



# PAN-AFRICAN NEWS



Inaugural Edition

www.paama.org.uk

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 9th August 2014:

Eid Milan Family Picnic Day

### 6th October 2014

Eid-ul-Adhia

### 29th-31st August 2014

Jalsa Salana UK

### 7th September 2014

Pan-African Post Jalsa Dinner Reception

### 18th-20th October 2014

Majlis Ansarullah Ijtema

### 24-26th October 2014

Lajna Imaillah Ijtema

### 2nd November 2014

National Peace Symposium

## Special Message from Huzur Aqdas (aba)



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُصَلِّي عَلَى رَسُولِهِ الْكَرِيمِ  
وَعَلَى عِبْدِهِ الْمَسِيحِ الْمَوْعُودِ  
خدا کے فضل اور رحم کے ساتھ  
هوالتاصر

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

### Message for the readers of newsletter "Pan African News"

*O ye evergreen saplings of the Promised Messiah*

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

My message to the Pan African Association is that Africans from all countries of Africa should sit down together. There should be one platform where our people should sit together and others should also be invited to sit amongst us. They should be introduced to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and to facilitate this, seminars and other programmes should be organised.

In pursuance of this objective, it is necessary to activate the Pan African Association. I hope that you will work to attain this objective.

One should conduct oneself in such a way lest one makes an error of judgment that may bring one's Faith in disrepute. Even if one has to suffer worldly loss for the honour of faith one should be willing to endure it. We should ask ourselves whether we are discharging our commitment to sacrifice time, wealth and honour for the sake of our Faith, Country and Nation to the best of our abilities. I pray that Allah enables you to not only remain steadfast to your Faith at all times but to set such standards that future generations can emulate with pride.

May Allah make these relations between the members grow stronger and may their closeness to Allah grow nearer.

والسلام

**MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD**  
Khalifatul Masih V

FEATURE

### SPECIAL MESSAGE

Delivered on Khilafat Day by Huzur Aqdas (aba)

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FEATURE

### HISTORY OF PAAMA

A brief look at the origins of the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK

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FEATURE

### RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

Maulana Abdul Wahab Adam Sahib – Amir Jama'at, Ghana

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## Quotation from the Holy Qur'an

"O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female; and We have made you into tribes and sub-tribes that you may recognize one another. Verily, the most honourable among you, in the sight of Allah, is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All-knowing, All-Aware."  
(Ch.49:V.14)

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ  
وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ  
لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ  
أَتْقَىٰ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٤﴾

## Sayings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

"O men, what I say to you, you must hear and remember. All Muslims are as brethren to one another. All of you are equal. All men, whatever nation or tribe they may belong to, and whatever station in life they may hold are equal. Even as the fingers of the two hands are equal, so are human beings equal to one another. No one has any right, any superiority to claim over another. You are as brothers."

"O men, your God is One and your ancestor is one. An Arab possesses no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab over an Arab. A white man is in no way superior to a black nor for that matter is a black man better than a white, but only to the extent to which he discharges his duty to God and man. The most honoured among you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you..."  
(Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, vol. 5, p.411)

"The true Mahdi will fill the world with justice and equality and the inhabitants of the heavens and the earth will be pleased with him."  
(Musnad Ahmad).

## Writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him)

"If at all you desire that God in heaven be pleased with you, hasten to become one among yourselves, as though you were brothers born of the same mother. Only he is most honoured among you who most forgives the transgressions of his brother; and unfortunate is he who remains obdurate, and does not forgive. He is not part of me and he has no share with me."  
(‘Kishti-e-Nuh’ Rohani Khazain vol. 19)

## PAN-AFRICAN NEWS EDITORIAL TEAM

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**Deputy President:** ..... Abdullah Dibba  
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# Summary of FRIDAY SERMON

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There is no god but Allah: 9th May 2014

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We particularly present our slogan of 'Love for All Hatred for None' before others. We do so to remove the misunderstanding that the Ahmadiyya Jama'at and its members have rancour or ill-will towards others or that we consider ourselves better than others. We also use this slogan to make it clear to the world that Islam teaches love, peace and kindness and it is not correct to associate cruelty and viciousness with the faith of Islam.



