

Speech by Haji S M Abdul Jaleel
Chairman, Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre (NDIMHC)
At The Official Opening of the Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre on
Sunday, 29 May 2011

Bismillahirrahmannirrahim
Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'alamin
Assalatu wassalamu 'ala Saiyyidina Muhammadin
wa' ala alihi wa sahbihi ajmain

Praise be to God as it is with His Blessings and Mercy that we are able to be here this blessed and memorable morning.

His Excellency President S R Nathan, our Guest of Honour
Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA) & Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs
Haji Alami Musa, President MUIS
Haji Zainul Abidin Rasheed, former Senior Minister of State, Foreign Affairs and Senior Advisor to the Federation of Indian Muslims (FIM)
Mufti of Singapore, Dr Mohamed Fatris Bakaram

Our two special guests from Nagore Dargah Sharif, Nagore, India
Haji Kazi S.A.Shaik Hassan Sahib, Managing Trustee,
Haji S S Syed Kamil Sahib, President, Advisory Board
Religious and Community Leaders, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamu-alaikum wr wbr (May peace be upon all of you) and a very good morning to all our guests.

On behalf of the Management Committee of the Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre, I am happy to welcome all of you to the official opening of the Heritage Centre

The Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre (NDIMHC) is an iconic building that pays tribute to the hard work, enterprise, selfless sacrifice and success of our pioneers in nation building. The idea of an Indian Muslim Heritage Centre has finally borne fruit and I am indeed pleased to be around to see its official opening.

This Heritage Centre is a culmination of a great deal of effort, **and we spent a lot of time to consult, plan, do research, and make study visits.** I am truly happy to be a part of this history making event. But I must record my sincere gratitude and thank to the many parties who had shown great interest and support throughout this long process.

Firstly my sincere thanks to our Guest of Honour President S R Nathan who had shown great interest and support for the Heritage Centre when the idea was first mooted right up to this day where we shall witness the opening of the Centre.

My thanks also go to the Minister in charge of Muslim Affairs, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim for his support of the efforts of the Indian Muslim community as an important part of the overall Singapore Muslim community. Sincere thanks must also go to the President of Muis, Haj Alami Musa, Secretary of Muis Hj Abdul Razak Maricar and staff of Muis who supported us all the way in this project and in ensuring the completion of the project.

Separately, on behalf of the Indian Muslim Community we would also like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to Muis for the strong support that they have given to the Indian Muslim community namely in partnership with various Indian Muslim organization, 27 mosques all over the island are now offering religious education in Tamil. More Indian Muslim children enrolled in the aL.I.V.E Islamic education programme, support for social development programme for needy Indian Muslims through five organizations, more families and children assisted through the Muis zakat funds. Indian Muslim wakafs have also been refurbished and are now able to generate a greater yield to finance activities for which they are dedicated for. Muis has also started a Muis newsletter (Nadi) in Tamil, have Friday Khutbah texts in Tamil. These are just to name a few. We look forward to working closely with Muis on activities and projects that would bring benefit to the Indian Muslim community here.

The months of painstaking efforts by the consultant and management committee is now realised. The modest Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre stands magnificently and bears testimony to the rich history and success of the community and their significant roles and contribution in nation building.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our donors and well wishers who had supported and encouraged us in making this dream project come true.

In addition I wish to place on record my deep appreciation and thanks to the following people and organizations without whom this centre would not have materialized:

Our two guests from Nagore Dargah, India namely :

Haji Kazi S.A.Shaik Hassan Sahib, the Managing Trustee of Nagore Dargah India and Haji S S Syed Kamil Sahib, the President of the Advisory Board of Nagore Dargah, India for their kind presence, blessing and support to this project

Mr Alan Lee, the Managing Director of Banquet Holdings Pte. Ltd,

Mr Lim Chen Sian and Mr Cheah Fang Leah of Forth Research & Design

The Preservation of Monuments' Board

Last but certainly not least, the Management Committee of Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre, community leaders, donors and friends for all your prayers, hard work and support.

May God bless all of them and may the Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre be a source of inspiration and rich lesson of history for reflection and education of all Singaporeans alike.

Once again my heartfelt thanks to all of you for joining us at this historic and auspicious event. I hope you will have an enjoyable and meaningful experience from Indian Muslim Heritage Centre.

Wassalam