

**FIJI MUSLIM LEAGUE- MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
15th JULY 2012**

AT LAUTOKA MUSLIM PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 11.30 AM

ATTENDANCE:

Speaker:

Br Azmat Khan

Office Bearers:

Brs Hafizud Dean Khan, Mohammed Taabish Akbar, Nisar Ahmed Ali, Abdul Qayyum Khan, Basheer Ahmad, Haroon Hakim, Saiyad Hussein, Nisar Ali Shah, Dr Riyaz Ud Dean, Mohammed Naushad Shariff, Riaz Sahib.

Legal Advisor:

Apology

Working Committee Members:

Brs Abdul Jabbar.

Branches: The Delegates from the following branches were present:

Ba, Nadi, Nasinu, Lautoka, Valelevu, Sabeto, Suva, Tavua, Maro, Varavu, Rewa, Cuvu, Makoi, Sigatoka, Drasa, Rakiraki. Rarawai.

Absent: Navua, Lodonu, Korolevu, Bemana, Maigania.

Subsidiary Organisations:

FMWL- Apology

FMYM- Mohammed Ayyaz Khan

FMSA- Saiyad Hussain.

Principals/Head Teachers:

Sr Shabinah N. Ali, Viren Sharma, Mohammed Akhtar Ali, Imtiaz Ali, Mohammed Taiyas Hussain, Intaz Mohammed, Master Janak.

Pesh Imams & Alims:

Brs Hafiz Musa Patel, Molvi Mohammed Fahim, Mufti Shaizad.

Life Members:

Haji Mohammed Razak Akbar

Secretariat Staff:

Mohammed Sahadat, Mohammed Shamim Ali.

Apologies:

Brs. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya (LA), Treasurer Maro branch, Principal Nasinu Muslim College, Masued Mohammed, Mohammed Khateeb, Treasurer Rewa Branch, President Rakiraki Branch.

1.0 Chairman: Br Azmat Khan- The Speaker of FML.

2.0 Qur'an Tilawat: By Hafiz Musa Patel

3.0 Notice Convening Meeting: The General Secretary informed that the notice for the Council meeting was advertised on **14th April**, 2012 in the Fiji Times. The President of the Lautoka Branch moved that the notice convening meeting was in order and it was seconded by the President of the Nadi Branch.

4.0 Speaker: The Speaker noted the presence of Branch delegates, subsidiaries, Principals, Head Teachers, Alims, and invited guests. The Speaker noted that Lautoka Branch has been very accommodative in hosting both the Working Committee and the Council meeting. He thanked the committee for all the preparations.

5.0 Welcome address by the Speaker: The Speaker expressed his thanks and gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT), for giving all present, the opportunity to be present at the meeting and to deliberate in order to bring about efficiency at branch level so that the officials could serve their members in their respective districts with diligence, sincerity and dedication. He invited the President of Lautoka Branch to address Council.

