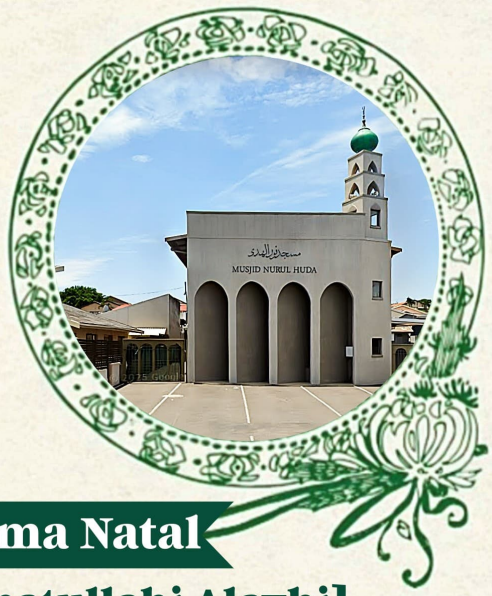
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

81



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

17. Moulana Muhammad Ahmed Salejee [Rahmatullahi Alayhi]
1947 - 2021

- Moulana was born in 1947 on Randles Road, Overport, Durban, into a family of six siblings.
- His birthplace is where Masjid Nurul Huda is currently located (presently under reconstruction and expansion), and he is from the well-known 'I.G. Hoosen' Salejee family.
- From a young age, he was affectionately known as "Gora."
- His early Islamic education commenced at home under the guidance of his paternal grandmother, who had an islahi link to Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- He received his formal Islamic education at the Glearnearn Road Soofie Masjid Maktab under the tutelage of Ustaadh Sayyid Abdul Hamid (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), a pious and noble personality who also served as one of the Imaams of the Glearnearn Road Soofie Masjid.
- Moulana completed his secular education up to Standard 7 (Grade 9) at Centenary High School in Asherville, Durban.
- In 1965, Moulana travelled to India for higher Islamic studies and enrolled at Jamiah Hussainiyyah in Rander, Gujarat.
- Thereafter, he enrolled at Nadwatul Ulama in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, where he graduated in 1970.
- Moulana also completed the final year of the Aalim course at Binnori Town Madrasah in Karachi, Pakistan – the renowned institution founded by Allamah Yusuf Binnori (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- After completing his studies in Rander, Lucknow, and Karachi, he returned to South Africa in 1972.
- Moulana took bay'at at the hands of Moulana Inaamul Hasan (d. 1995 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi), the Ameer of Tablighi Jamaat.
- He was deeply committed to Tabligh and Da'wah, spending a total of three years in Jamaat on separate occasions.

To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



82

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

17. Moulana Muhammad Ahmed Salejee [Rahmatullahi Alayhi]
1947 - 2021

Continued..

- Moulana's nikaah took place during the journey of Hajj. Among the illustrious personalities present at the nikaah were Shaikh-ul-Hadith Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya, Moulana Inaamul Hasan, Moulana Yusuf Binnori and Moulana Umar Palanpuri (Rahmatullahi Alayhim), amongst others. The nikaah was performed by Moulana Inaamul Hasan (Rahimahullah). After the nikaah, Hazrat Shaikh Zakariyya (Rahimahullah) took a handful of dates and distributed them among those present, practising upon the Sunnah of Nabi ﷺ.
- The waleemah was held at Madrasah Salatiyyah in Makkah Mukarramah, and Hazrat Shaikh was among the guests.
- Hazrat Shaikh Zakariyya (Rahimahullah) once wrote to Moulana Gora Salejee: "Without any exaggeration, I am writing this to you that the very first time my sight fell on you, your love has entered my heart."
- When Moulana Inaamul Hasan (Rahimahullah) visited South Africa for the first time, Moulana Gora accompanied his mentor and murshid throughout his journey in the country. (Reference: History of the Salejee Family in South Africa)
- When the Jamiatul Ulama Natal offices opened at Sayani Centre, Grey Street, Durban, in 1973, Moulana would spend his mornings at the Jamiat office, assisting Moulana Yunus Patel rahimahullah with its activities and responsibilities.
- Moulana served on the Shura of Jamiatul Ulama KZN for several years, as well as on the Shura of several institutions, including: Madrasah Arabia Islamiah (Azaadville), Madrasah Inaamiyyah (Camperdown), and Madrasatul Banaatus Salihaat (girls' madrasah in Isipingo Beach, Durban).

To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



83

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

17. Moulana Muhammad Ahmed Salejee [Rahmatullahi Alayhi]

1947 - 2021

Continued..

- Moulana was a director of the well-known I.G. Hoosen and Company, and right up until his demise, he remained actively involved in the day-to-day affairs of the business.
- Apart from his business engagements, Moulana was deeply involved and passionate about Makaatib (Madrasah) projects in the neighbouring countries of Mozambique and Malawi. He also played an instrumental role in establishing Makaatib in Vietnam, the Philippines, and the Comoros Islands.
- He was a member of the Shura of Madrasah Haqqaniyah, Kathor, Gujarat from its inception by Hazrat Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee (d. 2003 – Rahimahullah). After the demise of Moulana Omarjee (Rahimahullah), Moulana Gora Salejee was appointed as the Ameer of the South African Shura of the Madrasah.
- A gentle and soft-spoken person by nature, he always embraced people with a warm smile and a well-mannered disposition.
- In the latter part of his life, Moulana experienced health difficulties but continued with his Deeni efforts with steadfastness and dedication.
- He passed away in October 2021 in Durban, in the presence of his close family members.
- Moulana was both born and passed away in the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal (9th and 12th).
- His Janazah Salaah was led by Mufti Ebrahim Salejee (Hafizahullah) at Madrasah Taleemuddeen, Isipingo Beach, and he was laid to rest in the Dayal Road Cemetery in Clairwood, Durban.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



