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# AL-RAUDAH

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## MOULOOD EDITION

12 RABI AL AWWAL 1445

PINELANDS MUSLIM ASSOCIATION



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# From the Mimbar

## Welcoming Rabi' al-Awwal

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is dear to our hearts, and rightfully so. There was no one like him, nor will there ever be. He embodied the teachings of Islam, was just and fair to people from all walks of life regardless of their wealth, status or background. He showed mercy to both young and old, was a loving father, husband, friend and neighbour, and the greatest role-model for all of mankind.



*Surely, a Messenger has come unto you from among yourselves; grievous to him is that you should fall into trouble; he is ardently desirous of your welfare; and to the believers he is compassionate, merciful.” (9:128)*

The month of **Rabi' al-Awwal** is the third month of the *Hijri* calendar. Its name literally means “*The first spring*” was introduced during the *pre-Islamic* era, during the life of *Kilab ibn Murrah*, the fifth great grandfather of our **Prophet Muhammad** (SAW). Although it does not hold any sacred virtue, it does in fact provide us with a purpose to ponder,

because of the significant events that unfolded within it.

*“Verily, you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model, for him who fears Allah and the Last Day and who remembers Allah much.” (33:21)*

### The Birth of our Beloved (SAW)

A significant event which occurred in **Rabi' al-Awwal** was the birth of the **Prophet** (SAW). He was born in *Makkah*, on a Monday. When the **Prophet** (SAW) was asked about fasting on Mondays, he replied. *“That is the day on which I was born and the day on which I received Revelation.” (Muslim)*



His father, ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Abd al-Muttalib, died before he was born, and he was handed to the care of a wet nurse (*Umm Ayman*) to be raised in the healthy environment of the desert, as was customary at the time. At the age of five, **the Prophet** (SAW) returned to his mother Aminah. However, a year later, she passed away, leaving him an orphan.

The birth of **the Prophet** (SAW) was marked with several miracles. One of which was when his mother, *Aminah* was pregnant with him, she was conscious of a light. Upon his birth, it shone so bright that it could be seen from the castles of Syria.

*The Prophet (SAW) said, “I am the answer to the prayer of the father of Ibrahim, the glad tidings of ‘Isa concerning me, and the dream that my mother and that the mothers of the Prophets saw. The mother of the Messenger of Allah (SAW) saw, when she gave birth to him, a light which illuminated the palaces of Syria.” (Ahmad)*

The birth of **the Prophet** (SAW) had also been anticipated decades early and mentioned by other Prophets such as **Nabi Isa** (AS).

*“And remember when Isa, the son of Maryam, said, “Oh Children of Israel! I am the messenger of Allah [sent] to you, confirming the Torah (Law) [which came] before me, and giving glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad””. (61:6)*

## **Sending Salawat**

**Rabi’ al-Awwal** can serve as a reminder of the life of our beloved **Prophet** (SAW) and his

sacrifice for his ummah. Although we say we love him (SAW) endlessly, we may not remember him (SAW) as often as we should.

We can use *Rabi’ al Awwal* as a marker to increase the salawat we send onto him, and to reap the benefits that come with it. There are many benefits and rewards when sending salawat to **the Prophet** (SAW). To inspire you to increase in your salawat, we are going to share five benefits of sending salawat upon **the Prophet** (SAW).

### **1. Benefit ten times**

**The Prophet** (SAW) said: *“Whoever sends blessings upon me once, Allah will send blessings upon him tenfold and erase from him ten bad deeds, and will raise him ten degrees in status.” (Nasa’i)*

We are all trying to raise our ranks, and have our sins forgiven – all to please Him. Grab the opportunity to have that done by sending just a single salawat upon **the Prophet** (SAW).

