



Our speech for 2019

Prophet Muḥammad ^(SAWA) said: ***“When any of you performs a good deed, he should perfect it.”***

We, at **HOODAN-NOOR** *Guidance of the Light* Arabic and Religion school, and as a one team, meet every school holidays to discuss, share our thoughts, organise, prepare for the future and execute our plans, and each of us, teachers, have our own unique mark. We try our best to perfect what we do. We work with alert conscience, dedication and sincerity...

Also, read the letter of **HOODAN-NOOR** *Guidance of the Light* that sent to the Lebanese Presidency.



In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful

Praise be to God, may peace be upon our prophet Mohammad, his Holy family and noble companions...

I would like to begin my speech on behalf of the members of **HOODAN-NOOR Guidance of the Light Arabic & Religion School**, by welcoming our dear students first, because we are gathering here for them and to serve them.

Yes our dear students, we are here for you, and because we need you, because you are our hope, you are the future, and you are whom we count on to save our Arabic Language and keep it alive in both our hearts and on our tongues.

Next, I welcome you dear parents who are caring, dedicated and striving to achieve a decent life and a bright prosperous future for your children.

We are honored and pleased by your presence today which motivates us to persevere on our journey with even further seriousness and responsibility. We definitely can't achieve our goals successfully without your permanent material and moral support.

So, thank you all for your attendance today.

This year, we also have distinguished guests from the Department of Education. Your presence makes us proud; Sunday in Australia is usually a family day, yet you have come to celebrate our student's success which shows and indicates your appreciation for our efforts and your sincerity in your work.

Allow me to greet you one by one:

- Mr Ken Cruickshank: Professor in TESOL and Education Director, Sydney Institute for Community Languages Education (SICLE), Sydney School of Education and Social Work, The University of Sydney.
- Mrs Lindy Cassidy: Programs Manager (Curriculum), Sydney Institute for Community Languages Education, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, The University of Sydney.
- Mrs Enaam Darido: The Arabic officer with (SICLE) (Sydney Institute for Community Languages Education) at the University of Sydney.
- Mrs Heleine abou-antoun: Arabic lecturer.
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All our thanks, respect and appreciation go to you, and we also acknowledge those who couldn't make it today due to their busy schedules. We are honored to have all our guests and we welcome you all.

This book contains our speech for this year and our speeches from the past three years as well as our biography.

Please, take the time to read our book as it will help you learn more about us, and how we proceed steadily according to a clear plan.



You shall also learn about our method of teaching, goals and our mission, and you can see how, with God's help and care, we've delivered all that we promised.

And after reiterating on all that was mentioned in our previous speeches, we advise you in this speech that we are keeping up the hard and good work, following the example of The Prophet Mohammad ^(Peace & blessing be upon Him & His Family) who said:

"Best deeds are consistent, even if small."

And prince of believers Imam Ali ^(Peace be upon Him) who has said:

"Act continuously, act continuously! For verily Allah has not decreed any end to the believer's actions except death."

and also said: ***"The little that you perform continuously is weightier than the great amount that you perform odiously."***

Therefore, our motto is "work, work, and work." No kind of obstacles or frustrations will stop us and even if we felt tired at times we still strive and rise to stay on the path we chose, because we believe that "there is no despair with life, and no life with despair."

And we believe that work is an honour and that our persistence makes it rewarding, but we also believe that we should try our hardest to perfect the work that we do.

Imam Jaafar as-Sadiq ^(AS) narrated, "When Ibrahim, the son of the Prophet ^(SAWA) passed away, the Prophet ^(SAWA) saw a gap in his grave, which he filled with his hand, and then said: ***'When any of you performs a good deed, he should perfect it.'***"

We, at HOODAN-NOOR Guidance of the Light Arabic and Religion School, and as a one team, meet every school holidays to discuss, share our thoughts, organise, prepare for the future and execute our plans, And each of us, teachers, have our own unique mark. We try our best to perfect what we do. We work with alert conscience, dedication and sincerity...

My special appreciation goes here to my family, wife and children, as they bear a lot with me. Likewise, thank you to our amazing teachers, and to everyone who encourages, supports and trusts our work, and we ask God Almighty to help us keep deserving parents' trust so we can serve this generation the way God loves and wants us to.

Everyone in the field of teaching a second language, and especially those who are teaching Arabic, would encounter a huge amount of obstacles that's out of the scope of counting but the Department of Education knows everything that is occurring and even the tiniest details of those obstacles.



The academic team at the Department of Education, and some of them have honored us by their presence today, are working really hard to help the various communities tackle those hardships so they can save their languages, traditions, and cultural heritage. They host and invite language schools to conferences and meetings to present the encountered issues and obstacles and discuss various ways to solve them. They also offer free learning courses for teachers.

We recently celebrated the graduation of one of our teachers “Malak Al-Sayyed Ahmad” who has participated and accomplished the course with a high distinction certificate.

To the academic team at the Department of Education; We acknowledge and appreciate all your hard work and support on behalf of the **HOODAN-NOOR, Guidance of the Light** team.

Further, in this domain, I have been personally developing and creating an educational curriculum. I am working on the first six stages of my curriculum. This school holidays, I will be putting an exceptional amount of effort into it to hopefully finalise it. It will be the essence of 4 to 5 years of teaching experience and I hope that it will be useful for the teachers who use it, and that it will reduce many obstacles and problems that face them in the teaching process. It is also important to make it fun, useful and beneficial for our students who want to learn the formal Arabic language.

