

Keynote Addresses
by
Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad
(Worldwide Head of the
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community)



Delivered at the
'Africa at 50' Events
organised by the

**Pan-African Ahmadiyya
Muslim Association UK**

in commemoration of the 50th
independence anniversaries of
various African countries.



An Overview of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a religious organisation, with branches in more than 200 countries. It is the most dynamic denomination of Islam in modern history, with an estimated membership in the tens of millions worldwide.

It was established in 1889 by **Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad** (1835-1908) in a small and remote village called Qadian in Punjab, India. He claimed to be the expected reformer of the latter days and the awaited one of the world community of religions (the *Mahdi* and Messiah of the latter days). The community he started is an embodiment of the benevolent message of Islam in its pristine purity that promotes peace and universal brotherhood based on a belief in the Gracious and Ever-Merciful God.



With this conviction, within a century, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has expanded globally and it endeavours to practice the peaceful teachings of Islam by raising hundreds of thousands of pounds every year for charities, building schools and hospitals open to all and by encouraging learning through interfaith dialogue.

The UK chapter of the community was established in 1913 and in 1924 it built London's first purpose built mosque (in Southfields). It is, therefore, one of the oldest and most established Muslim organisations in Britain and now has more than 105 branches across Britain.

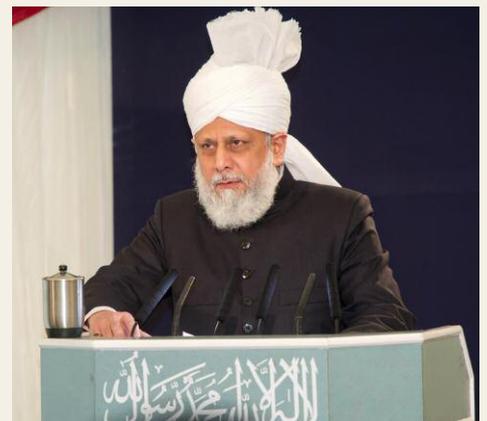
The Khalifa of Islam: A Man of Peace

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad

His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, was elected as the fifth Khalifa of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 2003.

His Holiness inspires his community to serve humanity with the spirit of kindness and humility that is integral to Islam. In accordance with the teachings of Islam he upholds the honour of all prophets of God and highlights the role of religion in the promotion of peace.

His Holiness has delivered addresses at the House of Commons, Capitol Hill and the European Parliament and has also written to world leaders urging them to inculcate a true sense of justice and peace in international relations to avoid regional conflicts from engulfing the entire world.



"I firmly believe that if the African countries and people unite together and fulfil the requirements of justice, then one day, Africa will emerge as a true global power. May Allah enable this to happen, Insha'Allah."

(Keynote Address by Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community at the "Africa at 50" Event 2011)

Message from the President

Founded in 1986, the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (PAAMA) UK is a subsidiary organisation within the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK. Underpinned by the Community's motto '*Love For All, Hatred For None*', PAAMA's Mission Statement is *to unite, empower and inspire the African Ahmadiyya Muslim diaspora to serve Islam, society and Africa.*

A principal part of that service is the inculcation of moral and spiritual values in its membership and society. PAAMA is dedicated to ensuring that Africans develop and excel in such qualities as piety, righteousness, honesty, justice and fair dealing so that they can better contribute to the society in which they live.

PAAMA also provides a platform where its members can engage and exchange ideas with the intellectual elite of Africans in the diaspora with a view to promoting mutual respect and finding common grounds to enlighten the people of Africa about religious affairs and secular matters.

Over the past few years, as many countries across Africa celebrated the 50th anniversaries of their independence, PAAMA held a series of 'Africa at 50' events to commemorate, in its own unique way, the milestone reached by African states. The distinction of these events was that they were graced by the august presence of the worldwide spiritual and administrative Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, His Holiness, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, who delivered the keynote addresses.

Originally addressed to the attendees of the 'Africa at 50' events, these speeches, with their universal import, are equally pertinent to all the countries and peoples of Africa. We are, therefore, pleased to publish this compilation of speeches delivered by His Holiness at the 'Africa at 50' events so that the wisdom and guidance contained therein may be disseminated far and wide.

It is our hope and prayer that this publication will be widely read and reflected upon so that, acting upon the sapience and sagacity encompassed therein, the illusive dream of a united, prosperous and enlightened Africa can be transformed from a hollow yearning to a glowing reality and, in the words of His Holiness, Africa does emerge as a true global power. May Allah so ordain. Ameen.

Humbly,

Tommy Kallon.

President Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK



Tommy Kallon
President of Pan-African
Ahmadiyya Muslim
Association UK
(2014 – present).



Issah Ahmed Wemah
Chairman of Pan-African
Ahmadiyya Muslim
Association UK
(2009 – 2014).

Protecting Africa's Freedoms

Keynote Address by Worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



Keynote Address Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^(aba), Khalifatul Masih V, Worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community at an event organised by the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK to celebrate the independence days of various African countries on 13th November 2010 at the Nasir Hall, Baitul Futuh Mosque. Also in attendance were:

- Alhaji Ahmed Umaru, Head of Chancery of Nigerian High Commission.
- Adebayor Oladimeji, Head of Nigerian Community in UK.
- His Excellency, Edward M. Turay C.O.R, High Commissioner of Sierra Leone.
- Alhaji Bawah G. Ayembillah, Minister/Head of Consular & Welfare of the Ghana High Commission.
- Mr Dodo Yapi, Deputy Ambassador of Ivory Coast.
- Mr Morris Barsee, Second Secretary of Embassy of Liberia.
- Mr Issah Ahmed Wemah, Chairman Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK.

