

**SPEECH BY DAN PLATO  
ISLAMIC EXPO  
WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE  
CTICC**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen (INSERT PROTOCOL)

I would like to firstly thank you all for inviting me to open this auspicious event. I am proud that we now live in an open society that we have an expo that celebrates an important community of Cape Town and South Africa.

The City of Cape Town is committed to cultural diversity and religious tolerance and moreover, are proud to celebrate such differences which makes our City beautiful.

I would like to highlight the historical and cultural contributions of the Islamic community to the City of Cape Town and to the fabric of the entire country.

This expo is a perfect platform for the citizens of Cape Town to acknowledge that the members of the Muslim communities are as much the founding fathers of Cape Town as the Dutch, the British and the indigenous Khoisan.

The influence of Islam and Cape Malay culture permeates throughout Cape Town in terms of our architecture, food, I know that I can't imagine my life without a good Bobotie, and language many Malay words found their way into the Afrikaans language and South African English.

The Islamic community's commitment to Cape Town spans our country's history. Islamic people served as soldiers since the beginning of the Colony with a battalion doing notable service in the historic battle of Blaauwberg where they managed to hold back the British on their own for a period of time.

I would also like to commend the CTICC for its continued commitment to the City of Cape Town and it is a partnership that the City holds with great value.

Thank you to all who worked tirelessly to make this event possible and I encourage you to continue this meaningful and important work.

Thank you and all the best for the expo.