

Sathya Sai International Organisation SA
“BROTHERHOOD OF MAN - FATHERHOOD OF GOD”
THE SPIRIT OF ONENESS”

Chatsworth Stadium - 24 04 2016 Sunday 8am - 2.00pm

A NATIONAL TRIBUTE & CELEBRATION TO BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

The master of the universe, although having taken Samadhi has devotees pining for HIS physical form. Devotees have for the last 28 days embarked on a tribute to our Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba through Seva, Bhajans and study circles. This month long vigil culminated in the largest tribute and celebration on the life and messages of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The event themed “The Spirit of Oneness” was focused on creating a public outreach that invites brothers and sisters from all faiths to join us in celebrating the “Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God”.

From all parts of the country, devotees started their work as part of their love to the Lord on Friday night to ensure that fellow devotees and guests attending the Sathya Sai Aradhana Mahotsavam on Sunday were welcomed into an environment that is equal to being at Prashanti Nilayam. The officers and active workers of each region committed and undertook duties to ensure that an event with Sai excellence was planned and delivered as a tribute to the Master of the Universe, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. All devotees worked late into the night on Saturday showing their love and dedication.

Sunday morning, 24th April, officers and active workers started the day’s preparation from 5.00 am in anticipation of the devotees that were to attend. Love and spirituality permeated the entire venue. Devotees took part in a Gayathri Hawan to sanctify the day. This was accompanied by Nadaswaram which preceded the Vedic Chanting. Bhajans was rendered by the National Music Team. The reverberating sound of god could be heard in every heart as devotees made their way into the Chatsworth Stadium. The ambience created for approximately 10 000 devotees was elevating. The 5th Anniversary of the day Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba took Samadhi is entitled Aradhana Mahotsavam, translated as the great celebration of prayer and obeisance. Months of preparations that saw participation by every region culminated in a divine event.

The Balvikas children and devotees started a float procession accompanied by a march for Values from the Hare Krishna Temple towards the stadium, arriving at 9.00am. The children of the Midlands Region presented a unity of faith play dedicated to Bhagavan. The guard of honour by the Youth was created to receive our guest of Honour the Premier of Kwa Zulu Natal “the Honourable Senzo Mchunu, Zonal leaders in Mr Ramesh Hathiramani, Central Coordinator Mr Allan Reddy, National Council Dr. Naven Govender and his team, Prof Anil Kumar Kamaraju and the leaders of the Education and Central Trust. The program officially started with lighting of the lamp by the premier, Zonal chair, Central Coordinator, National Council President and Prof Anil Kumar Kamaraju. The entire congregation was welcomed by the National Council President and was followed by addresses by the Central Coordinator and Zonal Chair. A video message by the Prasanthi Council Chair Dr Narendranath Reddy was played and all of these were received with great enthusiasm. The address of the Premier, the Hon. Senzo Mchunu was especially received with resounding applause for his tribute to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and requested the leaders at all forums in South Africa to inculcate values into their beings when serving the nation. The speech by the Premier was much publicised the following day taking a special place in the various tabloids wherein the Premier requested the nation to take the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to the schools and leadership.

Whilst all this was going on within the stadium, the South African National Blood Services conducted a blood collection drive partnering with the organisation (the largest spiritual organisation that drives the collection of blood) and collected one pint more than the 108 pints targeted. The sales of books, CD's and DVD's took place whilst the ladies forum had on display the various skill craft work of the various regions that is part of the outreach program carried out. The ISSE set up an area to keep children and parents occupied with various activities. Devotees throughout the country submitted their poetry, art, lyrics and a professionally recorded CD entitled Prema Narayani as their love and tribute to Bhagavan. A few of the poems were recited at the event and an eBook is being launched with the poems converted to videos and the CD. All compositions will be developed by the National Music Team.

The Balvikas children presented a spectacular musical drama entitled "Imbokodo: you strike a woman, you strike a rock." The devotees thoroughly enjoyed the talks by Prof Anil Kumar and Bhajans that punctuated the event by popular local singers Kevin Akaloo and Isai Selvamani Karthigasen Pillay that was accompanied by NMT. Sumptuous meals were served and the event ended with Arthi by the zonal chair, central coordinator and Prof Anil Kumar. The feedback from devotees are listed below.

Sitara Ramsurup: "A Sai Felt Well Done to the Organizers for a Momentous, all Inspiring Function. I have never seen a function of such magnitude being pulled off with such precision. The service that our youth provided was second to none. The peacefulness, friendliness and caring attitude of the servadals, as well as all the devotees and visitors was truly astounding. Every which way I turned there was a smiling face to greet me. The Stadium was truly Sai fully charged."

Harris Naidoo: "Well done to everyone for a well organised and spiritually uplifting function. The presence of OUR most revered Prof Anil Kumar added that fire in our bellies to rekindle our faith and Love for Swami." And on the Balvikas drama presentation, "Definitely a polished performance. Well done to our Sai Angels"

Kriben Naidoo: "well done to all the organisers and sevadals...amazing execution and a blissful day it was." And on the poetry "well done Poets"

Vani Moodley: "Well done Sai Blossoms"

Chris Naicker: "I witnessed all this spiritual journey in Chatsworth"

Mali Naidoo: "Jai sai ram! We really enjoyed it."

Hazel Reddy: "Om Sai Ram, thoroughly enjoyed Prof Anil Kumar,thank u.

Navie Soobramoney: "Asr.....Was an absolute joy to be able to listen to a spiritual talk peppered with humour.."

Pamela Pillay: "Asr we basked in his spiritual energy."

Premy Moodley: "Thank you to the organisers and the Sathya Sai Organisation for such a mind blowing event. Sai Ram and God bless you all"

Ravi Naidoo: "Was an awesome wave, well done on the presentation of the morning programme."

Ravi Thaver

Sathya Sai Aradhana Mahotsavam Planning Committee Secretariat