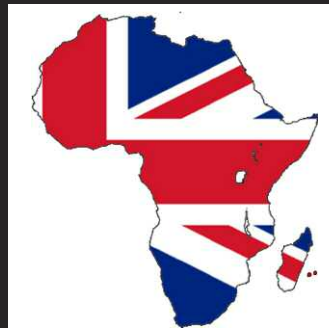




PAN-AFRICAN NEWS



Vol.3 No.1 2016

www.paama.org.uk

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**National Waqfe Nau
Ijtema**
(27-28th Feb 2016)

Peace Symposium
(19th March 2016)

Ansar Charity Walk
(15th May 2016)

Ramadhan (TBC)
(7th June 2016)

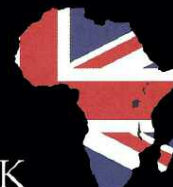
Eid-ul-Fitr (TBC)
(7th July 2016)

Jalsa Salana
(12-14th Aug 2016)



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Pan-African
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK



Special Message to Jama'at Ahmadiyya Mauritius

Dear Amir and Members of Jama'at Ahmadiyya Mauritius!

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu. It gives me great pleasure to address this special goodwill message to you on behalf of the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association United Kingdom on the auspicious occasion of the Jalsa Salana Mauritius commemorating the centenary of the arrival of Ahmadiyyat in Mauritius and in Africa.

The religion of Islam initiated by the ministry of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was a phenomenon characterised by beneficence, strength and endurance. It dispelled darkness and confusion in the darkest period of the Dark Ages. It established a very high moral order such that the blessings of knowledge, learning and science were widely diffused. It changed the course of human history and opened the gates of progress in all directions.

But this profound Movement was to suffer from the vicissitudes of time so much so that a stage would be reached when there would be very many Muslims yet very little Islam. However, the grand Divine design would not be obliterated and passed into the limbo of history. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had prophesied and prophesied categorically that at this time the Promised Messiah would appear and remedy the woeful plight of the Muslims. He would reform the corrupted doctrine and restore Islam to its pristine purity, investing it with fresh vigour and glory.

Ahmadiyyat, that renaissance of true Islam, inaugurated at the hand of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (peace be upon him) and fortified by his Divinely-guided spiritual successors, reached the shores of the continent of Africa through the island of Mauritius in 1915 when Hadhrat Sufi Ghulam Muhammad (may Allah be pleased with him), the first Ahmadiyya Missionary, arrived and established the Community there.

Africa has many large and populous countries. Yet Divine wisdom ordained that Mauritius, a tiny corner of Africa, became the gateway for the arrival of Ahmadiyyat in Africa. As the Holy Qur'an says, "That is Allah's grace; He bestows it upon whom He pleases." (Al-Jumu'ah, 62:5)

Let me therefore, on behalf of the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association United Kingdom, congratulate you on reaching this unique milestone and pray that Jama'at Ahmadiyya Mauritius becomes an embodiment of the most dedicated and devoted servants of Khilafat that it prevails as an unchallengeable and alluring radiance for all those in Mauritius and indeed Africa who seek peace, truth and enlightenment. Ameen.

Wassalam.

Yours humbly,
Tommy Kallon
Tommy Kallon.

President Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK

Quotations 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 for the sake of easy recognition. Verily, the most honourable among you, in the sight of Allah, is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.

(Al-Hujurat, 49:14)

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 People, your Lord is One, you are the progeny of the same father (who was created from dust). Hence it is not permissible for you to make any discrimination between high and low. Neither an Arab has superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab. A white person is not superior to a black person, nor a black is superior to a white. The most honourable among you in the sight of God is the one who is the most righteous.

(Bukhari, Hadith No 1623)

Writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him)

I have spoken about the unity and mutual love among the members of the Jama'at many a time and I have been telling you that you should remain united and have mutual concord. This is what God has instructed Muslims to do. He has commanded them to be like one person otherwise they would become weak and the people would know of it. The Muslims have been instructed to stand shoulder to shoulder while praying in congregation and that also is meant to achieve unity. The good of one penetrates into the other like an electric current. If there are dissensions instead of unity, that would ultimately bring bad luck.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said: You should love one another. You should pray for one another in absence of others. If somebody prays for another person who is not present, the Angel says: let this prayer be accepted in your favour also. How wonderful it is. If the prayer of the man who is praying is not accepted the Angel's prayer will.

