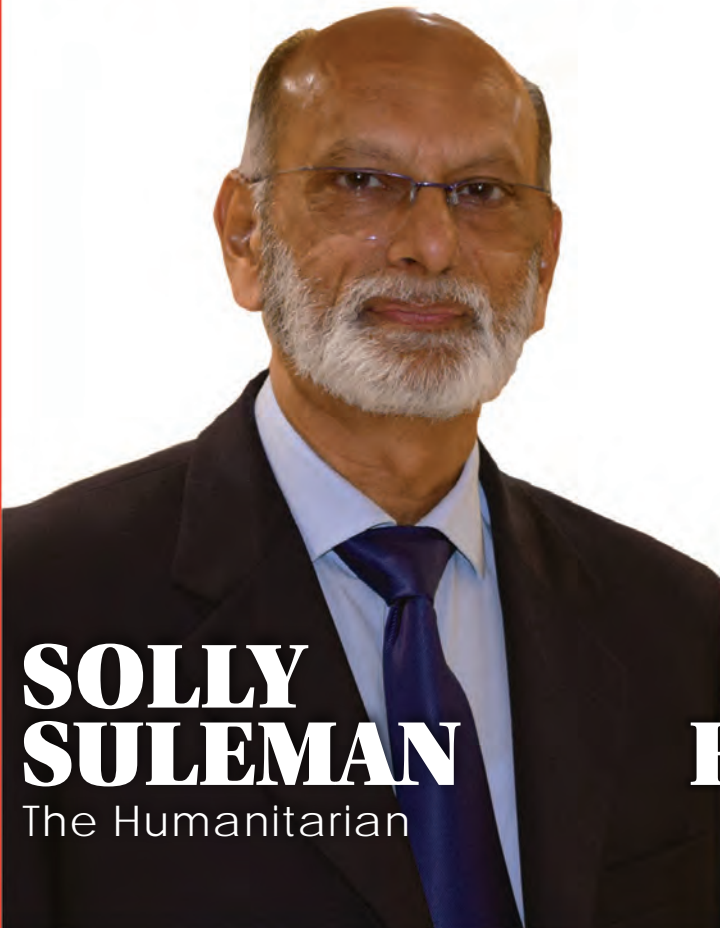


# THE MEMON



The  
**Legacy**  
Projects



**SOLLY  
SULEMAN**  
The Humanitarian



**ASIF  
RANGOONWALA**  
Keynote Speaker

# THE MEMON

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MEMBERSHIP

DONATE

From the desk of

*the* **President**

**The Legacy Projects**

*The goal isn't to live forever,  
it is to create something that will.*

It is on this firm belief that we have envisioned and announced the **World Memon Organisation Legacy Projects** at the recently concluded 15th WMO AGM in Ras Al Khaimah.

What we do for us, dies with us. What we do for others and the world, remains and is **immortal**. It is our endeavour to lay down the cornerstone of an everlasting legacy and turn this dream into a reality. Hence we are elated to report that we are overwhelmed with the incredible response to these momentous endeavours.

Mr. Suliman Noor Mahomed  
President - WMO



# The Legacy Projects



**Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world** - the great Nelson Mandela would often quote. We at WMO have followed in the footsteps of this Giant amongst men and have always earmarked maximum funds towards this worthy cause. In the year 2017, a record 11,000 deprived children received an Education in Pakistan alone.

One of our own **Trustee/Exco Member** with a heart of gold has taken our endeavours towards education one step further and launched our **Dubai University project** with the first **million dollar** donation. We have just laid the foundation of an important educational institution that will Insha Allah create brighter futures for thousands of children and establish the legacy of an educated heart and mind.

On making this historic announcement, the flood gates opened. A huge thank you to our benefactor for leading the way, he prefers to remain anonymous and we pray that the Almighty bless him abundantly for his magnanimous generosity.



WMO believes that a **simple, decent shelter is a basic human right** and a primary need for all as we continue our endeavours to build a **Habitat for Humanity**. Hundreds of underprivileged families have received a roof over their heads in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka over the past 15 years.



**Mr. Majid Ranani**, one of our patrons and a WMO stalwart offered to construct a **housing project comprising of 25 homes for the needy in India**. He has donated the land and fifty per cent of the costs towards the construction,

**Ehsan Gadawala** - VP WMO India Chapter pledged 25 per cent of the costs and our ever dependable super twins of the Middle East Chapter - the **Shaikhani** brothers offered to complete our first project, funding the remainder.



We are ever grateful to all of them as our first project was off the ground barely 24 hours after announcing the launch.

Before we could even come to terms with the wonderful news, Mr. Majid Ranani offered another housing project comprising of **24 homes for our underprivileged brothers and sisters in India** by providing the land and fifty per cent funding. Our humble and generous Chairman of the Board of Trustees, **Mr. Haroon Karim** topped it up with 25 percent of the construction costs and the distinguished **Tabani** family of the Middle East Chapter got our second project up and running by offering the remainder.

We are eternally grateful to our dear brothers.





The Memon Industrial and Technical Institute (MITI) was established by WMO in Pakistan almost a decade ago. Since then more than **85,000** students graduating from MITI have received jobs or are self employed. MITI was recently conferred as the top ranking Vocational Training Institute in Pakistan.



Our new trustee and property mogul from India, **Mr. Tanveer Merchant** magnanimously offered to build our **second MITI in Mumbai**. He will provide the land and fifty per cent of the costs. Adding to the good news, our newly appointed VP of India Chapter - **Mr. Ehsan Gadawala** offered to contribute 25 per cent of the remaining costs hence we are on our way to establishing a second prestigious WMO vocational training centre in India.

Jazakallah to all these families for their utmost generosity.



**Mr. Farook Kassim** our Veteran trustee and **latest Exco member** is in positive discussions with the UAE authorities to sign on the dotted line of a private, public participation agreement whereby the local authorities will provide the land and substantial funding for our very own **MCC, MEMON Convention Centre/WMO Centre in South DUBAI**. WMO too will provide several million dollars towards this project.

We are deeply indebted to our dear brother and we all pray for a favourable and swift outcome. Insha Allah.



Our dear brother **Haroon Karim** whose generosity remains unparalleled has donated **5 housing units from his Ras Al Khaimah development project** to WMO. Alhamdulillah! What can one say to such generosity, just a huge thank you and please carry on with this bountiful spirit of giving. May you be blessed with much more.

Our dear brother - **Mr. Haroon Mohamed**, newly appointed Middle East Chapter Treasurer became a WMO trustee, by way of **donating a housing unit in his majestic Dubai Village development project**. Thank you brother for your profound dedication towards WMO.



We are in positive discussions with **Mr. Ehsan Gadawala** to establish a **high school in India** and will announce the good news soon. Insha Allah.

The last 48 hours, since the AGM, have been a revelation. I am left amazed with the overwhelming response to the legacy projects, the remarkable generosity and strong allegiance to WMO from all these distinguished families. May they be blessed with all they desire, they have set a new benchmark in philanthropy for others to follow.

I have requested my fellow brothers, **Mr. Ashraf Sattar, Mr. Farook Kassim and Mr. Haroon Karim** to work together with me, to follow up and ensure that all these projects are implemented in time so that we can leave behind an everlasting legacy. This is only the beginning as we delve into a new era of noteworthy projects to touch and change lives across the globe.