84

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

18. Moulana Osman Cassim Kadwa [Hafizahullah]

- Moulana was born in 1947 in Umzinto, south of Natal, in a family of nine siblings.
- He received his elementary Islamic education in Umzinto at the Umzinto Madrasah and completed his secular education up to Standard 6 (Grade 8) at Umzinto Secondary School.
- As a young boy, he would regularly listen to the lectures of Moulana Omarjee (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), which became a profound source of inspiration for him and ignited within him the desire to one day acquire knowledge like his.
- A bayaan by Moulana Dawood Desai (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) in the Umzinto Musjid deeply moved him and further strengthened his resolve, ultimately motivating him to travel to India to pursue his Islamic studies.
- In 1963, at the age of 16, he departed South Africa by ship for India on the SS Kampala. The cost of the ticket at the time was R42. His roommates on the voyage were Moulana Yunus Patel, Moulana Ayoob Katchwi, Moulana Rashid Karolia, and Dr A.H. Solwa.
- He enrolled at Jamiah Hussainiyyah, Rander, Gujarat where he completed his Hifz under Hafez Ayyub Mota (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- Thereafter, he proceeded for Dhor to Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow, where he spent six months and had the honour of meeting Moulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi). His Dhor in Lucknow was under Hafez Hashmatullah (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- In 1967, Moulana accompanied his parents on Hajj. They travelled from Bombay to Karachi, staying with the Docrat family in Karachi while en route to Jeddah.
- The journey lasted four months, beginning from the month of Ramadaan. Moulana performed I'tikaaf in Madinah Munawwarah with the father of Hajeebhai Padia, Hafez Ismail Padia (Rahmatullahi Alayhima). Hafez Ismail Padia used to recite his Dhor to one of the Imams of Masjidun Nabawi ﷺ.

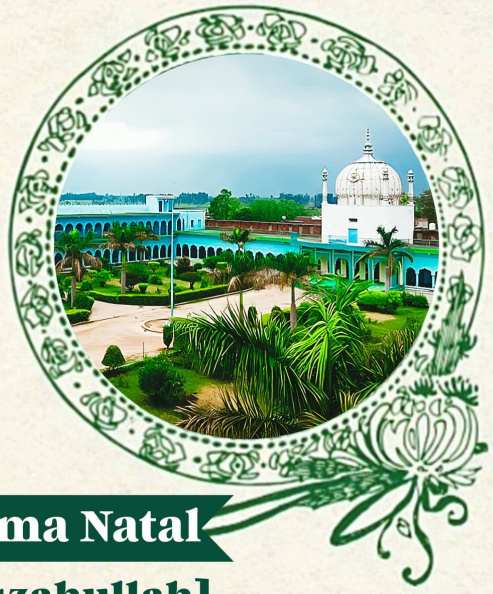
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

85



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

18. Moulana Osman Cassim Kadwa [Hafizahullah]

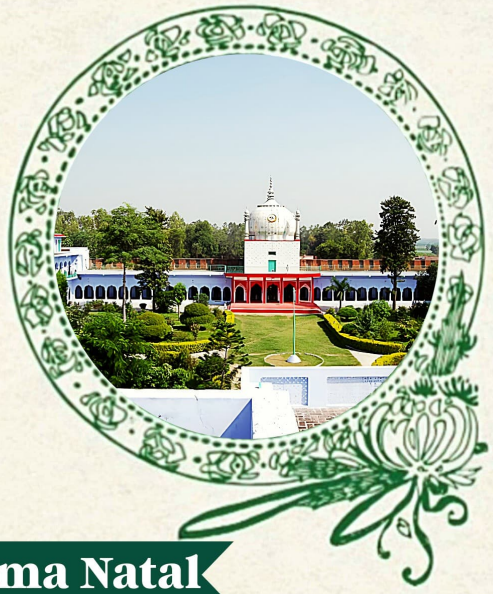
- Moulana recalls memories of his first Hajj: “At that time during Hajj, during quieter periods, there would be a maximum of eight to ten people making Tawaaf.”
- “We used to draw Zam Zam water from the well ourselves.”
- “It was possible to kiss the Hajr-e-Aswad every round of Tawaaf with ease.”
- “This Hajj was undertaken with the well-known agent Aziz Kogeer, who was very popular with South African Hujjaaj during that time.”
- After completing Hajj, Moulana returned to South Africa with his parents via Kenyan Airways.
- Shortly after Moulana's return to South Africa in 1967, he resolved to travel once again to India to pursue the Aalim's course.
- In 1968, he departed for India by ship for the second time. He travelled on the SS Karanja on a second-class ticket costing R70. His cabin mates on this journey were Moulana Ahmed Sadeck Desai of Port Elizabeth and Moulana Ebrahim Shaik of Durban.
- The ship set sail from Durban and travelled via Beira, Dar es Salaam, Mombasa, Zanzibar, and the Seychelles, before finally reaching Bombay.
- Upon arrival, they all enrolled at the Madrasah of Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (d. 1992 - Rahmatullahi Alayhi), Madrasah Miftahul-Uloom in Jalalabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- During this period, Moulana Osman met his childhood friend, Moulana Ya'qub Khan (d. 1996 - Rahimahullah), who assisted him with the first kitaab, Mizaan. His first Ustaadh was the brother of Hazratjee, Moulana Samiullah Khan (Rahmatullahi Alayhima).
- He studied Behishti Zewar (Heavenly Ornaments) of Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (d. 1943 - Rahimahullah), as well as certain Farsi kitaabs, directly under Hazratjee himself (Moulana Maseehullah).

To be continued.. Insha’Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



86

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

18. Moulana Osman Cassim Kadwa [Hafizahullah]

- After approximately a year and a half, Moulana Osman suffered a lung collapse, and a telegram was sent to his parents. They requested that he return home for urgent medical treatment.
- Moulana returned to South Africa by plane due to his condition. The lung surgery was performed by an Afrikaner surgeon, Professor Le Roux, at Wentworth Hospital in Durban. Alhamdulillah, Moulana made a full recovery and recuperated at home for four months before once again returning to India.
- Upon reaching Jalalabad, Moulana Ya'qub Khan welcomed him into his dormitory. His roommates at the time were Moulana Ya'qub Khan, Moulana Farook Bobat, and Haji Cassim Vahed.
- Moulana Osman graduated in 1972, and was among the very first students to be awarded dastarbandi, the ceremonial turban wrapping at graduation.
- After graduating, Moulana took bay'ah at the hands of Hazratjee Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) and thereafter spent time in the Khanqah for his spiritual reformation and inner development.
- On the 7th of April 1973, after a decade of study in India, Moulana returned to his hometown of Umzinto, South Africa.

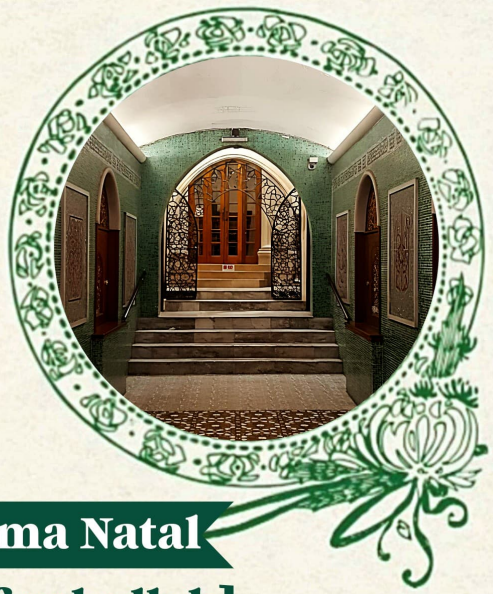
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

87



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

18. Moulana Osman Cassim Kadwa [Hafizahullah]

- Once in Jalalabad, Moulana Osman dreamt of his Ustaadh and Murshid, Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (d. 1992 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi). He mentioned the dream to Hazratjee the following morning, and Hazratjee himself interpreted it to mean that many South Africans would turn to Moulana Maseehullah for their spiritual Islaah (reformation). Shortly thereafter, in the early 1970s, Hazratjee made his first visit to South Africa.
- In 1973, just a month after returning from India, having spent ten years engaged in study, Moulana began serving as an Ustaadh at the Madrasah in Umzinto Jaame Masjid. His dedication to teaching and Deeni service was outstanding, especially considering his humble monthly remuneration of only R100.
- A month later, in June 1973, Moulana's Nikaah took place to the eldest daughter of Haji Shabbir Ahmed Ebrahim Desai Soofi, affectionately known as "Chota Mota" (d. 2011 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- Moulana Osman is today one of the most senior Ulama of KwaZulu-Natal and a member of the Jamiatul Ulama KZN, which he joined in 1974 at a meeting facilitated by the then secretary, Moulana Yunus Patel (d. 2011 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi) at Nizamia Hall in Pietermaritzburg. During those years, he would travel with Moulana Ya'qub Khan (d. 1996 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi) and Hafez Ayyoob Kadwa (d. 2018 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi) to attend Jamiat meetings convened by the Ameer, Moulana Abdur Rahmaan Ansari (d. 1990 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi), in the basement of the West Street Masjid.
- In 1975, Moulana was elected as a trustee of Darul Uloom Newcastle (the only Darul Uloom in South Africa at the time) by Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee (d. 2003 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- The following year, in 1976, he was appointed Imaam of the Port Shepstone Jamiah Masjid, a post he held for six months before returning to Umzinto to continue serving at the Islamia Madrasah Maktab.
- During this period, Moulana also moved into his current residence. Not long after, in 1979, Hazratjee visited him during his journey to South Africa. It was on this occasion that Moulana Osman and others requested permission to take Hazratjee to Mtwalume (outlying district in the South Coast)...

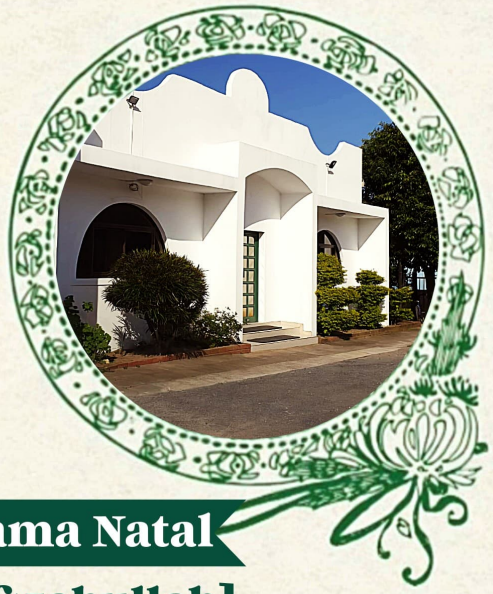
To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

88



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

18. Moulana Osman Cassim Kadwa [Hafizahullah]

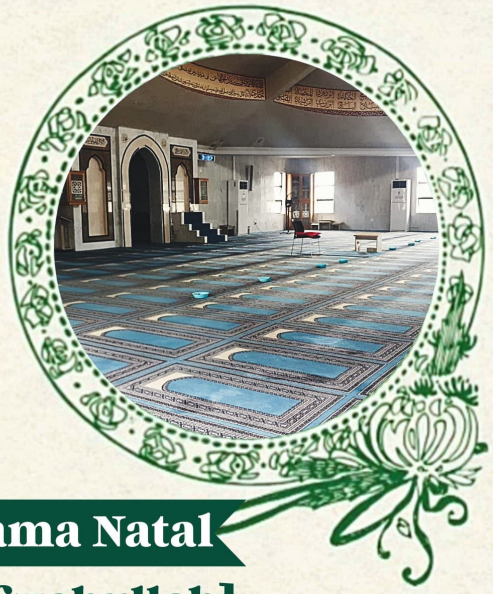
- Moulana's involvement in the work of Tabligh & Da'wah dates back to its earliest days in South Africa.
- He participated in the very first gusht undertaken in 1962, led by Hajeebhai Padia and Soofi Mota (Rahmatullahi Alayhima) in Umzinto.
- In 1978, Moulana travelled to the UK for Tabligh & Da'wah with Hajeebhai Padia (Rahimahullah), the then Ameer of the Tablighi Jamaat in South Africa.
- To this day, he openly expresses great love for the work, in a way that embodies inclusivity and encouragement for all. He supports all who aspire to do this effort, keeping the work before them, and sharing in its importance.
- From the inception of the famous Kitaab, "Ta'leemul Haq", Chota Mota Desai (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) would consult Moulana Osman and make mashwara with him regarding its compilation.
- When Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (d. 1992, Rahmatullahi Alayhi) visited Umzinto in 1979, Moulana Osman accompanied him, along with others, to Mtwalume, an outlying township district of Umzinto, where the foundation of the Mtwalume Masjid was laid. Since its establishment, the Masjid has been fully supported by the Bux Family.
- That same year, Moulana took over his family business, Kassim and Sons, with the intention of making an effort towards earning his own livelihood whilst serving the Deen simultaneously, which he has maintained to this day, Masha-Allah.
- The year 1994 marked a significant milestone in Moulana's life. He initiated dedicated efforts to shape the Islamic character, mindset, and manners of the youth in Umzinto and the surrounding areas. A project that had ripple effects as far as Chatsworth, more than 60 km north of Umzinto...

To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



89

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

18. Moulana Osman Cassim Kadwa [Hafizahullah]

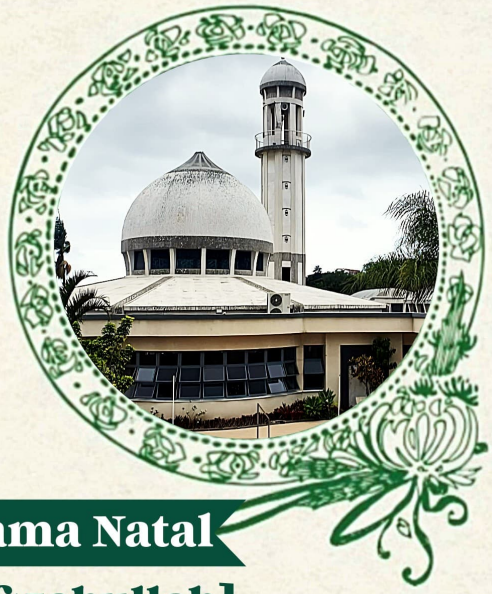
- Moulana's unwavering dedication to the upliftment of the community shone brightly in his efforts to establish an independent Islamic school in Umzinto in 1994. This milestone was achieved with the support of Moulana Ya'qub Khan, Moulana Yunus Patel, Moulana Haroon Abbasomar, Qari Ismail Desai, Haji A.C. Kadwa (Rahmatullahi Alayhim), Haji Abdul Waahid Ebrahim and Mufti Muhammad Kadwa, all of whom have served, or continue to serve, as trustees of the school.
- The impact of this initiative was profound, as lift clubs were formed from as far as Chatsworth and Isipingo, for learners to travel daily to attend the school. Today, the Umzinto Islamic School remains fully operational, with Moulana Osman involved in the day to day running of the school.
- When Hazratjee, Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), returned to the mercy of Allah Ta'ala in 1992, it deeply grieved Moulana. However, he did not allow himself to remain without a Shaykh and Murshid (spiritual guide) for long. He took bay'ah at the hands of Shafeequl Ummah, Haji Moulana Muhammad Farooq Sahib of Sukkur, Pakistan (d. 1999 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi), from whom he was honoured with the mantle of Khilafah. Moulana Osman undertook Hajj with him as well.
- After returning from his brief tenure as Imaam in Port Shepstone, Moulana served as the Imaam of the **Umzinto Jaame Masjid** on a part-time basis. In 1996, following the shahadat of his dear friend and head Imaam, Moulana Ya'qub Khan (Rahimahullah), he committed himself to the position full-time. This has resulted in almost 50 years of Imaamat, a legacy that stands as a source of inspiration for aspiring Imaams and a mark of leadership in our country.

To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



90

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

18. Moulana Osman Cassim Kadwa [Hafizahullah]

- Alhamdulillah, Moulana Osman Saheb is among the longest-serving Imaams in KwaZulu-Natal and is regarded as the spiritual father of Umzinto and its surrounding areas, Masha-Allah.
- It was through his mashwara that Madrasah Miftahul Khair was established in Umzinto, an institute in which he also serves as a trustee.
- Hazratjee Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (d. 1992 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi) once affectionately mentioned to him:

آپ کڑوا نہیں ہیں، آپ میٹھا ہیں۔

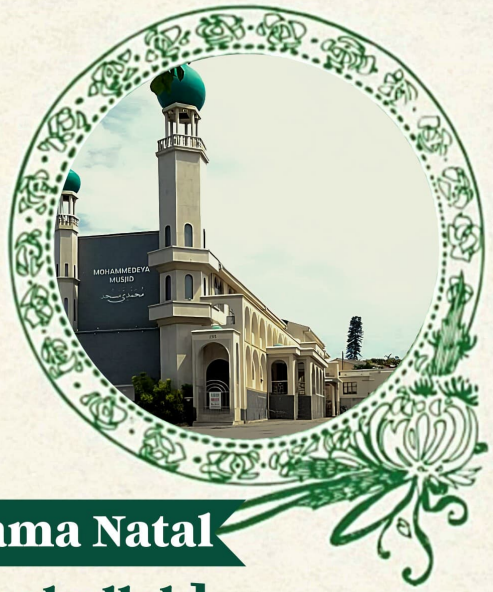
"You are not karwa (bitter), but rather meeta (sweet)."

- Alhamdulillah, the gentle 'Othmani' temperament that Allah Ta'ala has blessed him with, has enabled him to interact and work harmoniously with people from very diverse backgrounds, uniting hearts in the communities he serves.
- One of his close saathies highlighted a beautiful quality about him: *"I have known Moulana Osman for more than 70 years, and not once have I heard him speak ill of any 'Aalim. If anything was ever mentioned to him about an 'Aalim, he always maintained silence."*
- He is among our most senior Ulama in South Africa. May Allah Ta'ala keep his blessed shadow of goodness over us for many more years, and may Allah Ta'ala grant Moulana good health and 'aafiyah. Aameen, Ya Rabbal 'Aalameen.
- May Allah Ta'ala grant us the ability to value and cherish our senior Ulama and the torchbearers of the Deen. Aameen.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



91

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

- Moulana Farook was born in 1948 in Durban into a family of eleven siblings, and his early childhood was spent in the Sydenham area of Durban.
- He attended Anjuman Islam Primary School in Leopold Street, Durban.
- Moulana commenced his Hifz-ul-Qur'aan under the famous Hafez Yusuf Booley (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) of Cape Town, who at the time was teaching in Durban. When Hafez Yusuf Booley later returned to his hometown, Cape Town, Moulana Farook's father (Rahimahullah) wished to send the young Farook with him to continue his Hifz. However, his mother (Rahimahallah) did not agree to send him so far away due to his young age.
- He therefore continued his Hifz under Miajee Saheb (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) in Pinetown, and he completed his Hifz-ul-Qur'aan under him in 1964.
- The day he completed his Hifz was one day prior to the month of Ramadaan. On the very next night, Moulana commenced leading Taraweeh at the Pinetown Masjid where he had studied under Miajee Saheb (Rahimahullah).
- Thereafter, Hafez Farook served as the Imaam of the Sparks Road Mohammedeya Masjid for two years, 1965 and 1966.
- Hafez Soofie Paruk (Rahimahullah) and Moulana Farook would each recite a quarter Juz of the Qur'aan Shareef in the Fajr Salaah, completing an entire Khatm every four months in the Fajr Salaah.

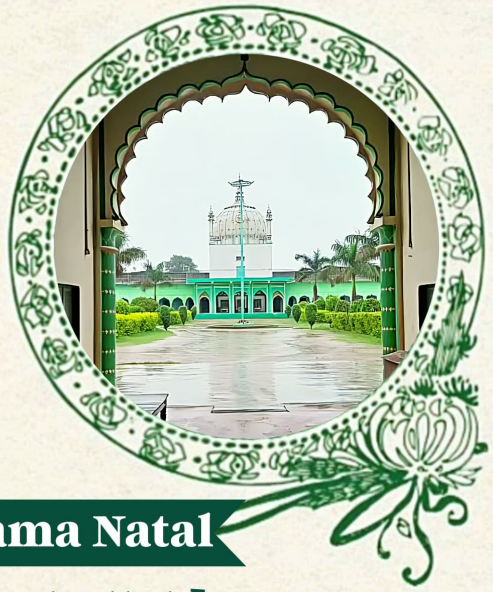
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

92



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

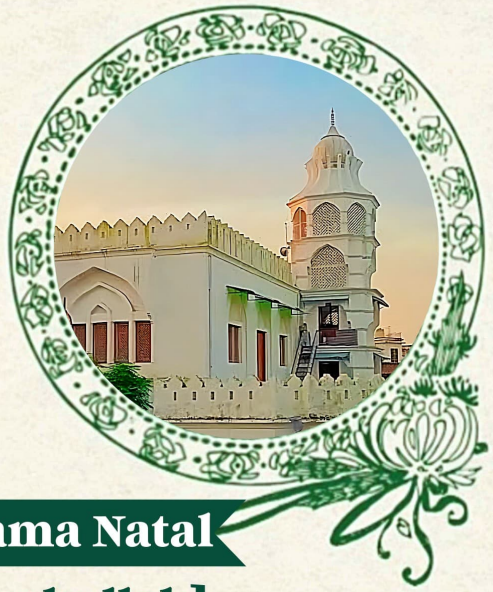
- After serving as the Imaam of the Mohammedeya Masjid for two years, Moulana Bobat was encouraged and inspired by Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee (d. 2003 - Rahimahullah) to pursue higher Islamic studies in India. He departed South Africa in 1969 aboard the SS Kampala, which set sail from Durban.
- When he finally reached his destination which was Miftahul Uloom, Jalalabad, Uttar Pradesh, the Madrasah of Hazratjee Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), it was approximately 3pm. It happened to be a public holiday in India, and the Majlis was in session. As soon as the young Farook entered the Majlis Khana and Hazratjee's blessed gaze fell upon him, Hazratjee immediately paused the Majlis and said that he may not sit in the gathering, as he had travelled from afar and was tired. Hazratjee said he would see him after he had rested and after the Asr Salaah.
- After Asr that very day, Hazratjee Moulana Maseehullah (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) personally received him. With great affection, Hazratjee held his hand and walked with him for almost an hour until Maghrib, showing him the various areas and facilities of the Madrasah. It was a warm, heartfelt welcome that remained etched in Moulana Bobat's memory.
- During this walk, Moulana Ahmed Sadeck Desai (Hafizahullah) of Port Elizabeth noticed Hazratjee's affection and requested Hazratjee to allow the young Farook to stay in their boarding room.
- It was on this very first day, during that reception, that Hazratjee asked him a striking question...

To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



93

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

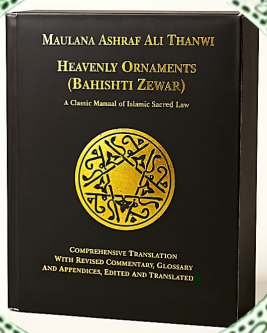
- When Moulana Bobat first arrived in Jalalabad and met Hazratjee, Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (d. 1992 - Rahmatullahi Alayhi), he was welcomed with a striking question: "Tell me, what is something that is haraam, yet it is halaal to swallow and absorb?" Moulana was puzzled. Hazratjee himself then explained, "It is anger."
- Moulana would later reflect that, with this single question, Hazratjee had effectively "diagnosed" him and prescribed the remedy he required. Having grown up in Sydenham, an area known at the time for its rough environment, where even soccer matches often ended in physical altercations, Moulana was no stranger to confrontations. He felt that perhaps this background was the reason Hazratjee chose to begin in such a manner.
- Following this, a memorable and humorous incident took place. Hazratjee requested that Moulana hand over whatever money he had in his pocket for safekeeping. Moulana complied, handing over all his money except for a concealed 100 rupees that he had kept aside in case of need. Hazratjee then calmly asked him to also hand over the remaining 100 rupees hidden in the pocket. Surprised, Moulana surrendered it and immediately realised that Hazratjee was no ordinary person.
- Moulana recalls this incident till today, "*From the word go, I realised and held my ears, I am not going to take a chance with this man!*"
- During his early days in Jalalabad, Moulana Bobat shared a room with Moulana Ahmed Sadeck Desai of Port Elizabeth, Moulana Osman Kadwa, and Moulana Yacoob Khan (d. 1996 - Rahmatullahi Alayhi).

To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



94

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

- Moulana Ahmed Sadeck Desai (Hafizahullah) was also among the esteemed Asaatiza of Moulana Farook Bobat. He taught him the complete Kitaab, Behishti Zewar of Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (d. 1943 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi) in an extraordinary 40 days, at times teaching for almost 19 hours a day.
- Moulana Bobat reflects on this period with deep emotion: "I spent nine months with Moulana Ahmed Sadeck Desai, and that was ajeeb. The level of Taqwa I witnessed... I have never seen anyone like that in my life." He further mentioned: "In the entire nine months that I stayed with him, Moulana Ahmed Sadeck Desai did not miss Tahajjud Salaah even once."
- When recalling his student days in Jalalabad with Hazratjee Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (d. 1992 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi), Moulana Bobat shared several fond and inspiring memories. He mentioned a unique trait of Hazratjee: despite being the Shaikh and principal, he would seek permission before entering any student's room. "He would knock three times, make Salaam loudly, and say:

فقیر حاضر ہے، اندر آنے کی اجازت ہے؟

"The needy one is here, is he allowed to come in?"

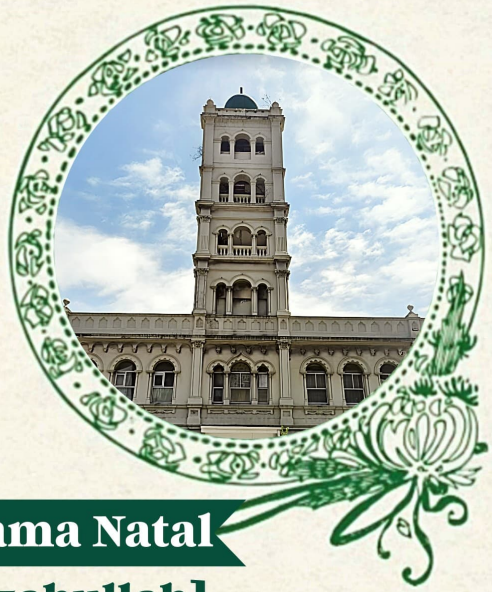
- Moulana Bobat also narrated another deeply touching incident. One day, while he was having supper at home with Moulana Amejee, a student came running and said, "Abbajee, the cook put extra water in the gravy today."
- Hazratjee immediately responded, "I'll sort it out." He then took the glass of drinking water in front of him and poured it into his own gravy, saying: "I cannot eat nice food when my children are eating gravy with extra water." This was the affection, love and humility of Abbajee, Moulana Maseehullah (Rahimahullah) that impacted us as students.

To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN



95

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

- During Moulana Bobat's student days, the trust Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) placed in him was evident when he appointed him to oversee the opening and closing of the boarding.
- Daily at 12 pm, Moulana was required to visit Hazratjee at his home and report on the students' conduct, specifically notifying him if anyone had missed Salaah, or who had arrived late, or anyone who had misbehaved, etc. This was kept secret, hence, the students were baffled when Hazratjee would approach them after Asr, saying, "You missed one Rakaat," or "You missed the Jamaat," as they were unaware of the daily reports. This was the concern and love of Hazratjee regarding the importance of nurturing good character, good deeds and practical Deen in the students, viz: Tarbiyah.
- Moulana's deep attachment to the Qur'an Majeed only strengthened during his years in Jalalabad. During the month of Ramadhaan, he would recite five Juz every night in Taraaweeh. His devotion did not stop at his own recitation; he would also listen attentively to seven Juz by Moulana Ahmed Suleman Omar (Hafizahullah) daily.
- When he resided in Durban, he had a neighbour and employee, Hafez Muhammad Randeree, to whom he would recite between fifteen and sixteen Juz daily.
- For approximately twenty-five years, Moulana performed Taraaweeh at the West Street Masjid in Durban under the guidance of the Imaam, Moulana Abdur Rahmaan Ansari (d. 1990 – Rahmatullahi Alayhi), who was the first Ameer and founder member of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal. He fondly recalls how Moulana Ansari treated him like his very own son.
- Before making hijrah to Madinah Munawwarah, Moulana performed Taraaweeh for a remarkable forty-seven consecutive years.
- Many of his friends tell him that it is his unwavering love for recitation and listening to the Qur'an Majeed that ultimately brought him to reside in the blessed beautiful city of Madinatul Munawwarah.

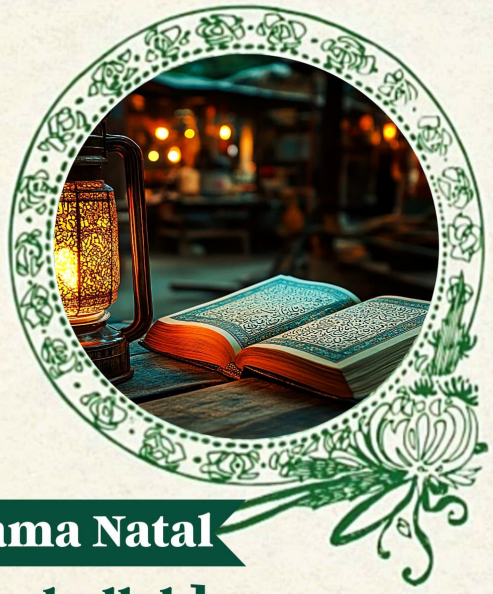
To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

96



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

- Moulana Bobat (Hafizahullah) began his service with the Jamiatul Ulama KZN Ta'limi Board in 1974. He served for ten years under the guidance of Moulana Abdur Rahmaan Ansari (d. 1990 - Rahmatullahi Alayhi), the then Ameer of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal.
- During this period, in 1978, Moulana commenced leading the Taraaweeh Salaah at the West Street Masjid under Moulana Ansari (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), who was the Imaam of the West Street Masjid in Durban. (West Street is the main street of the city of Durban). Remarkably, in the same year, he also began delivering the Jumuah Khutbah and leading the Jumuah Salaah, a responsibility he continued to fulfil until 2005, serving in this position for approximately twenty-seven years, and approximately fifteen years after the demise of Moulana Ansari (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- In addition to his Deeni khidmat, Moulana was also a talented and successful businessman. Allah Ta'ala blessed him with immense barakah in his business, which was based in the Durban CBD for more than forty years.
- His business model was inspired by the example of the eminent Sahaabi and famous businessman, Sayyiduna Abdur Rahmaan ibn Auf (Radhiyallahu Anhu): **low profit margins coupled with high turnover.**
- On one occasion, when asked about the secret behind his success in business, Moulana advised that he maintained three consistent practices, the recitation of Surah Yaseen every morning before opening his business, the daily recitation of Surah Al-Muzzammil, and the nightly recitation of Surah Al-Waaqiah (also known as Suratul Ghinaa – the Surah of wealth).

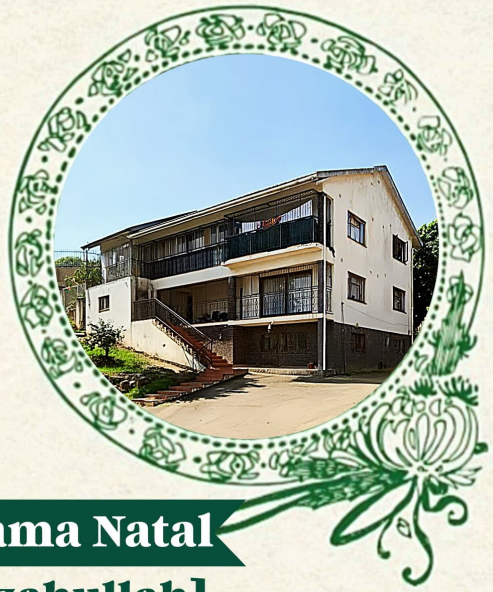
To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

97



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

- Moulana Bobat recalls that Hazrat Moulana Maseehullah (Rahimahullah) would often mention Shafeequl Ummah, Haji Moulana Muhammad Farooq (Rahimahullah) of Sukkur, Pakistan, in his majalis, and at times share his correspondence with the students for their tarbiyah and benefit.
- In 1993, Haji Saheb visited South Africa for the very first time. He travelled to Durban from Ladysmith, KZN, for a short visit solely to meet Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee (Rahimahullah) at his residence. This meeting was incredibly moving and spiritually uplifting, if such moments can be described in that way *(an electrifying encounter personally witnessed by our co-author)*.
- A large gathering of senior Ulama and notable guests were present at the residence of Moulana Omarjee on that occasion, including Hajeebhai Padia (Rahimahullah).
- Thereafter, Moulana Bobat visited Ladysmith, where Haji Saheb was the guest of Hafez Dr Abdul Kader Hansa (Rahimahullah), a Khalifah of Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (Rahimahullah). It was there that Moulana Bobat took bay'ah at the hands of Haji Saheb.
- From that point onward, Moulana Bobat developed a deep attachment to Haji Saheb. During Haji Saheb's subsequent visits to Durban, he stayed at the residence of Moulana Bobat in Overport. Out of respect and affection, Moulana Bobat even constructed a special ramp to facilitate wheelchair access for him.
- Moulana Bobat spent a Ramadaan with Haji Saheb in Sukkur, Pakistan, and was thereafter honoured with khilafah from Haji Moulana Muhammad Farooq Saheb Sukkury (Rahimahullah).
- A year later, Haji Saheb (his beloved Shaykh) passed away, in 1999 at the age of 54. Haji Saheb was blessed with a death on Laylatul Jumu'ah, just as his esteemed Murshid, Moulana Muhammad Maseehullah Khan (Rahimahullah), and was laid to rest in his hometown of the historical city of Sukkur, Sind, Pakistan.

To be continued.. Insha'Allah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

98



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

- After the demise of his beloved Murshid, Haji Farook Saheb (d. 1999 – Rahimahullah), Moulana's desire to make hijrah to Madinah Munawwarah intensified profoundly. He exerted every effort to reach the Blessed Illuminated City.
- Moulana eventually sold his flourishing business and, shortly thereafter, made hijrah to Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah in 2008. One memorable evening in the blessed city, he went to meet Qari Abdullah Haji, a teacher in Al-Masjid An-Nabawi ﷺ for nearly 55 years. As Moulana sat with him, Qari Abdullah received a call while one of his students recited to him. The student made a mistake, and instinctively, without intent, Moulana corrected him.
- When the call ended, Qari Abdullah tested Moulana and immediately suggested that he revise (dhor) with him regularly. He further advised Moulana to apply for a permit to teach the Qur'an Majeed in the Haram Shareef and begin preparing for the examination.
- **Moulana recalls the intensity of the preparation:** "I prepared for this exam six months in advance. It was a very different style of recitation, as one had to read extremely slowly. Each ghunnah had to be lengthened for the duration of four alifs, and every madd for seven alifs. Daily, starting from Tahajjud time, I would read each Aayah 50 times, then 100 times, then a quarter juz, then half a juz, then one juz, and eventually two juz. For six months, this continued late into the night."
- **Describing the examination, Moulana explains:** "There were two computers programmed according to their strict specifications. They would beep every time an error occurred, whether it was an incorrect stop, a ghunnah or madd shortened by even one alif, or a letter not pronounced with complete clarity. What made it more challenging was that they tested every second juz, focusing particularly on the mutashaabihaat (similar verses)."
- **Moulana further mentioned:** "I was worried, as I had been told that many great Qurraa (Qaris) had attempted the exam and did not make it through. Alhamdulillah, Allah Ta'ala made it possible for me to pass with 92%. This was through the duaas of my Ustaadh, and especially my wife (sister of Moulana Yunus Patel (d. 2011 - Rahimahullah), who told me, 'Before entering the examination hall, call me, and when you finish, call me again.' I phoned her, and throughout the nearly three hours of the exam, she remained in the Riyaadhul Jannah making duaa."
- Alhamdulillah, Moulana has now been residing in the Blessed City of the Beloved Rasool ﷺ for approximately 17 years, living right beside Al-Masjid An-Nabawi ﷺ, as a neighbour to our beloved Master ﷺ and his noble Family.
- May Allah Ta'ala bless Moulana with a long life, good health, and keep his shadow over us, Aameen.

(Interview conducted – November 2025)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

99



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

- Moulana Bobat recounts the process of his application for residency in Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, the radiant city of Rasulullah ﷺ, and the obstacles he encountered along the way.
- He explains: "After gathering all the necessary documents for the application process (which is a very tedious process), I proceeded to the office. It was a Wednesday afternoon, and at that time the weekend in Saudi Arabia was Thursday and Friday (now changed to Friday and Saturday).
- The person behind the counter said something no applicant would ever want to hear. In a polite but piercing manner, he remarked, 'My friend, you are already over 60. Are you not aware of the rules?' I replied, 'No, I'm ignorant. I am unaware.'
- He continued, 'Our rules state that once a person is over sixty, he is no longer considered an asset to the country, and he is no longer productive. Therefore, no country in the world will accept you.'
- Despite this discouraging news, he mentioned that he would take my application home, look at it while having his qahwa, and that I should expect a call from him on Saturday.
- When I returned to the hotel, the weight of his words affected me deeply. Some brothers noticed this, and after hearing what had transpired, they confirmed the rules emphatically: 'It won't be accepted. You are over sixty.'
- I was deeply concerned, yet I continued to make duaa. My brother-in-law, Moulana Yunus Patel (d. 2011 – Rahimahullah), was also making earnest duaa that Allah Ta'ala fulfil my earnest desire to reside in Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, the blessed city of Rasulullah ﷺ.
- Then, shukr shukr, Alhamdulillah, at around 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, the gentleman phoned and said: 'Your application has been approved. Please come to the office to collect your Iqaamah (residency).' "
- This was nothing short of a divine intervention. While something may be impossible in terms of rules and regulations, the Decree of Allah Ta'ala transcends all worldly laws.

(Interview conducted – November 2025)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نحمده و نصلي على رسوله الكريم

History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

100



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued..

19. Moulana Farook Essop Bobat [Hafizahullah]

- Moulana Bobat's intense love for Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, the blessed city of Rasulullah ﷺ, is well known. In his correspondence, he so often mentions, "Through the barakah of Madinah," a phrase that flows naturally from his heart. From the earlier posts in this series, it is abundantly clear just how deeply his heart is attached to this illuminated land.
- Below are a few of the many virtues of Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah:

1. **The intercession of Rasulullah ﷺ for those who pass away in it:** The Prophet ﷺ said: "Whoever is able to die in Madinah, let him do so, for I will intercede for the one who dies in it." [Tirmidhi]
2. **The Reward for patience upon its hardships:** Rasulullah ﷺ promised special intercession for those who bear the difficulties of residing in Madinah: "No one endures patience upon the hardships of Madinah except that I will be an intercessor or a witness for him on the Day of Resurrection." [Muslim]. He ﷺ also said: "Madinah is better for them if they only knew. No one leaves it out of dislike except that Allah replaces him with someone better than him; and no one bears its trials or hardships except that I will be an intercessor or witness for him on the Day of Resurrection." [Muslim]
3. **Divine protection from Dajjaal and other calamities:** The Prophet ﷺ informed us: "There will be no town which Dajjaal will not enter except Makkah and Madinah." [Bukhaari]. He ﷺ further mentioned: "Neither Dajjaal nor the plague will be able to enter Madinah." [Bukhaari]
4. **The warning against intending harm for Madinah or its people:** Rasulullah ﷺ said: "None plots against the people of Madinah except that he will be dissolved as salt dissolves in water." [Bukhaari]. In another narration: "Whoever intends ill for the people of Madinah, Allah will melt him as salt melts in water." [Muslim]
5. **The Desire of Sayyiduna Umar (RadhiyAllahu Anhu):** Sayyiduna Umar ibn Al-Khattaab (RadhiyAllahu Anhu) would make this heartfelt duaa: "O Allah! Grant me martyrdom in Your cause, and let my death be in the city of Your Messenger." [Bukhaari]

- May Allah Ta'ala bless us with residency and grant us maut in the beautiful city of Rasulullah ﷺ.

آمين يارب العالمين