- 6.0 President-Lautoka Branch:** Br Ali Sahib thanked all for coming to this Council meeting and wished them fruitful discussions during the meeting. On behalf of Lautoka Branch and the school community of Lautoka Muslim Primary School, he thanked Fiji Muslim League, especially Br Hifazul Gani and Taabish Akbar for the roles they played in designing, supervising and providing consultancy works, totally free of charge, to see this magnificent building become a reality and thus a landmark of the sugar city. He informed on the upcoming open day of Lautoka Muslim College on 19th July and the success of capsicum farming at Wairebetia Primary School. He thanked the National President for holding the meeting at LMPS.
- 7.0 Speaker:** Br Azmat Khan in thanking the President of Lautoka branch, requested the National President to address all the branch delegates.
- 8.0 National President:** Br Hafizud Dean Khan accorded a special welcome to former FML Senior Vice President and life member of FML. He spoke very highly of Haji Razak Akbar and thanked him for his contributions to FML and the Muslim community at large. The National President briefly highlighted the following developments and achievements:
- 8.1 Lautoka Muslim Primary School:** FML had decided to bring together three events at LMPS to celebrate a great achievement. The FML-Working Committee followed by Council and then on Monday (16/7/12) the official opening of the LMPS buildings by the Prime Minister, Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama at 12 pm. He commented on the wonderful buildings with beautiful architecture and design, a new landmark of Lautoka City. He noted that hundreds of students have graduated from this institution since its establishment and have excelled in their life, paying tribute to their teachers and managements for all they have done for them. He paid special tribute to the sacrifice and donation made by Haji Abdul Wahab and Sunbeam Transport, who demonstrated his ultimate commitment and love for this institution by accommodating the school children by allowing them to use his entire building as temporary classrooms until 2011 when building A got completed. He asked the members of FML to pray for him and his family for their sacrifices and prayed to Allah (SWT) to shower his choicest blessings and reward him in abundance. He noted with deep appreciation the Government grant of \$200,000 for the redevelopment this school. He thanked the Prime Minister and his team for his quick response in making such a huge commitment. He also thanked the Islamic Development Bank for giving a grant of US\$250,000 for this redevelopment work. Alhamdulillah, it was a great relief that boosted our strength and strengthened our will to start the project. He projected that by the time we finish the whole project, with fencing, etc. it will cost about \$900,000. He reminded and made a genuine plea to the Lautoka Muslim community to maintain this magnificent building in its present stature and form for it has taken a lot of time and effort to materialize this dream that was shattered on the fateful night in November, 2009. He informed the members that the commercial project will be done at a later stage. He acknowledged and thanked Haji Hifazul Gani Akhtar, for his free of charge consultancy works and for the architectural works. He noted the huge sacrifice by this brother who left aside his business to see the completion of these buildings. Br Hafizud Dean Khan prayed for him and his family for this commitment and prayed for Allah (SWT) choicest blessings for him and rewards here and in the hereafter. The National President appreciated the weekly sacrifices by Br Mohammed Taabish Akbar, the General Secretary of FML, for his supervisory capabilities the result of which is plain to see. He asked Almighty Allah (SWT) to bless Br Taabish and reward him in abundance for his untiring efforts he had displayed. The National President noted that the contractor EPC has done this job at a very special rate and despite his loss, he completed the job magnificently. It was now in the hands of Lautoka branch to manage and run the school.

- 8.2 Official Opening:** The National President invited all to the official opening of LMPS on Monday 16th July, 2012 between 12 and 1 pm by Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama.
- 8.3 Tri Nation Meeting:** This meeting (7/7/12) was held in Sydney where Executive members of AFIC, FIANZ and FML met together to map out Da'wah strategies and propagation of Islam in the South Pacific countries and to discuss other common matters of concern like Halal issues and funding. AFIC committed AUD\$60,000 and FIANZ committed NZ\$10,000 annually towards the Da'wah in the Pacific.
- 8.4 IDB Projects:** Two more projects have been approved by IDB that has to be started as soon as possible. A sum of US\$150,000 has been granted for the Makoi Women's Vocational Centre. An Architect has been hired for the consultancy works as per the requirements of IDB. Another grant of US\$100, 000 has been approved for the Flood Rehabilitation works in the Western Division for the FML institutions and areas that were severely plagued by this disaster in January and in March 2012. Since much of the relief work has been done with the assistance of donors from Canada, America, New Zealand & Australia, efforts will be made in liaison with IDB to divert this sum to the relocation of Fatima Girls Hostel from Ba to Nabua, Suva beside the IISP boys Hostel, utilizing the two existing buildings that were used by the old IISP.
- 8.4 FGH relocation:** The relocation of this hostel from Ba to Suva will need a sum of \$400,000 to renovate the existing buildings into dormitory, quarters, library, Salaat room, kitchen, study room, office and classrooms. The security aspects have to be looked at with high raised fence, full time securities and wardens, cooks and care takers. It is anticipated that the works be done before the new school year begins in 2013, Insha Allah.
- 8.5 Old FGH:** The National President informed that the old FGH will be either used to rent out commercially to substantiate the school income, or utilized for the relocation of classes 7 & 8.
- 8.6 Relief Funds:** Br Hafizud Dean Khan thanked all the donors from abroad and here in Fiji, who donated in cash and in kind to assist the flood victims. He insisted that all funds received to be acknowledged with receipt and used for the purpose it was sent.
- 8.7 Ramadhan:** The National President reminded all the branch presidents to monitor and organize the Iftari during this month. The economic situation of people this year was not so good and branches should try to minimise the Iftari costs so that people can afford it. He reminded all the Alims, and Branch Executives to look after the welfare of the poor and needy. He requested all brothers to make an effort to sight the new crescent and inform the HQ as soon as possible. He sounded a stern warning to Alims, Maulanas, Muftis and Molvis, to take extreme care while delivering radio programs and not to insult or belittle followers of any aqeeda.
- 9.0 Speaker:** The Speaker invited comments on the President's address from the branch delegates. Since there were no comments, he invited additions or deletion from the minutes if there were any. Since there was none from the floor, he asked for an amendment to item No. 20.6 of the minutes, taking clause 64 of the Constitution into account as " In the branch: That the President reported that the Suva branch was inefficient, was mismanaged and evidence of possible thefts which required immediate stringent action. He added that the Branch Officials present who would evidently state some of the instances of mismanagement and theft. The branch Treasurer who was present with others who were present, they informed how the branch was mismanaged and had instances of theft. Subs equate the Council was satisfied that the branch was inefficient in financial control."