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwudh* and *Bismillah*, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^(aba) said:

"All the distinguished guests: *Assalamo 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahe Wa Barakatohu* – peace and blessings of Allah be upon you all.

We are gathered here today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Nigeria and some other West African countries, or I should say, other African countries, which has been organised by the group of African Ahmadi brothers called the Pan-African Association.

When I was invited to this event by the Pan-African Association they expressed their desire that I attend, and so I replied that, *InshaAllah* (God Willing), I will do so. I decided to accept their

invitation for a number of reasons.

It is not only because the Pan-African Association organised this event, or that in Africa we have an established Ahmadiyya Community.

Neither is the only reason for attending because, as our religion teaches us, it is a high moral standard to accept an invitation in order to fulfil the wishes of someone.

Although, of course, they are all important reasons; most of all, the biggest reason why I am attending this function is due to the great love I hold in my heart for the people of Africa.

These sentiments exist because I lived in the African country of Ghana for a period of more than eight years, and as a result, have developed an affiliation to all Africans.

There are also other reasons why I have sentiments of love and affection for African nations.

One of the reasons is that my master and beloved, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^(saw), gave so much respect to one of his African spiritual slaves that the Second Khalifa of the Holy Prophet^(saw), Hazrat Umar^(ra), would call this Ethiopian spiritual slave 'Syedna Bilal,' which is a highly esteemed and respected word in Arabic.

This heartfelt respect that I hold is also due to the fact that upon the Victory of Makkah, whoever came under the flag of Bilal^(ra) was guaranteed protection.

This humble servant of the Founder of Islam^(saw) cast aside all of the cruelties and excesses perpetrated against him for the sake of world harmony and stood up as a symbol of peace. The Prophet of God^(saw) guaranteed peace to whoever came under the flag of Bilal^(ra).

Furthermore, in my heart I respect you and hold you in high esteem and have feelings of love for all of you because in Makkah, when incidents of cruelties and barbarism were building up, at that time the first place of sanctuary for poor and oppressed Muslims was a country in Africa called 'Habsha', which is now commonly known as Ethiopia.

I also had a desire to participate in this function because, apart from the sub-Continent of India and Pakistan, it is the continent of Africa that has most of all accepted the call of the Messiah of Muhammad and thus had the good fortune of joining the Jama'at (Community) of the Promised Messiah^(as). Indeed, African Ahmadis have established high moral standards and displayed great loyalty.

Thus, considering all of this, how would it have been possible for me to not attend this function?

May Allah greatly bless the Independence Day of Nigeria, Ivory Coast and all other African countries, that have either recently celebrated their respective Days of Independence, or are soon to do so, *InshaAllah*.

However, your happiness should not be limited to these celebrations only, but in fact, this Golden Jubilee should infuse a brand new spirit into the country and its leaders.

Prior to British Rule, Nigeria was an independent country. The history of Nigeria is filled with various types of cultures and kingdoms that have existed.

According to known history these cultures and kingdoms go back to at least five centuries BC, and thus Nigeria is a very ancient civilisation.

Initially, there were tribes that had small areas that they governed over, and then gradually their dominion enlarged. Nevertheless, after passing through various stages, eventually Nigeria became a British colony. Then, in 1960, it gained independence.

Similarly, Ivory Coast and other African countries gained their independence from either British or French rule.

Thus today the Day of Independence is a celebration of freedom from colonialism.

It is a sign of living and progressive nations that they always keep their past history in view and learn lessons from it. As a result, they are able to strengthen and prepare their future. Good traditions and practices are maintained on strong foundations, and to avoid mistakes and errors, great planning and effort is under-taken.

Thus, when I said that this Independence Day should infuse a new spirit in the country and its leaders, this is what I meant, because in order to continually progress and safeguard your independence, you must never repeat your past mistakes that granted the Western World the opportunity to bring African countries under their rule.

I too am a citizen of a country where the leaders live a life of luxury, self-interest and injustice and have forgotten God Almighty. Because of all these things for a very long time the nation has had to give away its freedom.

If after gaining independence countries do not reflect upon how to reform and progress, then powerful and greedy nations will again try to bring weaker nations under their control.

Hence, to protect its freedom, whether it is an African or Asian country where only a short time has passed since its independence, there is a need for great effort, and to be trustworthy and to plan properly. So, if we are not careful, other governments that have their eyes on our resources will once again take us under their rule. It is not necessary to formally take over a country or its government to rule over it. By taking over a country's resources, the country can be enslaved.

And this kind of slavery destroys the traditions of a country, and it destroys a nation's identity and self-esteem. Therefore, although this celebration of



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fifty years of independence brings great happiness, it should also draw our attention towards deep reflection and concern.

I truly believe that the time is fast approaching for Africa to lead the world!

And in order to lead the world it is necessary to bring about revolutionary changes within you.

Every citizen and every leader must put aside their own thoughts and interests in order to strengthen, consolidate and serve the national interest.