Once again, I am eternally grateful to all, for attending and making our 15th WMO AGM a memorable event. A big thank you to our **Middle East chapter** for organising a flawless event

The work now begins for all the newly elected office bearers across the WMO world. **Please remember that it is our selfless work towards Humanity that will serve as an enduring legacy for all future generations.**

Your Brother,  
SOLLY NOOR

*“It is up to us to live up to the legacy that was left for us, and to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations.”*

Christine Gregoire



# THE CAMPS OF BALUKHALI

A GROUND REPORT BY MR. SHAHID SANGANI (WMO COO)

The smoke still billows above a burning village in **Myanmar's Rakhine state**, across the border. I sit in the Refugee Camp of Balukhali, a small Bangladeshi town on the Myanmar border and witness hell on both sides. The fires of the netherworld and the shades of purgatory, paint a grim canvas for **"the most persecuted minority in the World"** - the **Rohingya**.

UN officials have described Myanmar's persecution of the Rohingya as **ethnic cleansing** and the recent spate of violence and mass killings fuel fears of an unfolding **genocide**.

Extreme atrocities against women and children, wiping out of entire villages by Myanmar forces have triggered the **mass exodus of villagers to Bangladesh**. Over **half a million** have crossed the border in just a couple of months. The surge of refugees, many wounded or ailing, has strained the resources of aid agencies and communities that are already helping hundreds of thousands displaced by previous waves of violence in Myanmar. **Many have no shelter and aid agencies are racing against time to provide clean water, sanitation and food.**

**World Memon Organisation stands firm, shoulder to shoulder with the Rohingya community during these uncertain times.**



We are surrounded by slopes of hills covered with orange and grey tarpaulin sheets, for as far as the eye can see. Thousands of makeshift shelters have mushroomed over **2000 acres** of land, housing more than a **hundred thousand** migrants. Plastic sheets wrapped around bamboo sticks with tarpaulin roofs are the new homes of the Rohingya refugees. **At least 6 to 8 adults are stacked together in these shacks accompanied with their children ; all confined in an area of just 5 feet by 10 feet.** The rains continue to play havoc with frequent landslides, wiping out homes and creating large pools of mud, in and around the shanties. The afternoons bring the scorching heat and the only sight of relief is a rainbow that sometimes appears on the horizon when the wet spells follow the afternoon sun.

**There are hardly any toilets and the occasional breeze carries the stench of human faeces, unwashed skin, stale food and death.** Many refugees have succumbed to the hardships and their shrouds gather dust. There is an **impending epidemic looming** as the squalid conditions worsen due to lack of sanitation, as the rapid influx of refugees from Myanmar refuses to cede.



The **WMO Far East Chapter** team, are assessing the grim situation at the camps. Funds have been pouring in from across the globe for the Rohingya community and the organisation must ensure that they are utilised to make a tangible difference on the ground ; to alleviate the pain and ease the hardships endured by the refugees, dwelling in the subhuman conditions of the uninhabitable Balukhali camps.



**Food is scarce as is clean drinking water.** Malnourished kids with vacant eyes queue up for food in serpentine lines that stretch the length of two football fields. Many have horrific tales to tell of the persecution they faced in Myanmar and the arduous journey they embarked on to reach the camp. **Crossing mile wide, raging rivers in wobbly wooden containers that kept them afloat, walking days on end in knee deep mud, across paddy fields to escape rape, torture and slaughter.** Every child has lost at least one or several members of their family.

*I was soon surrounded by a group of children, baked in mud as they trudged through the scattered puddles to reach me. I was distributing a few goodies that I had carried in my pocket since Chittagong. The motley group were pleased as punch; they had just won a prize- a pot of cooked rice. The odd games that people invent in difficult situations to weather the storm. As the tiny tots offered to share their prized possession with me, a morsel of rice, my eyes brimmed with tears. I thought about my own children, as a father I wanted my kids to lead an accomplished life, have the best in education, fulfil their ambitions, pursue their passions in life, be it sports or a hobby. And here I was with children, possibly orphaned whose only aim was to survive the night. As they firmly held onto their prize, a fistful of rice that would enable them to achieve their tall ambition of staying alive, through yet another day of their eventful life.*

## Humanitarian Aid for Rohingya



### NAME

Project Aman

### LOCATION

Camp Aman is situated between Balukhali and Kutupalong Refugee Camps in the Ukhia Sub-district of Cox's Bazar, along the Bangladesh - Myanmar border.

### THE TEAM

WMO Far East Chapter team is helmed by it's former VP and WMO stalwart - **Mr. AC Saleem**. The team members include **Dr. Haroon Admani** (VP - Far East Chapter), **Mr. Anjum Asmath** (Regional Treasurer) and **Mr. Shahid Sangani** (COO - WMO)

A couple of humanitarians from UK - **Mr. Amir Farooq** and **Mr. Adil Abbasi** are collaborating with WMO on the Aman project. They are the business partners of **Mr. Bashir Sattar** (Founding Trustee of WMO).

### PREPARATION

- Registration of **300 families**, almost **1200 members**, in a designated area of the camp will be catered to and taken care of, by WMO under the Aman project.
- **Formation of a supply chain** to receive and distribute relief aid on a regular basis to the earmarked families
- Engaging, Corresponding and establishing Communication links with community leaders of the Rohingya clan.

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION ON A WEEKLY BASIS



- **300 food packs.** Each pack contains 10 kg rice, 2kg lentils, 2kg onions, 1 litre cooking oil, 2kg potato, 1kg salt, 1 kg of sugar and spices. Each pack feeds a family of 4 for 7 to 10 days
- **150 packs of baby milk** for infants and children

### RELIEF GOODS DISTRIBUTION

- **500 Solar powered lamps** for Shelters
- **2,000 pairs of clothes** for men, women and children
- **500 sanitary sets.** Each set contains a body soap, towels, soap to wash clothes, nail clippers, comb and razors
- **500 metres of tarpaulin** to build shelters and overheard roofs.
- **Floor mats** to sleep on
- **Battery Flashlights** to navigate in the dark at night
- **Utensils**
- **Firewood** for Cooking



### SANITATION AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



- **4 deep water tube wells** with depths ranging to over 150 feet to supply clean drinking water
- **4 separate bathing areas** for women and children



- 46 toilets
- 2 bridges
- Brick Stairways

## MEDICAL CAMPS



- Doctors from across the globe are attending to the Refugees.
- Distribution of Medicines to treat the common ailments of diarrhoea, tapeworm and high fever.
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Tuberculosis.
- Vaccination given to 300 refugees in collaboration with the UNICEF

## FUTURE PROJECTS

- Establishment of a School
- Masjid
- WMO to partner BRAC : Medicines and medical consumables, provided by BRAC at their various medical camps will be funded by WMO. In the next 6 months, we intend to cover a dozen camps on a daily basis, treating on an average, 1500 - 1800 ailing refugees everyday.

Funds have been pouring in from around the World for this pertinent cause but much more is needed. As we distribute food packs to the gathered children, queuing up to collect their weekly food ration, some are rummaging through the relief goods containers filled with the usual – flashlights, soaps, candles, utensils, tarpal sheets, floor mats, brooms and clothes. The new arrivals are shoes, blankets for the oncoming winter, carpets for the Masjids and a few elementary picture books for kids. As the construction work is underway for the school and masjid in the distance, its heartening to see a few children pounce on the books, rather than the preferred colourful T-shirts.