If Ahmadis are to have real insight of 'Love for All Hatred for None', they should try and learn its ways from our master and benefactor, the Holy Prophet<sup>(sa)</sup> and by gauging our level of understanding of Unity of God.

We should not feel smug by merely raising slogans that the world appreciates and through which we are praised in various places. We should be mindful that this slogan is just one source to attain the broader objective for which man was created. Our humanitarian works, our promotion and practice of love and our rejection of hatred and our hatred for hatred itself is to attain God's love and to establish Unity of God.

The Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> said: 'My faith is to not even be too harsh with the enemy. I say truthfully, do not consider anyone your personal enemy and completely give up the practice of holding rancour.'

To say that such and such verse of the Holy Qur'an should be made a motto and such and such verse should not is not correct. Every verse of the Holy Qur'an should be our motto, as indeed it is. Our motto is the entire Holy Qur'an, however, if another motto is required, Hadhrat Musleh Maud<sup>(ra)</sup> said God has appointed it through the Holy Prophet<sup>(sa)</sup> and it is:

لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله

This is the essence of the entire Holy Qur'an and the fact is that all teachings and all higher objectives are accessed with Unity of God.

A revelation of the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> said: 'Hold fast to Unity, hold fast to Unity, O sons of Persia.' (*Tadhkirah*, p. 64, 2009 edition)

Read the full summary at:

[www.alislam.org/friday-sermon/2014-05-09.html](http://www.alislam.org/friday-sermon/2014-05-09.html)

# Suggested Prayers by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih (aba)

In his Friday Sermon of 30th May 2014, Hadhrat Ameerul Mumineen, Khalifatul Masih V (ata) advised the members of the Jama'at to recite the following prayers regularly and profusely:

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.

*'Holy is Allah and worthy of all praise, Holy is Allah, the Great. O Allah bestow Your blessings on Muhammad and on the people of Muhammad.'*

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ.

*'Our Lord, let not our hearts get perverse after Thou hast guided us; and bestow on us mercy from Thyself; surely, Thou alone art the Bestower.'*

رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ.

*'O Our Lord, pour forth steadfastness upon us, and make our steps firm, and help us against the disbelieving people.'*

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَجْعَلُكَ فِي نُحُورِهِمْ وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شُرُورِهِمْ.

*'O Allah, we make You a shield against enemies and we take refuge in You from their evils.'*

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ رَبِّي مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ.

*'I beg pardon of Allah, my Lord from all my sins and turn to Him.'*

رَبِّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَادِمُكَ رَبِّ فَاحْفَظْنِي وَانصُرْنِي وَارْحَمْنِي.

*O my Lord, everything serves you. So O my Lord, protect me and help me and have mercy on me.*

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَإِسْرَافَنَا فِي أَمْرِنَا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ.

*'Our Lord, forgive us our errors and our excesses in our conduct, and make firm our steps and help us against the disbelieving people.' (3:148)*

يَا رَبِّ فَاسْمَعْ دُعَائِي وَمَزِّقْ أَعْدَاءَكَ وَأَعْدَائِي وَأَنْجِزْ وَعْدَكَ وَانصُرْ عَبْدَكَ وَأَرِنَا أَيَّامَكَ وَشَهْرَ لَنَا حُسَامَكَ وَلَا تَذَرْ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ شَرِيرًا.

*'Lord, hear my prayer and crush Your enemies and my enemies and fulfil Your promise and help Your servant and show us Your days and sharpen for us Your sword and spare not a single mischief maker out of the disbelievers.'*



# Huzur Delivers Special Message on Occasion of KHILAFAT DAY



**H**adhrat Ameerul Mumineen, Khalifatul Masih V (aba), delivered a Special Message on Occasion of 'Khilafat Day' (27th May 2014)

In his message, Huzur said that history proved that the Khilafat leading the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was supported by God Almighty.

Beloved Huzur (aba) said:

*"The Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>(sa)</sup> was sent for the entire world, for every era and for every place to remove the ills and wrongdoings of the world and all types of disorder.*

*And according to the great prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>(sa)</sup>, in this era, Allah the Almighty sent the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> in subservience to the Holy Prophet<sup>(sa)</sup>. Being the Holy Prophet's subordinate, his task was also to remove all wrongdoings and he was sent for all*

*future eras, for the entire world, until the end of time."*

Huzur said the truth of the Khilafat of the Promised Messiah had been vouchsafed by the Holy Qur'an and by the Holy Prophet Muhammad<sup>(sa)</sup>.