In respect of natural resources, Nigeria is Africa’s richest country, and in terms of population, it is its largest. I mention natural resources because Nigeria is engulfed in the wealth of oil. It is said that Nigeria is one of the biggest oil producers in the world.

In the same way, Nigeria also possesses the treasure of other natural resources. Similarly, it has vast agricultural means. Accordingly, Nigeria, if it so desires, can not only take care of itself, but also many poor countries of Africa.

If the West has advanced, it is due its efforts, hard work, loyalty, and honesty to its own nation. God has not granted the Western countries any extraordinary capabilities that are not present in other nations.

I have lived in Africa. I can testify that there are many supremely intelligent African people. When a well-educated African person goes to Europe, America and other countries then the locals cannot help but be impressed by his intelligence. Thus, nature has not been unjust to anyone; rather, it is humans who do not utilise the capabilities bestowed upon them in a proper manner.

It is my prayer that the African people and their governments are able to understand their own value and worth so that they are able to play a positive role for the progress of the African Continent

The history of the Ahmadiyya Community in African countries is longstanding. Indeed, Ahmadiyyat has existed in Africa for over 90 years. Our mission houses are established in almost all countries.

The schools of the Ahmadiyya Community are operating in many parts of West Africa and numerous clinics and hospitals belonging to the Jama’at are engaged in serving the poor people there.

We have love for you and it is heartfelt and true love. And whatever I am saying is due to my heartfelt feelings.

The progress of Africa will be a means for the



progress of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at, *InshaAllah*. When the Ahmadis of African countries advance, it will surely lead to the progression of our Jama'at.

My prayers and heartfelt feelings for Africa are not limited only to seeing Ahmadis progress. In fact, I desire for every single human being to increase in goodness and succeed, and I desire that Africa should not fall behind in any way.

When, a few years ago, I toured certain African countries, I also drew the attention of the Ahmadis over there towards making the firm conviction that '*We will progress, InshaAllah*. I also reminded them that to achieve this aim, they must use every possible good means, and most importantly, they must recognise their Creator.

Today, with reference to this gathering, I would like to say to African people that most certainly you have the qualities needed to lead the world. However, in everything you do, keep in mind that you have a Creator, Who is watching your every word and deed, and so you should never act in a manner that would be a means of making Him angry.

Indeed, I even always say to my own people and my fellow countrymen, and also to Ahmadis, that they should strengthen their ties with God, and should always remember the fact that by closing your eyes the reality cannot be concealed.

Thus, it is better that upon seeing the true reality we make excellent plans to help us achieve our higher levels of progress.

It is also important to develop an atmosphere of mutual love and affection, and by doing so, you are able to uphold the human values of mankind.

For the sake of the progress of the country, mutual love, affection and brotherhood are

extremely important. Without this, peace cannot be established in a country. And without peace, progress cannot be achieved.

It is my prayer that the geographical outlook, peace and security of all African nations is upheld.

The Founder of the Ahmadiyya Community^(as) has given us two great teachings that we propagate. Before concluding I would like to present these two teachings to you.

The Promised Messiah^(as) said that, firstly, God Almighty sent me to develop a relationship between God and man, so that the rights of Allah are discharged. Secondly, he said that I have been sent to develop mutual affection and love between all mankind, so that the rights due to God's creation are also discharged.¹

If both of these qualities are inculcated by any country then that nation becomes a guarantor of peace for the world and, of course, for its own survival. And today, for the survival of the world, what is required most is peace, and peace is only developed when a relationship between man and God is formed.

Those who fight wars in the name of religion are wrong when they say that they are fighting due to their relationship with God. Islam forbids fighting wars in the name of religion.

Thus, developing a true relationship with God is a means to end all wars. At this time I cannot provide a full explanation of this, but on many occasions, I have already shed light on this subject in great detail.

Also, apart from establishing a relationship with God; mutual love, brotherhood, understanding and recognising each other's rights are a surety for peace.

If we do not follow these principles, then no matter how far we progress, at any time we will continue to face destruction. The current state of the world today is such that it suggests that we are moving towards such destruction.

Therefore, we should play a role to the maximum extent possible in saving the world from destruction. In this regard, it is my prayer that Allah the Almighty enables the great continent of Africa to play the full role in this effort.

That is what I wanted to say. Now, I thank you all – all the distinguished guests and all other guests, and I also thank the Pan-African Association for inviting me on this occasion.

Long live Africa!"

1. *Malfuzat*, vol.1, p.336 and *Lecture Lahore, Ruhani Khaza'in*, vol.20, p.180.
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Quotations from 'Africa at 50' Event 2010



"You have roots in Freetown, you have the largest student population in Freetown and in Bo. You have done a lot of things in terms of education, welfare, health, you name it and we are very proud of the Movement."

His Excellency, Edward Mohammed Turay, High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission UK.



"I remember those days in my home state in Kano, the best eye clinic then was the Ahmadiyya clinic and that has still remained so. So people usually associate Ahmadiyya Movement to something which is good."

Alhaji Ahmed Umaru, Head of Chancery, Nigerian High Commission UK.



"We do know particularly in Ghana how well established the Ahmadiyya Movement is as we all know Ahmadis are their best in Ghana. They are all over the country – one of the best religious establishment you can think of whether in the area of health or in the area of education... All I can say is thank you for your efforts in Ghana."

