



Funds collection period from 3 to 9 February 2017

MEDIA STATEMENT

1 February 2017

ALL 70 MOSQUES TO MOUNT SPECIAL WINTER COLLECTION IN AID OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

1. The “Blessings-To-All” Mosque Committee, representing all mosques in Singapore in collaboration with the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation (RLAF), is organising a special fund raising effort to offer winter relief for Syrian refugees.
2. The Syrian internal conflict and war which has gone on for nearly six years has inflicted a heavy toll on its population. More than four million Syrians have fled the country and sought refuge in foreign lands such as Europe, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), more than half of them are children.
3. Jordan alone is hosting 650,000 refugees. The high concentration of refugees in the country has placed a tremendous strain on the resources of the nation which is also struggling to meet the demands of its own population. Our hearts are with the refugees and the nation that has so kindly accepted to host them.
4. With severe winter conditions enveloping the Middle East now, the RLAF is working closely with mosques in Singapore, to conduct a special winter collection to extend aid to Syrian refugees there. RLAF donation boxes will be placed at all 70 mosques beginning this **Friday, 3rd February to Thursday, 9th February 2017**. All boxes will be marked “Special Winter Collection in Aid of Syrian Refugees”.
5. Members of the public can also offer their donation in cash or by cheque. All cheques should be made payable to “RLAF” with the words “Special Winter Collection in Aid of Syrian Refugees” written on the back. Cash and cheques can be delivered to Muis Building at the Singapore Islamic Hub, No 273, Braddell Road Singapore 579702. Online donations can also be made at the Muis website <https://zakat.sg/ePayment/donations.aspx>. The RLAF will be working with the UNHCR and Singaporean student body in Jordan to assist in the winter aid programme as well as education programmes for Syrian children.
6. In 2014, the RLAF and mosques in Singapore had raised more than \$400,000 through two collections in 2014 for the Syrian refugees. The funds collected were used to hand out cooked food, household ration to over 4000 Syrian families, school packs for young children in three schools for Syrian refugees in Turkey, as well as medical kits for clinics treating injured and disabled refugees.

7. More significantly, RLAF in collaboration with the ASRIT (Aid for Syrian Refugees in Turkey) Project helped establish the Temasek Education Centre in Kilis, Southern Turkey which enrolls 500 Syrian students annually from kindergarten to post-secondary levels. The school is still operational today.

8. For clarification, please contact Adilah Adnan at 6359 1432 / Adilah_ADNAN@muis.gov.sg.

RAHMATAN LIL ALAMIN FOUNDATION (RLAF)

ABOUT THE RAHMATAN LIL ALAMIN (BLESSINGS TO ALL) FOUNDATION

The Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation (RLAF) was launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in July 2009 to coincide with the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) and the official opening of the Singapore Islamic Hub.

'Rahmatan Lil Alamin' is the Arabic for 'Blessings To All' which is the inspiration behind the establishment of the RLAF as it seeks to fund activities that bring blessings to all irrespective of creed, race or religion including the environment.

The Foundation was established by Muis to provide grants for humanitarian and community development projects and initiatives. The Foundation aims to spread the message of compassion for all humanity and concretising within the Singapore Muslim community the ethos of being a community that is a blessing to all. Through the grants, the Foundation hopes to build capacity and deeper interest amongst youths, and empower them to have the skills, capabilities and passion to volunteer and participate in humanitarian work both locally and beyond.

ANNEX B

Over the past 10 years, the mosques and RLAF have collected over **\$5 million** from the community for international **humanitarian relief projects**.

- 1) 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami (Aceh)
- 2) 2005 Kashmir Earthquake
- 3) 2006 Java Earthquake
- 4) 2007 Lebanon Conflict
- 5) 2007 Jakarta Flood
- 6) 2008 Cyclone Nargis (Myanmar)
- 7) 2008 Sichuan earthquake
- 8) 2008 Yemen Cyclone
- 9) 2009 Gaza Humanitarian Conflict
- 10) 2009 Typhoon Ketsana (Philippines)
- 11) 2009 Earthquake in Sumatra
- 12) 2009 Typhoon Morakot (Taiwan)
- 13) 2009 Earthquake in West Java
- 14) 2009 Karachi Flood
- 15) 2010 Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami
- 16) 2010 Haiti Earthquake
- 17) 2011 Japan's Tohoku and Miyagi Earthquakes/Tsunami
- 18) 2011 East Africa Drought (Somalia)
- 19) 2011 Floods in Thailand
- 20) 2011 Floods in Cambodia
- 21) 2011 Philippines Floods
- 22) 2012 Victims of Conflict in Myanmar
- 23) 2012 Victims of Conflict in Gaza
- 24) 2012 Philippines Floods
- 25) 2013 Philippines Floods
- 26) 2013 Philippines Typhoon Haiyan
- 27) 2014 Syrian Refugees in Turkey
- 28) 2014 Victims of Conflict in Gaza
- 29) 2014 Kashmir Floods
- 30) 2014 School Project in Syria
- 31) 2015 Floods in Malaysia
- 32) 2015 Earthquake in Nepal
- 33) 2015 Floods in Myanmar
- 34) 2015 School Upgrading Project in Gaza
- 35) 2015 South India Floods
- 36) 2016 Japan & Ecuador Earthquakes
- 37) 2016 Humanitarian Effort for Aceh and Rakhine State