Another day has passed and as the sun sets over the Balukhali camp, the faithfuls congregate to offer their Magribh prayers. We lay out the carpets and join the others to perform Salaah. The Imaam recites **Surah Al-Inshirah**. His melodious voice fills the air and I recall the translation of those insightful verses, which under the prevailing difficult conditions are most befitting –

Inna maAAa alAAusri yusran  
Verily, with the hardship, there is relief

Wa-ila rabbika fairghab  
And to your Lord (Alone) turn (all your intentions and hopes and) your invocations.

*My heart is at peace.*

*A wry smile escapes my lips. Who would have thought that we would find peace in this part of the World - filled with torment, sorrow and eternal suffering but the Lord works in mysterious ways. But then again, we did name our Project - 'Aman' which translates in the language of the Rohingya to 'Safety, Comfort and Peace'*

**We hope and pray that the Almighty bring an end to the violence, hatred and discord. Help us accomplish the goals, we set out to achieve. Grant us Peace which is True, Perfect and Everlasting.**

Ameen!



**SPREAD THE LIGHT WITH THE GIFT OF SIGHT**



**SEEING IS BELIEVING**

**WMO FAR EAST CHAPTER - EXPORTING GOODWILL TO THE WORLD**

## The Gift of Sight

I lay by the poolside, overlooking the sea in the serene surroundings of Ras Al Khaimah, the 15th WMO AGM had just concluded. My mind absorbed the sights and sounds as the sun set over the horizon. I was mesmerized by the changing hues of the sky - from a cerulean blue to fuchsia to tangerine orange. As streaks of crimson red kissed the azure waters before the sun finally bid goodbye, I had just witnessed the most vibrant palette of all the brilliant shades of life.

I stepped out of the pool and changed for supper. As I headed towards the dining hall, I was greeted with a warm embrace, it was none other than my dear friend **Dr Haroon Admani** from Sri Lanka. He sat me down and discussed a project that would make a difference to millions around the world. **The WMO Far East Chapter would donate eyes (Corneas) to countries that were reeling under the onslaught of curable blindness.** In a majority of these cases, the sight lost due to an opaque cornea (the outermost, transparent layer of the eye) could be restored by replacing it with a clear one. This remarkable endeavour that the Far East Chapter was about to embark on would bridge the gap between availability and requirement of healthy corneas. **We were about to change lives.**

When I stepped onto the Indian shores, I visited a renowned institute for the visually impaired. I met many children, some quite young who were suffering from corneal deformities and awaiting a transplant to restore their vision. It was heart wrenching as their entire life lay ahead of them. **With their lives plunged into darkness, the only colour they were accustomed to, was Black.** All it would take, was a simple donation of a healthy set of eyes (Corneas) to change their world.

As I walked out of the institute, the sun was setting on the Mumbai shores. As I enjoyed the myriad hues, my mind was surprisingly at ease and my heart at peace. I felt a sense of fulfilment for being a part of an organisation that was changing lives across the globe. **An organisation that was spreading the light by delivering the invaluable gift of sight.** Some day, someone would enjoy this beautiful sunset with a set of eyes donated by the World Memon Organisation.

***And would he not thank the Almighty for creating the most stunning canvas and would she not be grateful to witness a masterpiece filled with the most vibrant colours that distinctly lacked every shade of Black!***



Dr Haroon Admani (VP - WMO Far East Chapter) and Mr Shahid Sangani (COO WMO) at the Eye Donation Society of Sri Lanka with His Excellency - High Commissioner of Pakistan - Dr Sarfraz Ahmed Khan Sipra and Mr Janath Saman Matara Arachchi (Senior Manager), International Eye Bank - Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society : facilitating donations to Pakistan.





**AHMED AL-KADI**  
PRIVATE HOSPITAL  
*Excellence In Healthcare*  
**24 HR EMERGENCY**

# SOLLY SULEMAN

The Humanitarian

*“Power is the ability to achieve purpose.  
Power is the ability to effect change.”*

The legendary Dr. Martin Luther King often spoke about the extraordinary power that some individuals possess to make a difference in the lives of others.

Power may be defined by some as success, influence and access to resources but true power lies in the ability to change lives. Solly Suleman is a strong willed man of considerable success and firm resolve who is bestowed by his Creator with a kind heart and a benevolent soul. A man who has the ability to use these blessings in a powerful way to affect change in a person's life..... for the better.

A distinguished humanitarian, the patriarch of the Suleman family is a loving husband and caring father who has inculcated the precious values of compassion and determination in his children in order to carry forward the enduring legacy of touching and changing lives.

This is the story of Solly Suleman's incredible journey and his relentless endeavours to change the world, one person at a time.



Ahmed Al Kadi - IMASA cataract project



## The Journey

### PARENTS

Solly Suleman hails from humble beginnings. He is the second eldest of seven siblings born to the late Goolam Hoosen and Juleika Suleman Soomar.

### THE EARLY YEARS

During the height of apartheid, his father had a thriving grocery store in an area that enjoyed patronage from the diverse race and religious groups that peacefully coexisted in the same region. The area was regarded as a farm by relatives, most of whom stayed in the centre of Durban and yet it was a mere five kilometres from central Durban. During the early years, the apartheid government compartmentalized Africans, Coloured and Whites, divided them on the lines of race and colour, moved them into designated areas, specifically zoned for the various groups, in accordance with the Group Areas Act. Businesses fell apart and it marked the beginning of difficult times that many families would have to endure in the coming years.



### AN EDUCATION

After being forced to relocate and growing up in an area where alcoholism and gambling were rife, there was little focus on education, religion and culture as many succumbed to the prevailing socio-economic related issues. Lack of role models prevailed in the community as people struggled to survive. Despite the unfortunate circumstances Solly had a will to succeed. A desire to ensure change not only for himself but for his family as well. Through hard work he succeeded in obtaining acceptance into a tertiary institution where he studied Pharmacy. His career choice was guided by a relative who had misunderstood the profession and advised Solly that he would be learning how to manufacture tablets used as pool chemicals .....

Solly Suleman soon realised that studying Pharmacy was very different to what he had been expecting ...

### THE FIRST JOB

To get through university, Solly worked in various capacities such as conducting research for the municipality with regards to the morning markets in Durban and driving new cars from the manufacturing plant to the harbour for export and vice versa, from the harbour to motor dealerships across the province.

When he completed his studies he served his traineeship at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town - famous for the first heart transplant in the world. His priority was to support and take care of his family. He returned to Durban after his traineeship and lectured in the pharmacy department of the then Indian University of Durban Westville where he had completed his undergraduate studies. During this period he held an additional job in the evenings, working at a retail pharmacy, to support his siblings and ensuring that they too had the opportunity to access tertiary education thus paving the path for success in their lives.

### SPARKPORT PHARMACY

A friend (his colleague at the university and fellow lecturer) partnered with Solly and ventured into the business world to open the first of a group of pharmacies in 1983.



The duo established their first pharmacy that discounted medicines in South Africa. They realised that medicines were a necessity and not a luxury and in this way their aim was to ensure that effective treatment was also accessible to those less fortunate. The group, led by the two visionaries, grew into multiple stores, chains of retail, wholesale and franchise pharmacies. The franchise pharmacy concept was again a first in the country.

## Humanitarian Endeavours

### IMA (ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION) OF SOUTH AFRICA

His first foray into the public benefit sector was over 30 years ago, when he was approached by 3 doctors to join the Islamic Medical Association of South Africa (IMA), an NGO that focused on the ethos of conscientising members that they were not the healers but merely instruments of the Greatest of Healers - Allah Swt. The second important objective of the IMA was to provide healthcare by volunteer doctors to the disadvantaged population of the country. The first clinic was established in a peri-urban area outside Durban.