Alhaji Bawah Ayembillah, Minister/Head of Consular and Welfare Matters, Ghana High Commission UK.



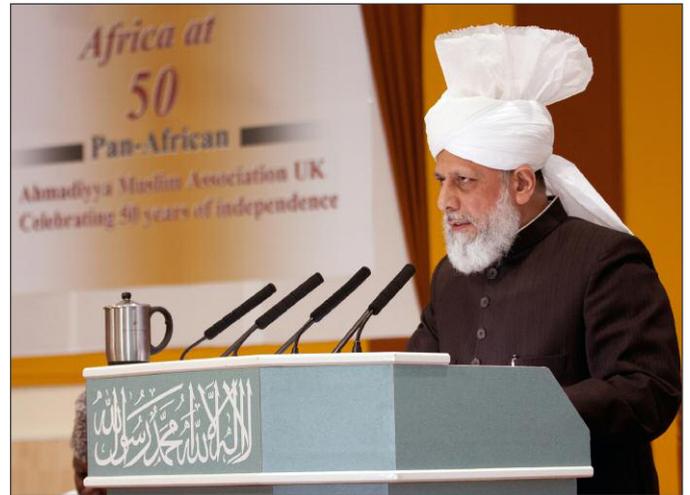
"In a lot of ways, Ahmadi Muslims have contributed to the development of Liberia. We have one of the best clinics in Liberia that is being run by Ahmadi Muslims, we have a high school in Monrovia that is being run by the Ahmadiyya Mission. We also have a vast mosque on Benson and Lee Street in Monrovia owned by the Ahmadiyya Mission. We are very grateful for all that the Ahmadiyya Mission has done for Liberia and will continue to do. Finally I will like to say thank you for this event. We will continue to be a part of this Pan-African Organisation... We will be willing at any time to come to your call."

Mr Morris Barsee, Second Secretary of Embassy of Liberia UK.

Services of Ahmadiyyat to the Cause of Africa

Keynote Address by Worldwide Head of the
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

On 26th November 2011 Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^(aba), Khalifatul Masih V, Worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, graced a function organised by the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK to celebrate the independence of various African countries, held in the Tahir Hall, Baitul Futuh Mosque, UK. Amongst those in attendance were:



- His Excellency, Mr. Edward Mohammed Turay, Sierra Leone High Commissioner.
- His Excellency, Wesley M. Johnson, Liberia Ambassador.
- Alhaji Bawah G. Ayembillah, Minister and Head of Consular and Welfare, Ghana High Commission.
- Dr. Yaqeen Habeeb, Naib Amir (Vice President) Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Nigeria and Chairman Humanity First Nigeria.
- Mr. Issah Wemah, Chairman Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK.

After reciting *Tashhahud*, *Ta'awwuz* and *Bismillah*, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^(aba) said:

"Assalamo 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahe Wa Barakatohu – peace and blessings of Allah be upon you all.

As we are all aware, and as the distinguished guests have just mentioned, today we are gathered here to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of the independence of Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Cameroon.

Today's event has been organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's Pan-African Association, and so on behalf of our Community, I would like to thank all of the distinguished and

honourable guests for attending this event.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was formed in 1889 by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian^(as). We, Ahmadi Muslims, believe him to be the Promised Messiah^(as), Imam Mahdi and the Reformer of the Age. We believe him to be the very Messiah and Mahdi of the Latter Days, whose advent was foretold by the Holy Prophet^(sa). Indeed, we also believe that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian^(as) is the same reformer whose advent was prophesied by other previous prophets, and who was to come in the servitude of his master, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^(sa).

Upon his advent, the Promised Messiah^(as) outlined two great and overarching purposes for which God



“The Promised Messiah^(as) taught us so beautifully that if a person becomes aware of the rights owed to his fellow man, then this would naturally lead to the establishment of human values... ..Hence, his teachings formed the basis for true peace.”

Almighty had commissioned him. Firstly, he was sent to establish and to develop a relationship between man and God Almighty. It was his objective to make mankind realise that its Creator is the One God, Who is the Lord of all the worlds and the Possessor of all powers. As such, the Promised Messiah^(as) spent his entire life reminding mankind that they must submit and bow down before the All-Powerful God.

He came to inform people of the world that they should realise that all of the powers and forces of the universe are nothing in comparison to the Might and Power of God Almighty. The second purpose for which the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at was sent, was to make mankind aware of the rights owed to one other. This was something that he greatly emphasised throughout his life.

The Promised Messiah^(as) taught us so beautifully that if a person becomes aware of the rights owed to his fellow man, then this would naturally lead to the establishment of human values. When human values are established, then man would cease to be cruel to his fellow man. Hence, his teachings formed the basis for true peace.

The Promised Messiah^(as) stressed the importance of discharging the rights owed to mankind to such a

great extent, that he taught that on certain occasions the rights owed to man are to take priority even over the rights owed to God Almighty. This, God forbid, does not mean or imply that the All-Powerful Creator has no significance in comparison to man, or that He is in any way secondary; rather, it means that God Almighty has such love for His Creation that He Himself has instructed that on those occasions where humanity is in desperate need, we should assist them first. Thereafter, once the need has been fulfilled, man should return to the worship of God Almighty.

