



PRESS RELEASE

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DR ZWELI MKHIZE'S STATEMENT ON EID-UL-FITR

Pietermaritzburg, 19 August 2012: As we mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan and celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize has hailed the Muslim community for their contribution towards speeding up socio-economic development in the province.

"The past thirty days of fasting was not only a spiritual period of abstention from food and drink but also a time of deep spiritual rejuvenation. It was the time for sacrifice and commitment. It was the time of rededication and upliftment. More importantly, it was the time of rediscovering oneself and ones relationship with the Creator of the world."

"As we mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan, we have the opportunity to join hands and celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. This is a special time of the year for Muslim communities in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and across the world. Eid-ul-Fitr is a joyous occasion but also a day of gratitude for the everyday blessings we enjoy in life."

"My Muslim brothers and sisters I believe that the positive benefits that you derived from the Holy month of Ramadan will help us all in our quest for nation building, peace and reconciliation."

"All the elements of building a prosperous economy for our province, the vision we have for a better life for all, the peace we yearn for are embodied in the spirit of Ramadan."

"The month of Ramadan has helped us all to generate thoughts that are pure such that we are able to spread sentiments of love. We need to spread the message of peace, first peace within one self, then of course peace that should be shared amongst all in the community."

"To my Muslim brothers and sisters you must continue to your programmes of building the spirituality of all our people such that at the end of it, anyone who visits this province must always remember the smiles and the warmth of the local people."

"The entire world continues to benefit from the Islamic faith and its achievements. The more we learn, the more we find that many commitments of communities across the race and color line are broadly shared. We share a commitment to family, to protect and love our children. We share a belief in man's moral responsibility. And we share the same hope for a future of peace."

"These shared values are reflected in the generosity that Muslims have shown over the years in helping those less fortunate than themselves across the world."

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