(Malfoozat Vol.2 p.48)

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Summary of FRIDAY SERMONS

Friday, 2nd December 2005

[The Editorial Team takes full responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies in this summary. A more comprehensive summary is available online at www.alislam.org]

Huzur delivered his Friday Sermon from Mauritius at the commencement of the 44th Jalsa Salana of the country. This was a historic Jalsa Salana in the sense that it was the first ever Jalsa Salana of Mauritius that was graced by the Khalifa of the time.

Huzur gave a discourse on the spiritual bounties of the Jalsa Salana. The greatest objective of the Jalsa Salana is to attain taqwa (righteousness) and to inculcate the love of God. Therefore, the majority of the time should be spent in the remembrance and worship of God. If at the end of the three-day Jalsa Salana a significant change was felt, then the objective of Jalsa Salana would have been achieved, otherwise participation would be fruitless.

Huzur noted that the Jama'at in Mauritius also suffers a degree of opposition. If the Community does not adhere to the requisites of spiritual development after accepting Ahmadiyyat, then facing such opposition would be pointless and of no avail at all. We need to move forward with a spirit of brotherhood and vie with each other in good works, as the Holy Qur'an instructs us in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:149).

Huzur cautioned the Mauritius Jama'at against the rising agnosticism in the country and advised that the

teachings of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), has an answer for all new-age philosophies. The Holy Qur'an should be studied and Salat should be performed regularly. While he was particularly pleased to see a number of beautiful mosques scattered over Mauritius, Huzur said the real objective is to populate these mosques with sincere worshippers. Our objective is not to construct edifices, rather it is to make Ibad-ur-Rahman (Servants of the Gracious God). We also need to be true to our word and shun all manner of falsehood and deception.

Huzur enjoined upon the Jalsa Salana attendees to come together in a spirit of love and harmony and to demonstrate excellent manners and courtesy; and to make the positive changes in their lives so that the world may be able to clearly distinguish an Ahmadi from a non-Ahmadi, thereby participating in a 'silent' Tabligh.

In the end, Huzur prayed that Allah may make the attendees of Jalsa Salana bearers of all this and that they may fully benefit from the blessings of Jalsa Salana.

Summary of Friday Sermon delivered by the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community December 9th, 2005

Huzur delivered this Friday Sermon from the Dar us Salaam Mosque in Rose-Hill, Mauritius, and gave an inspiring account of the history of Ahmadiyyat in Mauritius.

Huzur prayed for the local Jama'at and urged them to live up to the excellent model of the early Ahmadis of the island. Ahmadiyyat was established in Mauritius in 1912 and had faced great opposition, yet the pioneer Ahmadis were resolute and ever inclined to Allah and stayed loyal to their faith while continually seeking ways to enhance their religious knowledge.

Huzur said he had mentioned these few early Ahmadis

of Mauritius to illustrate their endeavours so that their sacrifices are commemorated and followed. It was the obligation of the Jama'at to understand the point that these early people had accepted Ahmadiyyat in compliance with the commandment of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and had propagated it, again, in observance of the saying of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to desire for one's brother what one desires for oneself. Having understood this point, the members of the Jama'at should bring about pure changes in themselves and inculcate the love of Ahmadiyyat in their children as well as take this beautiful message to others.


Huzur cited the revelation of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) that Allah would propagate his

message to the corners of the earth. This had come true in 1907 during the lifetime of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) when, without the aid of any missionary, the message of Ahmadiyyat had reached Mauritius, an island with an area known as “End of the World”.

Huzur drew the attention of the Community to the fact that they are lagging behind in the field of Tabligh. He urged them to follow in the footsteps of their elders and to bring about positive changes in themselves and

present excellent examples to the world. The local Jama’at should make plans for Tabligh. There were plenty of opportunities that ought to be utilised and Tabligh was a way to receive Allah’s grace and to safeguard the next generation.

Huzur prayed for the Jama’at that everyone may set excellent examples, and sincerely understand the message of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) so that they could train the next generation and the new-comers to Ahmadiyyat.