In short, we believe that even though the purpose of our creation is the worship of God, this objective becomes secondary on those occasions where humanity requires our immediate assistance. This point is in exact accordance with the true teachings of Islam and the commands of God Almighty. The teachings of Islam are most beautiful. They stress the importance of fulfilling the rights of others. Unfortunately, those in power have generally ignored this basic principle.

If we look at the world's political situation today, we find that there are different systems of governance, and different laws that have been established. On the one hand, there are those



countries where monarchies or dictators rule. In such countries, we find that the people are given very few rights. Instead, the rulers withhold most of the powers and rights for themselves. As a consequence, restlessness and anxiety spread amongst the people of that nation.

On the other hand, we find those countries that have adopted democracy. The basic principle that underpins democratic societies is that the general public speak of seeking their own rights. They expect that their leaders will represent them fairly and without discrimination. However, even in such democratic countries there invariably comes a time when the policies made by the ruling party do not measure up to the required standards of justice. Policies that claim to advocate justice are not properly implemented, whilst laws giving preferential treatment to certain people or bodies are routinely passed. Thus, even in democracies we regularly find injustice.

Islam however, teaches an altogether different approach. In this era it is the Promised Messiah^(as) who has explained to us the code of conduct that Islam has advocated. He explained that Islam teaches us to forsake our rights for the benefit of others. Islam teaches *selflessness* rather than *selfishness*. Islam teaches that a good person is he who would prefer to fulfil the rights of his fellow man, instead of prioritising his own rights.

It is only when a true spirit of sacrifice develops within a society that a person happily chooses to relinquish his own interests for the sake of others, and values the rights of others more than his own.

When such a spirit of mutual sacrifice is born then true peace will emerge in that society. There is no doubt in this.

There is insufficient time to speak about this matter in detail at this time. I wish only to inform you that wherever the Ahmadiyya Jama'at is established, it strives to fulfil the rights of others with this very spirit of sacrifice that has been taught by Islam. The members of the Ahmadiyya Community worldwide regularly make financial sacrifices and give alms. They do so not to gain any worldly benefit or recognition, but simply to serve God's Creation.

As you may be aware the majority of our humanitarian projects are based in Africa. With the Grace of Allah, over the past eighty or ninety years, we have strived not only to bring the African people closer to Allah, but also to discharge the rights owed to the people of this great continent.

It is in this spirit that our Jama'at has opened many schools in Africa. It is with this spirit that many of our Ahmadi engineers, who have been trained and brought up in the West, travel to the remotest parts of Africa to try and provide a supply of drinking water to the poor and deprived local villagers. With this spirit of sacrifice our youngsters, who have been brought up in the comfort of the West, have spent night upon night in the far off jungles, installing hand pumps in an effort to provide drinking water to humanity.

In the same way our Ahmadi teams have provided electricity to people living in the remotest parts of Africa, by installing solar panels. Also, now in certain

countries we have started a new project of creating model villages, in which facilities such as tap water, electricity, street lights, community centres and paved streets will be provided *Insha'Allah* (God Willing).

Our Ahmadi youngsters take no payment for this work. Indeed, they spend their own money to take part in these projects because they wish to fulfil the command of Allah, which is to serve humanity and fulfil the rights owed to mankind.

Whilst it is true that in our hospitals we do take fees from those who are wealthy and well-off; we also treat thousands of poor people each year for free, who otherwise would be in no position to attain such treatment. We provide such services not as a favour or with a desire to seek reward. Our only motivation is to fulfil our duty to serve humanity. With the Grace of Allah, the local Ahmadi Muslims who are relatively well off financially, use their wealth to support and help the people of Africa, irrespective of religion, through the various schemes and projects run by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

I myself lived in Ghana for over eight years and during this time I became extremely familiar with the temperament of the African people. Generally speaking, it is part of the character of the African people to willingly make sacrifices to help and support their friends and relatives. Nevertheless, the spirit of sacrifice has become even stronger in those African people who have converted to Ahmadiyyat. God Willing, our Jama'at will continue to maintain this passion to serve and will be willing to make all necessary sacrifices in an effort to help the people of Africa.

Regarding the independence celebrations, I should also mention that our Community existed in certain African countries even before independence was achieved, as I have said earlier. In those countries, with the Grace of Allah, the Ahmadiyya Jama'at always played a very positive role in helping the country progress towards freedom. For example, when Sierra Leone's independence was achieved, its Government officially recognised the role of our Jama'at and the humanitarian services it had rendered, to both the country and to its people.

The Government did this by specially inviting a central representative of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at from Pakistan, to attend the main function marking the country's independence. The Head of the Ahmadiyya Community at the time, Hazrat

Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad^(ra), the Second Khalifa, thus sent an Ahmadi who was a High Court Judge in Pakistan, Sheikh Basheer Ahmad Sahib, to attend on behalf of our Community. His comments and suggestions were received with much appreciation and respect by the then Government.

An example and proof of this can be seen in one function that took place in Bo, Sierra Leone, when a senior magistrate, Mr Banja Tejan-Sie, addressed the gathering. When speaking about Sheikh Basheer Ahmad Sahib, the magistrate said that only that respected judge could have reminded them about their responsibilities, in such a magnificent way. He said that his manner and words had touched their hearts, and were extremely inspirational. He also said that if the people of Sierra Leone were able to act upon his words, then they would be able to transform their circumstances and travel on a path of progress and advancement. It is of note that Mr Banja Tejan-Sie was later appointed as Acting Governor-General of Sierra Leone. In the capacity of Acting Governor-General of Sierra Leone in 1970, he hosted a State Dinner in honour of Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad^(ra), the Third Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, at the Governor House.

This was another example of how highly the contribution and service of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at was valued by the Government. Furthermore, the contribution of the Ahmadiyya Community towards Sierra Leone's independence was also officially recognised when our Missionary In-Charge was presented with a gift from the Government to mark the country's freedom. Along with the gift, a letter was attached from the Governor-General to our Missionary In-Charge. In the letter, he wrote:

'I take great pleasure in presenting this gift marking the independence of our country. This is in recognition of your valued services that you have made in an effort towards acquiring our independence.'

Since the independence of Sierra Leone was achieved, there have been a number of Ahmadi Muslims who have had the honour of becoming Members of Parliament, Ministers of Government and Ambassadors of State. In this way many Ahmadi Muslims have been able to serve Sierra Leone with great distinction and become a means for the progress of the nation.

Similarly, upon the independence of Tanzania, the Ahmadiyya Community was also able to play a significant role. One of our local Tanzanian

In fact, the Ahmadiyya Community has continually offered great services to the country. In short, the Ahmadiyya Jama'at has played and continues to play a prominent role in providing the rights owed to deprived people, to serve them and to strive for their freedom. We do this without any desire for personal gain or self-interest.

“It is my heartfelt prayer that the African people are able to take full advantage of and benefit from their independence. They should strive to utilise their natural resources for the betterment of their people. All countries should keep in mind the saying of the Holy Prophet of Islam^(saw), that the leader of the country is the servant of that nation.

Missionaries, Sheikh Amri Abedi, who received two years missionary training in our centre in Rabwah, Pakistan, was also personally able to play a valuable role towards the independence of Tanzania. The leaders of the country used to consult with him regularly and seek his wise counsel. Later on he was appointed the first African Mayor of Darus Salam. He was also elected unanimously to the Legislative Council of Tanganyika, and then in 1963 he was appointed Minister of Justice and proved to be greatly loved and popular in this role. Therefore, throughout his life he rendered great services to his nation.

Another example of the services rendered by the Ahmadiyya Community is that the name ‘Tanzania’ was actually chosen upon the recommendation of an Asian Ahmadi Muslim, to the Government of the time. This too was an historic service to the nation.

Hence, these are just a few examples. In fact, the Ahmadiyya Community has continually offered great services to the country. In short, the Ahmadiyya Jama'at has played and continues to play a prominent role in providing the rights owed to deprived people, to serve them and to strive for their freedom. We do this without any desire for personal gain or self-interest.

It is my heartfelt prayer that the African people are able to take full advantage of and benefit from their independence. They should strive to utilise their natural resources

for the betterment of their people. All countries should keep in mind the saying of the Holy Prophet of Islam^(saw), that the leader of the country is the servant of that nation. This is a crucial point to remember. Whichever laws or regulations are in force, should apply just as much to the rich as to the poor. If this approach is maintained, then, God Willing, the freedom that you have gained after long periods of colonial slavery, will come to be everlasting. If, however, you do not follow this, dominant world powers will surely seek to once again enter your lands and take over your natural resources through their deceitful schemes, or on the pretext of their various unjust and false excuses.

But if the leaders of the poorer nations fulfil the rights of their own people and the people themselves give precedence to the interests of their nation, then the country will progress, *Insha'Allah*. Indeed, if all the countries of Africa adopt such a course then there is no doubt that Africa itself will progress at great speed.

I firmly believe that if the African countries and people unite together and fulfil the requirements of justice, then one day, Africa will emerge as a true global power. May Allah enable this to happen, *Insha'Allah*.

At the end I would like to once again thank all of the honourable and respected guests for attending tonight's function. Thank you very much.

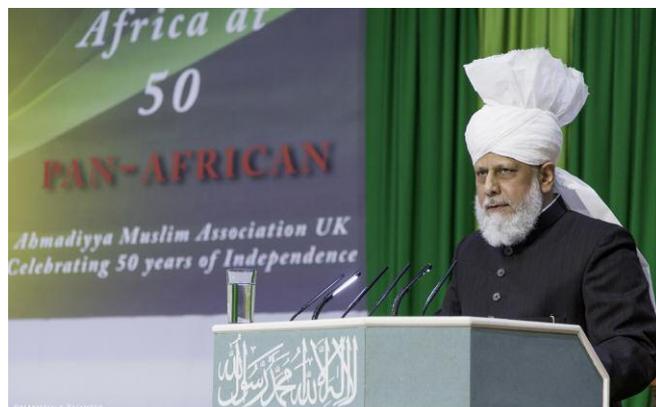
Long Live Africa!

Long Life Humanity!"

Africa's True Independence

Keynote Address by Worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

On 23rd November 2013, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at celebrated the 50th anniversary of the independence of Algeria, Burundi, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda with an event organised by the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK. The keynote address of the event was delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V and Worldwide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^(aba). Dignitaries and guests representing a number of African countries attended the function at Baitul Futuh Mosque in South West London. Earlier in the evening, His Holiness held a meeting with dignitaries including the Uganda High Commissioner, Her Excellency Professor Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda and Ghana's Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Nana Akufo-Addo.



After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and *Bismillah*, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} said:

"All distinguished guests – *Assalamo Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahe Wa Barakatohu* - peace and blessings of Allah be upon you all.

I would first of all like to thank the Pan-African Association for inviting me to today's event. I would also like to thank our distinguished guests and non-Ahmadi friends for joining us here this evening. This function, hosted by the Ahmadiyya Community's Pan-African Association, is of great significance and value because it has been organised to celebrate the independence days of certain African countries – those being Algeria, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi. Celebrating their days of independence is an expression of our unity and friendship with these countries.

In this respect, I would like to say that Islam places great emphasis on the independence of each nation and each people. Islam teaches that to free others from servitude and oppression is a great form of piety that leads to huge rewards from

Allah. In Chapter 90 of the Holy Qur'an, Allah has very clearly spoken of the need to free others from slavery, to fulfil the needs of the hungry, to help those in need and to care for orphans. The reason for this is that, where on the one hand such acts of kindness will establish an environment of love and affection in society, on the other hand, they will also lead to spiritual progress and be a means of gaining God's nearness. Therefore, true Muslims and Muslim governments, should always promote independence and help others gain freedom, whether it is personal independence or whether it is national independence.

The Ahmadiyya Jama'at has accepted the Imam of the Age, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} of Qadian, who was sent by Allah to spread the true teachings of Islam. And so, based upon these true teachings, we strive and work towards the achievement of universal independence and self-determination, with the ambition that every single person in the world is able to live autonomously. All people should have fundamental freedoms, such as religious, political, national and civil freedom. We, Ahmadis, particularly seek to draw

the attention of governments towards the need to provide all people with these autonomies and wherever we can practically help and assist in this effort we always do so.

Indeed, the history of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community testifies to the fact that we played our role and worked for the independence of the people of Kashmir and for the sake of the independence of the Palestinian people. In a similar vein, wherever we have the opportunity, our members of influence, in which the late Sir Chaudhry Zafrullah Khan^{ra} stands foremost, make great efforts and play their role in helping others gain independence. Certainly, it is because of the true Islamic teachings that the Ahmadiyya Community has always championed this issue and continues to do so today.

You may be very surprised to hear that Ahmadis are drawing the attention of others towards this issue today, at a time when almost all countries have gained independence and are apparently free. But remember, whilst at a superficial level the vast majority of countries are independent and have formed governments from amongst their own people, yet in reality many developing nations or those that are sometimes referred to as Third World countries, are still heavily influenced and pressured by the major powers of the world. The powerful nations take advantage of the weaker nations and dictate their own preferred policies, and so in this way they have practically enslaved the developing countries. Sadly, the major powers take benefit and advantage of the natural resources of the poorer nations and do not give what is the due right of the weaker nations in return. Thus, clear exploitation of the developing countries and their people is taking place.

Further, sometimes local governments are established, who despite

being from the same nation and from amongst the same people, do not fulfil the rights of their public. This leads to resentment amongst the masses. Consequently, from time to time, we find that in some countries people stand up against their leaders in protest. Eventually these protests reach extreme levels directly as a result of the frustrations caused by the injustices of the rulers. Such public anger is not only

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witnessed in the Arab world, but we have seen very recently that some African countries are also suffering from such desperate predicaments. Thus, even today in some countries the people are restless and frustrated. This is also a type of slavery from which people must be liberated - so that peace can develop and so that mutual respect can be established in the world.

Remember, in today's world there can only be success and progress when peace is established and where conflicting views or policies do not impede the progress of one's nation. In developed countries we also always observe differences between the various parties. Each party has its own policies and they view their own as the best. However, they never allow such differences to become an impediment



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in preventing the nation from progressing. For example, if we look at the United States, very recently, a huge economic crisis developed caused by the fact that the Opposition Party had major differences with the Government. However, ultimately, and after lengthy negotiations, they came together for the sake of their nation and were able to solve the crisis and reach a deal. We do not see violent protests or rallies taking place in developed countries, through which national buildings are damaged and the country itself is harmed.

We should always remember that to vandalise your own nation’s property and to hold extremist rallies does not harm others, but only harms yourself and your nation. If one thinks that adopting extremist measures is the way to have decisions made in their favour they are entirely wrong. Such an approach will cause only harm and will mean that despite achieving independence and freedom, their nation and its people will never succeed or advance. We should always make sure that our differences, our personal egos and party interests are set aside for the greater good, and rather we must prioritise national progress. When we think and act in this way our differences will not be a means of impairment, but will actually play a positive role in our nation’s future well-being and development.

If we look at Pakistan – it is a country that has everything it needs. It has natural resources, it has various climates through which, agriculturally speaking, almost all types of crops can be grown. The land is fertile and Allah has granted them the means of water supplies. Despite all of this, the country’s development has completely stopped as a direct result of the conflicts, division and terrorism that have plagued the country and taken root.

In the same way if we look at Nigeria - whilst it has vast natural resources, in particular huge oil reserves - the country is not progressing and rather is going backwards. This is because internal politics and division have taken hold and because selfish elements are prioritising their personal interests over the common good of the nation. Today, we must all recognise that the world has come to resemble a global village. Terrorist organisations and those groups that are causing disorder are no longer limited to some Asian countries, but have now entered Africa. It used to be thought that terrorists may not move towards Africa, but we now see in Nigeria and certain other countries that such groups are spreading their networks of hatred. They are causing damage to properties and are conducting suicide bombings and various other attacks, all of which are against the national interest.



Thus, all nations should remain vigilant, because there is a risk of such extremist groups spreading their webs further afield to those nations, which so far have been saved from their hateful influence. Otherwise, it is not unlikely that every country will come to suffer from terrorism and extremism. As is known from past experience, wherever extremists and terrorists have engrained themselves, the result has been that the progress of that nation has completely stopped and the country's political and national power has disintegrated. And so if all countries do not pay immediate attention to such threats then they may well have to face similar consequences, through which their strength will be weakened. Certainly, where a country's power erodes, it will lead to the major powers seeking to exploit those weaknesses and to try and once again enslave the vulnerable developing countries.

Thus, to maintain your freedom and to save yourself from all forms of slavery, it is essential that you do not let your differences prevent the development and progress of your country. Rather, it is essential that you utilise your differences of opinion and policies to build your nation upon the very strongest foundations. Governments should look after their people with love, care and justice. In return, the people should show loyalty to their country. The public should remain within the limits

“Africa, with the Grace of Allah, has the ability to lead and guide the world. But you need to work hard and stay united to realise this potential, so that instead of succumbing to enslavement, you are those who stand at the forefront of the world.”

of the law and seek to solve their problems in a peaceful way, rather than unconsciously assisting those who wish to harm the nation. If this belief is developed that the loyalty we owe to our country and the success of our nation are our ultimate priorities, above and beyond all other interests, then success will flow forth. Such attitudes will be the means of making your independence permanent and will open many future avenues of success and progress.

Africa, with the Grace of Allah, has the ability to lead and guide the world. But you need to work hard and stay united to realise this potential, so that instead of succumbing to enslavement, you are those who stand at the forefront of the world. Always remember that to celebrate the anniversary of your independence or to commemorate jubilees will only prove of benefit if you march forward with the right attitude and spirit. It will only be beneficial if you are determined to take advantage of your freedom and hold the desire to firmly

establish your nation on a path of success so that it can join the rank of those countries that are considered to be fully developed and successful. Allah has granted almost all of the African nations natural resources and He has given its people bright and fertile minds. Thus derive benefit from these gifts from God and find new ways for your country to progress.

It is my prayer that may Allah enable all African countries, their people and their governments to understand the true benefits of living together in peace, harmony and unity. It is my prayer that they all realise that prioritising their national interests above their personal interests are the golden keys that unlock the gates to permanent freedom and success. May Allah enable this to be the case.

Long live Africa!

Thank you.”

Prior to the start of the event, His Holiness held short meetings with various dignitaries.

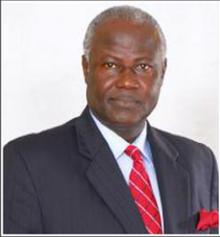


The Uganda High Commissioner, Her Excellency Professor Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda with her husband.



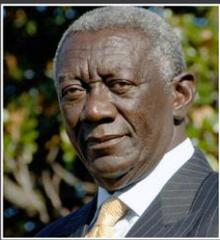
Ghana's Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Nana Akufo-Addo.

QUOTATIONS FROM POLITICAL LEADERS PAST AND PRESENT



“We are heartened by the fact that the Ahmadiyya Mission has been paying heed to this primary injunction by opening and maintaining schools all over the country. In fact, in many places in our land, Ahmadiyya is a byword for school, education and learning.”

His Excellency, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.



“The Ahmadi motto: 'Love for All, Hatred for None' is particularly recommended for all mankind in these very trying times.”

His Excellency, John Agyekum Kufuor, Former President of the Republic of Ghana.



“I know very well that the aim of the members of your Community is only to win the pleasure of God. Other Muslim groups in the country also approach me but they just seem to want help. They flatter me but I have little time for them. I do help them and give them money, but only reluctantly. Not in exchange for any reward but only to win the pleasure of God, your Community is rendering valuable service in Liberia. They have never held out before me their 'begging bowl!'”

William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman, Former President of the Republic of Liberia.



“The Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission has demonstrated through a genuine visionary agenda for the social, economic development for the people of this great nation. The Ahmadiyya Community is founded on love, peace, unity and care for others with strong spiritual foundations... You have been able to embrace good virtues and spiritual guidance to the community you serve and the nation at large.”

Mr Moody Awori, Former Vice President of the Republic of Kenya.



“The name Ahmadiyya Muslim Community triggers in the minds of many Gambians as an Islamic religious organisation whose ultimate objective is to provide spiritual and humanitarian services to all... In the area of spiritual and moral developments, the Community has made a big impact through building mosques, organised training of members and network of missionary activities, teaching and training of both children and elders... The Community's medical services are hailed to be very good in all aspects... Your schools are among the best schools in this country morally and academically.”

Mrs Isatou Njie-Sandy, Former Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia.



“Since the founding of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in The Gambia, they complement government's efforts. They love the country and are working tirelessly for the country. They continue to make giant strides in different sectors, including the education both religious and secular, health among others.”

Mr Lamin Queen Jammeh, Governor of North Bank Region, The Gambia.

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