

ALL CEYLON JAMIYYATHUL ULAMA

அகில இலங்கை ஜம்இய்யத்துல் உலமா
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MEDIA STATEMENT

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The Muslims have an extensive history in Sri Lanka. Observing the honesty and the non-aggressive intentions of the Arabs who were mainly involved in spice trade, the Sinhalese Kings granted them the right to settle in the country. These new citizens of the country who had the knowledge of medication, possessed the bravery of fighting in the wars, and talents in diplomacy and well versed in navigation were in fact a great strength and a contributory factor to the Sinhalese Kings. These brave militaristic Muslims functioned as a major unit of the forces of the Sinhalese Kings. Historical evidence shows that many of these Muslims who actively participated in the armies of the Sinhalese kings sacrificed their lives to safeguard the independence and the sovereignty of this country from foreign aggressions against the country.

The contribution made by eminent Muslim personalities such as Al Haj T.B.Jayah, Sir Razick Fareed, Dr. M.C.M.Kaleel, and Dr. Badi-ud-din Mahmoud have been recorded in the Sri Lankan history indelibly. When the Sri Lanka Bill was taken up for debate in the State Council in November 1944, commenting on the speech delivered by Al Haj T.B.Jayah, the then Leader of the House, the late Prime Minister Mr. S.W.R.D.Bandaranaike said that the pronouncement made by the Muslim MPs that they were prepared even to lose certain privileges granted by the British rulers for the sake of independence and sovereignty of Sri Lanka, was a main step towards the assurance of the freedom of the country.

It is a well known fact that even after gaining independence the Muslim leaders and the people have acted for the development of the motherland and for unity and harmony among the people of this Country. Al Haj T.B.Jayah, Sir Razick Fareed, Dr. M.C.M.Kaleel, and Dr. Badi-ud-din Mahmoud were not only leaders of the Muslims but served the Sri Lankans at large, so much so that they were recognized as National Leaders by all communities. During the 30 years of the ethnic conflict in our country where there was a struggle to safeguarding the motherland from the separatist terrorism, the Muslims of Northern and Eastern provinces suffered very much and lost many lives and large amounts of their wealth.

The contributions made by the Muslim community to defeat the unending conspiracies launched by the international elements were immense. During the last Human Rights Council Session held in Geneva many members of the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama, camped in Geneva for several days to enlighten the representatives from the Muslim countries on the ground facts and successfully canvassed them to vote in favour of Sri Lanka.

All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama

All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama was established in 1924 and its main function is to give leadership and guidance to the Sri Lankan Muslims on religious, spiritual and social activities. The Association has also rendered immense service to the non-Muslim community as well without any differences. It has played a prominent role in disaster situations such as Tsunami and rendered much service in other social welfare activities as well.

The Association has already prepared an official document on social reconciliation and furnished it to the Muslim society. It is our opinion that all conflicting issues should be solved amicably and in a cordial and non violent manner with the relevant parties through discussions based on understanding.

Message to the Sri Lankan Muslims

As it is admonished in the Holy Quran, “a Muslim should not disrespect any other religion and doing such a thing is considered as a major Sin”. We emphasize that our Association strictly adhere to this principle and perform all our activities with much precaution. We also state that our decisions are always broad-based ones. We express our gratitude to the Sri Lankan Muslim community for extending their cooperation to the decisions taken by us at all times when there were certain incidents of unrest. We also request the Muslim community not to get instigated to indulge in harmful activities without our guidance in any such situations in the future.

We also make a special request to the Muslim youth who make use of internet, websites and the social networks to refrain from the use of your language and presentations that could hurt the minds of anyone.

Message to the Government

We certify and guarantee that the Sri Lankan Muslims as a society never attempt to create religious or ethnic problems. We have always acted with patriotism to the motherland and to protect and safeguard the identity of the motherland.

Through the media we learnt that during the past few months there have been ample criticism about the Halaal certification of ACJU. Opting other methods than clarifying the matters with us has created worries within us. Hence a brief explanation is given below.

Halaal

Before the start of issuing the Halal certificate the situation about Halal was a very confused matter in Sri Lanka. Although some food and beverages manufacturers found that Muslim consumers are reluctant to purchase their products there were no guidance for them in this connection. Hence, they affixed Halal labels printed in English or Arabic to their products and marketed them. Similarly even certain restaurants claimed that they are Halal outlets. This freedom self certification of Halal went to the extent of Pork being sold in a certain Supermarket carrying the Halal label on it.

Why Halaal Certification

Due to this dangerous situation and since Halal is the most essential directive for the Muslim in their consumption of food, Muslims got confused about the food and beverages that carried the Halal labels without really knowing about their correct identity. Although the manufacturers and trades adopted various alternative methods they could not get their requirements fulfilled.

After carefully analyzing the demands made by certain institutions mainly two abattoirs on the need of a third party to interfere in this connection, and after many rounds of discussions held with this regards our Association came forward to take this responsibility.

Is it a rule of Islam or Sacrificed for GOD?

Halal is not a rule only confined to the consumption of meat for food by the Muslims. Also it is not food sacrificed under the name of God. It is a life style. In this process the people pay much attention on food, beverages and personal care. Hence, our Association crucially observe the process with the ‘farm to folk’ concept with the assistance of scientific testing’s when it is required, and ensures that non Halal items are not incorporated at any point of the process.

Does Halaal Certification given by force

The Halal certification for products of manufacturers is processed only with the interest of the individual organization and with the commitment of being transparent of the entire production line. A certification is issued only after completely verifying the production process.

We declare that none of the certified company was forced into the certification or that there was no canvassing done for Halal certificates. Being an independent religious institution legally we have no right to enforce on any other party.

Fee of Halaal Certification

As a fee is levied for any product or service we also levy a fee for this service of ours. This fee has been decided in a manner that will neither make an impact on the producer nor the consumer. We strongly emphasize that instead of the charges shown in the fee chart below, we do not charge several hundred thousand rupees on a product or a percentage of the profit or charge fees on any other base.

No. Product(s)	Fee per product per month (Rs.)		
	Small Industry	Medium Industry	Large and Multinational Industry
1 to 5	500-700	1000-1250	1500-2000
6 to 10	400-600	800-1000	1250-1500
11 to 20	250-400	600-800	800-1000
21 to 30	-NA-	400-600	600-800
31 to 50	-NA-	200-300	350-500
51 to 100	-NA-	100-200	200-300
>100	-NA-	-NA-	20,000-25,000 **

** More than 100 products charges will be fixed to Rs. 20000-25000

It is less than 10 cents that is spent on a finished product. For some institutions it amounts even less than one cent. Therefore it is very clear that there is no connection between the fixing of a price of a product and the Halal certificate. If some producers or manufacturers increase the price of their products unjustifiably in the surface of Halaal, such institutions itself are responsible for that and not the Halal certificate.

PRODUCT SECTOR

		Extra Cost per unit if No. of Units Produced is				
TOP 15 COMPANIES		5000	10,000	20,000	100,000	1,000,000
		Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.
1*		0.3774	0.1887	0.0943	0.0189	0.0019
2*		0.1293	0.0646	0.0323	0.0065	0.0006
3		0.0500	0.0250	0.0125	0.0025	0.0003
4		0.1933	0.0967	0.0483	0.0097	0.0010
5		0.1000	0.0500	0.0250	0.0050	0.0005
6		0.0600	0.0300	0.0150	0.0030	0.0003
7		0.0779	0.0389	0.0195	0.0039	0.0004
8		0.1000	0.0500	0.0250	0.0050	0.0005
9		0.0600	0.0300	0.0150	0.0030	0.0003
10		0.0357	0.0179	0.0089	0.0018	0.0002
11		0.1143	0.0571	0.0286	0.0057	0.0006
12		0.1000	0.0500	0.0250	0.0050	0.0005
13		0.0718	0.0359	0.0179	0.0036	0.0004
14		0.0600	0.0300	0.0150	0.0030	0.0003
15		0.1000	0.0500	0.0250	0.0050	0.0005

***Certification Fee Includes Full Time Monitor's Fee**

However the Halaal certification creates many opportunities to increase sales and reduce the operational costs and as a result the price of the product will be reduced.

Is it spent on terrorism?

The fee is charged purely for the purpose of covering the overheads of the Association occurred during the certification process. Rather there is no intention of profit making, building mosques or propagation of the religion of Islam, helping terrorism or to support any illegal or anti social local or foreign activity.

By issuing Halal Certificate our Association earns Rs. 1.5 million per month and out of which Rs. 1.3 million goes to cover our overhead expenses. All our accounts are periodically audited and maintained.

Message for the Media

We kindly request the media to contact us for any ACJU or Halaal related matters. Please do not make baseless statements without verification

Message to All Sri Lankans

The Halaal Division is always willing to discuss and explain all our activities to any person who approach us in the proper channel. Our matters are transparent which has no secrets in them

Summary

- Muslims who endures a long history in Sri Lanka have contributed to the country throughout the history, during the era of the Sinhala king's, during the independence struggle, after the independence, during the war with the LTTE, after the war when foreign allegations came up against the nation.
- The All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama founded in 1924, is a nonpolitical, non-governmental organization working towards the wellbeing of the Muslims and to the whole Sri Lankans.
- Halaal is **NOT** sacrificed to GOD by any means and it is food which does not contain unsuitable ingredients according to Islamic belief.
- Halaal certification is a requirement created by the industry and the consumers in order to confirm the Halaal status of the products.
- There is no forcing, marketing done for Halaal certification. Certification is issued solely with the interest of each individual organization after a thorough inspection of the whole process.
- Since the fee levied for issuing a Halal Certificate for a product is very minimal, it does not contribute for any form of price increases. Therefore, consumers need not pay for Halal certification. A price comparison in the market will prove this fact.
- All accounts are audited by a reputed audit firm. The certification fee is used for operations costs of the organization and not for any other matters.

All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama