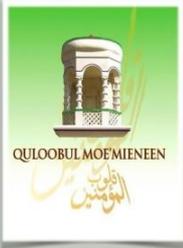


GOODWOOD ISLAMIC SOCIETY



Established 1928
NPO Number: 054631

INCORPORATING:

Quloobul Moe'nieneen Trust
Quloobul Moe'nieneen Masjid
Quloobul Moe'nieneen Burial
Society
Quloobul Moe'nieneen Waqf
Fund
Goodwood Madrassah &
Madrassatul Akhlaaq

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IMAAM

Sheikh Ebrahiem Tofa

CHAIRMAN

Mogamad Safedien

TREASURER

Mohammed Asief Barday

SECRETARY

Whalied Said

Chairman's Report – 20 May 2018 / 4 Ramadaan 1439

In the name of Almighty Allah (SWT), the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate, the All Seeing, the All Hearing, the All Knowing, the Ever Present and the all encompassing. Peace and blessings be upon our illustrious and noble prophet, our leader extraordinaire, exemplary role-model and mercy unto all mankind, *Nabi Muhammad (SAW)* and all those who follow him.

Honourable members, I will surely be failing in my duty if I firstly do not offer our sincere thanks, gratitude and appreciation to Almighty Allah (SWT) for affording us our health, strength, insight, wisdom, tenacity, fortitude, understanding, and especially tolerance to work together as a cohesive team for His humble house with all its sub-structures and activities *Alhamdulillah*. We make sincere dua that one of our longest serving *muttawallees*, Hadjie Amien Bassadien is granted complete *shifa* as he has not been enjoying the best of health during the past year.

Respected *imaamat*, *muttawallees*, *mussallees* and especially our beloved youth, I am once again truly honoured and humbled to deliver the 14th Annual AGM Report on the fourth day of this auspicious month of Ramadaan, *Alhamdulillah*. As the years are ticking by and flying past, it often seems like I delivered this report a week ago and yet I will be touching on so many events and milestones that have been achieved by this wonderful society over the past year.

Even though the current group of *muttawallees* has come to the end of their 3-year term of office, a motion was tabled at last year's AGM, where the election was postponed for the next 3 year period to allow for continuity, especially with the re-assessment of the Radical Building and Infrastructure Redevelopment Project, *In-Sha-Allah*.

I would once again unashamedly and with immense appreciation and humility offer our sincere gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT) for bestowing us with a leader like our honourable Hafith Sheikh Ebrahim Tofa. I don't have enough adjectives and words to describe his visionary leadership and absolute dedication with which he fulfills his heavenly *amaanat* of overseeing our community and steering us through the quagmire of challenges that we face on a daily basis. During the past year we were especially tested on two occasions when our Beloved Sheikh Ebrahiem was not at the *masjid* for an extended period of time. The first one was when Sheikh Ebrahiem was honoured to perform his late father's *Badal Hadj*. Even though we shared in his happiness and gratitude of being able to fulfill this *amaanat* that he took on, we could also see the impact that his absence had on the slow sales of our Mini Food Fair vouchers. The second occasion was when Sheikh Ebrahiem took ill and was hospitalized immediately after our first Mini Food Fair for the year on 1st April 2018. On this occasion Sheikh's absence was severely felt whilst the circumstances made us all reflect on how short our lives are on this *dhunya*. We make sincere *dua* that Almighty Allah (SWT) grants Sheikh Ebrahiem complete *shifa* and that he will be able to lead us in many more years to come *Ameen Thuma Ameen*.



I will also be failing in my duty if I don't express our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Sheikh Dawood Ebrahim for so ably standing in whilst Sheikh Ebrahiem was booked off sick. He even offered up his weekly Sunday trips around the peninsula with his beloved wife Hadja Gadija. On a few occasions we even had Mualim Mansur Bassadien on standby as he juggled his valuable time around the *Imaamat* Course that he is currently busy with and his pajama drill duties.

I will have to pause for a moment and reflect, as we must never ever forget the solid foundation that was laid and the sincere *duas* that were made by our predecessors and especially our previous *imaamat* and *muttawallees* through trying and challenging times, to establish and maintain the light of Islam in this part of the Cape. We beseech Almighty Allah (SWT) to afford them all, the highest abode in *jannah* and that they are raised in the company of our Beloved Nabie Mohammad (SAW) *Ameen Thuma Ameen*.