- 9.1 National President:** Br Hafizud Dean Khan clarified that he was not making a ruling. Instead he asked the Suva branch officials present to present their grievances so that the Council could make the decision.
- 9.2 Speaker:** Br Azmat Khan asked that the statements made in the meeting by the Suva branch officials be recorded.
- 9.3 General Secretary:** He asked the Speaker to refer to item 20.0 where the actual statements of the Suva branch officials were recorded.
- 9.4 Speaker:** The Speaker noted the comments and so made a ruling that since all the statements were recorded in 20.0, there was no need for the amendment that he suggested.
- 10.0 Speaker:** The Speaker noted that since there were no more comments, he asked for the minutes to be confirmed. The confirmation of the minutes was moved by Lautoka branch and seconded by Nasinu branch. He asked the General Secretary to present the minutes to the house.
- 11.0 Matters Arising from the minutes:** The General Secretary skimmed through the minutes laying emphasis on some very important items as follows:
- 11.1 Fiji's Constitution submission:** All branches were asked to hold meetings and send their suggestions to the General Secretary as soon as possible so that final draft is prepared for presentation.
- 11.2 Rarawai Branch:** The issue of Rarawai Muslim School being run by the Kamil Board of Governors has been sorted out and the nonpayment of FNPF arrears have been taken care of by the Interim Committee. The General Secretary had visited Rarawai Branch and the school and was advised by Br Nisar Ali Shah that he will work out a scheme plan with Rarawai Branch.
- 11.3 Branch Procedures and Deadlines:** These explicitly written working rules that every branch should follow for the smooth functioning of their day to day affairs, was read out by the General Secretary. He laid emphasis that these guiding procedures to be followed so as to facilitate the running of our branches efficiently and in a transparent manner.
- 11.4 Ramadhan Moonsighting:** Members were requested to make an effort to sight the Hilal for the start of Ramadhan and notify the FML-HQ as soon as possible after verification with your Masjid Pesh Imam.
- 11.5 Disaster Management:** The Branch Presidents were requested to mobilize their Disaster Management Teams and provide some training as well. He requested regular feedbacks from branches on this matter.
- 11.6 Early Childhood Education:** The Pre-schooling and Kindergarten has been branch efforts all the while. Alhamdulillah, they have managed well since their inception. The time has now come to equip our Kindergartens with computer aided teaching facilities and other smart teaching aids. The Teachers should be well trained since it is the first step in a child's learning and development.
- 11.7 Lautoka Zanana League Hall:** the project looks quite impressive. A lot of work still needs to be carried out to make it a reality.
- 11.8 Rarawai branch:** Br Afzal from Rarawai branch enquired about progress in handing over the branch to them. He was told Br Nisar Ali Shah -the Liaison Officer is mapping out the branch affairs with a view of handing it back to the present committee.
- 12.0 Confirmation of the Minutes:** The General Secretary moved that the minutes be accepted that was seconded by Rewa branch.
- 13.0 Secretariat Report:** The GS presented the Secretariat Report:
- 1. Toorak Masjid Pesh Imam:** The Pesh Imam, Maulana Faiyaz Ali Khan has been relieved of his duties of Pesh Imam pending the outcome of a case against him.

