



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful

Islamic Council of Queensland Inc.

25th September 2007

Islamic Council of Queensland
Presidents Report- BR Suliman Sabdia
Annual General Meeting Held on 23 September 2007
At Islamic Society of Eight Mile Plains.

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Cherisher, the Sustainer. Peace and salutations upon his beloved Prophet, Muhammed (S.A.W.) Respected Imams, respected elders, presidents of member societies, delegates, my colleagues of the management committee, Assalamm – Mu- Alaikum.

On behalf of the management committee it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Annual General Meeting and to present my report. Would you believe it is almost 250 days since I was elected President. And would you believe that during this time I have attended over 100 meetings, received on average 3 telephone calls a day, made an average 3 telephone calls a day, 7 days a week. Therefore to give you all a full and comprehensive report would cover a full manuscript and take a full day. I will therefore endeavor to provide you with a brief summary of the activities of the Islamic Council of Queensland during this last 8 months.

1. AFIC. Matters.

You all know that, after lengthy and costly legal fees, the AFIC elections were held on 25 February 2007. Immediately after my election I traveled to Sydney to meet with Ikebal Patel, Rahim Ghouri and others to listen to their plans and vision for AFIC and to offer them my plans and vision for AFIC. The management committee decided to nominate me for all four positions on the executive of AFIC. That is President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and then Negotiate with the other contenders for the position of president. On the 16th February 2007 all the members of the Management Committee signed a declaration that ICQ would support the nomination of Rahim Ghauri for president of AFIC, and that I would nominate for the position of Vice President. The AFIC elections are now history and Ikebal Patel was elected President of AFIC.

I would like to reiterate my position regarding AFIC, which I have consistently advocated for the past 25 years.

1. That I am committed to AFIC, the national umbrella body of the Muslim Ummah of Australia.
2. That ICQ should remain committed to AFIC.

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3. That only by being an active member of AFIC can we hope to make AFIC, a democratic , open and accountable organization in order to serve and to realize the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the Muslim Ummah of Australia.

2. Sheik Taj Uddim Al Hilaly.

It saddens me to remind you of the tragic and very public debate and controversy that unfolded over the position of “The Mufti of Australia “. I wish to mention only two Salient points regarding this tragedy.

1. That AFIC, the organization that ratified the appointments of Sheikh Taj Uddim Al Hilaly as mufti of Australia by a unanimous decision of the Imams of Australia in 1985, abdicated from its responsibility to defend the very position of mufti that AFIC created – and
2. That “so called” leaders of the Muslim community all over Australia, and particularly in Queensland by making public statements expressing their disapproval of the mufti. My humble comment is that all those Muslims and Muslim leaders betrayed the unity of the Muslim Ummah and handed a victory to the avowed enemies of Islam and the Muslim Ummah of Australia.

3. Imams Council, Majeus Ulema and ANIC.

In the past 8 months there has been a flurry of activity with regard to the Imams.

1. We have witnessed the establishment of the Australian National Imams Council. It is my belief that this organization has been conceived with the seeds of a grab for power and position by a very small band of Imams from NSW and Victoria.
2. We have also witness the rise and fall of the Majelis Ulema here in Brisbane.

I believe that these and other developments are the result of inadequate provisions in the structure of our local, state and national organizations. And it is with this belief that my committee and I established the Imams and Ulema Council or ICQ. We have 18 of the Imams, in Brisbane that have registered with the Imams and Ulema Council of ICQ.

4. Status of ICQ.

The Islamic council of Queensland has been in existence for approximately 43 years. After all these years, my committee and me inherited an organization with no income, no assets and no funds, no relevance in the day to day lives of the Muslims of this State, No recognition by Government, or non government organizations as the peak umbrella body of the Muslims in the State of Queensland. During the past eight months I have appealed to the member societies of ICQ, other Muslim business and Professional organizations, as well as Muslim individuals to join, support and strengthen ICQ.

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I have also had meetings with local, State and Federal politicians and the Mayor, The Premier, the deputy Premier and Cabinet Ministers, and State Directors, in order to promote and gain the recognition it rightly deserves. And with that recognition, the funding it needs in order to serve the Ummah.

I have been hampered in my efforts by the lack of support from member within the Muslim community. In fact in some cases individual Muslims, Muslim organization and past President have deliberately undermined the Islamic Council of Queensland and the Office of the President of ICQ.

With the support and Assistance from my colleagues on the management committee the work to promote the ICQ has already started.

1. In March of this year the ICQ together with the Department of Families, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs held the first ever Expo and Symposium to celebrate our achievements and our successes.
2. In May of this year the ICQ co-hosted a one day National Forum with the Griffith University Multi- Faith Centre on the topic of “Living under Civic laws and religious laws in Australia. Conflict or Harmony.”
3. In July of this year the ICQ in conjunction with the Australian Red Cross held a symposium on “Human Rights in Islam “at the supreme court building in Brisbane.

In all honesty I must express my deep disappointment at the lack of support from our member societies and the Muslim community in general.

It is my fervent desire to make ICQ relevant not only to its member societies but also relevant in the day to day lives of the Muslims of Queensland. In order to achieve this, I humbly submit to you my list of priorities.

1. The first priority is to establish a permanent office of the Islamic Council of Queensland. This will require funding, and I estimate a very minimum of \$30,000.00 for the first year to cover – rent, telephone, electricity, a part- time secretary, stationary and printing and other incidents. We would also require donations of furniture and equipment.
2. The second priority is to make Muslims and non-Muslims, business and professionals, governments and non government organizations aware of the existence of ICQ, its structures, its functions, its role in the affairs of the Ummah and to actively promote the ICQ.

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3. As I have already mentioned earlier in the report we have established the Imams and Ulema Council of ICQ. I believe the third priority is to establish:
- (1) Muslim Professionals Council of ICQ
 - (2) Muslim Women's Council of ICQ
 - (3) Muslim Youth Council of ICQ

The establishment of these councils is not the end in itself. But only the beginning, to harvest the knowledge, the talent, the ability and the energy amongst the Imams, the professionals, the women and the youth to further the objectives of ICQ.

What I have proposed is not going to be easy. It will require Faith, Commitment, Dedication, Hard work, Patience and Perseverance with wisdom, courage and above all else the blessings of Almighty Allah.
The question is "Are we ready for the challenge".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank almighty Allah, and you the members of ICQ for giving me the privilege and honor to serve the deen of Allah and the Ummah of his beloved Prophet, Muhammad S.A.W.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on the management, my family and all those unnamed Muslim brothers for the support they have given me during the past 8 months.

I conclude by asking you to join me in praying to almighty Allah to make the ICQ grow from strength to strength and to grant all those who serve this organization long life with good health, wisdom, dedication and commitment with Imaan and Hidayet.
- Ameen.

Assalaam –Mu- Alaikum.