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## You Are The Winner

By the grace of Almighty Allah Azza wa Jalla, SANHA earned the accolade of being a finalist in the prestigious sixth Islamic Finance Business Awards last week.

The highly acclaimed award as one of three finalists was in the "Community Corporate Social Investment" category and made SANHA the only Halaal certifying body to be lauded by the judges.

It was a fitting tribute to the foresight of our pious Ulama predecessors who a decade and half ago anticipated the challenges that would face the Ummah in a newly-liberated and democratic South Africa. They understood that a new approach had to be adopted by the Muslims of South Africa with the demise of Apartheid, the free movement of Muslims throughout South Africa, the deregulation of the meat industry and imports with the repeal of sanctions, drastic changes in shopping and eating habits and globalization. They believed that it would require the harnessing of the collective effort of Ulama, business and the public to create a body whose only purpose and mission would be to serve the needs of Halaal.

SANHA was born out of this noble initiative this month 15 years ago and from the outset strived to be nationally represented, enjoy the support and guidance of the broader Ulama, be above cultural, geographical and petty politics, operate as a non-profit entity, refuse to serve vested business interests and apply the highest Shar'iy standards.

Alhamdulillah! The journey has been nothing short of miraculous and SANHA has established itself as a transparent and credible authority, promoting professionalism and excellence in the certification of Halaal products. It is a founder member of the World Halal Council and has hosted and attended many international conferences. It has accredited over 1400 businesses, established offices in three major centres in South Africa and employs some 125 people. It has many collaborative relationships and enjoys international recognition from Muslim countries and the broader global community.

In receiving any recognition, rewards and accolades, SANHA is deeply mindful of the Quranic teaching as espoused in Surah Aal Imraan: Verse 26.

Say, "Our Allah: possessor of all sovereignty. You grant sovereignty to whomever You choose, You remove sovereignty from whomever You choose. You grant dignity to whomever You choose, and commit to humiliation whomever You choose. In Your hand is all goodness. You are Omnipotent."

SANHA is humbled by this nomination and the many messages of goodwill and support received. It takes this opportunity to extend its deep felt appreciation to all of you, subscribers, certified plants, officials, management, staff, friends and well wishers. It pledges to do its utmost in upholding your expression of confidence in us and dedicates the award to Muslims everywhere.

Jazakumullah Khayran!