2. **Varavu Branch:** The Special Annual General meeting will be held on 21st July, 2012 to present the corrected accounts for adoption.
 3. **Navua Branch:** The Special Annual General Meeting of this branch has been called on 2nd September, to present the financial accounts which was not done during their AGM on 18th March, 2012.
 4. **Flood Relief Supplies:** A sum of \$106,426.00 (excluding \$80,000 distributed by NSWML) has been disbursed to the flood victims, consisting of groceries, beddings, kitchen utensils, or building materials and meeting other requests of the victims. Huge donations were received from the following organizations:
 - Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (Muslims Australia)
 - Muslim League of New South Wales
 - Human Care
 - Islamic Society of Darra Australia
 - Federation of Islamic Association of New Zealand
 - Muslim Association of Hawaii
 - Alameda Muslim League-USA
 - British Columbia Muslim Association
 - Islamic Councils of Queensland
 - Muslim Foundation.
 5. **Ministry of Education updates:** A list of Ministry updates and reminders such as Flag ceremony, Values education, Teacher records, reporting on duty, School levy, Water Tanks, Audited Financial accounts, International students, Tuition grants, Early Childhood Learning, school committee and teacher interactions were discussed briefly by the General Manager Schools.
 6. **Islamiyat Syllabus:** Draft write ups on 5 topics have been done The Chairman of National Board of Education will soon present it to the Council for discussion and approval.
 7. **Ramadhan Iftari Programs:** The Nadera Masjid Committee took the full responsibility to do catering for the USP and FSM students during the whole month in supplying food, fruits for Iftar and Sheri, daily.
 8. **Appreciation:** The General Secretary thanked the members of all branches for their cooperation and understanding during the times of disaster. He thanked them all for their attendance. He wished them well and a rewarding Ramadhan.
- 14.0 Speaker:** He invited comments from the audience.
- 14.1 FML Drasa branch:** The Council was told that the delay in calling the AGM was due to repairs and maintenance as directed by Permanent Secretary-Ministry of Education. The General Secretary informed the members about the damages and the robbery that took place when Drasa Muslim School was used as evacuation centre. This kind of vandalism should be reported to the Police and DISMAC. The Speaker added that the AGM should be held before February.
- 14.2 Sabeto Branch:** The branch executive informed that regular flooding had rendered the present kindergarten unusable and the building will be given to the Zanana League for their meetings and activities.
- 15.0** The Speaker reminded all present to pick the Ramadhan timetables at the end of the meeting.
- 16.0 NBOE-Standard Operating Procedures:**
The Executive Officer Education presented a paper outlining the basic procedures to be followed by the BBOG in close consultation with the school heads for the smooth running of the schools ensuring the school grants are released on time. This document has

been circulated to all school committees, Principals, Head Teachers and Assistant School Managers.

17.0 Board of Finance and Development report & Board of Consumer Affairs:

The Chairman, Br Abdul Hakim highlighted the following points:

17.1 Need for maintenance and repairs after flood, the committee approval have to be sought before the works starts. For any new development, the committee fill out and submit an appraisal form with all requested documents, for approval **PRIOR** to starting with works.

