



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

MEDIA STATEMENT

Eid Ul-Adha Message from Minister Haji Kazim Hosein

July 30th, 2020 Kent House, Maraval – Assalamu Alaikum. On behalf of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government and as a devout member of the Muslim community, I extend Eid Mubarak greetings to my fellow Muslim brothers and sisters both at home and abroad.

Having completed fasting on the day of Arafah, a sunnah (practice) of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), we were reminded that the most significant dua (prayer) is the dua performed on this day where the Prophet recited, *“There is nothing that deserves to be worshiped in truth except Allah, He is Alone and has no partner, to Him belongs the dominion and to Him belongs all praise, and He is All-Powerful over all things”*. For Muslims who are not performing Hajj, fasting on the day of Arafah rewards us forgiveness for two years.

Today, we celebrate Eid-Ul-Adha, the greater of the both Eids. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) tells us that there are no days of the year wherein good deeds are more loved by Allah (swt) than these ten days. His teachings reveal that prayer during these ten days are far better than the fast during the month of Ramadan. One of the primary reasons for this is because Eid Ul-Adha commemorates Prophet Abraham’s (pbuh) unyielding commitment to his faith, through his willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail. Before he could carry out the sacrifice, Almighty Allah (swt) recognized his act of devotion and intervened, providing a lamb as an offering to take Ismail’s place. It marks the end of the holy pilgrimage where billions of Muslims across the world would come together to give honour to the spirit of sacrifice.

As a result of the COVID-19 public health precautions observed during the month of Ramadan, Muslims near and far continue to experience restrictions which have ultimately hindered their annual pilgrimage. Though, many of the strict public health restrictions have been eased and Muslims were able to return to our respective masjids, the opportunity for many to complete Hajj was not made possible as a result of the current pandemic. Notwithstanding this obstacle, my fellow brothers and sisters in Islam remain grateful for the opportunity to worship at our mosques in the company of our friends and families. Similar to last month’s Eid-ul-Fitr celebration, this sacred occasion teaches us that our sacrifices are always rewarded by Almighty Allah (swt).

Communications Unit

Kent House, Long Circular Road, Maraval, Trinidad and Tobago

Tel: (868) 628 – 5187 ext. 3352; (868) 628 – 4449 Fax: (868) 628 – 0432

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Despite practitioners of Islam being unable to complete Hajj, Eid-Ul-Adha brought us both a physical and spiritual lesson in sacrifice. I truly believe that because of our discipline, sacrifice and faith in the Almighty, we were able to celebrate this observance in a more profound manner. COVID-19 has taught us that we as Muslims must continue to seek redemption, to forgive and be forgiven. It has also reminded us that every sacrifice that we make in our lives often leads to a greater reward. Though, many brothers and sisters in Islam were unable to fulfil the physical journey to the Holy Kabbah, we have been able to reflect on our personal life's journey and the things that we may have taken for granted on a daily basis. For me, these past few months drew me closer to Almighty Allah (swt), it has increase my appreciation for my loved ones and gave me a greater desire to continue helping those less fortunate in my community and by extension my beloved country. This experience has showed us the value of simple devotion, reminding us that sacrifice is a key aspect of not only spiritual development but also spiritual renewal.

In celebration of Eid-Ul-Adha, the most revered Islamic observance, Muslims celebrate the Adha, Arabic for "sacrifice," by the slaughtering of an animal and dividing the meat into thirds – one for ourselves, another portion for family, and a third portion for those in need. This sharing represents the key lessons of Eid-Ul-Adha – sacrifice, equality and charity. It is a symbol of the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, and also a lesson that in giving, we should treat persons equally.

On behalf of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, I extend Eid-Ul-Adha greetings to our national Muslim community at home and abroad, and wish for all citizens of our beloved nation peace, good health and prosperity for every day of your journey through life.

Eid Mubarak!

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