The curriculum is unique in its style, ideas, stages and strategies. All thanks be to Almighty God for that I created it. I’m not saying it’s perfect but I am still working on refining it and I appreciate any constructive criticism or valuable advices from the teaching experts.

Few months ago we had a meeting with distinguished teachers and professors at Sydney University and introduced them to what we had created and we really benefited from their valuable advice and guidance. We pray to God’s Almighty to help us finish it perfectly so we can help the coming generations with learning their language and saving it from vanishing.

We hope our curriculum leaves distinctive mark and for anyone who benefits from it, to remember us with good, whether it be in this life or after we leave it. (In my presence or after my absence).

When it comes to the use of modern technology in education and in addition to the iPads, we purchased a projector and we are using it in all of our classes, and we have received incredible feedback from the students and parents, and our students found it beneficial in our classes and very fun at the same time.

We keep pace with modern advancements and we will continue to adopt anything new that may help us in the teaching process.



Before I conclude, we should say that although we are far away from our origin country, Lebanon, we still carry the concerns of our people there. Lebanon lives in our hearts and what concerns our people there, be that joy or pain, concerns us. In that context and when it comes to the Alawite Islamic Sect in Lebanon, we, on behalf of our school, **HOODAN-NOOR Guidance of the Light** have sent, via the Lebanese Embassy in Australia, a letter with our concerns addressed to the Lebanese Presidency and we are thankful to His Excellency Mr. Milad Raad, the Lebanese Ambassador who was very helpful on this matter.

For those who would like to read that letter, you may find it in both Arabic and English with the rest of our speeches in the previously mentioned book.

I will not make this any longer. The path is long and the work is hard, but we promise you to do our very best, and to continue working, and to master our work.

We appreciate your generosity and support, and thank your attendance, your trust, your co-operation, your patience, and your kindness.

Welcome and may you be with peace and God's mercy and blessings.



Sleiman Mouin Harbouki (Abu Iskandar)

24/11/2019





**An appeal by the
Lebanese Alawites**

**to the President
of Lebanese Republic**

Michel Aoun

26\02\2019

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful



Your Excellency,

President of the Lebanese Republic, Michel Aoun

In defence of our Lebanese Identity - An appeal by the Lebanese Alawites

We, the Alawite Muslims in Australia and in defence of our Lebanese identity, appeal to you.

We are a community with Australian citizenship, of Lebanese origin and fondness. We are a Lebanese community with rooted belonging to our homeland origin and we don't need to prove that as we are not the subject of accusation! Whoever tries to belittle our existence and belonging would be confronting the historical and national facts.

We, first and foremost, are Lebanese acquired the Australian citizenship which, by the law of humanitarian impartiality, gave us all civil rights equally with all citizens of this generous nation which compensated us in our expatriation with a feeling of belonging to a nation. And we feel bitterness saying that as we are in our homeland country of origin (Lebanon) denied the simplest rights and suffering inequity, alienation and privation.

We suffer the woes of a sectarian regime that's deeply infiltrated with corruption and injustice. A regime that disregards the inviolability of national belonging for all its citizens and treats our folks there with superiority that an unjust majority seize the rights of the minorities.

We understand what belonging to a nation means and we practice that belonging by committing to all duties and sacrifices but that nation does not reward us with the rights and the kind of citizenship that make us feel safe and secure.

We, Mr. President, live with our people in Lebanon real expatriation due to the denial of our very basic rights which include:

- Minister, ambassadors, consuls, general managers, notaries...
- Senior officers (generals and higher)...
- and other posts from the first and second hierarchies...

In addition, the Alawite Sect did not receive their rights in the rest of the public jobs at the percentage given to them in employment rights which is (2%) and it's noted that several ministries and public sectors do not have any Alawite employee!!!

Furthermore, areas of concentrated Alawite population (e.g. Tripoli and Akkar) suffer poor or lack of services, public facilities and economical establishments...

The Alawite Islamic Sect in Lebanon suffers, like other Lebanese people, of bad economy and lack of basic services (health, energy, infrastructure and clean environment, etc.) and many others readily known to everyone.



However, Alawites in Lebanon suffer more than other Lebanese communities from attempts to marginalise, exclude, deprive and confiscate their earned rights, and their exclusion from the merits of citizenship and equality!!!

Alawites in Lebanon feel targeted by a malicious policy that tries to discredit their national image and bring them to frustration and despair!!

We are firm in our national, historical and moral choice in belonging to our dear homeland Lebanon and however bad the pressure on us went, we will be firmer in this inherited national approach.

Having said that, we do not accept for our presence, existence, and national identity to be targeted by any type of underestimation or exclusion and to the same extent we insist on our national belonging, we are determined to attain and restore all our national rights that Lebanese Alawites are seriously considering ways of escalation both in Lebanon and around the world...

We consider our rights as part of our dignity and, to us, that's an non-negotiable and non-touchable principle.

We, in the era of his Excellency The President Michel Aoun, and with the return of the concept of the state and the law, we raise the voice loudly and louder:

We, the Lebanese first and foremost, refuse the confiscating of our rights, and the tampering of our existence...

And as we demand the re-acquisition of those rights, our hope is for the state to re-acquire a part of its people and to remedy their sense of injustice and denial.

We sum up our letter with two phrases and we hope they deserve the prompt wise attention of his Excellency, The Decisive in the State:

/ Our rights are: Our Identity /

The Lebanese Alawites in Australia
HOODAN-NOOR (Guidance of the Light),
Arabic & Religion School & association

Tuesday 26/02/2019