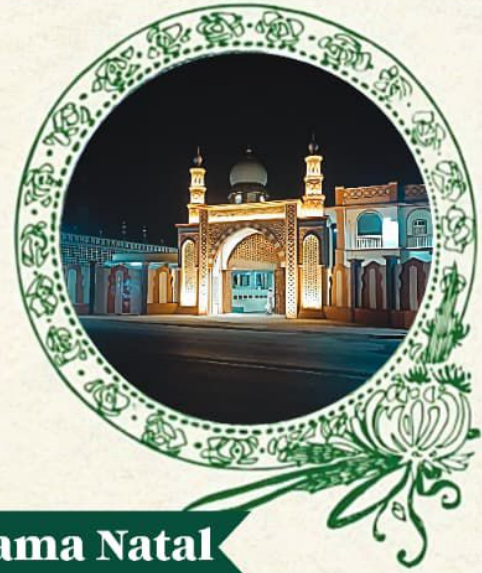




History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

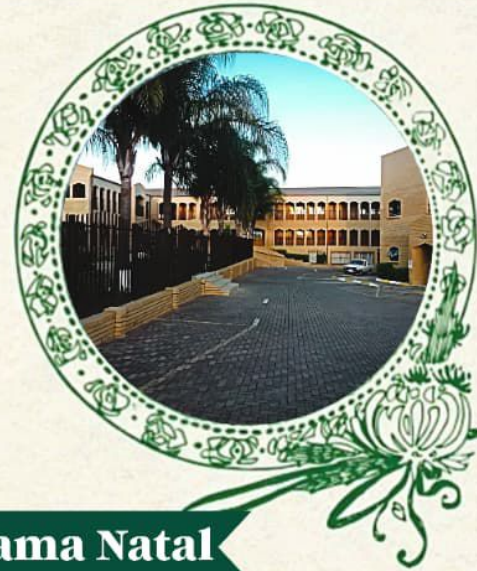
21

Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

1. Moulana Ismail Abdul Razzack (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1930 - 2003

- Born in Ladysmith, Natal in 1930.
- Studied elementary Islamic education and attended Windsor High School in Ladysmith until Standard 6.
- At age 12, around 1942, he left for India and enrolled at Jamiah Islamiyah in Dhabel, Gujarat, and after a year, enrolled at Darul Uloom Deoband.
- Studied under luminaries like Moulana Ibraheem Balyawi, Moulana I'zaaz Ali, Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani, and other Ulama (Rahmatullahi Alayhim).
- Moulana Ismail was particularly fond of Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani, who had a profound impact on him and tried his best to serve his respected Ustaadh.
- He displayed leadership qualities from a young age; he was elected as the chairperson of the weekly foreign students forum (Anjuman) whilst studying in Deoband.
- After graduation from Darul Uloom Deoband, he was offered to teach Arabic at Darul Uloom Deoband, a rare honor and the only South African to receive this offer. He accepted this offer and taught for one year at Deoband.
- Thereafter, he traveled to Pakistan to study Hadith under Allamah Yusuf Binnori (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) in Newtown, Karachi. After studying for a year in Karachi, he proceeded to the famous Darul Uloom in Thandolayar (180 km from Karachi) in Pakistan to further his studies in Hadith under Moulana Zafar Ahmad Uthmani and Moulana Ihtishaamul Haq Thanwi (Rahmatullahi Alayhima).

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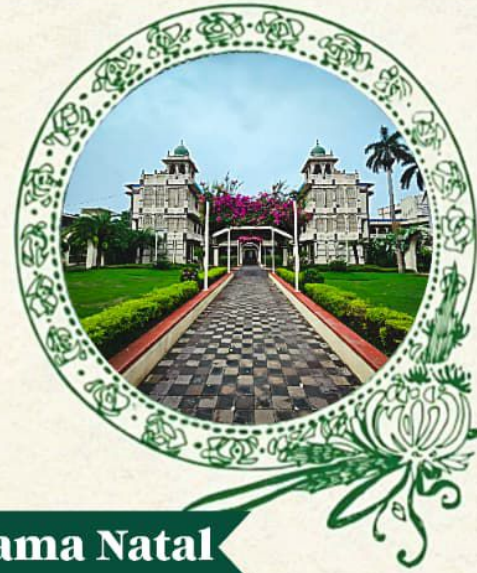
Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

1. Moulana Ismail Abdul Razzack (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1930 - 2003

Continued...

- Moulana Ismail returned to South Africa in 1956 (a year after the establishment of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal). He spent a year in his hometown of Ladysmith, and thereafter was offered a post the following year in Pretoria, where he served the community of Pretoria as the Imam until 1968, and thereafter left for Cairo to take up a post at Al-Azhar University.
- Whilst in Pretoria in 1959, he started the Universal Truth Movement as a vehicle of Da'wah.
- Moulana was very eloquent and fluent in English, Arabic, and Urdu and had a huge impact as a dynamic orator, especially in English when there were very few English-speaking Ulama present.
- He spent many years in Cairo and finally returned to South Africa in 1980 at the age of 50 and settled down in his hometown where he established the Darul Quraan Trust under the advice of Moulana Maseehullah Khan (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- He was a very talented swimmer, horse rider, a karate black belt, and very skilled in Arabic calligraphy.
- When Moulana Maseehullah Khan (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) visited South Africa in the 1980s, he had a great impact on Moulana Ismail, who spent time with him and travelled with Moulana Maseehullah to the neighbouring countries as well.
- Da'wah to non-Muslims was his passion, especially the indigenous people of South Africa, and he made much effort in this regard.
- He developed a close friendship in Cairo with Qari Abdul Basit Abdus Samad and Qari Mustafa Ismail (Rahmatullahi Alayhima) whilst he resided in Cairo.
- He passed away in 2003 and is buried in the Ladysmith Muslim Cemetery.



