



MEDIA RELEASE

From:

African Think Tank Inc.

**WORKING WITH
VICTORIA'S AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**www.att.org.au
m) 0405 479 275**

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Happy, safe and peaceful RAMADAN 2009 to all

On behalf of the African Think Tank, I wish ATT members, friends, supporters and the wider Australian community a happy, safe and peaceful Ramadan 2009.

For Muslims, the holy month of Ramadan is the anniversary of the revelation of The Quran to Prophet Mohammed. It is time of purity and train body and soul in order to learn patience and discipline, Muslims are enjoined to fast from dawn till sunset, refraining from food, drink, sex, smoking, and ill-nature, excess, and anger. Some people, such as invalids, pregnant women, suckling mums, mentally retarded, elderly and people travelling may undertake other spiritual duties in place of fasting or fast the missed days sometime later.

Ramadan is a time to look within, nourish spiritual virtues, and join with friends and family in celebration. This year, members of the African Think Tank wish particularly to celebrate Australia's generosity in offering us the opportunity to join a harmonious multicultural society with its peace-loving and welcoming people in time of their need.

Ramadan concludes with the Eid El-Fitir festival, a time for feasting and giving gifts, which this year is on September 20th 2009.

Islam is the largest religion in Africa, representing about 45% of the population. Twenty-one of the fifty-four countries in Africa have majority Muslim populations. Countries in Africa that have over 80% Muslim populations are Somalia, Mauritania, Western Sahara, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Niger, Senegal, Djibouti, Mali, Guinea, The Gambia, Egypt and Sudan, while Chad, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Guinea-Bissau have significant (50% ±) Islamic populations that live peacefully and harmonious with Christian and other minorities.

**Mr Geoff Byng ATT web manager and media organiser (felisgris@yahoo.com)
Dr. Berhan Ahmed –Chairperson, African Think Tank Inc
e) berhanahmed@iprimus.com.au**