Given its very limited resources, it was only with the Help of God that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community had been able to flourish and spread so successfully throughout the world.

Huzur concluded by praying that all Ahmadi Muslims understood their responsibilities of spreading the true and peaceful teachings of Islam. Huzur also offered a message of congratulations to Ahmadi Muslims on the occasion of the anniversary of the Institution of Khilafat.

Watch and listen

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_zDmJs4d](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zDmJs4d)

# Message from the President of the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK

**Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah.**

It is with immense joy and great pleasure that I address this message to you in the inaugural edition of Pan-African News. I believe that this organ will serve as a vehicle for keeping our membership apprised of our activities as well as for imparting to Islamic and secular knowledge and education. I humbly solicit your continued prayers for the Newsletter Editorial Team that have been entrusted with the production of the periodical Newsletter.

This is but one tiny step towards the achievement of goals. As I mentioned in my first Address to the members of the Association, the tasks before PAAMA UK UK remain pressing, manifold and imperative.

Our commitment, therefore, must be a binding one for while ours is a glorious journey that will, Insha'Allah, under the guidance of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih, be victorious, we do indeed face challenges of variety and volume. Our purpose, our objective and our mission remain lofty and transcendental.

Our raison d'être is to seek out and gather the lions of Africa – those of our Ahmadi brethren lost in UK society either to the struggle for survival or in the pursuit of pleasure.

Our purpose is to return to Allah and to take with us the vast multitude of Africans caught up in the nexus of materialism and irreligion found obtaining in western society.

Our objective is to preach, in the face of hatred, opposition and bigotry, the Islam of peace, the Islam of justice and the Islam of truth.

Our mission is to propagate, by our words and actions, the teachings of the Holy Prophet<sup>(sa)</sup> and his grand spiritual son, the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup>, through the efforts of PAAMA UK UK.

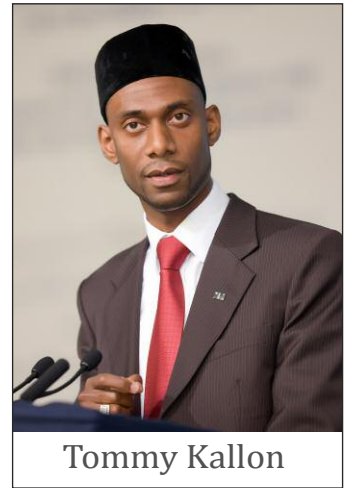
We have seen our brothers and sisters facing persecution in Pakistan and other parts of the world standing tall and standing firm. We have seen them raise the standards of sacrifice and righteousness to ultimate levels by laying down their lives for the cause of Ahmadiyyat. Now, seeking honest purpose, we Ahmadis of African provenance must strive to emulate the sacrifices of our fallen brothers, the steadfastness of our widowed sisters and the spirit of their orphaned children and, for their sakes, leave no stone unturned in our humble efforts to further the mission of the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> and disseminate the pristine message of Islam Ahmadiyyat through this Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association founded for those very purposes.

We, Ahmadis of African provenance, must begin to lead virtuous lives in keeping with the noble aims and aspirations of our Jama'at and this Association established to serve it. We, Ahmadis of African provenance, must stand upright, resolute and determined to reform ourselves, to reinforce righteousness and to defend the dignity of Africa. We, Ahmadis of African provenance, must continue in our lofty ambition of bringing hope, guidance and enlightenment to the continent of Africa – a continent bereft of leadership, in desperate need of salvation and in search of truth.

It is, no doubt, a very tall order and it is one that can only be achieved with the grace and mercy of Allah. Therefore, I once again direct your attention towards prayers for our Association. May all those unpolished diamonds among us become sanctified with such gleaming righteousness that the blessings of Allah upon the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK illuminates, in its own sparkling way, the unmistakeable truth for all those who seek it. Ameen.

