



19 May 2020

Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
Port Louis.

Re: Grant 2 hours for the Eid Congregational Prayer- A peak time of Divine blessings to pray for whole Mauritius.

Dear Hon. Prime Minister,

The Sunniy 'Ulamâ & Aïmmah Council as usual prays for the welfare of the whole communities in Mauritius. The Eid-ul-Fitr prayer has historically proven to uproot horrible seen and unseen calamities from this world since decades. This Ramadhan we had been confined in homes praying and fasting but now at this point of time with zero case of corona virus detected, it's not appropriate to deprive the Muslims from this golden spiritual moments to pray for a safe Mauritius. Unlike other individual prayers, Eid prayer is different and demand a powerful strong congregation to capitalise the unique Divine blessings that are revealed at a specific day and time on a united congregation for the sake of Eid prayer, its really exceptional countless moments when Almighty Allah accepts the congregational prayers and invocations of the poor, needy, young, elders, and pious Muslims all gathered under one peaceful platform. Our Master Prophet Muhammad Peace be upon him, has urged every Muslim to fruitfully benefit from the Eid gathering to pray endlessly and selflessly since it's the time that every decent plea are granted the full power of acceptance. In this regard, on behalf of the Muslim community, appealing to your kind sense of hearing and caring for the whole socio- economic growth and sanitary security of our country, **we humbly request you (for the one and only public holiday we are entitled) to grant 2 hours access to all Muslims in their respective Masjids in order to accomplish the Eid prayer with all sanitary norms duly observed.**

We also wish to present you the following facts and figures with some measures to be undertaken that you may consider with regards to the current situation for the Muslim Community in Mauritius due to COVID-19.

1. Since the start of the lockdown situation in Mauritius, the whole Muslim Community has provided full support to the Government in order for the national confinement order be respected by all;
2. As you are aware, Mosques around the Island has remained closed since the first day of lockdown till despite the fact the it was a religious obligation for us to perform our daily prayers in the mosque;
3. Friday congregational prayers have also been cancelled in order to curtail the propagation of the disease in the Island;

4. Within this lockdown situation, the whole Muslim Community has sacrificed three great nights in the Islamic Calendar, namely 'Mi'raaj Shareef', 'Shab-E-Bara'ah' and 'Lailat-UI-Qadr' in this holy month of Ramadhan;
5. Over and above all, the whole community has abide by the decision of the Government to 'Stay at home' although the month of Ramadhan has been observed with very much difficulties at home;

We have noted that since 15th May 2020, the partial lockdown has been effective and people are being granted Work Access Permit to move around the Island freely while respecting the sanitary curfew order. For more than 20 days now, we have not had any new cases of COVID-19 in Mauritius, and we hope that we continue on the same trend.

Supermarkets, shops, Busses and other businesses have re-opened their doors and people have started moving again.

With this in mind and based on the facts above, we are hereby making an appeal to you to grant us the permission for the day of EID to have access to the Mosque for **ONLY 2 HOURS (from 06 00hr to 08 00hr)** for the exceptional **EID PRAYER**. We have sacrificed a lot as mentioned above but would humbly request that we at least be granted the 2 hours for the EID PRAYER, which symbolizes the reward for a full month of fasting.

We do recognize that the risk for a new wave of contamination is a real threat for all of us. Hence, we are also prepared to apply the following sanitary measures and people will be granted access to the mosque **ONLY AND ONLY** subject to strict observance of these measures:

- Temperature checks before entering the mosque;
- Use of sanitizers at the doors of the mosque;
- Compulsory wearing of mask;
- Each individual to bring his own prayer-mat;
- To observe 1 meter distance between each individual for the prayer and no handshakes after the prayers
- Use of disposable tissue papers for each individual; and
- Reduced the prayer duration to fit within the 2 hours permission, if granted.

We are ready to corporate with the Government and very flexible to any other measures that need to be observed.

We are therefore appealing to you to consider granting us the permission and look forward to have a positive response from you soon.

We remain at your disposal should you require any further information on the above.

Yours faithfully,

Maulana Shamim Khodadin
(President)

Tel :- 5 914 10 37

Copy :- Hon. Anwar Husnoo, Hon. F.Daureeawoo, Hon. Ismail Rawoo, Hon. Najurally