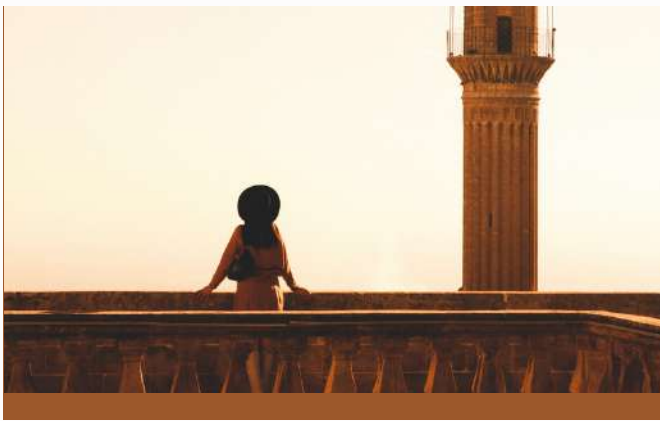
### **2. It will reach the Prophet (SAW)**

Imagine being told that **the Prophet** (SAW) would know that you have sent salaam to him, what an amazing experience that would be! Indeed, one would not need to dream any further, as sending salawat upon **the Prophet** (SAW) will result in angels conveying your salaam.

**The Prophet** (SAW) said: *“Allah has angels who go around on earth, conveying to me the salaam of my ummah.” (Nasa’i)*

**The Prophet** (SAW) said: *“Do not take your houses as graves and do not take my grave as a place of*





*festivity (which you visit repeatedly). Send blessings upon me for your greeting will reach me no matter where you are.” (Abu Dawud)*

Not only does your salaam reach **the Prophet** (SAW) but he (SAW) will return it!

*“Whenever someone greets me (sends salaam), Allah restores my soul to me so that I greet him.” (Ahmad)*

### 3. Closeness to the Prophet (SAW) when it counts most

On the Day like no other, where everyone will be worried about their own fate, concerned whether they have done enough to enter Jannah and to have attained the pleasure of their Lord, there would be no greater comfort than being close to the most beloved of His creation – **the Prophet** (SAW). You can achieve this by sending salawat upon **the Prophet** in this world, and gain the rewards both in this life and the hereafter.

**The Prophet** (SAW) said: *“The closest of people to me on the Day of Resurrection will be those who sent the most blessings upon me.” (Tirmidhi)*

### 4. A means for your dua to be accepted

When you make dua, with the sincerest of hearts, pleading to your Lord for it to be accepted, you would not want to know that your dua is being suspended between heaven and earth. However, this is the case when you do not send salawat upon **the Prophet** (SAW).

*“Dua is suspended between heaven and earth and none of it is taken up until you send blessings upon your Prophet (SAW)” (Tirmidhi)*

### 5. Your needs will be taken care of

The Companions of **the Prophet** (SAW) were eager to learn and know how they should best worship **Allah** (SWT). *Ubayy ibn Ka'b* asked **the Prophet** (SAW), wanting to know how much of his time should be spent in salawat and how much to apportion to dua.

**The Prophet** (SAW) responded: *“Whatever you wish.”*

*Ubayy* said: “One quarter?”

He (SAW) said: *“Whatever you wish, and if you do more, that will be better for you.”*

*Ubayy* said: “One half?”

He (SAW) said: *“Whatever you wish and if you do more, that will be better for you.”*

*Ubayy* continued: “Two thirds?”

**The Prophet** (SAW) replied, *“Whatever you wish and if you do more, that will be better for you.”*

In conclusion, *Ubayy* resolved: *“I will make all of my dua for you.”*

**The Prophet** (SAW) responded: *“Then your concerns will be taken care of and your sins will be forgiven.” (Tirmidhi)*

Sheikh Muhammad Salaam

# MADRASSA REPORT



**Assalamu Alaikum**

**Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh**

As we transition into the final part of the year, it is essential to reflect on the remarkable achievements and growth we have witnessed within *Madrassatur-Raudah*.

Our students continued to excel, demonstrating their commitment to Islamic studies and our dedicated teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure our students receive a well-rounded Islamic education.

## **Muslim Views Quds Quiz**

Alhamdulillah, *Madrassatur-Raudah* participated in the **4th Annual Inter-Madaris Quiz** competition hosted by *Madrasatul-Quds*, which took place on **Saturday 16th September 2023**.

The Grade 4 to Grade 7 students were put into groups and we created three teams from amongst them to enter the competition.

Their achievement is not just a victory in a competition but a testimony to their diligence, perseverance and the knowledge they have gained through their educational journey. Their success inspires not only their fellow students but also the entire community.

To the teachers and parents who were involved in nurturing, guiding, preparing and supporting the participants, may **Allah Almighty** reward them abundantly **Insha-Allah**.