*Yours humbly,*

**Tommy Kallon.**



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF PAAMA UK

*The genesis of Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, can be traced back to the zeal and desire of late Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV<sup>(ru)</sup>, to raise the flagship of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at through the African subcontinent.*



In this vein, Huzur<sup>(ru)</sup> on the 15th August 1984, established Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association. The aim and objective of the Association, which comprise all Ahmadis of African origin resident in the United Kingdom, was to facilitate and oversee the educational, financial, moral and social welfare of its members. Secondly, it was to search and reactivate or bring back into the fold of Ahmadiyyat, those Ahmadis who have become inactive or lost their attachment to the Jama'at following their migration to the UK. Another purpose for the formation of PAAMA UK was to propagate the message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat generally as well as to create a platform where African Ahmadis could engage and exchange ideas with the political and intellectual elite of the African diaspora who have settled in the UK, with the view of finding a common ground to enlighten the people of Africa in religious and secular matters.

All Ahmadis of African origin living in the UK are eligible for full membership of PAAMA UK.

At the inaugural session of PAAMA UK, the Executive members that were fortunate to be pioneers of the PAAMA UK include Alhaji Ismail B.K. Addo Sahib as Chairman, Alhaji Hamza Adesanu Sahib as Vice Chairman and Alhaji Ataoppau

Sahib as Additional Vice Chairman. The Secretary General was Mashoud Arthur Sahib.

These Executive members steered the affairs of PAAMA UK for many years. During their term, they laid a strong foundation for the progress of PAAMA UK. Some of the notable programmes established by the pioneer Executive include the celebrated Annual Pan-African Dinner, which takes place immediately after Jalsa Salana at the Fazl Mosque.

This Dinner has become a focal point in celebrating the success of the Jama'at in African countries. The heads of the respective African countries, in the presence of Huzur Aqdas (aba), usually give accounts of their stewardship and the developments in their countries.

There is also the Question and Answer Sessions with Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV<sup>(ru)</sup>, which was established by the Pioneer Executive members. The Question and Answer session, have remained part and parcel of the PAAMA UK till this very day.

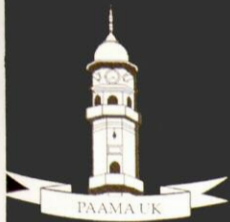
Following the relocation of Alhaji Ismail BK Addo Sahib to Ghana in 2009, the leadership in PAAMA UK has been by election subject to approval by Huzur Aqdas. Issah Ahmed Wemah Sahib was

appointed as new Chairman by Huzur Aqdas after the elections, a position he held until the last elections in April 2014 guiding the Association through many achievements most notably the 'Africa at 50' Independence Day celebratory events.

Under the instructions of Khalifatul Masih (aba) PAAMA UK elections were held on 19th April 2014 and with it began a new era. Huzur Aqdas approved Tommy Kallon Sahib as the new President.

Just after a few days of commencing office, Tommy Kallon Sahib held a general meeting with the membership of PAAMA UK where he has set out his vision for PAAMA UK. He has put structures in place to help him achieve his goals. With Huzur's approval he has reviewed the organisational structure of PAAMA UK replacing the lingual and regional subcommittees with regional branches each having a Regional President and Regional Executive. The National Executive has also been extended to include two Vice Chairmen, Talim and Tarbiyyat are now two separate departments in addition to newly created Internal Affairs, External Affairs and Isha'at departments. The PAAMA UK Lajna are now represented by a Head of Lajna, Lajna National Executive and Regional Heads of Lajna.





## Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK



### Resolution of Condolence

The sad demise of Maulana Abdul Wahab Adam Sahib, Amir Jama'at Ahmadiyya Ghana, truly is a great loss not just for his family and dear ones but for Jama'at Ahmadiyya Ghana and the entire worldwide Ahmadiyya Jama'at. *Innaa lillaahi wa innaa ilaihi raaji'oon.*

An exemplary leader, resolute stalwart, dutiful ambassador, true visionary and, above all, a humble servant of the Jama'at has departed from the scene and returned to his Beloved Maker. His death leaves an enormous void in the Jama'at and in our lives.

However, though our hearts may have sunk low with sorrow, we bow our heads to Allah's decree and accept His Will in true Islamic spirit.

We, the members of the National Executive of the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association United Kingdom, **HEREBY**, by means of this resolution:

1. Bear witness that Maulana Abdul Wahab Adam Sahib was a genuine, true and devout Ahmadi Muslim who served the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, the people of Ghana and the continent of Africa with distinction and credit;
2. Convey our most sincere condolences to Huzur Aqdas, the family of Maulana Abdul Wahab Adam Sahib, the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Jama'at and Jama'at Ahmadiyya Ghana;
3. Pray that Allah receives the soul of Maulana Abdul Wahab Adam Sahib into His forgiveness, mercy and loving care and continually exalts his station in the Hereafter;
4. Offer humble supplications for the family of Maulana Abdul Wahab Adam Sahib that Allah, the Almighty, grants them the patience and steadfastness to recover from this enormous loss with dignity; and
5. Pledge to strive our utmost to ensure that all members of the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK continue in the illustrious footsteps of our dearest Maulana Abdul Wahab Adam Sahib.

This resolution is unanimously passed on 23 June 2014.

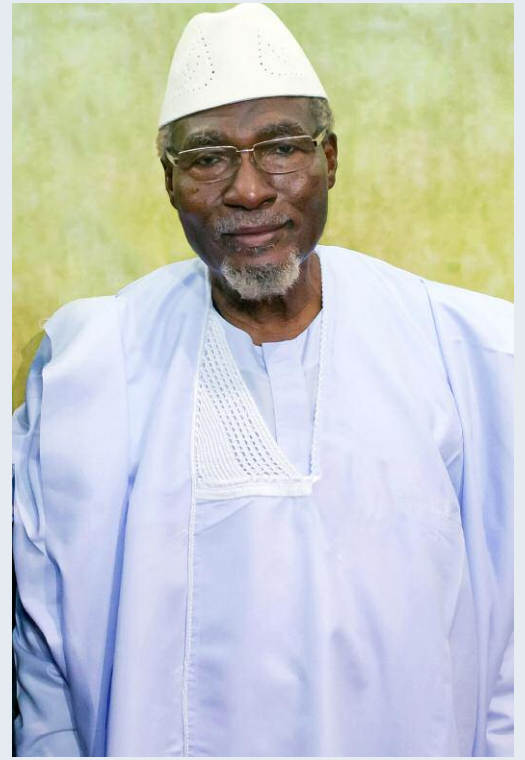
**Signed by the President for, and on behalf of, the National Executive of the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK.**



## RESPLENDENT JEWEL

*A resplendent jewel of the land of Africa has departed  
One who remained connected to service of faith all his life  
He spread light all over and all the while  
In a place that was once known as the Dark Continent  
Service to humanity was objective of his existence  
And he treaded this path all his life  
He adorned highways with the image of the Messiah  
Singing songs of his coming all over the place!  
This stalwart of nation was also an ambassador of peace  
Every lip is paying homage to him  
How well has a sagacious person spoken:  
'The country has lost a gift that it was bestowed!'  
Exemplary was he in obedience to Khilafat  
Devoting himself at the slightest of gestures!  
Rashed so envies this noble ending of Wahab Adam  
For the entire sermon was a tribute to him alone!*

**English rendering of an Urdu poem in tribute to Maulana Abdul Wahab Adam by Ataul Mujeeb Rashed, Imam of the London Mosque)**



Maulana Abdul Wahab Adam Sahib



PAN-AFRICAN DINNER – SEPT 2013



INAUGURATION OF NOOR MOSQUE IN CRAWLEY  
WITH HUZUR AQDAS (ABA) AND FRIENDS – JAN 2014



HOUSE OF COMMONS - JUNE 2013  
WITH LORD AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON

# OFFICE BEARERS

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

| Name                      | Position                   |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bockarie Tommy Kallon     | President                  |
| Mohamed Munir Kamara      | Vice President             |
| Abdullah Dibba            | Vice President             |
| Hakeem Adomako Mensah     | General Secretary          |
| Abada Barbouche           | Naib General Secretary     |
| Hassan Arjaoui            | Finance Secretary          |
| Muhammad Salam            | Tabligh Secretary          |
| Sulayman Babatynde Dawodu | Talim Secretary            |
| Jamil Mwanje              | Tarbiyyat Secretary        |
| Alhassan Bangura          | Isha'at Secretary          |
| Ibrahim Asante            | External Affairs Secretary |
| Shafiq Kusi               | Internal Affairs Secretary |

## REGIONAL PRESIDENTS

| Name              | Position                     | Jama'at Regions                      |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sadiq Quansah     | Regional President London    | London                               |
| Hashim Sulaiman   | Regional President Middlesex | Middlesex, Islamabad & Hertfordshire |
| Abdullah Sodique  | Regional President South     | South & South West                   |
| Ali Muwanda       | Regional President East      | East                                 |
| Toban Ephram      | Regional President Midlands  | Midlands                             |
| Bashir Adarabioyo | Regional President North     | North West, North East, Scotland     |

## LAJNA

| Name            | Position                   |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Faosat Sanni    | Head of Lajna              |
| Rashida Quansah | Deputy Head of Lajna       |
| Tawakalit Ahmed | Deputy Head of Lajna       |
| Khadijah Mensah | General Secretary          |
| Halimah Mensah  | Finance Secretary          |
| Yasmih Wemah    | Tabligh Secretary          |
| Ganiyat Sodique | Talim Secretary            |
| Fatimah Demba   | Tarbiyyat Secretary        |
| Janat Kiyemba   | Isha'at Secretary          |
| Naeema Ahmed    | External Affairs Secretary |
| Sarah Baffour   | Internal Affairs Secretary |

| Name            | Position                         | Jama'at Regions                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Janat Kusi      | Regional Head of Lajna London    | London                               |
| Ishaque Kulsoo  | Regional Head of Lajna Middlesex | Middlesex, Islamabad & Hertfordshire |
| Fatimah Kadiri  | Regional Head of Lajna South     | South & South West                   |
| Basirat Sunmonu | Regional Head of Lajna East      | East                                 |
| Mariyam Bonsu   | Regional Head of Lajna Midlands  | Midlands                             |
| Hafiza Ameen    | Regional Head of Lajna North     | North West, North East, Scotland     |



# First General Meeting

Following the appointment of the new PAAMA UK executive by Huzur Aqdas (aba), the first General Meeting was held on 10th May 2014. The secretaries made presentations about their relevant departments after which the newly appointed President, Tommy Kallon Sahib, delivered the Keynote Address wherein he set out his vision for PAAMA UK.

In his Keynote Address, the new President expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the countless messages of goodwill, support and prayers he had received from all quarters of PAAMA UK following his appointment. He advised African Ahmadis to lead virtuous lives, reform themselves, reinforce righteousness, defend the dignity of Africa and to continue in their lofty ambition of bringing hope, guidance and enlightenment to the continent of Africa bereft of leadership, in desperate need of salvation and in search of truth.

At the end, the new President expressed his desire for PAAMA UK to become an all-

inclusive Association where all members were actively involved and appealed to all PAAMA UK membership to step forward and volunteer their time and services to the Association.

Amir UK Sahib then joined for a special Farewell Session to recognise the contributions made by the outgoing Chairman, Issah Wemah Sahib and outgoing Vice Chairman, Bashir Adarabioyo Sahib. Amir Sahib presented them with gifts and certificates and flowers to their respective wives. Addressing the gathering, Amir Sahib paid tribute to Issah Wemah Sahib and his former executive, congratulating them on their many accomplishments, adding that the tenure of Issah Wemah Sahib will always be remembered for the series of 'Africa at 50' events held to celebrate the 50th Independence Day anniversaries of African states. Amir Sahib also expressed his hope that PAAMA UK continues to make strides under the new Presidency of Tommy Kallon Sahib.



## LAJNA SECTION

The teachings of Islam concerning Hijab (the head-covering) and segregation of the sexes is probably the most confusing and difficult to accept for Western society. This is because of the widespread and erroneous notion that observing hijab is a heavy restriction imposed on Muslim women. In fact, the very opposite is true. You will find that hijab is a means of protecting women, and providing them with freedom from many social ills. The word "purdah" is also used to describe the concept and the practice of hijab. Islam provides guidance not only for individuals, but also lays down rules for the good of all society. In this case, the institution of hijab/purdah guards the moral condition of society. Muslim women also share with men the responsibility of

upholding the moral standard of society. The Holy Qur'an has laid down that one of the methods that men and women are to use to achieve that goal is hijab:

*"Say to the believing men that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts. That is purer for them. Surely, Allah is well aware of what they do. Say to the believing women that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts, and that they display not their beauty or their embellishment except that which is apparent thereof, and that they draw their head covering over their bosoms ..."*

(Ch.24: Vs.31-32)



From these verses it is clear that both men and women are to conduct themselves with modesty and propriety at all times, and especially when in each other's presence. This teaching is based on the fact that Islam recognises that "prevention is the better part of a cure." So segregation of the sexes is prescribed so that situations which cannot be controlled afterwards are not allowed to develop in the first place. In this way, erosion of moral values can be prevented, and society is safeguarded from problems such as adultery, teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, e.g. Aids.

The Holy Qur'an requires that Muslim women dress modestly, cover their heads and wear an outer garment to conceal their beauty from strangers. However, you must understand that this physical covering is only the first step to developing hijab. The true and full observance of hijab/purdah is achieved when 'covering extends to a man or woman's mind and heart.' This means that one should cover or shield his/her mind and heart from impure and immoral thoughts when in contact with the opposite sex. One's thoughts, words and actions should reflect a sisterly/brotherly love and respect towards fellow

beings. This behaviour leads to one's own moral development and also creates an atmosphere where men and women, instead of resenting and degrading each other, treat each other with respect and understanding.

How the Hijab is worn is up to the person, but the minimum requirement for a lady is to have her hair covered from her forehead to under her chin. No hair should be showing. Likewise her clothes should cover her body and be loose. Wearing tight jeans or stockings is not acceptable. There are many good clothing which is acceptable, but when a person dresses modestly, for the sake of Allah, then that should make her feel within herself more righteous. It doesn't matter what others think, only what Allah thinks should be sufficient.

Women should not be doing anything to attract the opposite sex, therefore if they wear make-up or heavy lipstick, then they may need to cover up more of their face to cover the make-up. They should only be wearing make up for their husband's benefit, not for going out in public. If they are going out then it is best not to wear make-up if they do not want to cover their faces.

## Secular Matters – The British Education System

**The education system in Britain is organised into age groups known as KEY STAGES. These are spread over a child's period of education, outlined as follows:**

### Preschool Education

**(Age 3-5 years):**

**EYFS:** The *Early Years Foundation Stage* (Nursery and Reception)

### Primary School Education

**(Age 5-11 years):**

**KS1:** *Key Stage 1* (Years 1 and 2) - also called *infants*; **KS1 SATs** assessments at end of Year 2 (dependent upon school)

**KS2:** *Key Stage 2* (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) - also called *juniors*; **KS2 SATs** assessments at end of Year 6 (dependent upon school)

### Secondary School Education

**(Age 11-16 years):**

**KS3:** *Key Stage 3* (Years 7, 8 and 9)

**KS4:** *Key Stage 4* (Years 10 and 11); this is the **GCSE** examination period

### Sixth Form/College Education

**(Age 16-18 years):**

**KS5:** *Key Stage 5* (Years 12 and 13) also called *Sixth Form*; this is the **A-Level** examination period.

**National Curriculum Levels** exist at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 (so Year 1 in Primary School to Year 9 in Secondary School). They range from level 1 (lowest) to level 8 (highest). At the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6, age 11), children are expected to achieve the national standard of level 4. A secure level 4 child should be able to independently read, write and calculate. Children can, however, achieve level 5 and even level 6 at the end of Key Stage 2.

Each level is divided into three sub levels, e.g. 4a, 4b and 4c:

c = the child has started to work at the level  
b = working well within the level  
a = the child has reached the top of the level and is working towards the next level

Generally, children are expected to get through two sub levels every year.

At **GCSE** (Year 10 and Year 11 in Secondary School), pupils are graded **A\*-U**. **A\*** is the highest pass grade at **GCSE** and **G** is the lowest pass grade. A **U** signifies a **fail**. However, most academic institutions and employers only recognise **A\*, A, B, C, D** and **E** as pass grades, and of those achieving **A\*, A, B** or **C** are usually required for further education or careers.

At **A-Level** (Year 12 and Year 13 in Secondary School or Sixth Form College), students are graded A-E (pass grades). The only other grade is **fail**. Most universities and employers require grades A, B or C for admission/recruitment. Universities usually work on a **points system** in which A-Level grades are worth a set number of points and a student is required to have achieved a certain number of points for admission onto a specific course.