



INSIDE PARLIAMENT WITH HON. GANIEF HENDRICKS

Friday | 24 April 2020

AL JAMA-AH RAMADAAN MESSAGE 2020

The Holy month of Ramadaan this year coincides with a terrible pandemic, Covid-19 also known as Coronavirus which have thus far claimed the lives of more than 170 000 people throughout the world. As Muslims we are deeply saddened that this year's Ramadaan and most likely Eid ul Fitr will be much different to what we are accustomed to.

There can also be no joy for not participating in congregational prayers and now also the congregational Taraweeh prayers due to the Lockdown Regulations. We are in a situation which demands us to act responsibly not just towards ourselves, but to the broader society. We are commanded by Allah SWT to seek ways to prevent harm and to protect human life which we are striving to do through all means possible.

This pandemic is not only affecting the congregational prayers and gatherings of Muslims and Islamic practices, but that of other faith-based religions too. We are witnessing a world entering a new era of challenges confronting us from the pandemic. Before Ramadaan we have witnessed the empty spaces at the holy places in Madinah and Makkah, except for the presence of the regular caretakers. All efforts from different corners of the world to fight the pandemic will only contribute to limiting the spread of the virus.

Never have we fathomed a Ramadaan without the mosque, now is the time to once again turn to Allah and appeal to Him to accept our prayers from within our homes, to ease the plight of humanity and to give us our strength to continue caring for each other. We are proud to have witnessed over the past few weeks how South Africans reach out to the poor and needy.

We continue to call on Muslims and the wider community to adhere to the Lockdown Regulations, a time for "flattening the curve" to prevent a surge of critically ill patients which will be too much for our health care institutions to bear. The responsible Muslim who fasts will feel the sense of accountability not only to him- or herself and family, but to our Creator which is indeed a spiritual fulfilment.

To fast is a powerful reminder of the importance of the socio-economic conditions of the poor and how we are responding; it is also a reminder of the oppression, the dispossession of land, exploitation, social ills in our society such as gangsterism, drugs, crime. Allah reminds us of our responsibilities towards the poor, the weak and the oppressed people.

We continue to raise our voices against the zionist atrocities of Palestinians, the Indian regime atrocities against Kashmiris, the Burmese regime atrocities against the Rohingya Muslims, the war on Yemen by Saudi Arabia and against all forms of violence to subdue people in their fight for justice.

Lastly we continue our call to all South Africans to support the lockdown.

We wish All Muslims a Spiritually Uplifting Ramadaan - Ramadaan Kareem

Ganief Hendricks

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