I wish to place on record our immense thanks and appreciation to all our support staff and voluntary workers who make it an absolute pleasure to serve on this committee. Here I would specifically like to single out Hadji Abdul Nasier Samaai, Boeta Ghaziem Abrahams, Hadji Fardiel Abrahams and Hadja Gayaat Bassadien. I would also like to acknowledge Hadjie Ismaeel Lalla who so willingly stood in for Boeta Nasier when he was on Umrah on in March/April this year. Also to all our *Mualims*, *Mualimas*, *Muathiens*, *Ghufaaths*, *Toeka Mandies (Ghazielas)*, *Tuan Mandies (Ghasiels)*, *Jumuah* Collectors, Sub-Structure Co-Ordinators, Short Courses Presenters, Voluntary Medical and Health Care Professionals, Legal Professionals and Youth Leaders – *Jazaakumullah Khairan*, without you we would not be able to function as this awesome society, *Alghamduliellah*.

We also very sadly bade farewell on Friday, 4th May 2018 during the blessed waqt of *Jumuah* to Auntie Shahiema, the house mother of Love His Children orphanage in Surrey Estate that we have supported and partnered with on all of our functions. May Almighty Allah (SWT) grant her and all *marghousms* the highest abode in *jannah*, *Jannatul Fierdous Ameen Thuma Ameen*.

This is a very special year as we have been catapulted from a downward spiral into the realm of positivity and optimism that has been spreading throughout the length and breadth of our beloved country. Yes, as Muslims we should remain positive even though at times it seems and feels like we are on the precipice of a catastrophic humanitarian disaster. We have generally been standing on the sidelines for far too long, while enjoying the relative comforts of life and not too worried about the living conditions of the greater South African population. We as the *ummah* of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) should hang our heads in shame that we have been unable to capitalize on the wonderful foundation that our illustrious forefathers like Tuan Guru, Sheikh Yusuf of Macassar, Imam Haroon and others have laid. It is by time that we, as the greater Muslim *Ummah* and especially the *muttawallees*, should also step out of our comfort zones and fulfill our *amaanat* with extra fervor and through the best of our ability and expertise, to propagate Islam to the rest of our beautiful country and thereby getting rid of poverty, drugs, gangsterism, ignorance, lawlessness, disrespect, entitlement and ungodliness.

After the AGM last year, we once again had the honour of experiencing a spiritually uplifting Ramadaan which included lectures delivered by our *madrassah* teachers and local guest *ulama*, *iftar* with different orphanages, a SANZAF Zakaah Workshop, a *Qirah* Programme, *itikaaf* and a full *Khatamul Quran* being read for *taraweegh*. Last year I was honoured to spend the second half of Ramadaan in the holy lands of Makkah and Madinah. During this period everything still ran like clockwork with Thikrs, our *Salaatul Lail Programmes* and a very successful *Lailatul Qadr* programme without any rat-packs. We once again collected the highest amount of *fitra* in the Northern Suburbs towards the coffers of the Mubarak Fitra Fund and *Jazaakumullah Khairan* to Boeta Nasier and his helpers who assisted with the dates, beverages and Boeka Treats sales with the profits going towards our Ramadaan expenses.



After Ramadaan we were again honoured with quite a few *mussallees* who received a divine invitation to represent us on Arafaat for Hadj 1438. During this period, we could feel the heightened spirituality descending onto Goodwood as family and friends started to greet their loved ones. What made this Hadj period so significant was the fact that our very own Sheikh Ebrahiem Tofa also performed his father's *Badal Hadj*. On their return we had an avalanche of positive spirituality that engulfed the streets of our suburb while the *masjied* overflowed with families and well wishes.

Our Qurbaan Programme once again worked like a well oiled machine where we slaughtered 143 sheep and 20 rams under the watchful eyes of some SPCA officials. Here we have to thank Boeta Ighsaan Peck and the Peck family for so selfishly giving up their home for this *ibaadat* to run so smoothly. This year we also bid farewell to Dawood, the ram that the Peck family reared since he was born. He was also slaughtered with the other sheep on Eid day and ended up as a good pot of akhni. We are however still a bit worried as we have not yet been able to find a suitable person to shadow Boeta Ighsaan who runs this sub structure with such dedication and passion.

The new Islamic Year 1439 commenced with our Muharram Programme which was addressed by Sheikh Mogammad Yusuf Philander. Sheikh Ebrahiem Tofa used this opportunity as is customary at our *masjied* to announce the theme of the year, which was - Salaah.....long before Mohamed Salaah became the buzz word in the media and the soccer world. Through this theme we launched the *Fajr Salaah Challenge* and *Alghamduliellah* we have seen an increase in the *mussallees* attending the *fajr salaah* with even some youngsters augmenting the *jamaah*.