## **Moulood Programme**

The Madrassa will have a moulood programme which will coincide with the last day of the third term. Learners of each class will celebrate moulood by rendering nasheeds, poetry, poster presentations and Ayaat of the *Quran* pertaining to our Beloved **Nabi Muhammad (SAW)** on the 28th, 29th and 30th of September 2023 **Insha-Allah**.



Alhamdulillah, teachers have been preparing the learners throughout the third term. We make dua for a successful **Moulood** programme, **Allahumma Ameen**.

As we approach the next term, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We are committed to continuing our mission of providing quality Islamic education and nurturing young minds.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, supportive parents and enthusiastic students for their unwavering commitment to Madrassatur-Raudah. Together, we can achieve excellence in Islamic education and character development.

**Jazaka-Allah** for your continued support.

**Qari Igsaan Sedick**



Fourth Term 10 October – 13 December	
Date	Event
Thursday, 5 October	Teacher's Day
Tuesday, 10 October	First day of Madrassa fourth term for Weekday learners
Friday, 13 October	First day of Madrassa fourth term for Friday learners
Saturday, 14 October	First day of Madrassa fourth term for Saturday learners
Tuesday, 10 October	Exam papers to be submitted for printing
Weekday, 16 Oct – 02 Nov	End-of-year assessments – Weekday Madrassa
Fridays, 20 Oct – 10 Nov	End-of-year assessments – Friday Madrassa
Saturday, 21 Oct – 11 Nov	End-of-year assessments – Saturday Madrassa
Monday, 13 November	Learner year end reports template to be submitted
Saturday, 25 November	Going into the Qur'an ceremony
Thursday, 30 November	Last day of fourth term of Weekday Madrassa
Friday, 01 December	Last day of fourth term of Friday Madrassa
Saturday, 02 December	Last day of Madrassa fourth term of Saturday Madrassa
Saturday, 02 December	Learner year end reports to be emailed
Saturday, 02 December	Year-end graduation function (subject to Lockdowns)





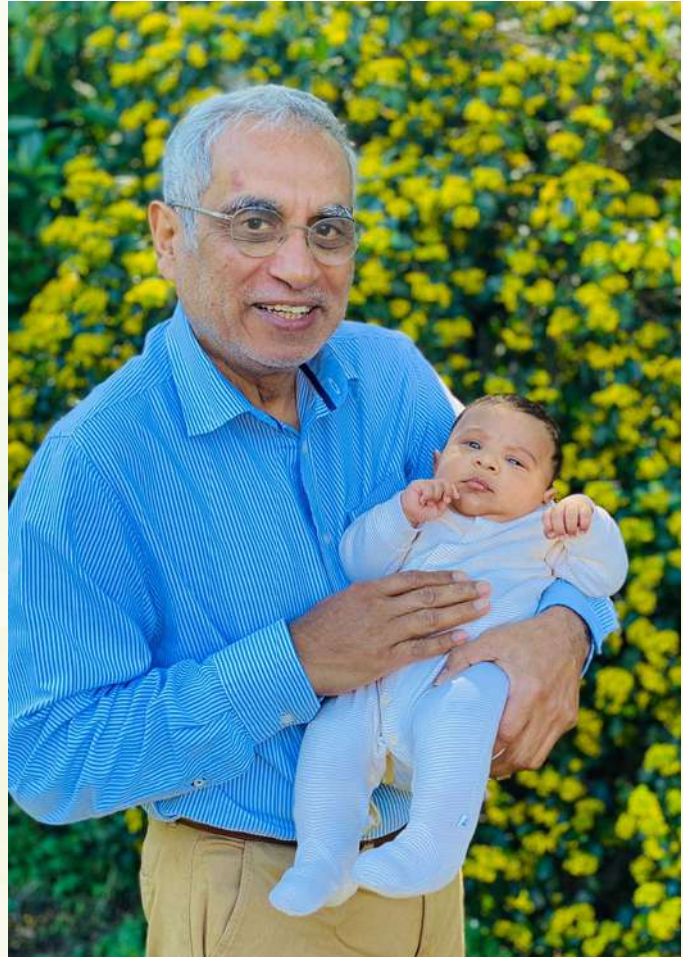
# PMA PERSONALITY

## *Prof. Usuf Chikte*

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Known as either **Professor Chikte** or **Uncle Usuf** to the residents of Pinelands, he is a valued member of the **PMA**, but many know him for his avid activism in the *Palestine* struggle. **Prof. Chikte** obtained a Dentistry degree from the **University of Western Cape** and after that, a Masters from the University of Witwatersrand, another Masters from **University College London**, in the *United Kingdom* and a PhD from **Stellenbosch University**.