17.2 All Branch Treasurers are reminded to send their 6 monthly accounts to FML to follow up with their financial updates.

17.3 He reminded the Assistant School Managers, school heads, school committees who manage the school canteens, to ensure that everything sold in the Canteen are Halal Certified by FML-BCA. He reminded that the corned mutton sold in Fiji was not Halal and told not to be misled by the word “Halal” on food stuff without the FML Halal Logo. He asked the members to always check the FML Halal Bulletins to verify items before buying.

17.4 As the Liaison Officer, he told the Council members that Makoi branch has requested FML to hold the next Working Committee & Council meeting in Makoi.

18.0 The General Secretary informed that the maintenance of Naqia Markaz has been completed, and brothers should stop to pray when passing through.

19.0 Branch reports: Br Abdul Qayyum Khan was invited to inform the house on the request for an overseas Alim at Sigatoka Masjid.

19.1 Pesh Imam-Sigatoka Masjid: Master Abdul Qayyum Khan reported that the vacancy was advertised in Fiji Times and the interview was conducted at the FML-HQ. The successful candidate was an Alim from India. Since there was a Council ruling to utilise local Alims, this request has been brought to the Council for approval. This case along with others will be looked at case by case and approval depends on the Council decision.

19.2 Regional based Alims: The National President informed the house that qualified Alims are needed to carry out the Da’wah work in the Islands. Initially the efforts will be made to have 3 Alims for these Islands whose salaries will be paid by the Tri-nations (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji). However, he will leave the Sigatoka request for the Council to decide.

20.0 The Speaker adjourned the meeting till 1.45 pm for Zuhr prayers and lunch.

21.1 Speaker: He called the meeting to order at 1.45 pm. He introduced Br Saiyad Hussain as the Interim Chairman of Suva Branch. He also introduced Haji Razak Akbar, the life member of FML and former senior Vice President of FML.

22.0 Sigatoka Branch Pesh Imam:

22.1 Master Abdul Qayyum Khan requested the Council with reference to earlier Council ruling on overseas Alims, to consider the request by Sigatoka branch. He emphasized that all agreements had to be in place regarding salary and other terms and conditions.

22.2 Br Basheer Ahmed, the Liaison Officer, identified the areas covered under the branch where a lot of religious work needs to be done.

22.3 Speaker: The Speaker asked the FML Branches present if there was any objection. Since there was no objection raised, the request by the Sigatoka Branch to employ this overseas Alim (Maulana Aslam Sultan of India) was approved. The Speaker reminded the house that any such cases in future would be looked at on a case by case basis.