Alghamduliellah we were once again honoured with three of our sons and three of our daughters of the community who completed the memorization of the Holy Quran with their final lessons being recited in the *masjied*. In Goodwood we are truly blessed and honoured to have siblings that are competing with each other to complete the memorization of the Holy Quran from all ages, ranging from 10 to 19 years old.

First we had Hafitha Aneesa Badroedien, the daughter of Hadjies Al Amien and Nawhal Badroedien, who joined her older brother Hafith Yusuf in completing her hiffs studies. We then had Hafith Luqmaan Tofa, the youngest son of Sheikh Ebrahiem Tofa, who joined his older brothers as honourable hufaaths. What made his *jalsa* so memorable was the fact that he requested to complete his *hiffs* studies with Surah Luqmaan. He was also honoured with the presence of three 90-year-old family members, his grandfather's brother, his maternal great grandmother and his paternal great grandfather's sister.

We then had the *jalsa* ceremony of Hafitha Farida Kriel, the daughter of Hadjies Ghalied and Kaashiefa Kriel, who joins her brother Hafith Yahya in becoming part of this honoured group. Hadjies Naiem and Marwieya Ismail, a stalwart of the ladies *jamaah* was once again honoured when their second daughter Hafitha Rukieya joined her sister Hafitha Ghamaada in completing the memorisation of the Holy Quran at the *masjied*.

On the 11th November we witnessed the *jalsa* of the Ferris brothers, Hafith Mogamad and Hafith Shuaib. Hafith Mogamad matriculated in 2016 with an A aggregate and decided to complete his hiffs before tackling his tertiary education while his younger brother gave up his Grade 11 year to complete his. For their humble efforts they, together with the rest of the family left for Umrah in December. The *amaanat* of being rewarded with an *umrah* for the efforts were accepted by their beloved parents, Hadjies Farid and Najmoenisa Ferris. Through intense *dua* in the *masjied* by their honourable father during *itikaaf* last year Almighty Allah (SWT) granted that this became a reality, *Alghamduliellah Thuma Alghamduliellah*.



Sheikh Ebrahiem has always motivated us to spend money on the development of education and the spirit of this community rather than on the buildings and infra-structure and this has come to fruition through so many of our youth willingly following in the path of the righteous. What an honour to have such youngsters in our community who will be the role models and torch bearers of Islam for the next generation *In-Sha-Allah*.

The Umrah season over the holiday period in December/January saw no less than 56 of our community members performing this holy undertaking. This is an incredible period of spirituality, where the levels were cemented in Ramadaan then it was uplifted during the Hadj season and maintained over the Umrah period. Yes, we are truly blessed and should take advantage of all the opportunities that comes our way to do good deeds and fill our scales for the Day of Atonement.

The official launch of our Wellness Centre last year was undoubtedly the cherry on top of all our initiatives at the *masjied*. We were truly honoured with the presence of the National Minister of Economic Development, Minister Ebrahim Patel, who delivered the key-note address. The National Minister of Health had to withdraw due to last minute commitments and he sent his Chief-of-Staff and Deputy Director for Health to represent him. We also had the President of the Muslim Judicial Council who did the official opening with Minister Ebrahim Patel. This was such a significant event that we were featured on the front pages of the local community newspapers while it was also featured in the Muslim Views and it was mentioned on quite a few radio stations. We would like to place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the Medical, Dental and Allied Healthcare Professionals, the helpers and the sponsors for all their support in cash and kind for making this much needed initiative such a success *Alghamduliellah*.

Not to be outdone by the medical profession, the members of the legal fraternity had their inaugural meeting on 18 March 2018 with 17 attendees and *Alghamduliellah* our Free Legal Advice Centre was launched last week Saturday – 12th May 2018. We are now calling on all other professionals, tradesman, artisans, entrepreneurs, educationists and philanthropists to see how they can avail themselves and their services to add to the avalanche of optimism sweeping our beloved country. In so doing they will surely contribute towards the betterment of the community and society in general where building a better life for all will become a practical implementation rather than just lip service in Goodwood.

