



MOSAIC

Closing Remarks: Karimah Es Sabar



Ladies and Gentleman,

I believe that when one has the honour of delivering closing remarks, it is incumbent upon one to use those few valuable minutes **well**. At the very least provoking thought, dialogue, debate and even, God Forbid, action!

Our world is blessed with many great thinkers and thoughts leaders that could inspire us, so why would I subject you to some nonsense that pops out of my ordinary mind! You would be right to say I should not! In anticipation of this response I have chosen to share with you some thoughts from a man that inspires me, The Aga Khan. I will focus on a very small part of a speech from his book:

“Where Hope Takes Root”

This Speech was made at the ***The Governor General's Leadership Forum in Gatineau, May 2004*** – The speech is about

Canada as a Global Leader. Quote:

Ladies and Gentleman: There are compelling reasons, as I have tried to articulate, why Canada ***can and should*** take the lead in investing to safeguard and enhance pluralism. We inhabit an overcrowded planet with shrinking resources yet we share a common destiny. A weakness or pain in one corner has the tendency, rather rapidly to transmit itself across the globe. Instability is infectious. ***But so is hope.*** It is you.....the leaders of today and tomorrow.....to carry the torch of that hope and help to share the ***gift of Pluralism.*** Unquote

The recent tragic events in my own home country of Kenya just this week, is a demonstration of how connected and interdependent we really are as a single humanity sharing one small globe. We must take a collective responsibility and ask the difficult questions, find the answers and mitigate with action. Ask, e.g., why so many of our youth are being disenfranchised, marginalized and growing up with hatred in their hearts, rather joy and love for their fellow human beings, and instead of the hope for an exciting future ahead of them, getting into lives of drugs, crime and terrorism.

These are indeed deep and far reaching discussions to be had, not for today, but my deepest hope is that the collective Canada will continue to take leadership in nurturing a robust pluralistic society. One, which opens its arms with warmth and humanity to the newcomers who come to our country, many of them at a great cost. One, that then enables and supports the true integration and settlement of these fragile individuals who come with great hope believing Canada to be a just, kind, caring society based on values of equality and meritocracy, giving the same opportunities to all who step on its blessed shores.

Organizations like Mosaic work towards this goal and open their arms to newcomers, working at the very roots of settlement and integration. They should be encouraged and supported and as should others like them. But each of us also have a responsibility and must also be bold advocates for continuing to build the ***Mosaic that is Canada*** – a Truly Pluralistic Society leading the way for the rest of the World.

It has been a great honour to serve this organization, this Mosaic!

Thank you!