

*Speech given by the Rector of the
Maldives College of Higher Education on the 78th
anniversary of Majeediyya School.*

19th April 2005 (7.05 am) [643 words – 5.5 mins]

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Mr John Matthew, Principal //

Commissioner of Police

Major General General Mr Adam Zahir, //

Mr Abdulla Salih, Director General of MOE, //

Mr Mohamed Hameed, Vice Chairman of School Board,

///

Staff, Parents and Dear students.

Assalaam Alaikum,

Thank you for inviting me to your
celebrations for marking the 78th
anniversary of Majeediyya School.

Majeediyya School is special, not because
it is the first modern school in the
Maldives. For over 78 years, this school
has been a fountain for those who thirst
for knowledge — a lighthouse for those
seeking enlightenment—a guide to those
seeking moral and spiritual development.

The school had given opportunity to those boys who had none, friendship to those who were friendless and hope to those in despair.

In the 78 year old register of Majeediyya / are the names of its past teachers and students who made it what it is today. They were giants — the men and women featured in that register.

You can still feel their presence in the hallowed corridors and classrooms of the school. Their footprints had frayed the floors of its laboratories and library. Teachers who took their duty before their family life... teachers who would rather come to the class in crutches than be absent... teachers who taught with their arms in slings— and teachers who forsook their leisure time to help a helpless forlorn student.

Next to the names of these dedicated teachers are the names of boys who flew under their wings. And that is a very long list: architects and accountants, bankers and biologists, doctors and dentists, managers, ministers and musicians, presidents, principals and pilots, scientists and surveyors, teachers and technocrats. In fact, no school has such a special list of past pupils.

All these men were not born with silver spoons in their mouths. They had endured hardships to overcome incredible odds. Today, as Majeediyya students and staff, you are called upon to preserve that tradition of excellence, to honour the heritage by showing the same physical and moral courage and a matching dedication to push forward to achieve your goals— come what may. Let the great register of the school be your example. Let the timeless truth of your motto be your inspiration.

Dear teachers,

As we mark the 78th anniversary of the school / we are mindful of the great men and women who took and continue to take / teaching as a sacred trust. We are proud of your dedication to the profession / for the personal sacrifices you make to teach our children / for your devotion to educate their questing minds // and for your inspiration of their hopeful hearts. / We salute you all.

Parents and Staff

There are winds of change blowing. In the curriculum we offer to students / in the way we manage the school / in the response we show to community needs / Majeediyya now has competition /// There is competition not only from next door, but nationwide.

In these circumstances, to remain special, Majeediyya can no longer rest on its laurels. The school's uniqueness was based on innovation. If Majeediyya does

what every school does, it will be just another school. Majeediyya should not ape the practices of other schools. It must be a trend-setter not a follower.

So today, 78 years after an innovative idea to start a school, let us again be pioneers / like our founders. Let us be pioneers in new methods of teaching students and reaching to their hearts and minds. // Let us commit ourselves, once again, to the mission of the school

On this anniversary, let all the students and staff pledge to make Majeediyya the *best* school in the country.

For the glories of the past, must be, but a preparation for better days to be.

Happy Anniversary
and / thank you very much.