We as a committee have decided that the only way to build a better future for our children is to get involved in all platforms, forums and initiatives in our community and the greater South African society at large. In so doing we have joined the Goodwood Residents and Ratepayers Association and through this we have seen the first Muslim chairman being elected. We have once again seen Muslim representation on all surrounding School Governing Bodies with a significant 5 out of 7 Muslim parents being elected at Fairbairn College. The Muslim Students Association at Fairbairn College was also resuscitated and *Alghamduliellah* for the first time in the history of Fairbairn College the head-boy is Muslim. Residents are also starting to fight back and we are seeing more and more Muslims involved with Neighbourhood Watches and the Community Police Forums. A week before Ramadaan, 3 of our committee members were invited to attend the Budget Speech in the National Assembly of the National Minister of Economic Development, the honourable Mr Ebrahim Patel. We are looking at strengthening this relationship, *In-Sha-Allah*. We have to re-look at how all these forums can become fully inclusive while striving to become more effective and efficient in fighting all the scourges in society and building an all inclusive better life for all..

The Goodwood Islamic Society has long started to outgrow its current housing and infrastructure needs and the time has come to re-assess our plans going forward. This has to be taken in conjunction with our rezoning application that was declined and our imminent Building and



Infrastructure Redevelopment Initiative. The honourable secretary will give details with regards to our declined Rezoning Application together with the way forward while we as a committee will debate and workshop the best options going forward taking into cognizance the current needs of the community together with its further growth and expansion trajectory. In looking at the infrastructure and building needs of the community, we have co-opted Hadjie Waseef Allie, a civil engineer who is a partner in a Consulting Engineering Company while Hadjie Yakoob Patel, a building and maintenance professional was co-opted to attend to all building and maintenance matters of the society.

On the building and maintenance front, we have replaced the wooden double door in the ladies jumuah room with an aluminium door, paved the area behind the house at 131 Goodwood Street, provided shaded areas behind the house at 129 Goodwood Street, acquired additional Jo-Jo Water Storage Tanks, upgraded the gutter system to address the leaking problem, replaced globes with LED lighting, installed water restrictors in ablution taps, created an extra toilet for the ladies, converted storage area into an additional men's toilet and provided spray bottles for Friday *wudu* facilities outside. We also conducted a major clean-up in and around the *masjied* precincts and henceforth we will not be accepting any unused household items unless approved by the committee. We have been drilling for water and have gone down 12 meters where water streams were indentified. This was unfortunately not successful so we have commissioned a company to install a borehole on the premises *In-Sha-Allah*.

Our madrassah has seen a spurt in growth over the past year which can be attributed to the downscaling of Moulana Dilhawer Baba of the *Sulaimanie Masjied's* madrassah after he took up the *Imaamat* post at *Masjied Munowara* in Retreat. In December we also witnessed the graduation of 13 matriculants and 11 course attendees while Mualim Mansur vacated his post as Vice Principal due to further Islamic Studies. Sheikh Ghakiem Gasant was appointed as Vice Principal while Mualim Mansur still teaches the matriculants on a Saturday. An additional laptop, an interactive whiteboard and a bulk printer was acquired to facilitate a better learning experience at the madrassah. Excursions and the Entrepreneurs Days are still taking place on a quarterly basis as it has become part of the syllabus. Our *masjied* has also become a bit quieter in the mornings as *Dar Al Tafawwuk Madrassah* re-located to the *Panorama Masjied* where its founder, Moulana Waseem Hendricks is the resident Imaam. This has come as a bit of a blessing in disguise as our infrastructure was stretched to its capacity. Apart from our weekly and Saturday madrassah, we offer Seera and Quranic Tafsier Classes, Arabic Classes, Revert Classes, Hiffs Revision Classes, Short Courses, Monthly Qiyaamul Lail Salaah, Monthly Ghatamul Quran, Thursday Night Thikr, Silat Classes and Housewives Classes.

Activities for the youth and the young at heart includes; hiking, fishing, soccer, rugby, cricket and 5-a-side football. The Traditional Sub-Structure together with the Housewives Forum also has a Luncheon for Aged in the community while they have also initiated Pampering of the Aged. The Beitul Maal Boys are still going strong under the leadership of Uzayr Manuel and Mualim Hafith Nafees Pandey. They have streamlined the monthly grocery drop offs by getting a wholesaler to prepare the food parcels for them while the *qurbaan* meat goes a long way to provide meat for the needy during the year.

Alghamduliellah, the society's Monthly Newsletter Letter was launched in December under the leadership of Rifaat Royepen and Zahrah Schroeder. They have been doing a wonderful job to keep our community informed of what is transpiring at the *masjied* and we would like to call on all community members to access the newsletter through our Facebook Page or via WhatsApp. We will be re-looking at our receivers to make it more easily accessible, affordable and easy to repair. The broadcasting of our Jumuah proceedings and other holy occasions via Mixlr is going well with hits being received from all over the world and especially from residents that are working abroad.



