

Donation of six cars assists Child Welfare Durban to serve vulnerable children more effectively

A critical gap in Child Welfare Durban and District's operational capacity, hindering its staff's ability to serve vulnerable children effectively, has been filled by a massive R1, 380, 000 donation by the South African Muslim Charitable Trust (SAMCT). The substantial donation to this 107-year-old child protection organisation has provided for six new vehicles, essential for home visits, emergency child removals, court attendances and the daily transportation of children, as well as 10 new laptop computers, better enabling social workers to manage cases, adhere to legal mandates and deliver services across the organisation's extensive area of operation. Commenting on the generous donation, Professor Dasarath Chetty, Child Welfare president, said, "Of our 15 vehicles, five are non-functional, resulting in the organisation's 48 social workers being forced to share the remaining 10 old and unreliable vehicles, severely delaying services and compromising child safety. Equally, Child Welfare has long made do with 55, largely old, second-hand and donated computers among its 71 essential staff members. With 150 staff serving thousands of Durban's children, Child Welfare Durban is the largest child protection organisation in Africa." Child Welfare Durban and District has long championed the protection of rights, enhanced the quality of life, and secured the safety and development of abandoned,



Child Welfare president, Professor Dasarath Chetty, together with trustee of the South African Muslim Charitable Trust, Mr Gaff Osman, and SAMCT representatives, at the handover of the brand new vehicles.

abused, neglected and orphaned children. It is managed entirely by the president and board of unpaid volunteers, ensuring that administrative costs remain minimal and that maximum resources are channelled directly into frontline care, medical services, education, and therapeutic support. Prof Chetty stated that the organisation is committed, not just to providing frontline child protection services but to contributing towards the creation of a child-centred society. Upon learning of Child Welfare Durban and District's critical transportation and administrative issues, Mr Gaff Osman and the SAMCT were quick to step in, providing the strategic financial assistance necessary to immediately and directly restore efficient, real-time service delivery to vulnerable children in the organisation's care. Mr Osman added, "The safe and reliable transportation of children in the charge of Child Welfare Durban and District is a critical priority, given the community-based services it offers. The compromised transportation situation has, up until now, severely impacted service delivery, reducing efficiency in conducting home and school visits, causing difficulties in responding to emergency child removals and giving rise to

inconsistent access to courts and medical facilities for children in care. Such problems were further exacerbated by the extreme shortage of modern computer equipment, resulting in compromised management of cases and difficulties in ensuring strict adherence to legal mandates." The SAMCT was created in 2008, the result of a partnership between Old Mutual Unit Trusts and Al Baraka Bank, for the creation, marketing and distribution of a suite of Shariah Funds. The organisation provides funding, services and other

resources to improve the lives of the vulnerable, deprived and disadvantaged. It has successfully delivered sizeable assistance solutions throughout South Africa - irrespective of race or religion - and continues to work to support needy organisations in the fields of healthcare, social development, poverty alleviation and education. The organisation has long served as a pivotal conduit for the channelling of funding, vital services, and resources to approved public benefit organisations, and remains committed to catalysing positive change and creating a lasting impact on the development and uplift of, especially, disadvantaged individuals and communities. Its funds are distributed to help improve the health and development of deserving people and organisations, irrespective of race or religion. "The Child and Welfare Durban and District's transport and administrative limitations had significantly hindered its ability to properly fulfil its child protection mandate. We, of the SAMCT, are therefore, extremely pleased to have been able to partner with the organisation, optimising its overall operational efficiency, improving its response measures, ensuring the children in its charge continue receiving the care and protection they deserve and, above all, contributing towards restoring childhood to the thousands of children the organisation exists to serve," said Mr Osman.

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Panjaro clinches back-to-back titles

Jean Kruger, known as Panjaro, was recently crowned the 2026 Red Bull Shay' iMoto champion after a hard-fought performance at Sun-coast Casino, making him the first spinner to ever win consecutive titles.



Red Bull Shay' iMoto 2026 champion, Panjaro and his stuntman.

The 2025 reigning champion defeated King Tyler, who made his debut appearance at Red Bull Shay' iMoto in the final to claim the title in front of a sold-out crowd on Durban's Golden Mile. Things were heated from the first round with the driv-

ers showcasing great technical skills as they weaved through obstacles with a touch of daring stunts. One of the most exciting rounds was a repeat of last year's semi-finals, which saw fan favourite Magesh Junior, in his isiZulu regalia, go up against Panjaro. It was that act that motivated Panjaro to take the title for the second time in a row. "It is an honour and a great feeling to win this year's title. When my brother got eliminated, he told me to bring it home once again - and that is what I did," said Panjaro. This year's Red Bull Shay' iMoto will go down as the most thrilling competition yet, which also included, for the first time, a special recognition to the stuntmen.

These are the guys that give spinning its creative flair and excitement - this year's title of 'Top Stuntman' went to KB, who was King Tyler's stuntman on the night.

OPERATION QURBAANI

Dhul Hijjah 2026

Mi Timol will be undertaking the yearly trip for Qurbani, fulfilling both the obligation of Qurbani and serving the needs of the impoverished in villages below the poverty line.

These communities lack regular access to meat, receiving it only during Eid-ul-Adha for inhabitants, orphans, and students. To facilitate this, we perform qurbani in numerous Dhul Uloom and villages. Ordering and paying early will greatly assist our efforts.

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NB: Mi Timol has been assisting his late father Ht. Mi. Mahmood Hashim Timol R.A. (Original Imam of Nugget Str. Masjid), with Qurbani abroad & locally for many years and he is currently serving the Muslim community of South Africa.

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