

9th January 2025

## To Whom It May Concern

The partnership between the Imam Development Project (IDP) and the Young Leaders Academy through the We Love Reading program has been a truly inspiring experience in our community work this past year.

After 15 Imams and Muallimas were trained as Reading Ambassadors in November 2025, many immediately introduced weekly read-aloud sessions in their Madaaris, Masjids, and neighbourhoods. The response from children has been extraordinary.

One moment captures this impact beautifully. Muallima Zainub Ncongwane from Underberg, a remote rural area, took isiZulu (mother tongue) storybooks home during the holidays. She later shared this message with us:

*"Since I arrived home, these children have been holding me hostage demanding I read to them or listen to them read... The minute I sit down they say, 'Mama please read for me,' 'Aunty, here's the book, can we read again,' 'Ma, listen to me read!' – not that I'm complaining!"*

For us, this is more than a heart-warming story – it is evidence of transformation. In communities where children often have no access to books, we are now seeing joy, confidence, and a hunger for learning emerge through a simple but powerful model.

IDP has long worked to empower faith leaders to be agents of change. Through We Love Reading, we see that mission deepened: literacy is becoming part of our da'wah, our leadership, and our service to society. We commend the Young Leaders Academy for introducing this program to our network and fully support its continued growth across South Africa.

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