



Islamic Charity Projects Association

Monday 2nd December 2019

Thousands Attend the Annual Sydney Multicultural Mawlid Concert

Media Release

Under the patronage of Darulfatwa -the Islamic High Council of Australia, Chairman of Darulfatwa – Professor Sheikh Salim Alwan Al Husainyy and led by the Islamic Charity projects association (ICPA) – president of the ICPA Hajj Mohamad Mehio the annual Sydney Multicultural Mawlid Concert was held on Sunday 1st of December 2019 at Sydney Sports Centre, Sydney Olympic Park under the slogan "*Muhammad, success through your guidance*".

The Mawlid concert was attended by a number of Government representatives including the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane MLC: Assistant President to the Parliament House of New South Wales, representing the leader of the opposition in NSW Ms Jodi McKay; Mr Jihad Dib MP: Shadow Minister for Skill and TAFE Shadow Minister for Youth, Shadow Minister for Juvenile Justice, Shadow Minister Assisting on Multiculturalism and Member for Lakemba, Mr Paul Lynch MP: Shadow Attorney General, Ms Lynda Voltz MP: Member for Auburn, Shadow Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism, Shadow Minister for Sport, Ms Julia Finn MP: Shadow Minister for Consumer Protection, Shadow Minister for Carers Member for Granville, Consul Generals including His Excellency Dr Ali Kraishan: Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Jordan, His Excellency Mr Zakaria Ahmad: High Commissioner for Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr Karim Medrek: Ambassador of Morocco; Represented by Consul Mr Ezddin Nafrak, His Excellency Mr. Yasser Abed: The Consul General of Egypt and Mr Mostainbillah Balagh: Embassy of Afghanistan.

Also attending the celebration was a large number of International Islamic delegates including Dr Abdul Aziz Loudini: Representing the Chairman of the World Muslim Communities Council – Abu Dhabi-UAE, Dato Haji Japar bin Haji Mat Dai: Deputy Mufti's of Brunei Darussalam, Dr Norarfan Bin Haji Zaina: President University Islam Sultan Sharif Ali, Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University, Mr Awang Mohamad Raimi bin Awang Tengah: Senior Istinbat

Officer State Mufti's Office of Brunei Darussalam, Dr Aminuddin Muzafar: Deputy of the Religious Minister, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Dr Muhamad Tata Taufik: President Pesantren Al-Ikhlas Kuningan - The Association of Indonesia Pesantren's, Prof. Abdullah Syah (Shah) bin Muhammad: General Chair Majlis Ulama' – Sumatra, Sheikh Musthafa Hameed: Association des Musulmans de Nouvelle-Calédonie, Sheikh Mohamad Arched: Mufti of Hong Kong, Mr Noorudin Yang: President Hong Kong Muslim Association, Mr Muhiyidheen Sha Thekke Purayil: President Fiji Muslim League, Mr Khalifa Mohamed Hasi: Community Leader New Zealand - Christ Church and Mr Mohamed Imam Hassan Mursi from Sri-Lanka, in addition to a number of 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 practice in celebrating the birth of our beloved prophet peace be upon him and the important role Darulfatwa has played over the past two-decades in promoting moderation and peace locally and in the region. His eminence stated “with knowledge we shall fight ignorance, with moderation we shall fight hateful extremism, with the middle stance we shall fortify society, and with mercy we shall confront oppressive violence”. This was followed by a speech from president of the ICPA Hajj Mohamad Mehio who spoke passionately about the physical characteristics of the greatest man that ever lived, his exemplar manners and how Muslims always strive to take him as an example and guide across all eras. He added, Islam is a religion of peace, fairness and justice. Also speaking at the event, the Hon. Mr Jihad Dib MP spoke about the importance of multiculturalism and the Muslim Australian story. He also thanked ICPA and Darulfatwa for its out ‘reach’ to the community, for propagating the true teachings of Islam and its commitment to bringing communities together with kindness and through events such as this Mawlid celebration. The VIP reception concluded with a special award of recognition presented by Chairman of Darulfatwa – Professor Sheikh Salim Alwan Al Husainyy to the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane.

The concert was opened by his eminence Sheikh Ibrahim El-Shafie who welcomed attendees and stated in his inspirational opening speech “The rays of light beamed with the birth of the most righteous, the world was illuminated with his honourable arrival, He is the master of all masters, with an incomparable beauty, Allah granted him the highest, most prestigious rank, he conveyed the truth and goodness that enlightened the hearts and eyes, he came with a glowing guidance that erased the unjust darkness, O Messenger of Allah how your guidance brought light/ the light of the sun is eclipsed by your glow and indeed with the light of truth you were crowned,

Muhammad, you are the moon of moons and your guidance shall never disappear". These heartfelt words were followed by a recitation of the holy Qurān. His Eminence Professor Sheikh Salim Alwan Al Husainyy Chairman of Darulfatwa - the Islamic High Council of Australia also delivered a speech stating: "Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, was characterized by good qualities including honesty, trustworthiness, connecting with kin, chastity, generosity, courage, obedience to Allah in every matter, time, moment and breath. As well, he presented brilliant eloquence, proper advice, kindness, compassion, goodness and offered sympathy for the poor, the orphaned, the widowed and the weak. He was the humblest of people. He loved the poor and participated in their funerals and visited their ill. All this alongside possessing an impeccable reputation, an appealing image and a noble ancestry". His eminence also took the opportunity to address our youth and describing them "as the hope of the future". He urged them to commit themselves to the stand of moderation and a middle stance as this elevates them, protects them from extremist ideologies, and protects our society and country from oppressive violence and hateful terrorism.

The speech was followed by a short play displaying the piety of one of the greatest Muslim figures in history, Sheikh Abdul Qadir al-Jilaniyy. This was followed by a breath taking multicultural performance by the Muslim Kids Club. The role play was followed by spectacular performances in several languages including Arabic – by the ICPA chanting band, English – by the Australian Chanting Group (ACG), Indonesian, African, Bosnian, Urdu and more; all expressing their unique love to the prophet *Muḥammad* peace be upon him in their native languages.

The event also included outstanding contributions to the event by to open and close the Mawlid celebration 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 hairs of Prophet Muḥammad peace be upon him which have been authenticated by some Sultans and scholars.

We thank all the volunteers and communities for their efforts in making this blessed celebration a great success. We ask Allah the Almighty to bestow this occasion again upon all with goodness and improve the situation of the nation of prophet Moḥammad peace be upon him.