



**PRESS ALERT
NO EMBARGO**

21 February 2023

Adv Sallie and Turkish Ambassador Ayşegül Kanda

On 6th February earthquakes with a magnitude of 7.8 and 7.6 struck Türkiye and Syria. By the 20th of February the death of more than 47000 people were recorded, over 100000 rescued of which many required medical care and with more than a million homeless and displace.

On 20th February Ambassador of Türkiye to South Africa H.E Ayşegül Kandaş, in discussion with national spokesperson of Al Jamaah Adv Shameemah Salie provided and update on the situation in Türkiye.

The Ambassador noted the extreme gratitude of the Turkish people to the people of South Africa, especially to the Muslim communities, organisations and NPOs for their support and for being of the first to respond to the needs of the people of Türkiye

Whilst facing of the biggest catastrophe in the world, Türkiye has been overwhelmed with the support stemming from around the world from rescue teams, to medical facilities and aid, to tents, blankets, clothes, food and other aid provided.

The ambassador highlighted the instability in the region which was facing thousands of aftershocks from the earthquake not withstanding a further earthquake of over 6.4 magnitude faced on the evening of the 20th February

H.E Ayşegül Kandaş, highlighted the needs in the region is ever changing and encouraged sponsors to follow the websites provided by the embassy for up to date information on the needs in the region.

The immediate needs at time of discussion was for portable showers, portable toilets, single mattresses, more winter tents, heaters and generators.

Further to Al Jama-ah previous statement we continue to encourage all to open their hearts and to continue to support and pray for the people of both Türkiye and Syria.

May the Almighty grant ease to the affected regions and its people. Al Jama-ah extends our sincere condolences for the lives lost and prayers to all affected.

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