He became a lecturer at the **University of Witwatersrand** for ten years before working at the **University of Stellenbosch** for 25 years. There he was the head of the **Department of Community Dentistry**, **Dean of the Dental School**, **Associate Academic Dean in the Faculty of Health Science**, and the **Executive Head of Global Health**. He now serves as an *Emeritus Professor* and at the same time does work in order to better the lives of *South African* citizens in the Health and Education sector. He does so alongside his role as an active member of the **Palestine Solidarity Campaign** in gaining international solidarity with the *Palestinian* struggle. His commitment to make a difference in the local, national, and international community has had influences rooted in a rigid framework of values which every one of us can learn from.

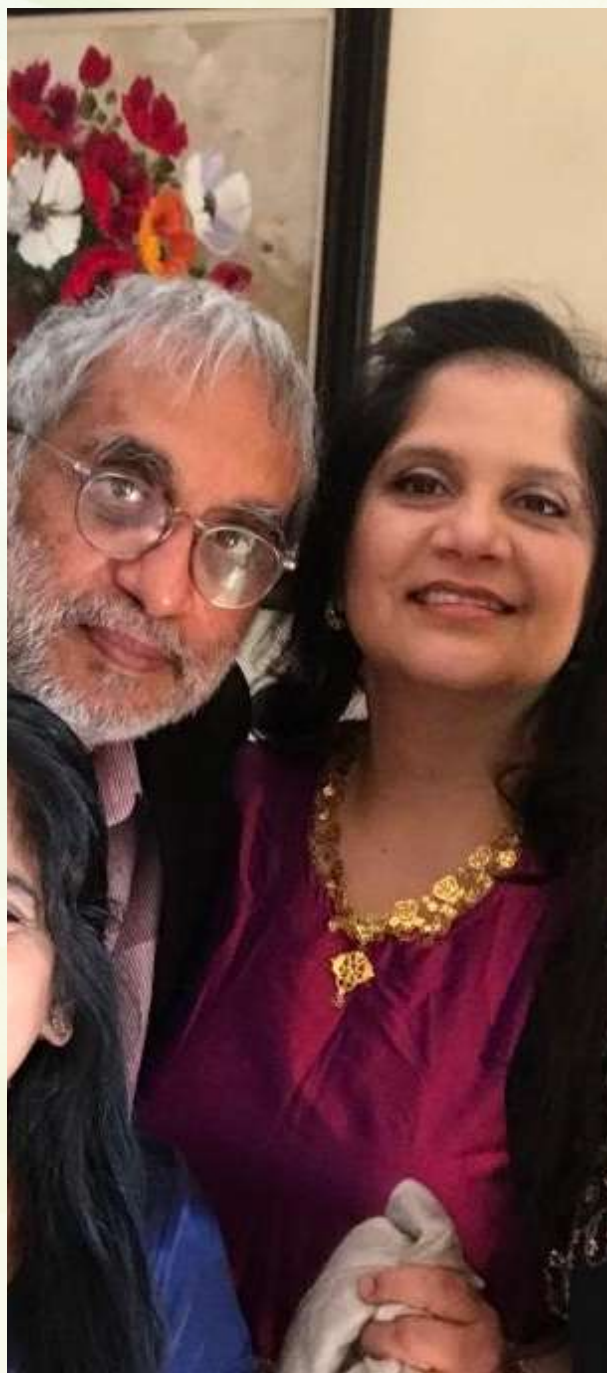


There were many positive influences in Prof. Chikte's life, one of the most prominent being his mother, who is 91 this year. He describes her as having an incredible spirit of curiosity and always reading, be it the Qur'aan or other books in Persian, Urdu, and Marathi. When she moved from India to South Africa, she added to her language arsenal by teaching herself to understand Afrikaans. She prized her children's education and persevered to nurture their religious and cultural values. The other prominent influence was that of his grandmother who was a very brave woman and never afraid to fend off the gangsters in his childhood area of Matroosfontein to protect her family.