Fatima & Dawood Hassam Moosa IMA Renal Unit

The most important lesson that Solly learnt from his first interaction with these doctors is that we serve for the pleasure of Allah Swt and will be rewarded in the hereafter Insha Allah; a message that has remained firmly ingrained in his heart over the past 30 years or more. As a result, he has dedicated a substantial part of his life towards working for the benefit of the community and humanity.

To quote Khalil Gibran "it is important to give of your wealth but it is even more important to give of yourself"

Solly is currently the President of the Islamic Medical Association of SA and held the chairmanship of the IMA clinics committee for over a decade during which two of the clinics were revamped and an additional clinic was established, resulting in four clinics, along with a mobile clinic. During the past fifteen years he initiated the IMA renal dialysis program, IMA Baytul Nur (social wing of the IMA) and the Cataract Program.

As Director of Natal Kidney Associations, he established the IMA renal dialysis programme after being approached by a disheartened patient who was turned away from a public sector hospital and effectively sent home to die. This ailing individual had to literally beg, borrow and steal money to receive his dialysis treatment - thrice a week which amounted to over R1200 a session, summing up to R15000 per month; a large sum of money beyond the frail grasp of penury. The invaluable renal dialysis program is supported by Muslim businesses and charities wherein patients suffering from kidney ailments are provided free dialysis and are concurrently put onto a medical aid scheme which makes them entitled to benefits after 12 months.

The cataract program supports the disadvantaged patients and conducts eye operations on those who have been on the government waiting list for over two years.

He also chairs an important project of the Islamic Medical Association - the IMA Baytul Nur which is involved in counselling, caring for the elderly, provides home base care training, ensures professional development, health care education, establishing of frail care centres, Muslim Aids project, feeding schemes, assessment of the destitute and ailing

patients to determine eligibility for zakat, public hospital feeding schemes, program against violence on women and children, marriage counselling and much more.

## AHMED AL KADI HOSPITAL

Solly is currently the Chair of the Ahmed Al Kadi Private hospital which has been established in Durban, South Africa. This project, an Islamic ethos hospital, was the dream of the founding fathers of the IMA and a unique concept. It was created in a manner that the IMA owns 26% of the equity and private shareholders own the remaining 74%. This effectively ensures that the hospital has an Islamic ethos and the organisation has a steady income stream for posterity by sharing the profits of the hospital. This is an important criterion that should be applied to all organisations to create sustainable business units and ensure that the organisation is self-sustaining.



The Ahmed Al Kadi Private hospital was commissioned in April 2017.

## AL ANSAAR FOUNDATION

Solly was also the founder member of the Alansaar Foundation.

He aided the Women's Cultural Group (WCG), one of the oldest women's group in South Africa, to renovate a dilapidated property to house the IMA, WCG and a madressa. He called upon Mohamed Joosab (a life member of WMO) to help restore the old house on the premises and proposed that it be given to a new Organisation to establish a madressa and preschool and lo and behold, the Al Ansaar Foundation was born, which went on to becoming a leading Islamic Organisation in Durban and South Africa run by a set of passionate directors, one of whom was Solly. Since then, other projects of Al Ansaar include a community radio station, they publish a popular newspaper, convene the largest, annual Islamic International fair, exhibition and souk in South Africa during the month of December, open bookshops, carry out several humanitarian endeavours including



the Outreach feeding program and many others. Solly was chair and initiator of many of these projects that were established to ensure sustainability of the individual programmes and of the Organisation.

## MINARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Minara Chamber Awards Evening with Azim Omar (WMO Member) & Ashraf Garda, MC for the evening.

Solly was one of the founders and past President of the Minara Chamber of Commerce which was established 16 years ago to provide a home for Muslim business in South Africa and to support & promote the disadvantaged communities. He is also a mentor to upcoming entrepreneurs and offers them guidance and insight when venturing into new business ideas and projects. An important role of the Minara Chamber is to conscientise our businessmen on the Islamic way of doing business. Hence an international conference was held with 12 distinguished global speakers representing leadership, economics, sukkuk and finance delivering on the respective subjects. The chamber has an excellent relationship with all foreign embassies, national, local, provincial governments and departments, including other chambers. Minara hosts an awards dinner annually and many members of WMO have been recognised for their extensive and selfless contributions to the community and humanity.

## WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION



Solly has been a member of the World Memon Organisation for the past 10 years and was Assistant Secretary General of the WMO Africa Chapter when it held the first Durban WMO BOM meeting and AGM. He also convened the 12th WMO AGM with an excellent support team in Johannesburg in November 2014. Furthermore, Solly has been the convenor of many conferences and

conventions including the recent, highly successful first WMO Business Conference at the 15th WMO AGM in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE. He has also convened meetings and AGMs for Islamic Medical Association, Minara Chamber and the Independent Community Pharmacy Association of SA.

## DARUL YATAMA WAL MASAKEEN

He is a Trustee and Board of Management member of Darul Yatama Wal Masakeen. An institution that has been in existence for over 80 odd years and provides old age homes for the elderly, runs orphanages, has an abandoned babies unit and supports the destitute as well.

## INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

As a pharmacist, the profession in South Africa faces many challenges, hence his involvement in various formations promoting the interest of Independent Community Pharmacists of the country.



Independent Community Pharmacy conference

Over the last decade Solly has worked tirelessly as the past vice chair of the South African Pharmacist Association which represents black pharmacists. He is a member of the Pharmacy Stakeholders forum - a negotiating team for dispensing fee negotiations with the National Department of Health, SA. Solly is also former Vice Chair and one of the founders of the Independent Community Pharmacy Association of SA comprising of 1100 pharmacies.

## NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

About 8 years ago Solly was appointed on the National Health Insurance Ministerial Advisory Committee, by the Minister of Health, Mr. Aron Motsoaledi, to advise on the establishment of a National Health Insurance in South Africa.



## SOUTH AFRICAN HAJ AND UMRAH COUNCIL

He was an NEC member representing the Al Ansaar Foundation of the South African Haj and Umrah Council (SAHUC) as well as on the national Manco and Chair of the Kwazulu Natal region for a limited period. SAHUC is an Organisation involved in the accreditation of Hujajj.

Solly has made it his life's mission to assist various projects, organisations and chambers since his illustrious venture into the world of business. His life motto can be summed up by the following quotes:

*“Vision without action is a daydream”*

*“Always help someone, you might be the only one that does”*

### SOLLY – THE HUSBAND

By Faeza Suleman

Married 35 years to Faeza and father of five – Fathima, Tasneem, Ameera, Muhammad and Taahir.



Solly is the most generous and liberal minded person I know. He is always encouraging and supportive of all my activities even when some don't make sense to him. One of the few men who truly believe that women are amazing and can do almost anything and generally do it better than males.

Reasonably efficient in the kitchen - can help himself to breakfast (cereal and tea) and nobody dares to mess with his cereal bowl! Very good at toasting bread and making English tea.

Likes routine and neatness. A place for everything and everything in its place.

Zany sense of humour, sometimes at the most inappropriate times.

The word 'no' seldom crosses his lips (not always a good thing but it suits me just fine !)

Just as supportive as a father. Though I wish that in this role he would use 'no' more often.

Believes in equal education for both genders.

A Social Media enthusiast with approximately 1000 'close friends' on Facebook and WhatsApp!

An avid golfer who once received an award for 'the most balls played' in a golf tournament. His game has improved dramatically since then (so he says).

