

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Nasir Mosque

Religious Founders' Day

239 Barrington Street, Bibra Lake

Saturday, 29 February 2020

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and boys.

I am delighted to be here this evening with my wife Patricia on the occasion of Religious Founders' Day and I thank the Iman for his kind invitation.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk People of the Nyungar Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

I acknowledge:

- Imam Kamran Tahir, Imam & Missionary-In-Charge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Western Australia;
- Mr. Paul R. Bannalack, Mission President of the Church of Latter Day Saints;
- Mr. Surjit Singh, Member of Sikh Association of WA;
- Mr. Mukesh Mani, Chairperson-Board of Trustees, Hindu Association of WA;
- Representatives from the Western Australian Police Force;
- Representatives from the Cockburn RSL;
- Other distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen.

Religious Founders' Day provides an opportunity for us all to celebrate our religious freedom and bring all religions together to explore the common ground of 'belief' itself and the importance of seeking opportunities for doing-good for our fellow members of the community.

It is also a time to promote mutual respect and understanding among peoples of different faith, to hear the messages from their respective leaders; and to reflect upon each and every statement made in the context of mutual understanding and friendship with the aim of building peace, harmony, love and respect.

Tonight we have the opportunity to continue the journey of learning and the sharing of knowledge as we hear from a number of religious leaders.

The world is a dynamic place, perhaps more so than ever before with complex challenges testing us on a daily basis.

Millions of people have been displaced from their homes through war, oppression, natural disasters and indifferences of culture, religion and for some; being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

To stand back and do nothing is unacceptable – to talk and not act is unacceptable – governments across the globe are seeing a surging burst of people moving onto the streets – these people are of all ages – they hold their country's flags high and know that there is a better world out there – a chance to share in the best life has to offer – to create opportunities for their children and those that will follow in their footsteps.

The strength of any nation is built around its people and their capacity to work together to create mutual benefits that flow throughout their community.

A new challenge is on our doorstep with the outbreak of the Corona Virus. We have seen thousands of people contract the disease as it spreads across an increasing number of countries. The death toll is increasing and research is underway to develop a vaccine. How we work together on this new challenge will undoubtedly determine the outcome.

In closing, I look forward to today's dialogue, to hearing from the religious leaders present who together bring a wealth of knowledge and teachings that we can all learn from.

Thank you.