He attended a *Moravian Mission Primary School* which was poorly funded and many of the students were from poverty-stricken backgrounds and most dropped out in standard four and five. Yet despite this, there was an incredible sense of camaraderie, care, and love for one another. He matriculated from **Harold Cressy High School** half a century ago, where his teachers made clear the just from the unjust, equality from inequality and freedom from oppression. In the height of *Apartheid*, the result was often their *restriction, segregation, subjugation and suppression*.

**Prof. Chikte** was one of the thousands of youths that campaigned against racial supremacy and oppression and was part of various organisations, one of them being the **Northern Suburbs Cultural Society** where he and other youth discussed politics and pro-liberation literature- often at great peril when censorship and pro-apartheid propaganda was rife. He notes that he was one of the fortunate ones to have been able to survive when most others were unable to pursue their education, curtailing their life chances, their employability and some even paid with their lives due to a cruel and unjust system. However, no matter how suffocating the darkness of oppression was, when the lights of liberty were switched off, **Prof. Chikte** says that there was never despair. The values of endurance, camaraderie, and most of all hope was a flame that always throbbed in the hearts of the individuals who warred against *Apartheid*. He can see the same obstinate hope in *Palestinians* who have been warring against *Apartheid Israel* for nearly a century. Professor makes the important point that our stance on **Palestine** is a litmus test for our commitment to social justice, locally and internationally.



If we stand with **Palestine**, we are against numerous injustices such as ethnic cleansing, *racial supremacy, xenophobia and demolition* of homes. Standing for justice means we must know our values and build them on a solid moral framework. We must act against it, speak out against it and protest against it. **Prof. Chikte** loves to use **Nabi Muhammad's** (SAW) final sermon as a moral compass because of its concise and precise summary of the universal values that Islam teaches.



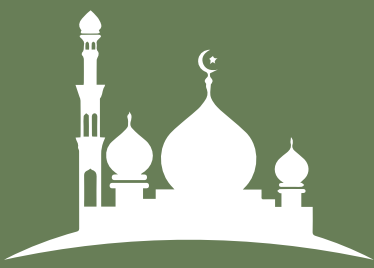
These values include upholding human dignity respecting the sacredness of human life; honouring and respecting the rights of women; combatting economic inequality and calling for the abolition of usury and economic exploitation through redistribution of wealth in the form of zakat; and a call for equality with the injunction that *"An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black, nor a black has any superiority over a white - except by piety and good action."*

As Muslims, we must hold the **Zionists** and other supremacists accountable for their clear desecration of the sanctity of human life. An injustice anywhere fails the objective of justice everywhere. **Prof. Chikte** pointed out a sentence in the sermon that is so simple yet profound even after **1400 years**, *"Hurt no one, so that no one may hurt you."*

May **Allah** grant us understanding and victory to the oppressed.

**Zahra Gamiet**





# MASJID MATTERS



**Alhamdulillah**, we thank **Allah** (SWT) for the many favors **Allah** has bestowed upon us.

**The Masjid** Maintenance is an ongoing process; broken tiles and paving have been replaced. **The PMA** thanks the generous donor for his assistance and makes duah that **Allah** grants him *Barakah* and *Gheir Insha-Allah*. Drivers are requested to drive carefully around **the Masjid** grounds and avoid driving over and into the tiling and paving. We thank our brother who facilitated the repairs, **Alhamdulillah**.

One of our brothers also beautifully covered the benches at **the Masjid**. May **Allah** reward the brother and his family abundantly **Insha-Allah**.

On the 11th of August, the **Al-Raudah Masjid** was honored with the presence of **Mufti Menk** as the **Jumuah Guest**. **Alhamdulillah**, the Masjid was filled to capacity, as many **Musallees** flocked to **the Masjid** to listen to this illustrious Sheikh.

**The PMA** hosted the **Tariqah Tijaniyyah** for a **Mass Wazifa** on two separate Thursday evenings.





This will be an ongoing **Programme** on request by the group and is hosted after the **Esha Waqt**. This is an open invitation to all to attend.