## Through the eyes of our children

### FAEEZA SULEMAN

(FONDLY KNOWN AS THE BETTER HALF)

By Fathima Suleman (eldest child)

When people meet Faeza Suleman their response is often "you're Solly's wife". She is so much more than just a wife. Whilst bringing up 5 children and running a house she completed her matric, 2 degrees, honours in social work and most recently has started studying towards her masters. She can definitely hold her own.



From L-R Ameera, Muhammad, Fathima, Taahir and Tasneem

Growing up she has taught us to keep steadfast in Islam, help others and to be humble. Through adolescence and adulthood she has been the person who we turn to for advice, whom we laugh with (she often outwits our dad) and who gives us warm hugs on those difficult days.

She has touched so many lives with her compassion; often dropping everything to help others and never wanting recognition. When speaking to her peers or friends it is not uncommon to hear, "your mum is my role model" or "I wish I were more like your mum". We - her children share the same sentiments.

She is the glue of our family, holding us all together. We owe our achievements to our mother. Her sacrifices and guidance have not only allowed her children, but also our father, to reach for our dreams.

I hope that I can one day share the infinite lessons that she has taught me with my own children. To obtain her amazing qualities is close to impossible but we strive towards it.



## MY FATHER – THE ROLE MODEL

By Fathima Suleman

Most people know Solly Suleman as a fierce businessman and a man of action. What most people don't know is that he is a gentle soul when it comes to his children. On countless occasions I have called him with a request or for advice, he stops his meeting, answers his phone with a cheerful 'Jee lovey' and an immediate 'I'll sort it out,'

Within a minute the problem is sorted, the job is done and the stress is over. After a long day at work he is always willing to run to the shop, never forgetting to bring home our favourite drinks and snacks, amongst 20 other items that were not on the list.

He has always encouraged us, especially his daughters, to aim high, work hard and follow our dreams. His sacrifices and unwavering support have provided us with endless opportunities, never asking for anything in return (except for his daily dose of Horlicks).



A childhood picture of Fathima and Tasneem

to come true.

Recently my car broke down and the first person I called was him. He dropped whatever he was doing and came almost immediately, waiting besides my car for the three long hours it took for help to arrive, so I could attend a lecture. This is the kind of man he is. Not just a good leader by example, but also a kind man who shows his love to his family through his many selfless actions.

I love him to an incomprehensible level, despite his tendency towards posting the most unflattering pictures of me! He is in my thoughts, in everything that I do and I'm proud to call him my father.

## MY FATHER – MY HERO

By Tasneem Suleman

Solly Suleman, our dad is a man who truly deserves a standing ovation on a regular basis. His achievements far surpass the average man and I am constantly amazed at his innovations & brilliant mind. Besides always encouraging us to achieve our goals, he has consistently emphasized the importance of helping others before helping ourselves, and this is constantly reflected in his own life. He is the true definition of a role model for us and for many others, setting the bar very high for others to follow.

I would like to highlight a few things only those close to him know - to give further insight on the type of person he is:

- ♥ he is a social media celebrity, with more followers / online friends than any of his kids - this makes him way cooler than us.
- ♥ sometimes when he gives speeches with stories about any one of us, his kids - it's also the first time we're hearing the story about what we apparently said. A true master of making his speeches entertaining by any means.
- ♥ he finds it difficult to control his facial expressions, especially when he is disgusted - trust me you will know. We receive this look regularly, especially when one of us calls the other names.
- ♥ sometimes we check his Facebook for where he's "checked in" when we don't know where he is. Well, it could be worse.
- ♥ the most he ever gets angry at us is if we use his breakfast bowl that he sets out every evening for the next morning.

We are truly lucky to call him our dad, and hope we can fill his large shoes one day.

## END NOTE

*"I couldn't have achieved what I did, had it not been for the blessings and barakah from our Creator, Allah (SWT) has given me the strength, good health, a loving family and a dedicated team of passionate & committed people who have collectively contributed to ensure that most of my ventures were a success"* - Solly Suleman.



His incredible business skills, determination, witty sense of humor, limitless amount of energy, selflessness, love and support for his family and his number one rule: doing things for the pleasure of the Almighty are just a few things that we love about him. He truly is someone I look up to and can only hope to be at least half the person that he is.

## MY FATHER – THE INSPIRATION

By Ameera Suleman

People always ask me why 'I'm so happy' all the time. This characteristic of positivity can be attributed to my father who always has a way of seeing the bright side to any seemingly hopeless situation.

He is not just my father. He is my role model; my inspiration; my rock. He encourages me to pursue my dreams without pressurising me and pushes me to do things I previously thought were impossible. He is the ultimate problem-solver. Through his consistent positivity, unwavering faith and indomitable will, his many risky ventures have almost always been successful. He has shown me that when you believe in something to such an extent, it has no choice but





# ASIF RANGOONWALA

Keynote Speaker

*"It doesn't matter what you do, it matters that you make a difference in life",* these were the inaugural words of Mr. Asif Rangoonwala's keynote address at the first WMO Business Conference and they perfectly encapsulate his incredible journey to the highest pinnacles of success in the business world.

Being profoundly involved in philanthropic activities for the past 43 years, Mr. Rangoonwala is no stranger to the WMO family and was indeed an ideal choice to kick off the power packed WMO Business Conference.

As a successful entrepreneur, with wide ranging and diverse business interests ranging from food and property to sports, Asif Rangoonwala is passionately vested in the social welfare arena, courtesy the **Rangoonwala Foundation** - established by his father - the revered **Aly Rangoonwala**. Today, the Rangoonwala Foundation under the Chairmanship of Asif provides a broad spectrum of humanitarian services including education, vocational training and medical care for marginalised communities worldwide.

Asif's journey in the business world started at a tender age of 17 when he was hired by his father to work for the family business – the Rangoonwala Group in Pakistan; Following a short stint, Asif went on to pursue his education in Europe and the United States. Upon his return, the young and ambitious Asif, determined to make a name for himself, ventured out of the family business and into the precarious world of independent business where he went on to establish **EuroBuns** – a bakery venture, formed in 1996 specialising in the production of hot dogs and ham burger buns with a startup capital of £2.4 million raised through a loan.

Eurobuns, fuelled by Asif's resolve and keen passion became a huge success and today is one of Europe's most successful industrial baking ventures that boasts an annual turnover of over **£50 million** and has a work force of more than 400.

The astute Asif then foraged the world of real estate where he bought, renovated, and sold student housing and became actively involved with the **Swanbourne Group**, which supplies short-term student accommodation in the UK with a portfolio in excess of **£1 billion**.





In cohort with his astounding success in the business world is his dedication to giving back to others. ***"My belief has always been 'to supplement the efforts of others' and The British Asian Trust is a perfect example of how to achieve the balance between NGOs and Donor Trusts, those who do the work and those who help by funding the work."***

Rangoonwala is a board member of **TiE UK**, one of the world's largest and most successful entrepreneurs not-for-profit networks, He is also a fellow of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Trustee of the Whitefield Development Trust, Director of Indus Entrepreneurs UK and Chairman of the World Memon Foundation.



Being a serial entrepreneur coupled with a passion for sports, Rangoonwala is now actively involved in P1, the power boating equal of Formula One and has transformed this into a global phenomenon. He successfully manages the World Championship for Powerboat P1, the top echelon of speedboat racing and The P1 Grand Prix's success can be established from the fact that it was recently broadcasted on 33 international TV channels!

