

# **CHAIRMANS REVIEW 2021-2022**

Shiraz Gany      25 June 2022 | 25 Dhul-Qi'dah 1443

Alhamdulillah rabbi Aalameen/ wassalaatu wassalaamu alaa ashrafil mursaleen / sayyidina muhammadow wa alalihi wa as haa bi hi ajmaeen. All praise and thanks is due to Allah, and Peace and Salutations on our Beloved Leader and master Muhammad (SAW), his progeny and companions.

Honorable Brothers, Sisters, Mutawallees, Management Board, Awqaf Ambassadors and stakeholders

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

We extend a very warm thank you to the community at large, the Founders, Patrons, fellow trustees, the CEO, and the board of management and all Awqaf Ambassadors for their unwavering support during the last 21 years and especially the last year.

Our CEO Zeinoul Cajee will update us on all the activities during the reporting period and our treasurer will present audited accounts for the year ending 28th Feb 2021 and 28 Feb 2022 financial accounts.

It is significant to note that the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa (Awqaf SA™) was pioneered in the Year 2000 as an independent, community-based and owned trust dedicated to the establishment of the institution of Waqf (Community Sovereign Endowment Fund) and the empowerment of lesser privileged communities.

Awqaf SA in its 21<sup>st</sup> year has emerged as the leading charitable endowment (Waqf) institution in Southern Africa that invests community donated funds and spends the income generated from investments to fund a variety of community development projects.

The years 2020 – 2021 during the stringent global pandemic has put immense pressure on communities across South Africa with many needy households crippled by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 lockdown. During these unprecedented times, we assisted the nation in overcoming this challenge through our ongoing community development projects.

The Waqf system has proven to act as a shock absorber and sustainability fund that acted to protect our communities, albeit on a small scale, from the economic stresses. A significant value is that the waqf platform transcends any single organisation as we seen the Share the Care campaign which was initiated and supported by various South African Muslims organisations to implement a host of social intervention programmes to co-ordinate a coherent Muslim community response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the looting in KZN and the recent floods.

The Waqf system is long term and has a constant presence, that brings together professionals, business people, experts, community activists and volunteers across the country that contribute by continuously:

- assist in building awareness of the system of Waqf and its benefits for both the donors on a perpetual basis and the recipients of the fruits from the investment tree, with those that are in their circles of influence.
- assist to fundraise for projects and guide donors to invest into Waqf Funds for their ongoing reward from their Almighty Creator.

- assist selflessly in introducing safe lucrative income investment opportunities for the Waqf Funds which ultimately serves to benefit mankind for the donors perpetual rewards, and
- and most importantly that gift their valuable time to assist in all aspects of the waqf system, whether to assist in administration, finance, and/or are on the ground to help operationally to implement the in-house community projects as well as those the AwqafSA support through other organisations to positively impact communities across the country

## 2. MILESTONES

### 2.1. National Relationships

- AwqafSA has established relationships and MOU's with over 100 organisations and collaborative initiatives like Share the Care, MealSA and Muslims for Humanity that serve to coordinate do collaborative projects from time to time.

### 2.2. Multinational Relations

Over the 21-year existence, Awqaf SA has nurtured and developed a hoist of Multinational organizations both in the Waqf Sector and in Humanitarian advocacy.

Awqaf SA has also been central in the promotion and establishment of Waqf institutions in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, Uganda, Nigeria to name a few.

We have also been active in developing stronger relations with other Awqaf institutions across the Muslim world including Dubai, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Indonesia and many others.

Some of our more collaborations include Kizilay - Turkish Red Crescent, Global Awqaf Forums, Diyanet, Yusuf Islam Foundation and the Peace Train Initiative, World Memon Organisation (WMO), Research Centre For Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF), Islamic Development Bank / Islamic Research and Training Institute (IDB/ IRTI) • Denis Feneri • IHH Turkey • Maarif Foundation

## 3. WAQF AND INVESTMENTS

Alhamdulillah we have invested a substantial proportion of our funds into income generating property to give a constant flow of resources to fund our downstream projects. Although the last three years has seen a decline in income generated due to the negative economic impact of the pandemic AwqafSA is confident that the impact would be overcome.

The recent years pandemic as well looting and damage to properties in KZN has seen a decline temporary in one of AwqafSA investment, the IMBALI PROPS (PTY) LTD BRIDGE CITY until the commercial property was rehabilitated.

We have reviewed its portfolio of income generating assets to decide whether to continue with the investment or to sell the investment to gain better use of the funds in the longer term for public benefit.

Some of the current non-income generating properties that have been donated into the AwqafSA property bank are being converted to establish localised places for community benefit and are included in the CEO report.

However to mention an example of potential to turnaround assets, shares in a property company comprising 2 warehouse property was donated to AwqafSA, located on the boarder of Marlboro/

Alexandra which was considered toxic but is now being considered for a skills development and dawah centre, while also to be used as a warehouse for humanitarian aid.

#### 4. DESIGNATED WAQF FUNDS

Several Designated Waqf Funds are now under the management of Awqaf SA. These funds were established to support donor directed intentions through the income generated from the investments into the specific funds which are invested into AwqafSA's pool of investment unless the donation is a ringfenced investment linked specifically to the Waqf Fund. A full comprehensive list is available from the office.

#### 5. DESIGNATED WAQF ASSETS

Several Designated Waqf ASSETS are now under the management of Awqaf SA. These assets were established to support donor directed intentions through the use generated from the assets for the specific use of community projects, like the Parktown property established as a waqf to support the ASRI NPC Future Leaders Program and the domestic public policy think tank initiatives.

A full comprehensive list is available from the office.

#### 6. AWQAF SA PROJECTS

As part of our strategic vision Awqaf SA focusses on 5 Key Areas of project deliverables. These include:

FOCUS AREA 1: SOCIAL COHESION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS AREA 2: HEALTH CARE & ENVIRONMENT

FOCUS AREA 3: WAQF DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS AREA 4: EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS AREA 5: INVESTMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The CEO report outlines the total spend on downstream projects, both from Waqf income and from donor directed fund raising for the projects

#### 7. FUND RAISING

Alhamdulillah WAQF funds have now crossed R100M. This has allowed us to extend the depth and breadth of our work. Alhamdulillah we have seen excellent growth in our designated WAQFS,

We have focused on promoting the concept of gifting a waqf as a means of bringing personalised awareness and introducing the concept and benefits of contributing to Waqf in whatever way individuals have the ability.

Inshallah we hope to continue and accelerate the growth through the "GIFT WAQF SCHEME" to grow our cumulative fund to R200m in the next 3 years, Insha Allah.

To reach this we would need to make it easy for each of our community members, whether individually or as a family in South Africa to contribute either monthly as a habit or during specific fundraising campaigns. We encourage participation no matter what the value is as we believe firmly that inclusion

through participation inculcates the habit of investing into our ongoing rewards with our Creator, Allah, the Glorious and Exalted.

We are currently mining our database of 21 years to ensure constant connectivity with our donors in the areas of their passion for supporting the waqf funds and projects.

We are placing high emphasis on this for the next 2 years

## 8. SUCCESSION PLANNING

Past and existing trustees / executives who have served AwqafSA after being introduced to the Waqf system are rarely lost, and instead remain as patrons and mentors for life to those willing to serve at AwqafSA.

We are mindful of our commitment at inception to include credible and qualified professional persons with the proven competencies and knowledge into all our structures of executives and trustees to make the establishment wholistic and inclusive and representative of the demographics of the country.

These include having professionals in the deen, finance, law, education and business persons who are bound by the code of conduct, ethics, and operational policies of AWQAF SA and have the passion to use the platform to benefit the communities of South Africa through fulfilling the obligations of the Waqfs established.

AwqafSA is embracing effective methods to develop our future leaders as part of our succession planning programme to provide the necessary induction and training to those that want to serve the establishment for the benefit of the community.

This entails establishing an executive team for the different waqf funds, comprising of individuals with the ability to fundraise, implement and those with the knowledge base and passion for the different Waqf focus areas. The mentors within AwqafSA will support the teams with guidance and experience to build a strong Waqf fund and project team.

The intention is to have the focused teams driving the success of their entrusted portfolio by:

- Building up of the waqf funds for the Awqaf investment team to invest to generate optimum return on it for the specific Waqf to fulfil its obligation it was created for
- Establishing collaborative relationships with community and organisations focused on projects meeting the criteria for which the Waqf Funds were created so that AwqafSA can support the initiatives of these organisations or community based initiatives directly where Awqaf has a unique inhouse project fulfilling the obligations of the Waqf Fund
- Marketing and fundraising for projects supported by the teams of the specific Waqf Fund where the waqf fund income is insufficient to fulfil the complete financial, administrative and operational commitment to complete the project successfully.
- Coordinating and implementing operational activities on the project to ensure the projects supported are completed efficiently for maximum impact, while optimising contributions and participation from community networks to reduce costs

## 9. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

We place high on our agenda the need to implement a system of world best practices in both Corporate Governance and donor relations management. These areas will become High priority implementation goals over the next few months.

We take this opportunity to thank all the Ulama, Founders, Patrons, Fellow Trustees, our CEO and Board of Management, Awqaf SA Ambassadors and the community at large for their continued support in making Awqaf SA a leading player in sustainable projects in South Africa.

We pray to Allah to grant us the patience and perseverance to strive for good. Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ said "Creation is like God's family and the most beloved of God is the person who does the best for his family". Let us reaffirm our commitment to this noble objective and through our actions bring dignity and hope to our communities. May Allah grant us Barakah in all our endeavours, "...Verily Man is at a loss, we ask Allah to forgive us for any unintended errors and guide us in our future efforts.

Shiraz Gany

Chairman: Council of Mutawallee