



COMMEMORATING

1500 Years of the Prophetic Legacy:

**A Message of Mercy, Environmental Awareness
and Social Justice**

1447 (AH) | 2025 (CE)

CONCEPT PROPOSAL



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1. Introduction and Purpose

The year 2025 marks 1500 years since the birth of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, a seminal figure whose teachings continues to guide the lives of over 1.9 billion Muslims worldwide. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity for Muslims globally to ponder on the enduring universal message of Islam, reflecting the legacy of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, rooted in the civilisational foundations of peace, compassion, justice, and equality.

For Muslims living as minorities, especially in countries like South Africa, this moment takes on additional significance. The commemoration avails an exceptional prospect for the reaffirmation of identity, contributions, and resilience in societies where their presence as a religious community has had a profound socio-cultural, economic and historical impact. In South Africa, where Islam was once banned and yet integrated into the fabric of a diverse nation, this commemoration resonates with the continued struggle for religious freedom, human rights, and justice.

This project aims to foster global unity, highlight the relevance of Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ teachings in today's world, and commemorate the unique history of Muslims, particularly those who have thrived in non-Muslim majority contexts. This document outlines a series of events, activities, and legacy-building initiatives to celebrate the global legacy and civilizational heritage Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

2. Rationale and Significance

The 1500-year legacy of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is one of profound transformation, not only for the Arabian Peninsula but also for all of humanity. His life and message form the cornerstone of Islamic civilization and continue to inspire billions of people.

For Muslims living in minority contexts, such as South Africa, this commemoration serves as a powerful reminder of our perseverance and contributions to broader society. The history of Islam in South Africa, shaped by exiled scholars, slaves, indentured labourers and freedom fighters, mirrors the universal struggles of many Muslim minorities around the world. Commemorating the 1500th anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ allows the community to reconnect with their roots, reaffirm their religious and cultural identity, and share the beauty of Islam with others.

It is not just a celebration of the past; it is an invitation to reflect on how Muslims can contribute to their societies in ways that mirror the Prophet's ﷺ emphasis on compassion, justice, and service to others. The LEGACY 1500 Commission, composed of diverse members of South Africa's Muslim community, aims to ensure that this momentous event becomes a watershed moment for future generations, showcasing how Islam's message has been, and continues to be, a force for good in South Africa and beyond.



Additional Proposed titles:

- A. Commemorating 1500 Years of Prophetic Values: Compassion, Environment, and Social Justice”
- B. “Commemorating 1500 Years of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ : A Legacy of Compassion, the Environment, and Social Justice”
- C. 1500 Years of Prophetic Legacy: Message of Mercy, Environmental Awareness and Social Justice -

This theme captures the essence of the commemoration by reflecting on the Prophet’s ﷺ enduring impact. It encourages the global Muslim community, particularly in minority contexts, to embrace their shared history and valuable contributions while considering the path forward with hope and faith.

Key questions guiding the theme:

- What lessons can be drawn from the Prophet’s ﷺ life that are relevant to post-modern challenges?
- How can the global Muslim community; particularly minorities, uphold the values of peace, social justice, and community-building in an increasingly challenging world?
- What role has the South African Muslim community played in contributing to a more just and inclusive society?

4. The Legacy 1500 Commission

The **Legacy 1500** Commission will steer the commemoration efforts, comprised of representatives from South Africa’s leading Muslim organizations, scholars, community leaders, academics, students and professionals. The Commission will also appoint Patron Commissioners, drawn from diverse Muslim communities, to ensure inclusivity.

The Legacy 1500 Commission’s primary objectives are:

- To promote active participation and engagement across all sectors of the South African Muslim community.
- To create platforms that will highlight and preserve the legacy of Islam’s contributions to South African society.
- To encourage dialogue between Muslim and other communities, fostering greater understanding and mutual cooperation.



5. Aims of the 1500-Year Commemoration

The objectives of this initiative are to:

- What lessons can be drawn from the Prophet's ﷺ life that are relevant to post-
- Highlight the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and their ongoing relevance.
- Showcase the contributions of the South African Muslim community, with particular focus on the historical and contemporary roles played by Muslims as integral members of society.
- Engage youth and marginalized communities, inspiring future generations to uphold the values of the Prophet ﷺ in their lives.
- Facilitate cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue to promote understanding, mutual respect, and harmony between members of the Muslim and other faith communities.
- Build on sustaining the Prophetic legacy through educational ventures, empowerment programmes, and community development projects.