**The Community** is reminded of the number of classes currently being presented at the Masjid. These include *Arabic, Marriage and Quranic Reading classes*. It is amazing how these classes create a bond between the students as we all share common interests and goals in improving our understanding and implementation of our beautiful **Deen**.

A very successful **AGM** was held on the **17th September 2023** and details of the outcomes of the **AGM** were shared on various platforms. May **Allah (SWT)** always guide our **Committee Members** in the service of **Allah** and the greater Community **Insha-Allah**.

The regular Thursday night **Thikr** will commence immediately after the **Maghrib Salaah** until further notice. All other programmes will be posted on the official chat and everyone is encouraged to attend **Insha-Allah**.

Shamiel Fataar





Many people have the idea that only sweet things can cause cavities and that brushing after eating these sweet things will help to reduce the risk of developing a cavity. This is not the case.

### What other foods and drinks can cause cavities?

With water being the exception, everything else can lead to cavities.

### What is meant by everything?

Everything includes food, coffee, tea, juice, yoghurt, cake, fruit, spreads, energy drinks, vitamins and more.

### How does this happen?

When food and sugary drinks are broken down, they are changed into acids. The bacteria in the mouth feed on acid, making the tooth weak as bacteria will feed on that surface of the tooth on which the food sticks onto and therefore increases the risk of developing cavities.





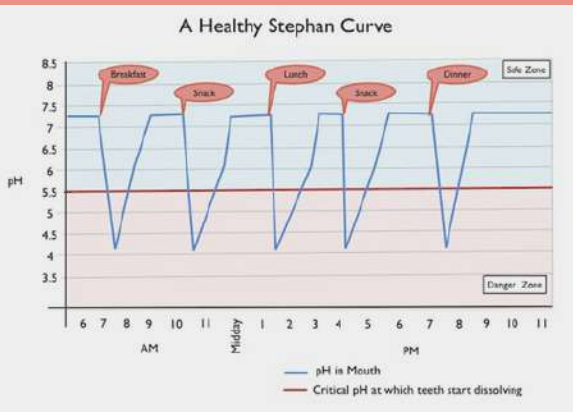
### Is there a safe way to eat without the high risk of developing cavities?

Yes, as long as the pH level in the mouth is neutralized and not kept at the acidic level for an entire day, you can still enjoy your food or snack.





## How can I make sure the pH level in the mouth is kept neutral?



- Make sure to drink or rinse with water after consuming food, snack or sugary drink.
- Drink lots of water
- Choose a time for snacks and drink water after the snack (instead of snacking the entire day)
- Include saliva stimulants such as cheese in diet or sugar free gum
- Consume sides with high water content such as cucumber with your food

## Why is it important not to snack throughout the day?

Each time food or sugary drink is consumed, the pH in the mouth drops to an acidic level. The longer it is maintained at the acidic level the longer the bacteria feeds on the tooth surface thereby causing decay.

## Can I brush after eating or drinking?

No. This is not a good time to brush as the bacteria changes the food into acids. This then means you will be brushing the acid into the teeth which could cause cavities and tooth erosion. It is better to rinse with water or drinking water after eating.

## When is the best time to brush after eating food or drinking?

30 minutes after eating or drinking is the best time to brush your teeth.

## When is the best time to brush in the morning?

In the morning there are lots of bacteria present in the mouth therefore it will be best to brush teeth after waking up, before having breakfast. Wait 20 minutes after brushing to have breakfast.

**Prevention is always better than cure.**

Dr. Aaminah Sedick







# SOCIAL OUTREACH

**RAMPIES SNY  
SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**

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Assalaamualaikum Pinelanders,

By the Mercy and Blessings of Al Wadūd (the Most Loving), **Sunday 24 September 2023**, marked the 3rd revival of a sacred Malay tradition of cutting Rampies - 'Rampies Sny' at the Al Rauda Masjid. It also coincided with **Heritage Day**, by which we were able to timeously give expression to one of our beautiful customs of commemorating the birth of the Noble Prophet ﷺ.

The wafts of freshly cut lemon leaves infused with aromatic oils permeated the air, as women, young and old, clad in traditional white, sat huddled over little chopping boards, cutting lemon leaves while reciting 'riwaayat', (Arabic poetry), honouring the Noble Prophet ﷺ. The ritual was sealed in a process called 'Oeker' where all the cut leaves were oiled, placed in a basket and smoked with **Myang** and **Lubaan** (Myrrh and Frankincense) over hot coals to infuse the

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delightful aromas. Throughout the process, *Salawaat*, *Salutations*, and *Arabic poetry* was melodiously recited. The leaves were finally filled into little sachets to be gifted to the men during the **Moulood celebrations**. Traditionally, the young boys would distribute the rampies to the men in the masjid and Rose water would also be sprinkled in the hands and fezzes of the congregants.

Muslims in various parts of the world celebrate the 12th day of the Islamic month, **Rabi Ul-Awal**, the birth of the **Noble Prophet** ﷺ in different ways. “**Rampies Sny**” is a hallowed cultural tradition of honouring his ﷺ birth in this unique way and has been passed onto us by our **Indonesian** and **Malaysian ancestors**, who arrived in the **Cape** with **Dutch** colonisers from the **mid-1600s**. The word “**rampies**” is believed to be derived from the Malaya term **rampai**, which means to blend a variety of flowers and fragrant leaves. ‘**Rampies sny**’ is both *Malay and Afrikaans*, which is a clear indication of the cultural Cape heritage where language and culture have come together. Malaysians more specifically refer to ‘rampies sny’ as ‘bunga rampai’. The latter involves the fine slicing of flowers and leaves and mixing it together to create a fragrant potpourri.

This soulful and blessed tradition which ignites the gift of our senses, enriches our souls and strengthens our communal spirit, as we honour and remember our Divinely ordained intercessor in the blessed month of his ﷺ birth, must be kept alive. We are thankful to the senior ladies Jama’ that have been leading us over the past 3 years. They willingly give us their time and expertise but also nudge the next generation to learn the process and to keep the tradition alive.





We also had our own **PMA Rampies Kits** this year, thanks to very kind ladies in our community who on short notice, sourced and put together a very professional ensemble that we could sell to augment the funds for the Masjid. We hope to continue this in coming years **In Sha Allāh**. Keep your lemon trees well-tended in time for **Moulood 1446** (2024)! May **Allāh** ﷻ grant us a continuation of our traditional **Moulood-un-Nabi** commemorations and allow us to keep it alive through the generations which succeed us.

If there is anyone in the community that is keen to give a class or recommend someone who could teach us the **Moulood-un-Nabi Rampies** riwaayat and process, would you kindly contact **Radia @ 0845131643**

**Radia Razack**







# Local News

## Community Update



### 1 Nikaahs

*Sheikh and the Exco wish the following couple a life of bliss and endless love and may all their troubles be little ones!*

- **Qiyaam Munnik and Thaaniyah Gydien**  
(31st August 2023)

**Should you wish to *contribute* articles towards this newsletter, kindly contact the Editor at: [muztol@yahoo.com](mailto:muztol@yahoo.com)**

### Ahlan wa Sahlan Marghaban to...

- Zunaid Kalla and wife Aamena
- Thaabet Jassiem
- Mohamed Dalvie
- Muhammad Zahid
- Boeta Ganief Davids
- Rashied Roomaney

*We pray that your stay here in the Garden City will a long, safe, happy and productive one! IA.*

### 2 New Residents



### 3 Shahadah



#### Ash-hadu Allaa Ilaaha Illallaa...

The PMA bids **Justin Snelling** a warm welcome into the fold of Islam.

Sheikh Muhammad oversaw the reversion on **Saturday (9th September)**. We make **duah** and we pray that **the Almighty** grant him **stead-fastness** in **the Deen** and **increases** him exponentially in **Taqwa & Eman** in the coming years .....**Insha-Allah Ameen**

## CONTACT DETAILS

Website : [www.thepma.org.za](http://www.thepma.org.za),

Bank Accounts for your Donations:

**Masjid Account : ABSA 4053 244 649**

**Social Outreach : ABSA 4103 688 218**

Masjid Bookings : Shuaib @ 083 567 7944

Caretaker : Ahmad @ 063 416 7890

Sheikh Muhammad Salaam @ 079144 0495

To join PMA Al Rauda Official **whatsapp group** : 065 208 9803







# GALLERY

## PICTURES OF THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION





# GALLERY

Pictures of Madrasah students preparing for Moulood







# GALLERY

Rampies-Sny