Our Facebook page is becoming more noticeable where we even have the local community newspapers contacting us for more information on activities that they have sourced from it. We are still looking to the youth or even some retired community members to roll out an initiative in order to solicit the contact details of all Muslims in the area together with their skills and expertise so that we can build a database and stay in contact, provide a better service and create a mutually beneficial relationship *In-Sha-Allah*.

We have asked our auditors to run with the application for our Public Benefit Organization Number due to added requirements and the unavailability of our treasury. With this number we will be able to tap into much needed funds that can be directed our way with an added tax incentive. As our economy seems to be taking a turn for the better with the change in leadership we have to re-look at our funding model. The emphasis should be placed on self-sustainability and transparency where the community and donors can see immediately where and what the funds are used for. *Alhamdulillah*, our Mini Food Fairs have been a major success but we will have to consider having it every alternate year at bigger premises to allay the space constraints while giving local traders the opportunity to trade and gain much needed exposure. We will also have to look at alternative means of augmenting the madrassah income as we have not increased Madrassa Fees for the last 5 years. On this note I would sincerely like to thank our community and especially the *mualims* and *mualimas* for always going out of their way to make the Entrepreneurs Days and the Food Fairs a success, even though it seems to be happening more frequently.

Even with the pending rains, the drought is still not a thing of the past, and the ICONS (Imaamat Council of the Northern Suburbs) ran a *Salaatul Iestiesqa* Programme where our very own Sheikh Ebrahiem delivered a powerful English *khutba*. ICONS also ran a Youth Leadership Program that was attended by 10 of our youth at the Roggeland Farm in Paarl.

Our Burial Society is still fulfilling a major need in the community and *Alhamdulillah Mualim* Mansur Bassadien is now recognized as an official Death Registrar. We will have to identify additional prospective Death Registrars who need to write an examination through the Home Affairs Department to lighten the workload of Mualim Mansur. We are also in the process of acquiring a 1-man stretcher to be used in hospitals to collect deceased bodies while the electrical problems of the hearse were sorted out. Here I would once again like to convey our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Hadjie Ganief Ismail, Hadjie Amien Bassadien and especially Mualim Mansur Bassadien for the excellent way in which they run this sub-structure. The accolades never fail to pour in after we have a janaaza in the area. We even receive praise and recognition from the different hospital administrators for the professional and dignified manner in which they conduct themselves.

Even though I have painted a picture of many successes, there will always be challenges and issues in any organization, business or institution. Yes, we have also had our fair share of challenges and one that will be coming up is the replacement of Boeta Nasier, an icon in the community, who has indicated that he will be retiring and leaving us at the end of the year after 17 years of serve, *In-Sha-Allah*. An on-going challenge which also just seems to elude us is the formation of an effective youth structure that can integrate seamlessly with the *Masjied* Committee. This structure should cater for their needs but it should also offer guidance and mentoring along the circle of life in a fun, entertaining and educating way which conforms to the norms and standards of the *shariah*. Another major challenge which hangs over our heads like the sword of Damocles is the *Masjied Umrah* Initiative which took place in December 2016. This has caused lots of frustration and many sleepless nights as we have been sent from pillar to post in trying to resolve this matter. Due to the legal nature of this issue, our Honourable Secretary, Whalied Said, who is an attorney, will expand on it in his report.



One of the very heartfelt compliments which might seem insignificant but goes a long way to build a community is how our *mussallees* queue to greet our *Shuyugh* after every *waqt* on a daily basis. Outsiders will always watch and comment with a sense of astonishment at the brotherhood, camaraderie and love that exists in the community and especially at the *masjied* when they see the queues of *mussallees* waiting to interact and greet each other and the *Shuyugh* on a daily basis. What makes this simple act of respect so significant is that Sheikh Ebrahiem knows everyone by name and more so the youth who mostly attends the madrassah.

Last and definitely not the least, I would like to thank my beloved wife, sons, daughters, son-in-law, family and the community for their unrelenting support in allowing me to serve on this committee. *Shukran Kathier* to the amazing and supportive families of our honourable *imaamat*, administrators and my fellow *muttawallees*, for their on-going sacrifices and understanding they endure so that we can fulfill this noble duty for Almighty Allah (SWT's) sake. Not forgetting our wonderful *mussallees*, the generous and ever supporting business people, the incredible greater Muslim and Non-Muslim communities of Goodwood and its surrounding areas, for their on-going support in allowing us to practice our religion in such an inclusive manner in the northern suburbs, where we can all live together in peace and harmony with the utmost of respect, tolerance, understanding and dignity, *Insha-Allah*.

Jazaakumullah Khairan – Mogamad Safedien