



History & Legacy of the **JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN**

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الْبَرَكَهَ مَعَ أَكْبَارِكُمْ

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Blessings (barakah) is with your elders/seniors."
[Sahih Ibn Hibban]

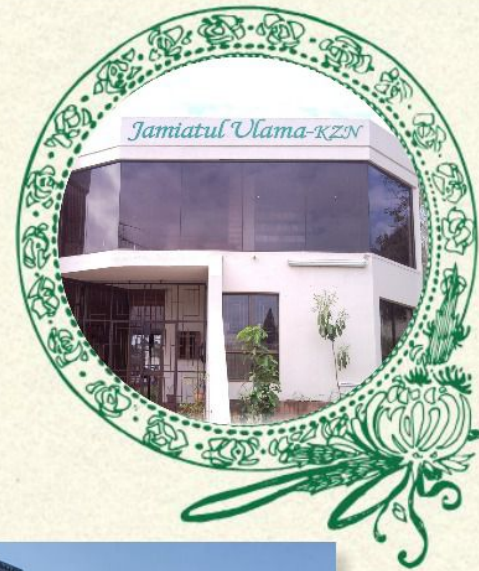
It is only through the Grace of Allah Ta'ala that the Jamiatul Ulama KZN has reached a milestone of 70 years since it's establishment. This organization was founded by our pious senior Ulama and Elders of Natal, South Africa.

The Jamiatul Ulama KwaZulu Natal (then Natal) was established on the 15th January 1955 / 20 Jumaadal Ula 1374 at the Nizamia Madrasah in East Street, Pietermaritzburg.

The primary objective was the preservation and propagation of the pure and pristine Islam.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُصَلِّي عَلَى رَسُولِهِ الْكَرِيمِ



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Nizamia Madrasah in East Street, Pietermaritzburg. This is where the Jamiatul Ulama Natal was formed in 1955 / 1374.




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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُصَلِّي عَلَى رَسُولِهِ الْكَرِيمِ



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The first Ulama body that was formed in South Africa was the Jamiatul Ulama Transvaal in 1923 in the then Transvaal Province, followed by the Muslim Judicial Council in 1945 in the Western Cape Province.

It was indeed a momentous occasion in the year 1955 / 1374, when 12 of our senior Ulama and Elders met, established and founded the very first Ulama body in Natal, which was to become the representative body of religious, educational and other affairs of the Muslim community of Natal.

That first meeting in Pietermaritzburg gave birth to the Jamiatul Ulama Natal.



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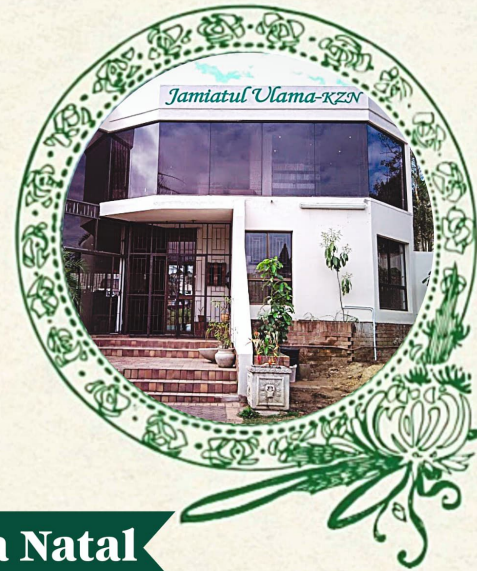


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Our senior founding members were:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Moulana Muhammad Bashir Siddiqi | (1883 – 1967) |
| 2. Moulana Sayyed Muhammad Loot | (1900 – 1999) |
| 3. Moulana Abu Bakr Khatib | (1900 – 1979) |
| 4. Moulana Abdul Kader | (1904 – 1998) |
| 5. Moulana Adam Bhayat | (1905 – 1988) |
| 6. Moulana Muhammad Haniff Afriqi | (1905 – 1956) |
| 7. Moulana Abdur Rahman Ansari | (1907 – 1990) |
| 8. Moulana Ahmad Adam Sabat | (1912 – 1981) |
| 9. Moulana Ahmed Suleman Desai | (1914 – 1998) |
| 10. Moulana Yusuf Moolla (Omarwadi) | (1916 – 2000) |
| 11. Moulana Cassim Mahomed Sema | (1920 – 2007) |
| 12. Moulana Abdul Haq Ismail Omarjee | (1925 – 2003) |