PAAMA UK

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Pan-African

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK



Love For All Hatred For None

Resolution of Condolence

It is with great sadness that we announce the demise of Mrs Mariam Bhunnoo of Mauritius on the 10th December 2015 at the age of 95. *Innaa lillaahi wa innaa ilaihi raaji'oon.*

She was among the first born-Ahmadis in Mauritius and was the widow of the late Al-Hajj Ahmad Yadullah Bhunnoo, who himself was a very active member of the Jama’at in Mauritius, former Amir France and served the Jama’at with distinction. Mrs Mariam Bhunnoo supported her husband in all his services and, with full faith in Allah, bore the times of trials and tribulations with patience and steadfastness.

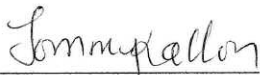
Her love and devotion for the Jama’at has been transmitted to her progeny so that, by the grace of Allah, in addition to several children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren including many in the UK here serving the Jama’at in various capacities, there are also Waqfeen-e-Zindagi (Life Devotees of the Jama’at) in each of those three succeeding generations: a son, grandson and two great grandsons.

As the mother of our Respected Editor for *Pan-African News*, Ahad Bhunnoo Sahib, and great grandmother of Nooruddeen and Humayon Jahangeerkhan, also members of the Editorial Team, her departure represents a sad loss to the entire PAAMA family.

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

1. Record our deepest condolences on the death of Mrs Mariam Bhunnoo.
2. Pray that Allah Almighty forgives her weaknesses and shortcomings and elevates her station in Paradise;
3. Convey our sympathies to the entire Bhunnoo family and all relatives of the deceased;
4. Supplicate for the patience and steadfastness of the bereaved family that they may find solace in the acceptance of the decree of Allah in true Islamic spirit;
5. Pray that the righteousness of Mrs Mariam Bhunnoo continues in her present and future progeny.

This resolution is passed on 14th January 2016.



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

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The Arrival of Ahmadiyyat in Africa Through Mauritius

By Maulana Abdul Ghany Jahangeer Khan

The fame of the tiny island of Mauritius is inversely proportional to its size. This also holds true with respect to the history of the Ahmadiyya Movement – the true Islam. Indeed, the appearance of the Messiah promised by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to Muslims was known on this tiny fragment of Africa long before it came to the knowledge of far greater countries. Is it perhaps because of the following Divine revelation received by the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him): “I shall convey thy message to the corners of the world,” and that there is a place in Mauritius called *Bout du Monde* or “Corner of the World”?

In fact, in the year 1874, while in Mecca performing the Hajj pilgrimage, Al-Haaj Ibrahim Sulleiman Atchia, from Mauritius, had heard of the imminent arrival of the Imam Mahdi and the Messiah. However it was only at the beginning of the 20th Century that Mauritians heard of the fulfilment of this prophecy. As fate would have it, it was a Christian priest of India, a certain Abdul Wahid, who told a Mauritian named Omar Islam that a man called Mirza Ghulam Ahmad had declared himself to be the Promised Messiah in India.

The Review of Religions reaches Mauritius

At around the same time, the association *La Fraternité Musulmane* (The Muslim Brotherhood) was formed. Its president was Mr Noormamode Noorooya, a headmaster, and among its members were Mohammad Azim Sooltangos, Mowlabaccus Bhunnoo, Hassen Ally, Ibrahim Tegally and Bakarally Bahadoor. The association began to publish a magazine, *L'Islamisme* (Islamism), copies of which were sent abroad to the editors of other magazines in exchange for copies of theirs.

It was thus that in one of the periodicals he received from the United Kingdom, Mr Noorooya found an advertisement for the “Review of Religions”. He subscribed to the magazine and as early as 1907 he began receiving issues of the “Review of Religions”. Extracts were published in *L'Islamisme*. He discussed these with persons interested in Islam, among whom were Amodé Ibrahim Atchia (also known as the Major), Al-Haaj Ibrahim Sulleiman Atchia, Mota Atchia, Miajee Rahimbaccus, Maulvi Haji Ibrahim, Imam Madani of the Jumma Mosque (the main Muslim place of worship on the island), Maulvi Sher Khan and Soobhan Dowlut.