6. Proposed Projects, Programmes, and Events

The LEGACY 1500 Commission will host a wide array of events through the year 2025 to mark this special occasion. These activities will engage the entire South African Muslim community and attract international participation.

Key events include:

a. Cultural and Artistic Celebrations

- Art and Poetry Competitions: Showcasing Islamic art, calligraphy, and poetry inspired by the life and teachings of the Prophet ﷺ.
- Documentaries and Exhibitions: Capturing the rich legacy of the Prophet ﷺ through 1500 as well as showcasing the heritage of Muslims in South Africa, from its arrival with exiled scholars to its current-day contribution

b. Mass Community Participatory Exhibition at the CTICC

- "Legacy of the Muslims of South Africa": A large-scale event held at the iconic Cape Town Stadium, featuring recitations, nasheeds, and cultural performances. The gathering will celebrate the historical role of Muslims in South Africa, with special focus on the emerging township and immigrant communities.
- Exhibition of the Relics of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ
- 1001 Contributions of Muslims to Civilisation

c. International Conference hosted by Awqaf SA and IRCICA incorporated into the LEGACY 1500 Project –

- Title of the Conference – "The Image of Prophet Muhammed (SAW) in the Islamic literature and scholarship in Africa."
Hosted by Awqaf SA, IRCICA and a University Partner:
This conference will gather global scholars, activists, and community leaders. The conference will highlight the role of Islam in promoting civilisation, social justice, inclusivity, and religious tolerance.



d. Night of Light & Sacred Sound

- Theatrical production of recitation and qasidahs with medley of salwaat in tribute to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

e. Legacy Projects

- 1500-Year Legacy Waqf: A sustainable endowment aimed at funding community development and educational initiatives for historically disadvantaged communities in South Africa.
- Educational Resource Development: Creation of learning materials about the life of the Prophet ﷺ for schools, madrassahs, and community organizations, to ensure that the lessons of his life are transmitted on to future generations.

f. Student Competitions

- National speech/spoken word, essay and nasheed competitions with substantial prizes for winners. The theme will revolve around the life and legacy of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

g. Prophetic Wisdom

- Producing a book containing 40 sayings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (in Arabic-English-isiXhosa) capturing the universal message of Islam.

h. Imamate Workshop

- Provide imams a toolkit in preparation for the events of the year

i. Youth Empowerment Program

Program (probably at Dawn Mountain during June 2025)

- Organize an empowering, inspirational, fun-filled, weekend youth program hosting Akhi Ayman.

7. Organizing Committee Structure

The 1500-Year Legacy Commission will consist of:

- **Patron Commissioners:** Leaders from various Muslim organizations and communities, ensuring diversity across ethnic, geographic, and socio-economic lines.

- **Working Groups:**

Research and Publications:

- Producing a book containing 40 sayings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (in Arabic-English-isiXhosa) capturing the universal message of Islam. Meant for dissemination
- To develop resources and materials that reflect the history and contributions of Muslims in South Africa.

Media and Communications:

- To raise awareness and promote the event across all platforms, engaging media outlets nationally and internationally.
- Events and Projects: To organize, coordinate, and execute events, ensuring participation from all sectors of the community.



8. Call for Papers and Contributions

Academics, researchers, and Islamic scholars will be invited to submit papers on themes relating to the 1500-year legacy of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the historical role of Muslim minorities, and contemporary challenges faced by Muslim communities globally. These papers will be presented at the International Conference and form the basis of publications and journal articles for wider dissemination.

9. What You Can Do

The success of the LEGACY 1500 Project depends on the participation and support of the entire community. We encourage:

- Active participation in events and activities.
- Volunteering skills and time in working groups.
- Donating or sponsoring events and programmes.
- Promoting the initiative within your communities, schools, institutions, madrasahs, mosques, and businesses.
- Praying for the success of this unique and historic event.

10. Activity Register and Logo

All organizations, institutions, and individuals are encouraged to register their activities with the LEGACY 1500 Commission. This will ensure coordination and collective success. A dedicated logo and website will be created for all events, serving as a hub for information sharing and community engagement.

11. Conclusion

The LEGACY 1500 Project is more than just a commemoration of history; it is an affirmation of the Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ enduring legacy and an opportunity for Muslims around the world, especially minorities, to reflect on their identity, contributions, and future role in their societies. Through this initiative, we aim to strengthen bonds within the global Muslim community, share our rich heritage with others, and ensure that the legacy of the Prophet ﷺ continues to inspire future generations.