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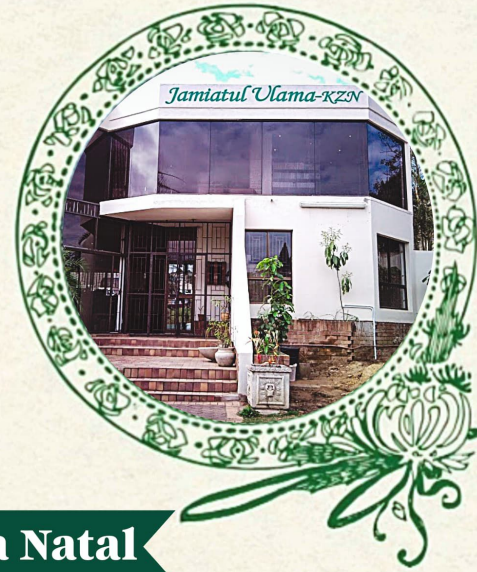
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

1. Moulana Muhammad Bashir Siddiqi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1883 - 1967

- A descendant of Hazrat Abu Bakr As-Siddiq (RadhiyAllahu Anhu).
- Born in Meerut, India, into a family of Ulama.
- Son of Moulana Abdul Hakeem Siddiqi. Younger brother of Moulana Mukhtar Siddiqi and Moulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqi (Rahmathullahi Alaihim).
- Arrived in South Africa with his elder brother, Moulana Mukhtar, for the propagation of Islam.
- Served as one of the Imams of the West Street Masjid in Durban.
- Principal of the Pine Street Madrasah in Durban for 15 years.
- Chairman of the Natal Muslim Council which was formed in 1943.
- First Muslim Marriage Officer in Natal.
- Moulana passed away in 1967 and is buried in the Brook Street Cemetery of Durban.



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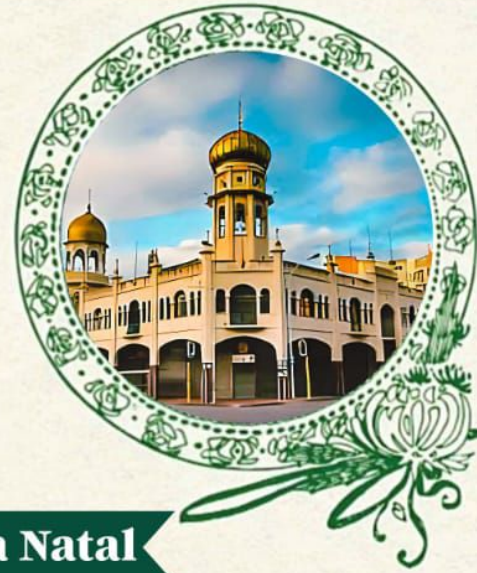
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

2. Moulana Sayyed Muhammad Loot (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1900 - 1999

- Born in the Nurpur Village, district of Attock, near Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Studied in Deoband, Khakushti and other institutions of learning.
- Graduated from the Punjab University and was a qualified Hakeem.
- Arrived in South Africa in 1937 and served as a Muazzin, Ustaadh and Imaam in Richmond, Natal until 1942.
- Served as an Imaam of the Centre Masjid in Pietermaritzburg from 1944 and in 1952 left for India.
- In 1953, returned to Durban, Natal on the invitation of the AM Lockhat Family of Durban to serve at the Ahmedia Masjid in Mayville, Durban as an Imaam & Ustaadh where he served till 1980.
- Authored many books in Urdu and Arabic.
- Settled in Estcourt, Natal at the latter part of his life and passed away in Estcourt at the age of 99.
- Buried in the Estcourt cemetery.



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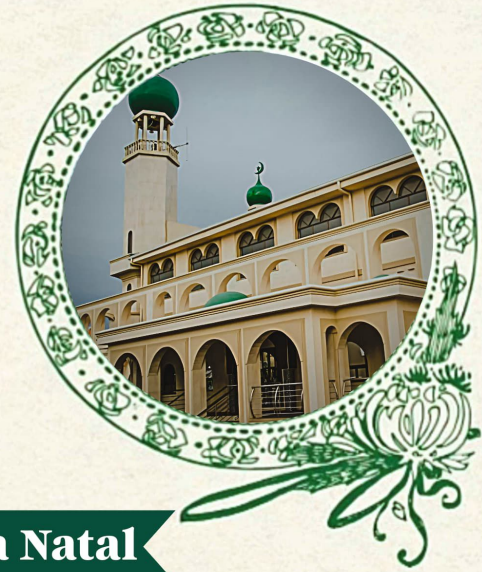
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

3. Moulana Abu Bakr Khatib (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1900 - 1979

- Born in Daman, Gujarat, India.
- Was of Arab ancestry.
- Studied at various institutions and graduated as an Aalim from Madrasah Islamiyah Firangee in Lucknow, India.
- Pursued studies in Hakeemi alternative medicine and held a keen interest in this field.
- Served as an Imaam in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Bombay, and Maputo, Mozambique from 1934 to 1944.
- Invited by the AM Lockhat family to become the Imaam at the Ahmedia Masjid in Mayville, Durban, where he served from 1944 until 1957.
- Appointed Imaam of the Grey Street Jumu'ah Masjid in Durban from 1958 to 1974.
- Taught at the Soofie Masjid on Alpine Road in Durban from 1974 to 1979.
- Moulana Khatib produced numerous Huffaaz during his lifetime, many of whom later became teachers of the Qur'aan Shareef themselves.
- Passed away during a visit to his ancestral village of Daman in India in 1979, and is buried there, close to his teacher and mentor, Moulana Mukhtar Ahmad Siddiqi (Rahmatullahi Alaihi).



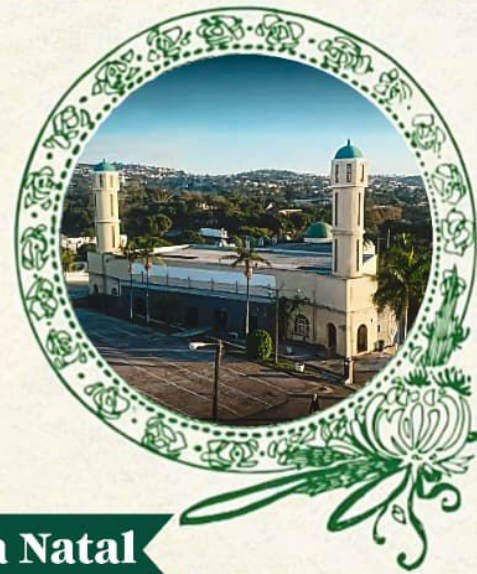
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

4. Moulana Abdul Kader (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1904 - 1998

- Moulana was orphaned at a young age and was raised in the orphanage of Hazrat Soofie Saheb (Rahmathullahi Alayhi) in Riverside, Durban.
- A businessman, Haji AM Omar (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) of Durban, sponsored this intelligent young orphan to pursue higher Islamic education in India.
- Left South Africa in 1919 for higher Islamic education, first in Mazahirul Uloom, Saharanpur and thereafter in Madrasah Ameeniyah in Delhi.
- Asaatiza include the likes of Allama Anwar Shah Kashmiri, Allama Shabbir Uthmani, and Mufti Kifayatullah (Rahmatullahi Alayhim).
- Fellow classmates include the likes of Shaykh-ul-Hadith Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya and Moulana Yusuf Binnori (Rahmatullahi Alayhima).
- Studied at Al-Azhar in Cairo, Egypt and graduated from the Faculty of Arabic.
- Returned to South Africa in 1931 and served as Imaam in Stanger, Verulam, Sparks Road Mohammedeya Masjid for 25 years and finally as Imaam of Masjid an Noor, Unit 7 in Chatsworth for 7 years.
- Passed away at age 94 in Durban and is buried in the Flower Road Cemetery in Clairwood, Durban.



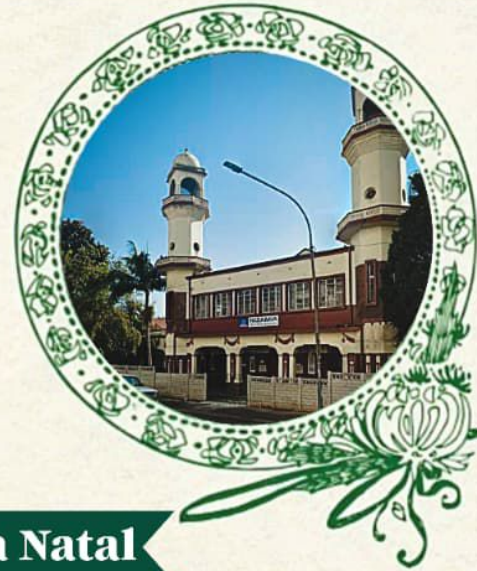
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

5. Moulana Adam Bhayat (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1905 - 1988

- Moulana was born in Sanjali, Gujarat, India. He lost his father at the age of 6.
- Studied in Darul Uloom Deoband.
- Student of the great Allaamah Anwar Shah Kashmiri (Rahmathullahi Alayhi).
- Arrived in Durban from India with Mufti Sanjalwi (Rahmathullahi Alayhi) in 1936, and was appointed as Imaam and Ustaadh in Greytown.
- After 5 years, settled in Greyville, Durban near the May Street Masjid where he served as Imaam.
- In the mid 1940's, moved to Stanger, Natal and served the community as Imaam and lecturer for many years.
- In 1958, undertook Hajj with his elderly mother. It is well known that he carried his aged mother on his back during the Tawaaf.
- Held weekly Tafseer lectures every Wednesday and a daily lecture after Asr Salaah in the Stanger Jaame Masjid which were well attended.
- Passed away in 1988 in Stanger and is buried in the Stanger Muslim Cemetery.



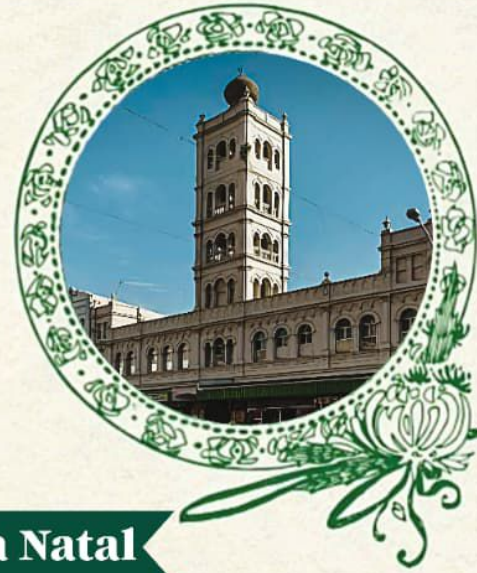
History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

6. Moulana Muhammad Haneef Afriqee (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1905 - 1956

- Moulana was born in Durban in 1905 and went to India in 1920 when he was 15, to Rander, Gujarat, India, to pursue Islamic education.
- Maintained close association with Mufti Abdur Rahim Lajpuri and Moulana Ahmadullah Saheb (Rahmathullahi Alayhima)
- Studied at Madrasah Ameeniyah and graduated as an Aalim in Deoband. He was a student of Sayyid Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani and Shaykh-ul-Adab, Moulana I'zaaz Ali (Rahmathullahi Alayhima).
- Studied Tafseer under Allaamah Shabbir Uthmani and Moulana Ali Muhammad Lahori (Rahmathullahi Alayhima).
- Mureed of Hakeem-ul-Ummah, Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (Rahmathullahi Alayhi).
- Returned to South Africa in 1939 after studying in various institutions in India for 19 years.
- Served as the Imaam of the Top End Masjid and East Street Masjid in Pietermaritzburg, Natal.
- Laid the plaque at the official opening of the Nizamia Madrasah/College in East Street, Pietermaritzburg in 1942 and physically participated in it's construction.
- Motivated and encouraged the then Ulama of Natal, which led to the official establishment of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal in 1955 at the Nizamia Madrasah in East Street.
- Ulama often consulted with him and sought his wise counsel and mashwara.
- Passed away on the 9th of Zul Hijjah (Day of Arafah) at the age of 51 in Pietermaritzburg and was the first Aalim to be buried in the Pietermaritzburg Muslim Cemetery.



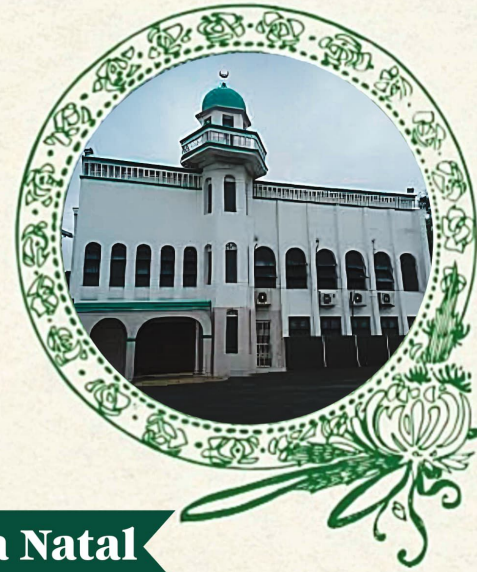
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

7. Moulana Abdur Rahmaan Ansari (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1907 - 1990

- Born in 1907 in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, India into a distinguished family of scholars.
- Descendant of the Great Sahaabi, Abu Ayyoob Al-Ansari (RadhiyAllahu Anhu).
- Related to Moulana Rashid Ahmad Gangohi and Shaykhul Hadeeth, Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya (Rahmathullahi Alayhima).
- Studied in Rampur, Saharanpur and graduated from Darul Uloom Deoband in the 1920s.
- Studied with Moulana Maseehullah Khan Jalaalabadi (Rahmathullahi Alayhi) in Darul Uloom Deoband.
- Arrived in South Africa in 1934, and served in Pietermaritzburg, Dannhauser and Glencoe in Natal.
- Was appointed as the Imaam of the famous West Street Masjid in Durban in 1954 and served for over 31 years until his retirement in 1986.
- Was appointed as the first Ameer of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal in 1955.
- Conducted Tafseer classes in the West Street Masjid for over 25 years.
- Passed away in Ramadaan and is buried in the Brook Street Cemetery of Durban.



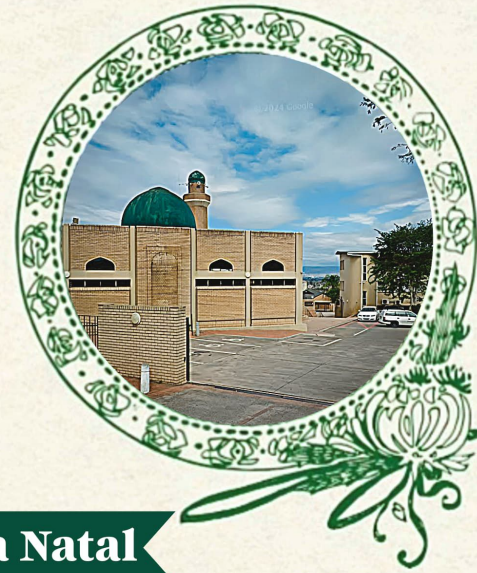
History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

8. Moulana Ahmed Adam Sabat (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1912 - 1981

- Born in Ankleshwar, Gujarat, India.
- Graduated from Jaamia Husayniyyah, Rander and furthered his studies in Darul Uloom Deoband, studying under the great luminaries of Deoband.
- In the 1930s, Moulana was appointed the Head of Darul Uloom Falaah-e-Daarain in Tadkeshwar, Gujarat.
- Authored several books on various topics which were published in Gujarati and Urdu; his book, Women in Islam, was published in South Africa.
- Arrived in South Africa in 1940 on invitation and served in Glencoe, Port Shepstone, and Dundee in Natal for a period of 17 years.
- Many students graduated as Huffaaz under his guidance.
- Settled in Tongaat in 1958 and served voluntarily as Imaam of the Top (Soofie) Masjid until his demise in July 1981.
- Passed away in Ramadaan in Tongaat and is buried in the Top Masjid Cemetery in Tongaat, Natal.



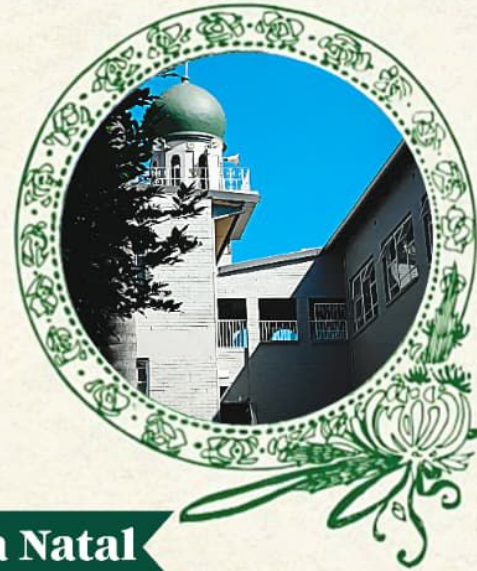
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

9. Moulana Ahmed Suleman Desai (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1914 - 1998

- Born in Tadkeshwar, Gujarat, India, into a very religious family known for their services to Islam.
- Graduated as an Aalim from Jaamiah Husayniyyah, Rander, Gujarat.
- The famous author of Fatawa Rahimiyyah, Mufti Lajpuri (Rahmathullahi Alayhi), was from amongst his contemporaries and has made mention of Moulana Ahmed Desai (Rahmathullahi Alayhi) in his famous work.
- Moulana was invited to South Africa and arrived in 1949, appointed as the Imaam of the Top Masjid, the first Masjid established in Pietermaritzburg, Natal.
- Was instrumental in establishing the Mountain Rise Masjid, Pietermaritzburg in 1979 and was appointed as the Imaam of the Masjid until his retirement in 1992.
- Served the Pietermaritzburg community for almost 40 years.
- Was well renowned for his meticulous punctuality in his duties.
- Passed away in Pietermaritzburg in 1998 on Jumu'ah in the holy month of Ramadhaan and is buried in the Mountain Rise Cemetery.



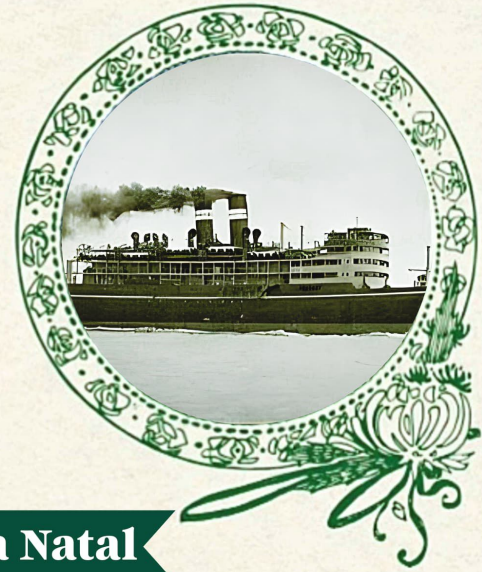
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

10. Moulana Yusuf Moolla - Omarwadi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1916 - 2000

- Born in Omarwada, Bharuch District, Gujarat, India.
- Enrolled at age ten at Jamiah Islamiyyah Ta'leemuddeen Dabhel, Gujarat, from which he graduated around 1936.
- Studied under great luminaries including Moulana Badre Aalam - Muhajir Madani (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), whom he also served as his Khaadim.
- Served in India for a while before arriving in South Africa in 1949 when he was appointed as Imaam and teacher in Shakaskraal, Natal.
- Relocated to Richmond in 1958 and Pietermaritzburg in 1964, as Imaam of the Hamdani (Centre) Masjid, where he headed the Maktab and conducted the Hifz classes.
- Moved to Dundee in 1975 and Roshnee (then Transvaal) in 1977.
- 68 Huffaaz graduated under him before retiring in 1986 from official duties owing to ill health.
- Passed away in Roshnee, Gauteng, in the year 2000.
- Prior to his demise, he called for his student, Qari Ayoob Ebrahim Essack (may Allah protect him). Moulana left this world while Qari Saheb was next to him, and as per his wish, Qari Saheb led his Janaazah Salaah. Qari Saheb assisted in his ghusl as well.
- Moulana passed away on Monday morning and is buried in the Roshnee Cemetery.



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

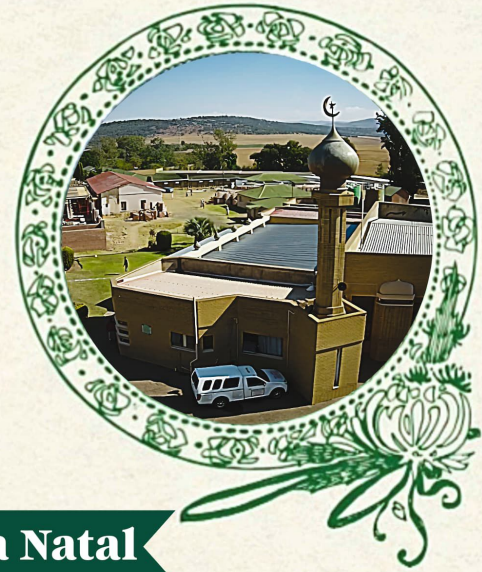
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

11. Moulana Cassim Muhammad Sema (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1920 - 2007

- Born in Newcastle, Natal, he completed his primary schooling at Oswald College in Newcastle.
- Moulana Mohamed Mia (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) of the famous Waterval Institute (Mia's Farm) visited Newcastle in 1935, inspired him and suggested that he either study medicine or higher Islamic Studies abroad.
- Departed South Africa in 1935 for Dabel, Gujarat, India and enrolled at Jaamiaah Islamiah Dabel to study the Aalim's Course.
- Studied under the great Ulama, like Moulana Amrohi, Moulana Badre Aalam, Allaamah Yusuf Binnori, and other great luminaries of the era (Rahmatullahi Alayhim).
- Was inspired by Moulana Muhammad Ilyas Saheb (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), the founder of the Tablighi Movement.
- Graduated in 1942 at the age of 22, and departed Bombay for South Africa by ship in November of that year during World War 2. Approximately 1000 passengers and crew were aboard the SS Tilawa when the ship was attacked by a Japanese submarine causing it to sink. Moulana Sema Saheb was among those who survived the high seas, rescued and returned to Bombay. He dedicated another 3 years of his life, furthering his studies before returning home, totalling 10 years of dedication to studies abroad.

To be continued Insha'Allah...



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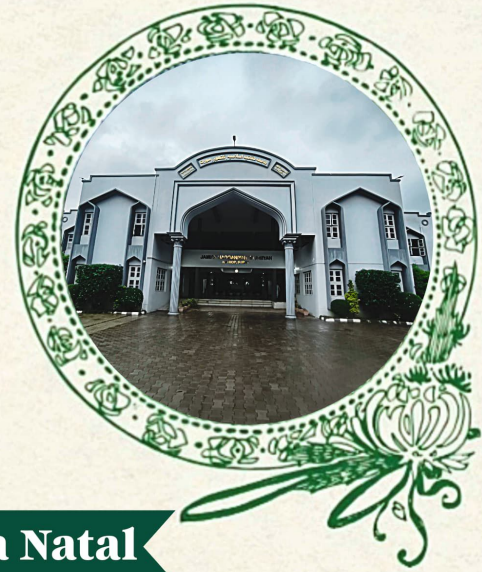
Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

11. Moulana Cassim Muhammad Sema (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1920 - 2007

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- Moulana was multilingual and fluent in 6 languages, and was the first person to translate the Holy Quran into the Zulu (African) language.
- Was very active in Da'wah to non-Muslims, and many African indigenous people accepted Islam at Moulana's hands.
- Served the area of Wasbank, Natal for 23 years, and thereafter moved to Newcastle, his hometown.
- Appointed Secretary General in 1955 and served as the official Mufti of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal for many years.
- Formulated the Madrasah Syllabus for the Jamiatul Ulama Natal in 1967, whilst in Wasbank, which was used extensively for decades in South Africa.
- Founder of the first Darul Uloom in South Africa in Newcastle in 1973.
- More than 1000 students have qualified from this institute since its inception over 50 years ago.
- Taught Sahih Bukhari right till the end of his life and passed away at the age of 87 in Newcastle after a minor surgical procedure.
- His Janaazah was attended by thousands of people and was led by the Late Mufti Fayyaz Ur Rahim (Rahmatullahi Alayhi). Moulana is buried in the Newcastle Muslim Cemetery.



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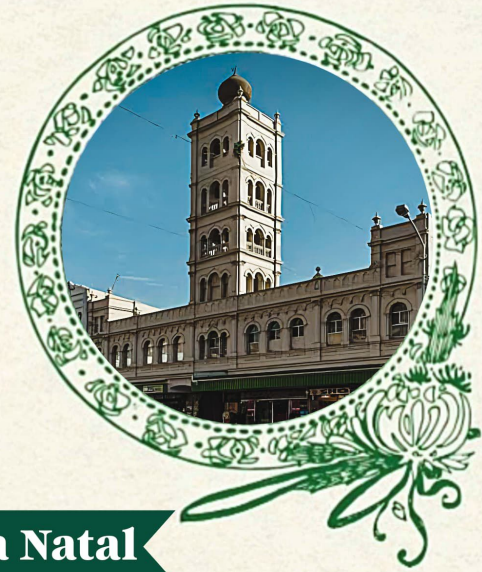
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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

12. Moulana Abdul Haq Ismail Omarjee (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1925 - 2003

- Born in Umzinto, Natal, he was named Abdul Haq after his father's teacher, Moulana Abdul Haq Hazarwi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), who established Madrasah Haqqaniyah in 1880s in Kathor, Gujarat, India.
- Moulana's mother passed away when he was 7 years old, and he was raised by his father in the city of Durban.
- At the age of 12 in 1937, he was sent to India by his father to pursue Islamic education.
- His father was a mureed of Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), and therefore, Islamic education was a priority for him in the education of his son.
- Moulana initially studied in Jaamiyah Husainiyah in Rander for 4 - 5 years, and after completing his elementary education, he was enrolled in Darul Uloom Deoband around 1941.
- He spent ten years in Darul Uloom Deoband and studied under giants like Qari Muhammad Tayyab, Moulana Ibraheem Balyawi, Moulana I'zaaz Ali, Moulana Fakhruddeen, Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani, and other great Ulama of Deoband (Rahmatullahi Alayhim).
- Moulana also served as a Khaadim of Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani, who was very fond of him, and Moulana Omarjee also took the bay'ah at his hands.

To be continued...



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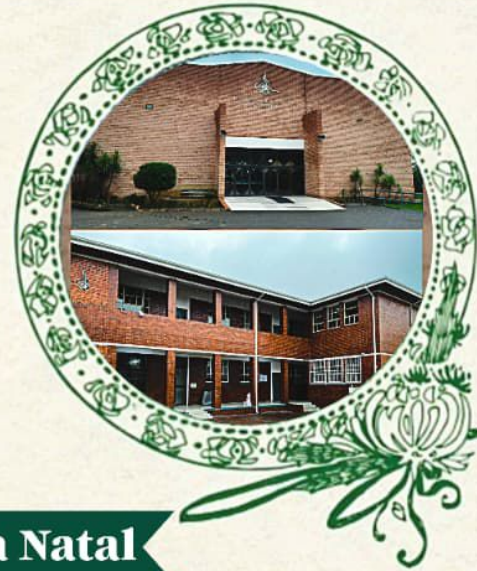
Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

12. Moulana Abdul Haq Ismail Omarjee (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1925 - 2003

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- Returned to South Africa under pressure from his father in 1951 at age 25 or 26.
- He hadn't returned to South Africa during the entire duration of his studies in India for almost 14 or 15 years.
- On his return, there was a vacancy at the West Street Masjid in Durban, and Moulana offered to serve as Imaam on the condition that he would serve voluntarily.
- He served the community of Natal dedicatedly and made it his mission to send as many young men to India to pursue higher Islamic education.
- Moulana was very instrumental in the formation and establishment of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal, despite his young age of 30. He was very dedicated and passionate in his mission, like his Mentor and Ustaadh, Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), who played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Jamiatul Ulama Hind (India).
- At the formation of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal, Moulana was appointed as the Deputy Ameer.
- Moulana tirelessly served the community day and night, whilst also working in his father's business, Omarjee Brothers, in Grey Street, Durban.

To be continued...



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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

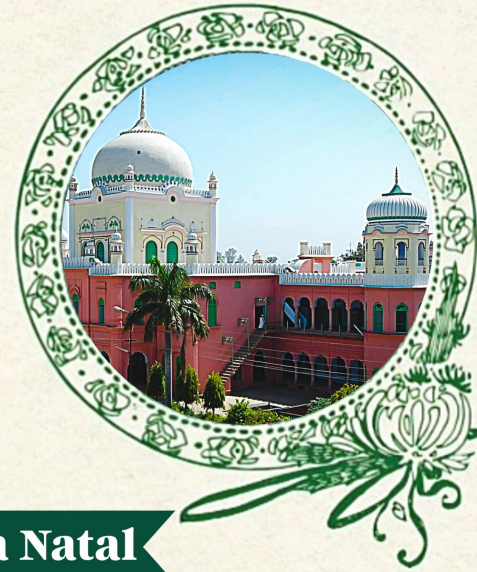
12. Moulana Abdul Haq Ismail Omarjee (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1925 - 2003

...Continued

- He managed to convince and send many young men in the 1960s and 1970s to India for higher Islamic education, and many of these graduated Ulama returned to South Africa and made a very positive impact on the Deeni education of the communities they served; this led to an Islamic revival.
- Mufti Yusuf Karaan (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), who served the Western Cape as the official Mufti for 50 years, was also sent to study in Darul Uloom Deoband by Moulana Omarjee under the sponsorship of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal.
- The facilitation of students to study abroad continued throughout the 1960s and 1970s until the establishment of the Darul Ulooms in South Africa.
- Moulana also realised the need to establish our own Darul Uloom in South Africa and was instrumental in the formation of Darul Uloom Newcastle. He was elected and remained the Ameer of the Shura of Darul Uloom Newcastle from inception until his demise in 2003, a period of 30 years.
- Moulana Cassim Sema (founder of Darul Uloom Newcastle) and Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee (Rahmatullahi Alayhima) shared a very close friendship spanning over 50 years.
- Moulana was a trustee of various Masaajid and educational institutions, including the Orient Islamic Educational Institute in Durban, which was established in 1959.
- Moulana's one great wish was the revival of the famous Madrasah Haqqaniyah in his ancestral village of Kathor, Gujarat, which he re-established after 100 years since it had closed, and today it is a fully fledged institution.

To be continued...



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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Founders of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

12. Moulana Abdul Haq Ismail Omarjee (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1925 - 2003

...Continued

- Moulana Omarjee (Rahimahullah) initiated the very first Musallah (Eidgah) in Durban in the 1960s at the Orient School, which continues today.
- Part of the very first foreign Jamaat that left South Africa with Marhoom Hajeebhai Padia (Rahimahullah) in 1966.
- His residence was always abuzz with visitors, and he was extremely generous, hospitable, and easily approachable to young and old. He was instrumental in inviting many senior Ulama to South Africa.
- Moulana held weekly lessons at the Gleanearn Road Soofie Masjid in Overport, Durban, for many years.
- In the latter part of his life, he took Bay'ah at the hands of Moulana Maseehullah Khan (Rahimahullah), who conferred him with Khilafah.
- Senior Ulama, locally and globally, held him in very high esteem. His wise counsel, wisdom, and guidance were always sought and cherished.
- Moulana was an avid reader and extremely knowledgeable on history and politics, apart from many other subjects.
- He left South Africa in November 2002 to seek medical treatment in India, and after successful completion of his treatment, decided to spend a few days at Madrasah Haqqaniyah in Kathor.
- A few days prior to his return, on Friday morning, 24th January 2003, Moulana delivered advice to both teachers and students at the Madrasah; he returned to the guest room to prepare for the Jumu'ah Salaah in the Madrasah Haqqaniyah Masjid, where he was going to address the congregation in Jumu'ah. However, as he was preparing to leave for Jumu'ah, Moulana (Rahimahullah) departed this world at this auspicious time and day.
- His Janaazah was perhaps the largest ever witnessed in Kathor.
- Moulana was laid to rest in the Kathor Cemetery in close proximity to his namesake, Moulana Abdul Haq Hazarwi (Rahimahullah).
- He served the Jamiatul Ulama Natal for almost 50 years.
- He has left a void that can never be filled.