A portfolio career like his is the dream of many an entrepreneur but Rangoonwala doesn't rest on his laurels. While addressing the audience at the WMO Conference he declared; ***"I work 14 hours a day, Saturday and Sunday. I don't have holidays. But you only work at things you don't like. I love what I do. So I never work. It's like going out with a girl, if you don't like her, it's hard work."***

As he acknowledged, applauded and endorsed the extensive, selfless global humanitarian endeavours of the World Memon Organisation, he concluded his impressive keynote address by promising to give time and means to the wonderful work being done by the organisation. The mesmerized audience gave him a standing ovation as WMO welcomed the distinguished Asif Rangoonwala into her fold.



From L-R: Gulaam Abdoola, Shoaib Ismail, Solly Noor, Asif Rangoonwala and Ismail Dada



## The *Incredible* Ladies

*“Do not rejoice except in an increase of knowledge or an increase of good works. Truly they are your two friends who will accompany you in your grave, when your spouse, your wealth, your children, and your friends will remain behind.”*

— Imam al-Ghazali

My mother would often quote the Imam to us children while we were growing up. My mum was my role model, the **first female barrister of South Africa** from the Memon Community and now an integral part of the **Ladies Wing of the World Memon Organisation**. As I witnessed the noteworthy presentations being made by our incredible ladies from across the globe at their invigorating **Meeting in Ras Al Khaimah**, I couldn't help but recall the words of the Imam. This was truly a celebration of the significant humanitarian work done by these remarkable women, each one making a marked difference in their corner of the world. And it was indeed a moment to Rejoice!

A coming together of a powerhouse of women from all spheres, from across the globe to achieve a common purpose; that of uniting, uplifting and upholding mankind.

From the awe inspiring work showcased by the ladies of **India**, the ground breaking in **Sri Lanka**, the uplifting in Pakistan, the captivating in the **Middle East** the compassionate in **Europe** to the incredible efforts of **Africa** ; it was truly a moment of tremendous pride and motivation.

Motivation to make a difference and give back to those who need us most.

It would be only fitting to pay a worthy tribute to the dynamic **Fazila AK Ismail** who held together and exemplified the efforts and vision of the founding chairperson of the International Ladies wing - **Shabana ARY**. Fazila bai has in her very successful tenure, overseen and supported the relentless work of the regional Ladies Chairpersons who have worked and continue to work with their hearts and souls in their respective Chapters. She has trotted the globe to authenticate and observe first hand, the plight of the ailing, the destitution of the homeless and



the absolute joy of those who have been afforded an education. She has visited the empowerment projects in **Mumbai** - India, the physically challenged in **Karachi** - Pakistan, the intellectually impaired in **Durban** - South Africa and highlighted their plight to garner funds almost single handedly to alleviate their pain and misery. She has extended her unflinching support towards pertinent causes in all corners of the world so that the stars under her wings could shine even more brightly.

The Ladies wing has done exceptional work to ease the suffering of our brothers, sisters and children across the Globe. These projects include **education, empowerment, housing, medical assistance, food distribution**, alongside convening social gatherings, improvising culinary skills, organising cooking competitions and the very important Orchestration of

**Memon Connections**. This matrimonial service is a much needed platform, spearheaded by senior members of the community who facilitate marriage alliances between eligible Memon families, these are often cross border unions and are very passionately overseen by our veteran **Raziya bai Chashmawala**.



The ladies of the India Chapter notably **Shabana Darvesh** and **Raziya bai Chashmawala** are doing a sterling job. The time, effort and dedication put into identifying and supporting these projects is astounding.



The Europe Chapter under the very able leadership of **Shamim Osman** has provided steadfast support to India chapter and has funded many of their endeavours. Their flagship project is the **Halima hospital** in Lohara. Shamim bai has orchestrated and been

instrumental in getting this wonderful healthcare institution on its feet. It is indeed a remarkable contribution from her and the supporting donors to provide free medical care to the disadvantaged, rural community of India.

Pakistan chapter, under the leadership of **Ayesha Anwar** is at the forefront of humanitarian endeavours and have carved a niche for themselves. This remarkable work will be taken forward by the very able **Hamida Bawani**.



Far East Chapter, overseen by **Shazia Sangani** has made strides in getting the womenfolk of Sri Lanka together to champion several worthy causes to uplift the downtrodden.

Middle East is a shining star and despite playing host to the last two very successful AGM's, have been very active on the social front. With a majority of the members being expatriates, the ME ladies wing aims to bring together members on a common platform to create an environment of an extended family and a home away from home. **Shabana Razzak** has been a successful Chairperson in her tenure and despite being a devoted daughter to her ailing late mother, has served the community with exemplary leadership.

**Mrs. Maimoona Darvesh** who has always opened her home and heart to the community will take forward this role, alongside the role of President of the International ladies wing and we wish her the best of success to take forth this immense responsibility with love and dedication.



Last but not least the ladies of Africa are most enthusiastic and supportive. Their invaluable Contribution at every ladies wing meeting has resulted in the creation of an independent platform for families in need. Every member of this chapter is admirable and motivating, each doing their own little bit that goes a long way.

Fazila bai has repeatedly commended their support and together they have achieved a remarkable milestone of creating a separate identity for the ladies wing that has become and will inshaAllah continue to be an integral part of the WMO.

Calling on all community ladies to join hands and contribute further to the astounding work that takes place in WMO.



Mrs. Shabana Abdul Razzak

May we be from among the strong women who feel deeply - as a strong woman is in essence ; a Gift to the world.

*"Heres to strong women;  
May we know them,  
May we be them,  
May we raise them."*

# RISE OF THE MEMON

## YOUTH

by Arshad Gani

Why Youth? If we refer to **Surah Kahf** in the Holy Quran – Our Almighty creator has dedicated an entire surah just towards Youth ....

From the above we learn that Youth have the courageous ability, through their behaviour, to reshape social norms and in that way, change the future of society. They force society to look within themselves and face that which seems insurmountable. **They are the backbone to every nation and are our future leaders.**

Thus, it is important to ensure that guidance and wisdom is received during this critical period. In recent years The **World Memon Organisation (WMO)** has been increasing its focus on the youth in the community to ensure that investment is made in the leaders of tomorrow.

The **WMO Global Youth Wing** was established with the view to **mentor the Youth** so that they may continue to build on the foundation laid by their founding forefathers with the required skill and integrity. At the same time there would be a preservation of language, culture and identity.

**Mr Yunus Suleman** (Treasurer of WMO) was elected as the leader of the Global Youth - during his tenure the foundation of this vision was laid. Youth, from all the different chapters, were drawn in their multitudes and encouraged to participate and contribute in a meaningful way towards the work that needed to be done. This led to the first **International Youth Conference (IYC)** in 2013 which was held in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**.

Over the years, under the able leadership of the **International Youth wing Chairman** and Chairman of **Middle East Youth, Salman Hussain**, the number of youngsters joining WMO saw a remarkable increase.

India under the dynamic leadership of **Sana Shakoor** has championed the cause of **women empowerment** and has made deep inroads in carrying out their **extensive humanitarian endeavours towards those most disadvantaged**.

Middle East sought a different approach towards attracting youth – that through the hosting of **sporting** events which eventually saw the Middle East hosting **16** events in a single calendar year – these ranged from sports to **youth empowerment** and **quranic recitals**.

Finally, **Pakistan** chapter under the leadership of **Khuram Shehzad** hosted a 3-day event earlier this year, **SPARK 2017** - an initiative that was attended by over **200** Youth Members.