23.0 Chairman Kamil Board of Governors & Liaison Officer:

- 23.1 Dobuilevu Masjid:** Br Nisar Ali Shah informed the members that the maintenance of the Dobuilevu Masjid has been complete. He thanked the donors for their sacrifice and prayed to Allah (SWT) to reward them all in abundance for their initiative.
- 23.2 Kamil Muslim College/Ba Muslim Primary School**
Br Nisar Ali Shah reported that the KMC Lab. maintenance has been complete. The fence that collapsed alongside the road had been done that was sponsored by AQEP (through MoE). He informed the members of the League that all the maintenance at the Ba Muslim Primary that was affected by flooding, has been completed. He has committed himself to finance the Talaiya Muslim School for the betterment of the students. The Board has been planning to hold KMC Golden Jubilee of Kamil College in the near future. The Kamil Board is to raise \$20,000 to carry out much needed maintenance at Kamil Muslim College.
- 24.0 Principal-Kamil Muslim College:** Sr Shabina Ali reported that the Salaat hall was upgraded with the help of the donors. They were also working with FML to organize tuition by the school teachers for the girls staying at FGH.
- 25.0 Valelevu Branch:** Master Abdul Qayyum Khan, the Interim Branch Chairman, noted that FML Officials have many overlapping duties. GS, Haroon Hakim and Saiyad Hussain are helping him run Valelevu Branch, which oversees the operations of Kinoya Markaz, Caubati Markaz, Nadawa Masjid, Nasole Masjid and Nadera Masjid. Separate committees have been appointed to look after the day to day affairs of their Masjid/Marakiz. The Chairman of each of this committee's will be appointed to the broader Valelevu Council.
- 25.1 Speaker:** The Speaker noted the developments, but suggested further investigation needs to be done to work out the best option.
- 26.0 Nadi branch report:** The Branch Secretary reported that the Branch report has been circulated to all the branches for information about the activities in the branch.
- 27.0 Cuvu branch:** The Branch President, Br Mohammed Usman, thanked the National President and his team for all their efforts during the flood - helping out the victims with groceries and other items. He praised the FML Office set up since it was the first time he visited the Head Office this year. He appreciated the FML efforts and the grants and donation from received towards the redevelopment of Lautoka Muslim Primary School. He noted the guidance and assistance provided by the Liaison Officer, Br Basheer Ahmad.
- 29.0 FML Constitution Review Committee:** The National President informed the delegates from all the FML branches present, that a meeting of this committee was held in Nadi to discuss some pressing issues that needs to be relooked at in par with the changing time and situations. He told that a special AGM will need to be called to ratify the amendments. He mentioned that the issues such as selection of office bearers by merit, etc were discussed that would be taken up for approval in FML Council.
- 30.0 General:**
- 30.1 Sabeto Vocational Centre:** The branch members requested for an update on the Vocational Centre. They have applied to the Ministry of Education-Higher Education Commission for registration.
The National President advised that Brothers Nisar Ali Shah and Masued Mohammed were charged with this duty. Insha Allah by next Council some progress made will be reported considering the urgency of this project.
- 30.2 Lautoka Branch:** Some members of the Lautoka branch raised the issue of Vitogo cemetery, regarding the ruling made on the aspect of reciting Darood and Salaam at the cemetery. They cited the letter written to the Police which stated "No Singing". They felt that it was insulting.

The Speaker ruled that he would not allow this to be discussed here as this issue has to be brought to the Working Committee meeting first. Legally, this cemetery falls under the Divisional Commissioner and the District Officer. Allocations go to various religious groups who manage them, but it still remains under the Government.

30.3 Sabeto branch: Br Mohammed Hussain enquired about collection letter to raise funds for the project.

The Speaker: He advised the branch to provide all the information to FML and they will provide a letter.

30.4 Nadi Branch: The Branch President requested the FML-HQ to follow up on their request with Government regarding the Korovuto Cemetery.

One of the Nadi branch delegate raised the issue that the Maktab Alimah had stated that eating of Halwa on the occasion of Dua was not Halal and she asked the girls not to eat Halwa.

Speaker: He advised the member to take such matters to the Board of Islamic Affairs and then to be taken up by the Working Committee.

30.5 Ba Branch: Br Sikandar Ali Khan informed the members that a brother drove a truck over the graveyard at Yalalevu Cemetery. When he was stopped from doing this, he created a big dispute. He requested FML to advise Muslims that there should not be any kind of dispute in the cemetery.

31.0 Hafiz Musa Patel: He congratulated the National President and the National Officials of FML for LMPS project. The beautiful building, admired by all, young and old of various religious backgrounds, that stands tall in this City of Lautoka adjacent to the largest mosque of the South Pacific. He thanked and prayed for the brothers who were directly and indirectly involved in construction of this school and wished them an abundance of blessings here and hereafter. He also mentioned about the upgrading works at the Drasa Cemetery where about \$20,000 was spent by Haji Abdul Rafiq to provide all the facilities that are needed by the gravediggers and people who take their loved ones for Janaza there.

32.0 Speaker: Br Azmat Khan thanked all the branch delegates and the national officials as well as the secretariat. He thanked the Lautoka branch for the delicious lunch and for hosting this meeting.

33.0 The meeting concluded with Dua by Mufti Shaizad Ali at 2.45 pm.

Confirmed by: Moved by:

Seconded by..... Date: