

ISSUED BY

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Thursday, 9 Rabiuth Thaani 1434 – 21 February 2013

THE HILAAL FOR THE MONTH OF RABIUTH THAANI, 1434

THE MOON WAS NOT SIGHTED ANYWHERE IN SOUTH AFRICA!!!

QUESTION

Today is Wednesday the 20 February, and in South Africa the Islamic date coinciding is 8th Rabiul Aakhir 1434. I have seen an e-mail issued by a Mr. Bham of some Hilaal Committee saying that the moon was sighted in Venda on Tuesday 12 February. On this basis it is also the 9th for us in South Africa. There was also a radio announcement to this effect. Please throw light on this issue. What is the Islamic date for us in South Africa? Do we follow the Venda information?

ANSWER

Firstly, the hilaal (crescent moon) was not sighted anywhere in South Africa. Secondly, the Venda news percolated to the recipients almost 8 days after the alleged sighting despite Venda being inside South Africa. Thirdly, neither a radio announcement nor an e-mail has validity in terms of the Shariah for establishing the Islamic date, i.e. sighting of the hilaal. Fourthly, the information was conveyed to South Africans by a faasiq, faajir whose very Imaan is suspect. The Mr. Bham you have mentioned is the self-same character, the Reverend Abraham Bham, who had worshipped in a church under 12 crosses. This person's fisq is publicly confirmed. He had his picture published in copro-newspapers several times. In the perpetration of this act of fisq as well as other acts of fisq, he conducts himself shamelessly. Fifthly, it is haraam to accept the word of a faasiq on Shar'i matters.

We reject the news conveyed from Venda. The Islamic date remains unchanged in South Africa regardless of who accepts the Venda report. As far as we are concerned, the hilaal for Rabiuth Thaani was not sighted, and the 1st was on Wednesday 13 February.

It is necessary to understand that the stance adopted by some bodies to accept information of this nature will inevitably lead to great conflict, especially on the occasion of Ramadhaan and Eid. For the sake of an imaginary 'unity' with neighbouring countries, it is indeed ignorance supreme to cultivate disunity within the country. Those who are pursuing this erroneous path of false 'unity' should understand well that a large segment of the Muslim community will not accept this Venda-type information. We shall begin Ramadhaan on different days and celebrate Eid on different days if this becomes necessary as a consequence of the intransigence of those who pursue the goal of phantom 'unity'. Their 'unity' with Zimbabwe, etc. will culminate in a genuine disunity in South Africa. We trust that this serious warning will be well understood. Any reckless decision will have far reaching consequences for the community.

We fail to understand why these phantom-unity seekers are averse to the simple instruction of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) which is applicable for the determination of the Islamic months. Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said: "Fast when the hilaal is sighted, and stop

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fasting when it is sighted. If due to overcast conditions, the moon is not sighted, then it will be a 30-day month.”

What is the problem with this instruction of Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam)? What is so difficult that makes it impossible to observe this command? Why do people display an aversion for the Sunnah? Nothing but deficiency of Imaan and deficiency in love for Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) are the causes for treating the Sunnah and the Shariah with disdain.