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

2. Moulana Mohammed Cassim Bhorat (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1935 - 1998

- Born in Stanger in 1935 into a religious family, the eldest son of 17 siblings.
- Completed his elementary Islamic and secular studies in Stanger.
- His parents left for Hajj, via India, in 1946 and took him and his younger brother, Hasan, along to leave them in Naroli, Gujarat, India, to be taken care of by their maternal grandparents and for the acquisition of higher Islamic education.
- Their grandfather enrolled both brothers at Madrasah Falah-e-Daarain in Tadkeshwar, Gujarat, India, for their studies.
- Thereafter, in 1950, at age 15, Moulana Mohammed and his brother, Hasan, were enrolled at Jaamia Husayniyyah in Rander, Gujarat.
- In 1954, at age 19, he accompanied his paternal grandmother on Hajj, and it was here that he developed a connection with Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), as he attended his daily lessons in the Haram Shareef in Madinah Munawwarah.
- Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) had a tremendous impact on him, and he enrolled at Darul Uloom Deoband, where Moulana Madani was teaching.
- He studied under Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), and sadly, Moulana Madani (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) passed away shortly thereafter in 1957.
- Moulana Bhorat returned to South Africa in 1958, after the demise of his mentor.
- Moulana never visited South Africa in the entire duration of his student life in India.

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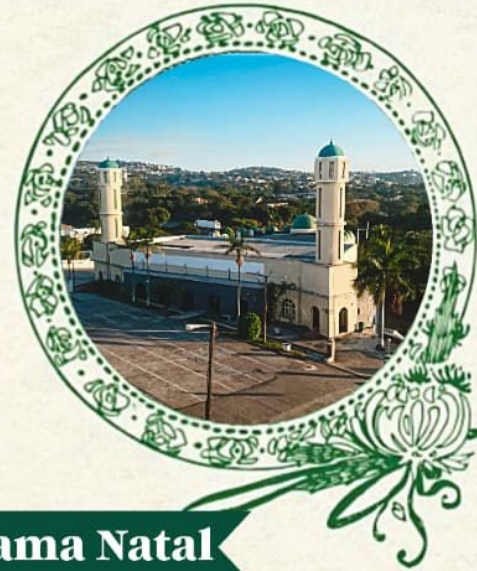
Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

2. Moulana Mohammed Cassim Bhorat (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1935 - 1998

Continued...

- On Moulana's return to Stanger, his hometown, he was appointed to serve the community in the Maktab Madrasah.
- His Jumu'ah lectures were very fiery, and Moulana's talks always focused on contemporary and current issues.
- He made an immense contribution in the community of Stanger, especially in the field of Maktab (elementary Islamic education) for decades, and laid a foundation of excellence in this field of education.
- He was meticulous about punctuality and attendance and would never tolerate absence from the Madrasah for any after-school sporting or other activities.
- He was an expert in the Arabic language and proficient in English, Gujarati, Urdu and Farsi.
- His passion for Madrasah education led him to open a fully fledged Madrasah at his home in Blaine Street, Stanger, which was named Majlis e Qasimul Uloom.
- Parents flocked to enroll their children in his Madrasah, so much so that several parts of the house, including the lounge, dining room, passage, and verandah, were used for teaching and learning in the various grades.
- It was a rule that every single child in his Madrasah should memorize Surah Yaseen and complete the entire Quran Shareef as Nazara (looking inside).
- He was so passionate about the Maktab that he started a magazine in 1967 for children in the Maktab and used to award prizes for articles that children presented for inclusion in the magazine.

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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

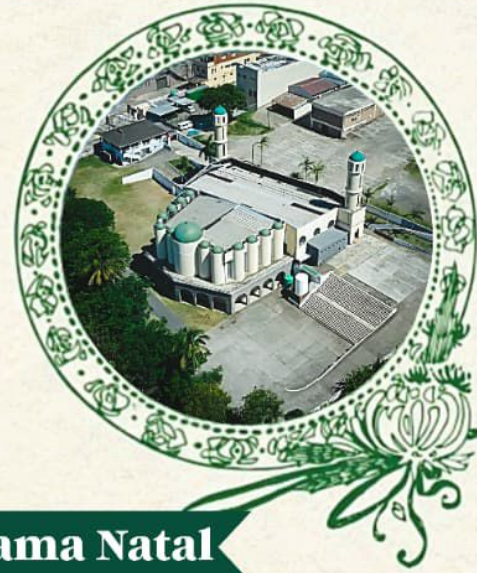
2. Moulana Mohammed Cassim Bhorat (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1935 - 1998

Continued...

- Moulana returned to South Africa from India about two years after the establishment of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal.
- Very active with Hajeebhai Padia (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) from the inception of the work of Da'wah and Tabligh in South Africa.
- Very instrumental in raising funds to build a three-story wing at Zakariyya Muslim School in Stanger in the late 80s. Mufti Mahmoodul Hasan Gangohi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) was there for the foundation pouring and also recited and filled some material in the foundation laying.
- He was a multi faceted person like his mentor Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani (Rahmatullahi Alayhi). His keen interest extended to the political arena as well.
- Highly politically conscious and an anti-apartheid activist against racial oppression; however, he maintained a very low profile.
- Moulana remained a good friend of the African leader, Chief Albert Luthuli, one-time president of the ANC and a Nobel Peace Prize winner, who was at the forefront of resisting the racist apartheid government. Chief Luthuli used to visit Moulana often at his home.
- He also met with Senator Robert Kennedy when the latter visited Chief Albert Luthuli in Groutville, Natal.
- Moulana used to give Dawah to the indigenous African people in their native language, Zulu.
- Moulana's home was once raided by the Security Branch of the Apartheid police, and he was taken into custody regarding his anti-apartheid activities.
- Certainly was a visionary and far ahead of his time, who understood the political landscape of this country.
- An active member of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal, whose wise counsel and wisdom was much appreciated by all.
- Left an indelible mark on the community indeed.
- Passed away in Stanger in 1998 and is buried in the Stanger Muslim Cemetery.



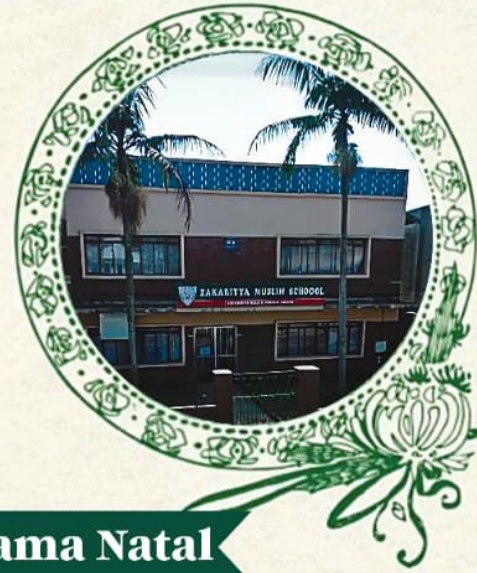


Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

3. Moulana Ismail Ebrahim Desai (Daamat Barakaatuh)

- Born in 1938 in Stanger, Natal, Moulana is currently the most elderly member of the Jamiatul Ulama KZN.
- Spent his early years in the Natal North Coast area of Umhlali, and in 1952 travelled to India and enrolled at Jaamiah Islamiyah Hussainiya in Rander, Gujarat to study the Aalim Course.
- Studied under the great Asaatizah of Gujarat, the likes of Shaikh-ul-Hadith Moulana Ahmadullah Saheb, Moulana Gulaam Rasool Borsadi, Moulana Shamshuddeen and the Principal Moulana Muhammad Saeed Rander (Rahmatullahi Alayhim).
- Returned to South Africa in 1962 after graduation. In the ten years that Moulana was studying in India, he never returned to South Africa.
- Took Bay'ah to Shaikh-ul-Hadith Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) and spent several Ramadaans in his company. Later in life, took Bay'ah with Moulana Hakeem Muhammad Akhtar (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) and received Ijazah from him.
- Embarked on the journey of Hajj in 1962 to serve his elderly parents, and was also honoured to have entered the Kabah Shareef.
- Was fortunate to have spent time in the company of great luminaries like Qari Muhammad Tayyab, Shah Waseeullah Ilaahabadi, Moulana Ihtishamul Haq, Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani, Moulana Badre Aalam Muhajir Madani, Moulana Abdul Qaadir Raipuri, Moulana Yusuf Khandalwi, Moulana Abdul Haleem Jaunpuri, Moulana Muhammad Ali Tarajwi, Moulana Fakhruddeen Muraadabaadi and Allamah Yusuf Binnori amongst other great Ulama (Rahmatullahi Alayhim).
- Till today, Moulana daily sends as isaale sawaab one Juz of the Qur'aan Shareef, out of Ihsan (gratitude) for his Principal, Moulana Muhammad Saeed Rander (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) who once visited him when he was ill, as a student in Rander.

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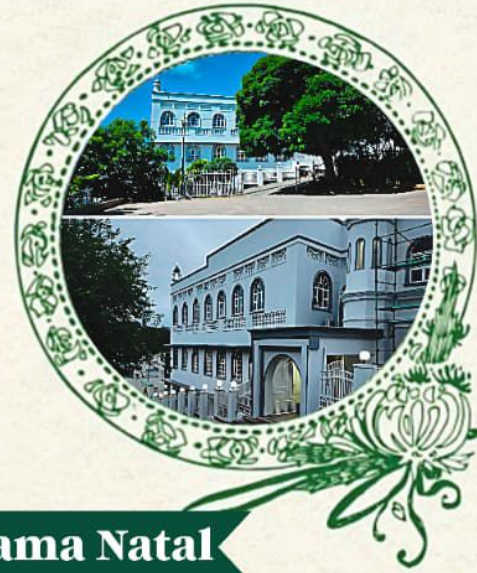
History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

Continued... 3. Moulana Ismail Ebrahim Desai (Daamat Barakaatuh)

- After returning to South Africa in 1962, he lived in Umhlali in Natal and later moved to Stanger in 1975 after his father (Rahimahullah) passed away to take care of his mother (Rahmatullahi Alayha).
- He taught Maktab in the famous Tootla's Madrasah in Stanger. In 1978, there was a need for a Hifz Madrasah, and despite not being a Hafez himself, he took up this challenge and started a Hifz Class at the Stanger Madrasah Anjuman Islam (now Zakariyya Muslim School).
- He has produced numerous Huffaaz, many of whom are Ulama as well and who are serving the Deen in various capacities, locally and internationally.
- Amongst his very first students of Hifz that graduated is his son, Qari Yunus Ismail Desai (Daamat Barakaatuh), who is currently a senior Ustaadh at the Darul Uloom, Madrasah Arabia Islamiyah in Azaadville, Gauteng, South Africa.
- A second son, Hafez Ahmed Saeed Ismail Desai (may Allah Ta'ala protect him) also completed Hifz under his esteemed father.
- Moulana Ismail also served briefly as the Principal of the Stanger Madrasah Anjuman Islam.
- Together with Moulana Mohammed Cassim Bhorat (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), they established the first Eidgah in Stanger.
- Despite his health challenges and advanced age, Moulana still teaches the Hifz of the Quraan Shareef, which he has been doing for 48 years.
- Moulana is extremely particular regarding time and punctuality.
- He has been host to various senior Ulama who have visited Stanger.
- Indeed, Masha-Allah, we are blessed in South Africa to have amongst us such a great personality and khaadim of the Holy Quraan. May Allah Ta'ala bless Hazrat Moulana Ismail Desai Saheb with aafiyah and keep his shadow of goodness over us, Aameen.



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

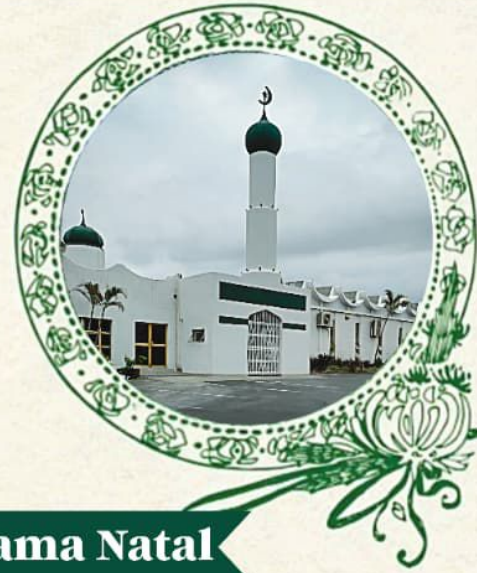
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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

4. Moulana Dr. Ahmed Khalil Aziz (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1939 - 2014

- Moulana Ahmed Khalil was born in Browns Avenue in Overport, Durban in Natal.
- His early schooling was in Overport, Durban, where he lived.
- He attended Madrasah at the Glenearn Road Soofie Madrasah and completed his Hifz at the age of 10 under Sayyid Abdul Hamid (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), a descendant of Nabi ﷺ and a great Wali of Allah Ta'ala. Incidentally, Sayyid Saheb passed away on the 10th of Muharram whilst fasting and engaged in Salaah.
- A year later, after completing his Hifz-ul-Quraan, Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee (Rahimahullah) sent him to Darul Uloom Deoband to continue his Islamic studies and the Aalim Fadhil Course. He traveled on the SS Karanja from Durban to Bombay.
- He was a brilliant student and studied under the great luminaries of Deoband like Moulana Ibraheem Balyawi, Moulana I'zaaz Ali, Moulana Hussain Ahmad Madani, and other great Ulama (Rahmatullahi Alayhim).
- Moulana excelled in his studies and graduated at the age of 21, having spent 10 years studying at Darul Uloom Deoband.
- In 1961, Moulana left for Pakistan to pursue a post-graduate degree in Qur'anic Arabic. After obtaining the traditional Aalim Kamil degree, he returned to South Africa in the year 1964.

To be continued...



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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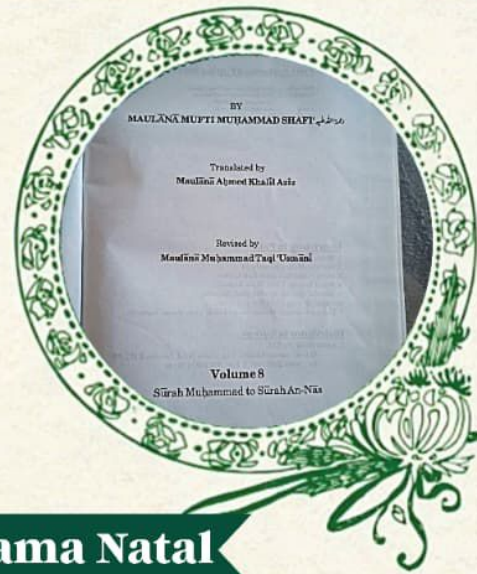
Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

4. Moulana Dr. Ahmed Khalil Aziz (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1939 - 2014

Continued...

- Moulana Ahmed Khalil served as Imaam and Ustaaz at various Masajid and Madaris in his lifetime.
- In the late 1960s, Moulana was appointed the Imaam of Stanger Jaamiaah Masjid, where he served closely with Moulana Mohammed Cassim Bhorat (Rahmatullahi Alayhi). It was also at this time that Moulana served as the joint Secretary General of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal.
- He taught at the Verulam Islamic School and at Darul Uloom Newcastle with Moulana Cassim Muhammad Sema (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) as well in the course of his teaching.
- In 1973, Moulana felt the need to advance his secular education and obtained his BA & MA at the University of Durban-Westville and finally his PhD in Linguistics.
- Moulana was thereafter appointed as a Professor and lecturer in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Durban-Westville.
- He was an expert in linguistics, especially in Classical Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Gujarati, and English. He also undertook a study of German.
- Moulana was a committee member of many educational institutions, such as IEOSA (Islamic Educational Organisation of South Africa), and people are benefiting from his efforts as editor in chief of the Urdu syllabus, which is still being used around the world, in places like the UK, etc.
- He conducted classes in Tafseer and basic Arabic regularly. He was responsible for the weekly Jumu'ah, Eid, and occasional night programmes at Masjid Yusuf in Parlock, Durban for many years.

To be continued...



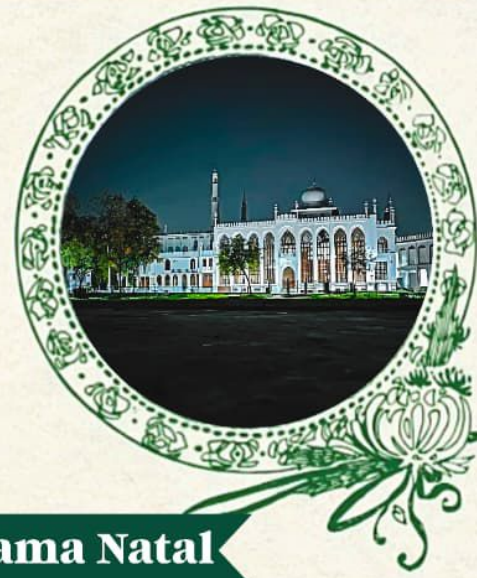
Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

4. Moulana Dr. Ahmed Khalil Aziz (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1939 - 2014

Continued...

- Moulana Ahmed Khalil was extremely knowledgeable. He was an academic genius, yet very humble and approachable. Many Ulama and laymen would seek his counsel due to his vast experience; many Ulama completed their university education in Islamic Studies under his guidance and mentorship.
- He would be cautious and guarded with his words and spoke in a calculated and measured manner and tone.
- He kept contact with the senior Ulama of the time, consulting on the general queries of the community.
- At times, when approached with difficult questions, his comprehensive responses would contain such tact and wisdom that one would easily gauge his intellectual maturity.
- Mufti Muhammad Taqi Uthmani (Daamat Barakaatuhu), upon witnessing the abilities of Moulana, requested him to translate the 8th volume of his father's masterpiece, Ma'aariful Qur'an by Mufti Muhammad Shafi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), from the original Urdu into English, which he agreed to.
- He was a very organized person by nature and very meticulous in documenting things.
- His life was spent from early childhood till the end in learning and teaching; a true scholar, he has certainly made his mark and left behind a legacy in the field of education.
- Moulana passed away after a long illness in 2014 and was laid to rest in the Browns Avenue Muslim Cemetery in Overport, Durban, directly opposite the original family home, which still stands today.



Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

5. Moulana Prof. Syed Salman Nadvi (Daamat Barakaatuhu)

- Born in Lucknow, India, in 1933 in an illustrious family of scholars, son of Allaamah Syed Sulaiman Nadvi (d. 1953), who was one of the Khulafaa of Hakeem-ul-Ummah, Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).

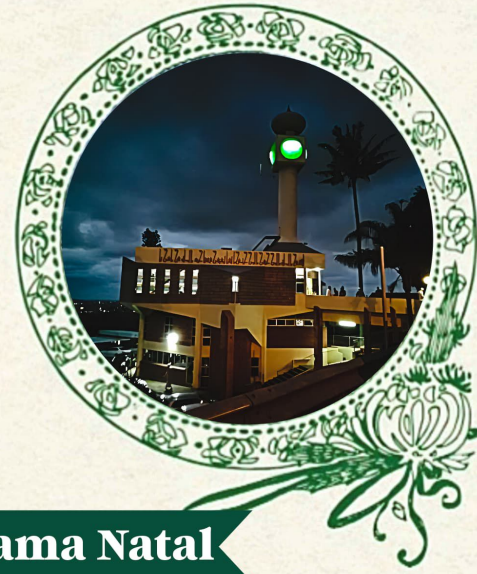
Academic Achievements

- Graduated from Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow, India in 1946.
- Studied under great luminaries; among his Asaatiza was Moulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi [Moulana Ali Mia - d. 1999] (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- Graduated from Jamia Ahmadia, Bhopal, India under Moulana Ashfaqur Rahman Kandhlawi and Moulana Khaleel Arab in 1948 (Rahmatullahi Alayhima).
- As a young boy, he met Moulana Muhammad Ilyas (d. 1944 - Rahmatullahi alayhi) on many occasions (Founder of the Tablighi Movement).
- His family migrated to Pakistan post the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947.

University Education & Career

- BA - Sind Muslim College - Karachi, Pakistan, 1957
- MA - University of Karachi, 1959
- PhD - University of Chicago, USA, 1972
- Professor & Chairman, Department of Islamic Studies, University of Durban-Westville (UDW), Durban, 1973-1988
- Dean of the Faculty of Arts, 1999-2000, UDW
- Special Advisor to the Chancellor, 2001-2002, UDW
- Moulana Salman arrived in South Africa in 1973 from the USA and established the Department of Islamic Studies at the University of Durban-Westville, now UKZN.
- He joined the Jamiatul Ulama Natal on the invitation of Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) and remained a very close friend, associate, and confidant of Marhoom Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) until the latter's demise in 2003.

To be continued...



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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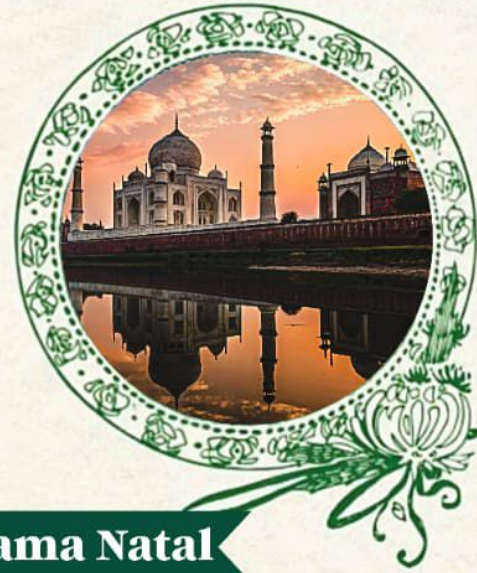
Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

5. Moulana Prof. Syed Salman Nadvi (Daamat Barakaatuhu)

Continued...

- Moulana Salman maintained a very close relationship with Moulana Yunus Patel (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), and Moulana Yunus accorded him great respect.
- Actively involved in the Jamiatul Ulama KZN for almost three decades as part of the Shura.
- Conducted the weekly Tafseer lessons for many years at the Reservoir Hills Masjid in Durban.
- Took Bay'ah at the hands of Moulana Maseehullah Khan (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) on one of his visits to South Africa.
- Later took Bay'ah to Hakeem Moulana Muhammad Akhtar (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) and received Ijaazah from him.
- Many Ulama honoured Moulana Salman due to him being a direct descendant of Nabi ﷺ and the son of a distinguished Aalim.
- Moulana is presently one of the most elderly Ulama in South Africa.
- Actively involved currently as a member of the Board of Governors and the Islamic Advisory Committee of the Orient Islamic School in Durban.
- May Allah Ta'ala bless Moulana with continued good health and keep his shadow over us. Aameen.

(Interview conducted on September 17, 2025)



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

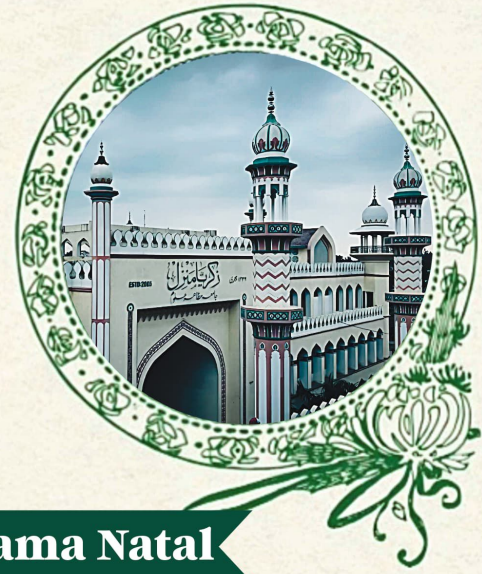
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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

6. Moulana Yusuf Ebrahim Tootla (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1940 - 2020

- Moulana Yusuf was born in 1940 in Tugela, a town on the Natal North Coast.
- Moulana's father came to South Africa some years earlier from India, and after working in South Africa, he returned to India.
- After the birth of his eldest son, Mohammed, in India, his father, Ebrahim Tootla (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), returned to South Africa and was later joined by his wife and son. Moulana was one of five siblings.
- In 1947, his family settled in Stanger, Natal, where his elder brother, Mohammed, opened a business that still exists today.
- It was in January 1958 that a program was held in memory of Moulana Sayyid Hussain Ahmad Madani (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- A young man, Yusuf Tootla, his father, and some elders of Stanger attended the programme in the West Street Masjid in Durban, which was organised by Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee and Moulana Abdur Rahman Ansari (Rahmatullahi Alayhima).
- Moulana Madani (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) had passed away a few weeks prior, in December 1957.
- After hearing about such a great luminary who had a profound effect on him, he was encouraged by his father and some elders to pursue higher Islamic studies in India.
- Although he was not keen to study in India initially, he thought it would be an excellent opportunity to experience some of the historical wonders of India, especially the Taj Mahal, which really fascinated him.
- He left for Bombay a few months later in 1958 and reached Rander in Gujarat in the peak of summer, when he began to reconsider his decision to study in India due to the intensity of the heat and the difficult circumstances.
- Some Ulama of Rander encouraged him to stay on, and in a few weeks, Moulana enrolled at Darul Uloom Deoband, where he began his journey of studying the Aalim Course.

To be continued...



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

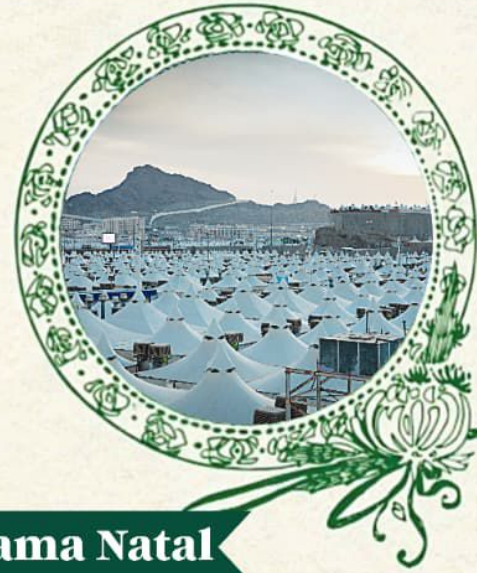
6. Moulana Yusuf Ebrahim Tootla (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1940 - 2020

Continued...

- Moulana Abdul Haq Omarjee (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) was instrumental in facilitating many students to undertake studies at Darul Uloom Deoband, and Moulana Yusuf Tootla (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) was among them as well.
- The number of South African students at Darul Uloom Deoband had increased considerably, and they were allocated their own dining facilities, which brought about much ease for the South African students in Deoband.
- Whilst studying in Deoband, Moulana used to spend most of his free time and holidays in Saharanpur with Hazrat Shaikh-ul-Hadith Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) and had developed a very strong bond with him.
- Upon completion of his final year studies at Deoband, he sought permission from Hazrat Shaikh to spend the entire month of Ramadhaan in his company in Saharanpur.
- It was at this time that he began his spiritual journey at the hands of Hazrat Shaikh (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- After Ramadhaan, he set out for Saudi Arabia by ship to perform Hajj, after which he returned to Saharanpur.
- Moulana spent his entire life in the field of Tabligh and Da'wah, especially after hearing Hazrat Shaikh praising and extolling the virtues and merits of this effort, which was initiated by Hazrat Moulana Muhammad Ilyas Khandalwi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- His efforts in Tabligh and Da'wah are well recognized around the world, and he was considered one of the most senior pioneering elders of South Africa and a pillar of support for this effort.
- Moulana traveled extensively to almost every country he possibly could.
- He also facilitated travels of South African citizens to Panama without any visa restrictions for Tabligh and Da'wah.
- Even in his advanced age, his passion for the propagation and advancement of Deen never waned, and this flame of love for the guidance of mankind had never extinguished in him by the Grace of Allah Ta'ala. This continued until he breathed his last. A few weeks prior to his demise, at the age of 80, he had traveled abroad for the effort of Deen.

To be continued...



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

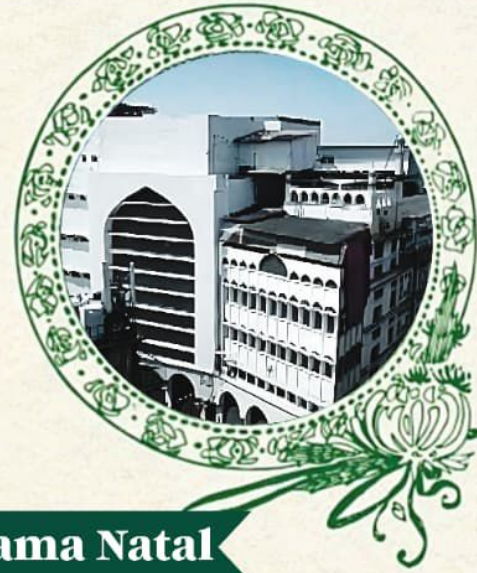
6. Moulana Yusuf Ebrahim Tootla (Rahmatullahi Alayhi)

1940 - 2020

Continued...

- Moulana Yusuf enjoyed a deep connection with Allah Ta'ala, and this reflected in his punctuality towards Tahajjud Salaah which he never missed.
- Married in 1969 to the daughter of Hajee Ahmed Desai (Rahmatullahi Alayhima) who was a pillar of support in his mission of serving the Deen. Allah Ta'ala blessed him with 9 daughters and a son.
- Moulana was married for over 50 years and innumerable visitors graced his home to partake of meals, his hospitality and graciousness as a host were legendary.
- Whenever he saw a traveller or guest in the Masjid he would without any hesitation invite them home for tea or a meal.
- His love of the Haramain Ash-Shareefain bore testimony in his constant journeys for Umrah and Hajj.
- His humility always outshone in his life and speech, that despite performing Hajj more than fifty times, he would say, *"If Allah Ta'ala accepts even one, I will be happy."*
- A Khalifah of Shaikh-ul-Hadith Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), his ittibaa' of his Shaikh was on the highest level.
- In 1997, when a raging fire broke out in Mina, he began calling out the Azaan and waving towards a different direction, almost attempting to divert the fire from the camps. Miraculously, by the permission of Allah Ta'ala, the fire moved towards the mountains. When asked regarding this strange incident, he responded, *"This is what Hazrat Shaikh taught us to do during a fire."*

To be continued...



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

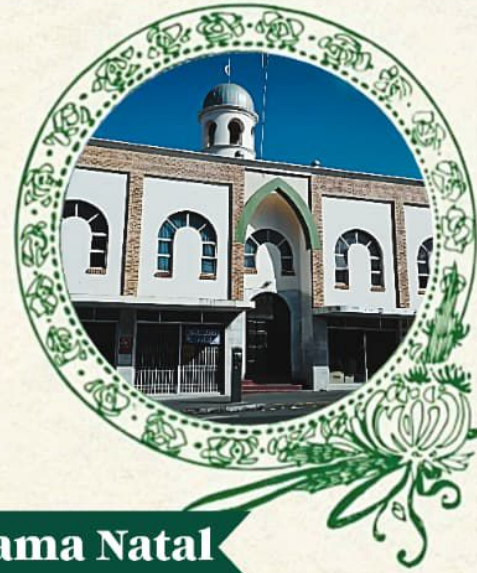
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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

6. Moulana Yusuf Ebrahim Tootla (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1940 - 2020

Continued...

- Moulana had a unique ability to connect and encourage the youth. He would sit, eat and warmly engage with them, and when asked, he would speak his philosophy, *"A kind heart and a gentle hand could leave a lasting impact on the hearts of the youth, shaping them into future leaders."*
- Many youth whom he mentored and befriended grew up to become Huffaadh and Ulama.
- Always displayed impeccable character and dignity throughout his life. The Sunnah of the Turban was also a salient feature of his life including the last day of his life.
- Senior Ulama had immense respect for Moulana. He also served on the Shura of Darul Uloom Azaadville, Madrasah Arabia Islamiyyah and Darul Uloom Camperdown, Madrasah In'aamiyya, apart from other institutions.
- The Duas of Moulana were extremely lengthy and all-encompassing of every effort of Deen. Often at Jalsahs, he would be honoured by being asked to make the final dua. Those present would be left feeling that Moulana taught them how to ask Allah Ta'ala from his duas.
- The Khandalwi family considered Moulana Yusuf as part of their close family.
- It was his invitation that Shaikh-ul-Hadith Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) accepted to spend the entire month of Ramadhaan in I'tikaaf in Stanger, Natal during 1981. This was the last Ramadhaan of Hazrat Shaikh who passed away the following year in Sha'baan in Madinah Munawwarah and lies resting in Jannatul Baqi.
- It was the habit of Moulana that he would observe the I'tikaaf annually and in the last few years of his life, he observed I'tikaaf in the Madrasah In'aamiyya Masjid in Camperdown, Natal.
- After returning from an overseas trip, Moulana fell ill at home and it was decided that he be admitted to the hospital, however before leaving for the hospital, he requested that he make 2 Rakaats of Salaah which he did most devotedly and engaged in Dua, after completing his Salaah, he went into Sajda and passed away in this position at his residence.
- Passed away at the age of eighty, in March 2020, and is buried in the Stanger Muslim Cemetery.



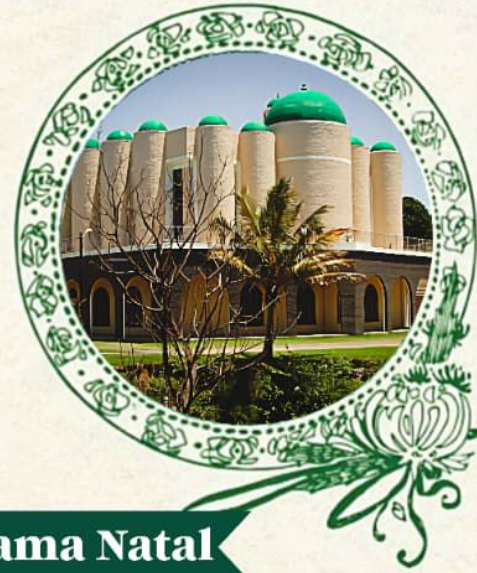
History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

7. Moulana Ameenur Rashid Atewala (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1943 - 2021

- Born in 1943 in Daman, Gujarat, India.
- Graduated as an Aalim from Jamia Islamiyah Taleemuddeen in Dhabel, Gujarat 1967.
- Studied under the renowned Shaykhul Hadith of Gujarat, Mufti Ahmed Bemat (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- After graduation, he worked as a teacher at his alma mater from 1967 to 1973.
- Served as the Imaam at Panoli Jamiah Masjid from 1973 to 1979.
- In 1980, on the invitation of Hafiz Ayoob Kadwa (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), he arrived in South Africa to serve as the Imaam of the Port Shepstone Jamiah Masjid on the South Coast of Natal.
- Moulana was also related to Moulana Abubakr Husain Khatib (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), one of the founding members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal.
- Dedicatedly served as the Head Imaam of the Masjid for 32 years, from 1980 to 2012.
- He was meticulous regarding punctuality, a highly organised person and was never late for a single Salaah whilst he was the Imaam. He had a beautiful and melodious voice, and his memorization of the Quran (Hifz) was extremely strong.
- He was approachable and easily integrated with the community, due to his friendly and pleasant demeanor.
- Those who interacted with him speak highly of his humility, selflessness and unwavering commitment to societal unity.
- While serving as Imaam in Port Shepstone, Moulana also acted as the Jamiatul Ulama KZN zonal office administrator in Port Shepstone.
- In 2012, he returned to his birthplace in Daman, India, and was appointed Principal of Jaamiah Noorul Islaam at Moti Daman.
- Moulana served as the Principal of the Madrasah for 10 years until his passing.
- He passed away in 2021 and is buried in the Dholar Cemetery in Moti Daman, India, the place of his birth.



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

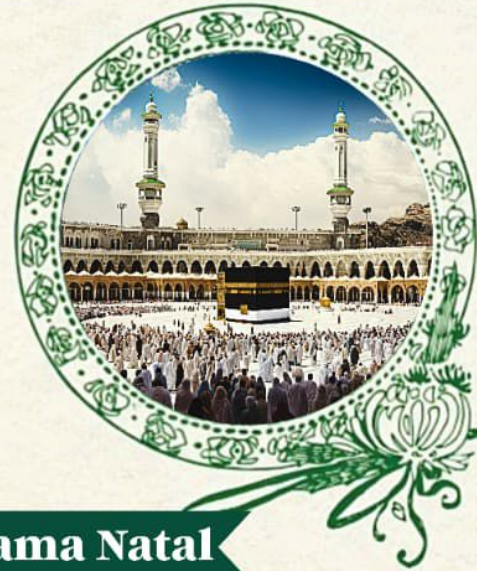
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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

8. Moulana Dawood Ismail Padia (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1943 - 2020

- Born in 1943, in Port Shepstone, Natal.
- Started his Islamic and academic education at home by his respected mother (Rahmatullahi Alayha), like all the other children in the family.
- In 1963, Moulana enrolled at Jaamia Husainiyyah, Rander, Gujarat where he studied under great luminaries including Shaikh-ul-Hadith Moulana Ajmeri Saheb, Moulana Ahmedullah Saheb and Moulana Shabeer Saheb (Rahmatullahi Alayhim).
- He became the first member of his family to travel to India to pursue higher Islamic education.
- During his student-life in India, he would travel to Nizaamuddeen on the request of his brother, Hajee Bhai Padia (Rahmatullahi Alayhi), to be in the company of Moulana Inaamul Hasan, Moulana Umar Palanpuri, and Moulana Saeed Ahmed Khan (Rahmatullahi Alayhim).
- Moulana also regularly visited Saharanpur, to meet Shaikh-ul-Hadith Moulana Muhammad Zakariyya (Rahmatullahi Alayhi). It was also here where he sat for I'tikaaf in the company of Hazrat Shaikh.
- Despite being in the company of senior Mashaaikh, he maintained his Islaahi Ta'alluq with Mufti Mahmood Hasan Gangohi (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).
- Moulana graduated and returned to South Africa in 1970, becoming the first Aalim in the entire Padia and extended families.
- Upon his return, he was contacted by Moulana Mohammed Cassim Bhorat (Rahmatullahi Alayhi - d1998), to teach in his Maktab in Stanger, as Moulana Cassim Bhorat was leaving for four months.
- Moulana eventually settled in Stanger where he taught in the Maktab established by Haji Muhammed Tootla and Moulana Yusuf Tootla (Rahmatullahi Alayhima). Here he taught hundreds of students in a room adjacent to his home, over a span of approximately 50 years.

To be continued... Insha'Allah



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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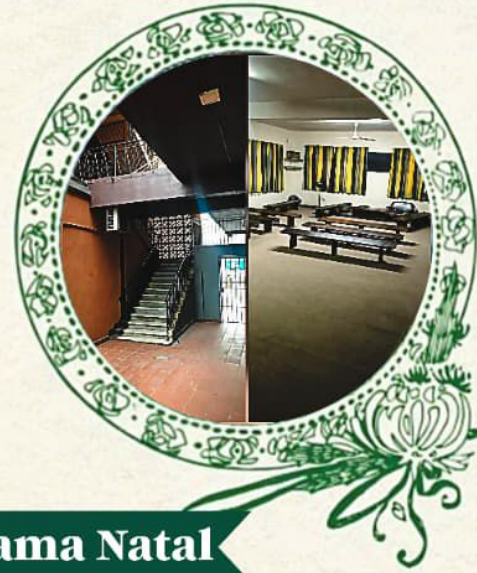
Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

8. Moulana Dawood Ismail Padia (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1943 - 2020

Continued...

- Many of Moulana's students went on to become Huffaadh and Ulama, and are teaching in Madaaris across the country.
- His students would also enroll their own children in this very same Maktab to study under him. In this way, Moulana sometimes taught three generations of some families.
- His life was the Maktab and his dedication in teaching the Deen to children in the same place over such a long period of time in the same place (almost 50 years) is greatly admirable, and speaks volumes of his istiqqaamah (steadfastness/commitment) and ikhlaas (sincerity).
- Moulana had a unique principle in his Maktab: that whenever the Muazzin would call out the Azaan, he ensured that every student displayed utmost respect for the Azaan by sitting silently and responding to the words of the Muazzin, such was his respect for a salient feature of the Deen.
- He lived a life of simplicity, selflessness, abstinence and total contentment.
- When speaking, he never raised his voice and spoke only when necessary.
- Moulana was kind and soft-natured. He had a habit of coming early to the Masjid every Jumu'ah, and applying itr for all who were present, thereby enlivening the Sunnah of applying itr on the day of Jumu'ah.
- Every Friday, after the Maktab, for many years, he would board a train with his family for Durban, take a lift with family members to Isipingo Beach where they would spend the weekend with his mother (Rahmatullahi Alayha). Early on Monday morning he would return to Stanger with his family, to be back early before the Maktab could begin.
- During his weekends in Isipingo Beach, he would still engage in his lifelong passion of teaching children. Here he taught Urdu to the family children.
- Moulana was privileged to have performed Hajj seven times. Each time, on the day of his departure, he would come to Isipingo Beach to take the Duaas of his mother (Rahmatullahi Alayha).

To be continued... Insha'Allah



History & Legacy of the JAMIATUL ULAMA KZN

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Senior Members of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal

8. Moulana Dawood Ismail Padia (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) 1943 - 2020

Continued...

- Despite being extremely soft-spoken and soft-natured, he did not hesitate when showing and enforcing respect for the Sha'aair (significant and salient features) of Islam, as can be gauged through his respect for the Azaan.
- As a committed member of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal, he always attended meetings. He was at the forefront in dealing with societal issues and took it as his responsibility to help resolve them.
- On one occasion, he heard about a non-Muslim teacher in the nearby government school intentionally displaying disrespect to the Qur'an Shareef. Moulana, along with the other members of the Jamiat in Stanger - Moulana Mohammed Bhorat (d. 1998), Moulana Muhammad Mulla (d. 2001), Mufti Basheer Amod (d. 2017), etc. (Rahmatullahi Alayhim), addressed this episode at the school's assembly the very next day and escalated it to the board of the school.
- Throughout Moulana's life, he was extremely particular about performing Salaah with Jamaat in the Masjid. Even in sickness and old age, he performed all five daily Salaah with Jamaat in the Masjid.
- Moulana fell critically ill in the last two months of his life. (During this time I had the good fortune of visiting Moulana, and he ensured that I did not leave until his son, Moulana Haroon, applied itr for me (Compiler)).
- On Wednesday, the 15th of April 2020, he requested his son, Moulana Haroon (who is the Imaam of the Park Rynie Masjid in the South Coast of KZN), that he wished to perform the Asr Salaah in the Park Rynie Masjid. On that evening the last thing he recited with his son, Moulana Ebrahim, was the Masnoon Duas for sleeping and the Kalimah Tayyibah, after which he slept.
- Moulana passed away peacefully in his sleep on Thursday morning, the 16th of April 2020, and is buried in the Dayal Road Cemetery in Clairwood, Durban, where many other family members are also buried, including his brother Hajeebhai Padia (Rahmatullahi Alayhi).