

MEDIA RELEASE

R281 000 South African Muslim Charitable Trust Donation Opens The Door To E-Learning At Under-resourced Durban City School

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An under-resourced Durban city-based school facing severe financial constraints and related socio-economic problems has entered the world of e-Learning with the introduction of Smart Board technology, complete with internet and wifi, in 18 classrooms valued at R281 000.

Anjuman Islam Primary School's long-held technological aspirations were realised today (27 February) with the official hand-over of Smart Board technology by the South African Muslim Charitable Trust (SAMCT).

Commenting on the donation, SAMCT representative, Mr Gaf Osman, said: " The digital age is well and truly upon us and today's society across the globe is becoming progressively more dependent on technology, whether in business, at home or - increasingly - at school. Technology is the way of the future and we need to embrace it in all its guises or risk being left behind while communities across the world accept, adopt and work with ever-evolving technological advancements. I have no doubt that the Smart Board technology being introduced here will make a significant difference to both Anjuman Islam Primary School's teaching processes and the academic growth of its learners."

With the rapid advances which characterise the global IT industry, the global norm is for classrooms to be transformed into one-to-one, anywhere, anytime learning environments. Recognising this and in spite of its plight, Anjuman Islam Primary School aspired to keep abreast of in-school technological advancements for the benefit of its almost 700 economically-disadvantaged learners.

"The widespread introduction of technology into South African schools is vital. Regrettably, however, many of our schools simply lack the resources to access the necessary information technology tools." said Mr Osman.

He stressed that the installation of IT equipment and an especially tailored software design, at Anjuman Islam Primary School, would enable learners to be exposed to a new dimension of learning, broadening their educational horizons and enhancing their knowledge-base, skills and expertise.

Mr Osman added: "The learners are not the only beneficiaries of this Smart Board technology. Teachers, too, stand to benefit in terms of both time and access to a significantly more advanced teaching methodology."

Seeing an under-resourced educational institution, blighted by financial constraints and a host of socio-economic challenges involving the school community, confront and overcome adversity was to be commended, Mr Osman indicated.

"This is a reflection of the dedication of a staff complement for whom learner advancement is clearly of paramount importance. The commitment to driving e-Learning and working to find the means to secure access to technology is to be admired and applauded. It was against this background that the South African Muslim Charitable Trust was pleased to make available a donation for the introduction of Smart Board technology, supported by internet and wifi facilities here at Anjuman Islam Primary School. I am confident that access to equipment which will assist in facilitating e-Learning will mean

a more technologically-advanced future for the school's learners, taking what they learn on to high school and beyond, said Mr Osman.

The South African Muslim Charitable Trust was established in 2008 to provide funding, services and other resources for the improvement of the lives of the vulnerable, deprived and disadvantaged. It has successfully delivered sizeable assistance solutions throughout the country, irrespective of race or religion and works to support needy organisations in the fields of health, social development, poverty alleviation and education.

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