Mr. Yunus Suleman





Youth were taught various skills through focusing on “**BELIEF**” – each day dealt with a different aspect of Belief - Belief of one's self, Belief in one's actions and finally belief on one's impact.

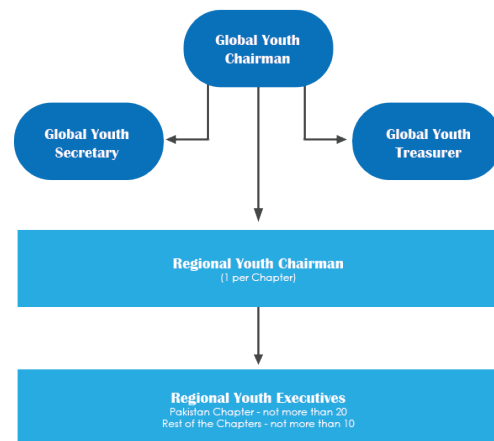
The Youngsters belonging to the various WMO chapters from around the world need to be applauded for their extensive endeavours and remarkable achievements as they strive to **unite, uphold and uplift Mankind**.

As of 2017 the torch of Global Youth Leader has now been passed on to none other than one of the founding Trustees of WMO - **Mr Bashir Sattar**. Being one of the WMO's longest serving members and well known to many in the Memon Youth community - he is unmatched with regards to his insight, skill and experience. Thus, making him the perfect person who would be able to serve the role at question.

I was privileged to have been offered the opportunity to attend the most recent youth conference which was led by Mr Sattar, it was clear at the outset that he is '**The man with the vision**'. His presentation was full of vigour and passion and he had the entire audience encapsulated.

Building on the foundation, **he has proposed and adopted additional amendments which the WMO have made throughout their constitution**. These were outlined during this conference - one of the key ones being the widening of the age range in which people can serve as a Youth member. The main purpose of which is to reduce the age gap which currently exists in the WMO and to also broaden the talent which is being encouraged to join and participate in a meaningful way.

**The Youth now have official positions, which parallel the existing management committees thus paving the way for a Global Youth Chairman and a Global Youth Secretary, among the other roles which can be seen in the diagram below.**



As the Youth enter a new era under the leadership of Mr Bashir Sattar, we at the WMO can be rest assured the WMO flag will continue to fly high.

**“We cannot always build a future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for the future” – Franklin D. Roosevelt**



Mr. Bashir Sattar



# Culinary DELIGHTS

A Report by the Middle East Chapter Ladies Wing

This **Cookery Competition** was held with the aim of incorporating further entries into the **International Cookery Book** and also to honor **Mrs. Fazila A.K. Ismail** (Head of Cookery book Committee) WMO South Africa Chapter and **Mrs. Aisha Anwar** (Co Founder and Head of Cookery book Committee) WMO Pakistan Chapter who were visiting Dubai during the 15th WMO AGM.

The event was a resounding success with a large gathering of almost a **100** guests. It was meticulously organized - a special thanks to our dedicated team of Volunteers headed by **Mrs. Ruhi Latif**.



The contestants presented a total of **38** mouth watering and well-presented dishes;



12 of these were selected and the winning contestants were honored with Certificates of Merit and adorable presents.

All entries were divided into 4 categories:

- » **Salads** : adjudicated by Mrs Nirmal Khanna
- » **Starters** : adjudicated by Mrs Zubeida bai Majid
- » **Main course** : adjudicated by Mr Mohammed Arif Dawood
- » **Desserts** : adjudicated by Chef Collin Cambell of Abela catering.

The incoming President of WMO International ladies wing, Mrs Maimoona Darvesh welcomed the guests and judges, followed by short speeches by Mrs. Fazila A.K. Ismail and Mrs. Aisha Anwar. A quiz was prepared by Shabana ARY, the winners of the quiz were given prizes (sponsored by Mrs. Shabana ARY). Whilst the ladies gorged on the grand buffet lunch, prepared by Dusit Thani, the judges were left to make some tough decisions.

The winners in each category were as follows:

## Salads

- » **1st prize: Smoked falafel salad** by Sobia Manorwala
- » **2nd prize: Cauliflower & Carrot pickle** by Hurma Fahad
- » **3rd Prize: Beans Salad** by Ruhi Latif

## Starters

- » **1st prize: Satrangi Laban** by Zaitoon Hameed.
- » **2nd prize: Masala Waley Aaloo** by Sana Fayz
- » **3rd prize: Baajrey ke Aatey ke Laban** by Ruksana Iqbal Shivani.

## Main Course

- » **1st prize: Memon Mutton Biryani** by Yasmin Aqib.
- » **2nd prize: Paya Ka Saalan** by Makiya Younis.
- » **3rd prize: Beef Haleem** by Hajra Kashif.

## Desserts

- » **1st prize: Bread Crumb Seerah** by Sumaiyya Carrim.
- » **2nd prize: Volano Trifle** by Aysha Javed
- » **3rd prize: Date and Walnut pudding** by Asiya Sadiq Haroon.

Mrs.Fazila AK Ismail and Mrs. Aisha Anwar expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all the judges, contestants, volunteers, sponsors and attendees. The Event Hosts (Ladies Wing Committee Members - Middle East) sponsored the gifts for the Guests of Honor, Contestants, Judges and Volunteers.



Forever living products were sponsored by **Sumeira Salman** and iPads for the Judges were sponsored by **Shahida Faisal** of **Vahedna Stores**. This event was a great success and the feedback from Community members was very encouraging. We look forward to organising many such events in the near future.





## Volunteers Appreciation LUNCHEON

Hosted by Mrs. Farhat Kassim.

Date: 05 November, 2017

Venue : Mrs. Farhat Kassim's Residence

This occasion was held to acknowledge and thank our dedicated team of Volunteers who contribute selflessly by sharing their time and efforts without expectation of any compensation. It was a time to thank them and let them know that their hard work hasn't gone unnoticed.

All the Volunteers were invited and the names mentioned below were present for the occasion:

Mrs. Ruhi Latif (Head of Volunteer team)

Mrs. Zeenat Merchant

Mrs. Zaida Kareem

Mrs. Naseema

Mrs. Shahida Vahedna

Mrs. Sana Fayz

Mrs. Marvi Shaikhani

Mrs. Sidrat Imran

Mrs. Sumaiya Parvez

Mrs. Tazmeen Kamdar Essa

Mrs. Sumeira Salman

Mrs. Asifun Ayaz

Mrs. Sofiya Abdul Qader

Mrs. Mariyah Adnan

Mrs. Verda Asif

Mrs. Farah Anwar

Mrs. Hamida Chara

The WMO Middle East Chapter ladies wing committee members listed below were also present:

Mrs. Maimoona Darvesh (President WMO Ladies wing)

Mrs. Shabana ARY

Mrs. Rashida Vahedna

Mrs. Zartash Shaikhani

Mrs. Shanaz Lakhani

This event was organized single handedly by Mrs. Farhat Kassim at her residence to give due appreciation to the dedicated team of hard

working Volunteers. They all were honored with Merit Certificates and adorable gifts.

Mrs. Farhat had personally prepared a sumptuous and mouth watering spread of Sri Lankan delicacies that were devoured in an instant.

A very interesting video clip was prepared by Mrs. Rashida Vahedna and played to the gathering to acknowledge the timeline of WMO and the hard work put in by our team of Volunteers headed by Mrs. Ruhi Latif, under the guidance of Mrs. Rashida Vahedna. These distinguished ladies work alongside the volunteers to assist with the smooth set up and execution of the Middle East Chapter events.







## *The Confluence*

WMO India Chapter under the leadership of it's VP, **Mr. Ehsan Gadawala** organised a matrimonial event on a scale and grandeur that was yet unheard of. On the 29th of October, a record **1500** Memons gathered at the grounds in the suburbs of Mumbai to participate in the grand event.

**Haji Amin Gadawala Foundation Trust** collaborated with **Andheri Suburban Halai Memon Jamat** and the World Memon Organization to bring together **453** eligible boys and girls in the presence of their parents to seek prospective brides and grooms.

*"What would we be without an identity?"* states an emphatic Afsana Gadawala, the better half of Ehsan Gadawala and the driving force behind the event.

As she continues in the same vein, *"We are living in a multi racial , multi cultural and multi religious environment - it is only natural for those with foresight to realise the importance of cultural and language preservation."*

*By creating platforms where a Memon boy is introduced to a Memon girl, it encourages interaction within ones own community and enables the first choice to be from ones own culture , religion , language - its merely an attempt at preservation of culture in the world that we live in!"*

Mrs Raziya Chashmawala, Deputy Chairperson of WMO Ladies Wing (North India Chapter) who heads Memon Connections, an endeavour by WMO International Ladies Wing that seeks suitable alliances between eligible Memons from across the globe adds, **"This is truly an amazing and revolutionary step taken by WMO India Chapter under the guidance of our VP, Mr. Ehsan Gadawala that will serve the Memon Community well in the future."**

*Though I myself, run a Matrimonial Centre since the past 30 years, this is a first for me, wherein 200 boys and 300 girls have come together, face to face. Both boys and girls have been offered multiple choices and a conducive environment where they can interact with each other, and their respective parents.*

*This is a great achievement and we hope that many suitable alliances will come out of this noteworthy endeavour which must be repeated on a regular basis to encourage marriages between children of our own community."*





A word of thanks to all the volunteers, especially the youngsters for organising a flawless and memorable event, all the sponsors for making it possible and our heartfelt gratitude to **Mr. Haroon Chunawala** (President of Andheri Suburban Halai Memon Jamat) for his steadfast support.

**We hope this event is the first of many, that will serve as a confluence of hearts, minds and souls leading to many happy, memorable and eternal unions under the auspices of the World Memon Organisation with the blessings of the Almighty. The Indians have set a benchmark, and other Chapters should follow-suit; in an attempt to make the heavenly-bond of marriage, in essence, a celestial one.**



Mrs. Raziya Chashmawala (Deputy Chairperson of the Ladies Wing - WMO India Chapter) with Mr. Ehsan Gadawala (VP India Chapter) and Mr. Hasin Agadi (Regional Treasurer)





# Picture Gallery

## KINDNESS IS A LANGUAGE THAT THE BLIND CAN SEE



The World Memon Organization Africa Chapter contributed 20 braille machines amounting to two hundred and fifty thousand rands (ZAR 250,000) to the visually impaired in and around the Tshwane community on the 20th of November 2017.

The handover took place at The Gardens Assisted Home in Himalaya Street in Laudium, Pretoria.



## HUMANITARIAN AID TO ROHINGYA



Mr. Nowsad Gani (Deputy President - WMO) signs an MoU with Brac - UK in the presence of Mark Furlong (Programmes Officer, Asia) and Lewis Temple (Brac - UK CEO) at his London office.

The World Memon Organisation will contribute two hundred thousand dollars (USD 200,000) towards medicines and medical consumables, provide by BRAC to the Rohingya refugees at their various medical camps, spread across the Bangladesh - Myanmar border. In the next 6 months, we intend to cover a dozen camps on a daily basis, treating on an average, 1500 - 1800 ailing refugees everyday.

### A WARM GESTURE

WMO Ladies Wing of Pakistan Chapter distributed Blankets to the disadvantaged of Noor Muhammad Village, District West Union Council Gabobut.



A 'warm' gesture which was much appreciated by the thankful villagers as temperatures continue to drop with the oncoming winter.

## LIFE IS A PICNIC



The Ladies Wing of the Far East Chapter organised a picnic for their members to the Blue Water resort in the balmy seaside town of Wadduwa, famous for its scenic and pristine beaches on the West coast of Sri Lanka. All the ladies expressed their gratitude to Ladies Wing Chairperson - Mrs Shazia Sangani for a day of fun and frolic.





Haji Saheb with his wife Zubeida ARY and niece Hina Rinch

## A Tribute to the Matriarch

husband. During the last 14 months of his life, when Haji saab was ailing and under medical supervision, she nursed him and never left his side.

**A true companion and community woman;** Zubeida played her role to the hilt in the World Memon Organisation, as the organiser-in- chief, secretary and even an accomplished chef to the countless WMO gatherings which she convened at her home, showering her trademark love on all her guests. She has been the most generous and gracious host to a multitude of management meetings & AGMs and has served the organisation with utmost dedication. She will always be remembered for her **simplicity, warmth, humility** and her **welcoming smile** by the thousands, whose lives she has touched.

Her funeral witnessed a sea of humanity, with men, women and children streaming in from across the globe to pay their last respects. The **Dubai Memon Community** mourned the loss of their mother.

**A salute** and our **heartfelt tribute** to a distinguished and wonderful lady. The World is a poorer place today, without her all encompassing love and compassion.

**But her legacy will live forever, the World Memon Organisation will always remember her compassion and generosity. And I will never forget her warm embrace and that radiant smile.**

May the Almighty grant her and all those who have passed on, complete Maghfirah and accept their endeavours towards serving mankind.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَارْحَمْهُمْ وَسَكِّنْهُمْ فِالْجَنَّةِ - آمِينَ



Seated : Zubeida ARY with eldest daughter Amina Saleem.  
Standing : Daughters - Sarwat Abdul Razzak and Shabana Abdul Razzak

While our heart mourns the loss of the **Matriarch of the World Memon Organisation**; today we celebrate the incredible life of a remarkable woman. As we honour her memory, we pray that she is blessed by the Almighty Allah SWT with the highest abode in Jannah.

This October **our community has lost a mother**. Our beloved founding Mother of WMO - **Zubeida ARY** left for her heavenly abode on October 26th, 2017. Her sad demise marks the end of an exemplary era.

Born in the commercial hub of Surat in Gujarat - India, Zubeida moved to Pakistan at an early age and went on to marry Haji **Abdul Razzak Yaqoob (ARY)** - founding father of WMO at the tender age of 16 years; Haji saab, himself was just 18 at the time of their marriage. Their blissful union was an example of a love and companionship that has stood the test of time.

She was his pillar of strength, his backbone. It was her unflinching support and selflessness that paved the way for his resounding success and legendary generosity. Besides counselling her husband since their marriage in 1962, she allied, stayed and supported the joint family system till her last breath. Zubeida has been a mother to their children - 5 resplendent and strong ladies, **Amina, Huma, Sarwat, Shabana and Farhana** ; she has been their friend, mentor and confidante. She was a doting grandmother to her 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren who sadly mourn her loss. The tears that flowed unabated during her final ghusl (bathing ritual) bore testament to the depth of their love for her.

For 52 years, she was the distinguished Matriarch of the ARY family, a dear sister to her sisters in law, caring mother to the 19 children of the extended ARY family and loving grandmother to all their grandchildren.

She had a **strong leadership** and **fierce entrepreneurial spirit** which prompted Haji saab, her children and the ARY family to scale the greatest heights of success. She was also the glue that held the family together.

**A loving and caring wife**, she was always there for her