the commemoration of the birth of Prophet *Muhammad* every year.

The speech was followed by a role play based on a true story titled "The Princess and the Crown" - a story about a young woman who was God-fearing and had a profound love for Prophet *Muhammad* peace be upon him; how this woman become a crowned princess and what calamities befell her. The role play was followed by a number of performances in several languages including Arabic, English, Malay, Indonesian, African, Bosnian, Urdu and more; all expressing their unique love to the prophet *Muhammad* peace be upon him in their own way. These performances were followed by a heartfelt poem delivered by our Community guest in Australia His eminence Sheikh Ghanem Jalloul, whose words about the prophet peace be upon him and his life inspired attendees. This was followed by captivating chants performed by the ICPA chanting band who were joined by the internationally renowned chanter Hajj Muhammad Al Kheir.

The event also included outstanding contributions to the event by the 5th Bankstown Scouts Group and 1st Liverpool Scouts. The concert ended by a closing supplication by his eminence Sheikh Bilal Homaysi followed by the long-awaited opportunity for attendees to seek the blessing of the special and honourable hair of Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him which has been authenticated by some Sultans and scholars.

We ask Allah the Almighty to bestow this occasion again upon all with goodness and improve the situation of the nation of prophet Mohammad peace be upon him.