The first Ahmadis in Mauritius

By 1912, Mr Noorooya was ready to accept the Ahmadiyya interpretation of Islam. However, it was a

year later, in 1913, when Mr Mohammad Azim Sooltangos came to work at the same school as he, that a first attempt was made to contact the Jama'at in Qadian. Mr Sooltangos wrote to Qadian to ask for books in Urdu on the Ahmadiyya Movement. In the meantime, they rented a room in the town of Rose-Hill where they could meet and freely discuss the new movement in Islam.

Soon after, in 1914, a small group of Mauritian Muslims was ready to embrace the message of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), among whom were the following: Noormamode Noorooya, Mowlabaccus Bhunnoo, Ilahi Bhunnoo, Mohammad Azim Sooltangos, Soobhan Rajaballee, Omar Islam, Ahmad Auckloo, Ahmad Mamode, Al-Haaj Ibrahim Sulleiman Atchia, Dosmamode Islam, Amine, I. Saleh Atchia and Ghulam Nabee Boodhun.

The First Indian Ahmadi Muslims in Mauritius

As a consequence of the First World War in 1914, soldiers from the British Empire were shipped off to be stationed in different parts of the world. This is how Indian Ahmadis serving in the British army came to be stationed in Mauritius. The first was Sharfatullah Khan Shahjahanpuri, who was followed by three others: Dr Lal Muhammad, Sergeant Sayyid Ameer Husain and Munshi Muhammad Ismail Khan (also known as Baboo).

Some will say it was by sheer coincidence, others that it was rather an act of God, that Dr Lal Muhammad met Mohammad Azim Sooltangos, who was surprised and overjoyed to meet an Indian Ahmadi Muslim for the first time. Dr Lal Muhammad did not miss this golden opportunity to preach the message of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). He made several speeches for the benefit of *La Fraternité Musulmane*.

Following the suggestion put forward by Dr Lal Muhammad, a group of Mauritian Ahmadis wrote to Qadian, requesting the Headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at to send a missionary to instruct the new Ahmadis in their faith. Hadhrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him), who had recently been elected as Khalifah, chose Hadhrat Sufi Ghulam Muhammad BA (may Allah be pleased with him), a Companion of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), for this noble task. He was thus the first ever Ahmadi Muslim missionary to be sent to Africa.

Sufi Saheb left Qadian on the 20th of February 1915. He stopped over in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) for three months, during which time he preached to Muslims there and founded the Ceylonese Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at before the next ship sailed off to Mauritius. He arrived in

Mauritius on the 16th of June 1915. And thus began the march of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Africa.

Mauritius: a gateway to the African continent

Mauritius offered an ideal platform for spreading the message of the true Islam in French-speaking countries, especially those in Central, West and North Africa. Having Urdu as their mother tongue, French as national language and English as the official language of State meant that the early Mauritian Ahmadi were ideally placed for the translation of Urdu and English literature into French. This, they started very early on, even before the Jama'at had been officially registered, as mentioned previously.

Since the beginning, the Mauritius Jama'at has been providing French books and periodicals, the most important of which has been the gift of no less than four editions of the French translation of the Holy Qur'an during the last thirty years, to francophone countries in Africa. This literature has greatly assisted them in their efforts to convey the message of the True Islam all over Africa and beyond. The Jama'at in Mauritius has also contributed missionaries, doctors and teachers who have been working in both English-speaking and French-speaking nations of Africa and Europe. This tradition continues today. To all of that, we can now add the partnership between Mauritian Ahmadi and other Ahmadi elsewhere in the world, for the creation and running of websites, a web television channel and social media accounts as well as the translation and creation of programmes for MTA International. Moreover, all French correspondence between Africa and the Khalifah of the time passes through the hands of Mauritians, who act as translators and interpreters.

In Mauritius, the message has not only been conveyed to those of Indian descent but also to those whose ancestors came from all over mainland Africa and Madagascar, some of whom have become part and parcel of the Mauritius Jama'at, and their descendants have been serving the Jama'at to this day. Thus, in many ways, Mauritius was, and still is, a gateway between India and Africa. This is the good fortune of Mauritius for it is in Africa that lies the future.

The future lies in Africa

Indeed, in the very same *Review of Religions* that had been instrumental to the introduction of the message of the Imam Mahdi (peace be upon him) in Mauritius, and more precisely in the September 1955 issue thereof, Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) made the following declaration addressed to mainland Africans:

"I am reading the writing on the wall that there is a great future for your race. God does not forsake a race for all time to come. Sometimes, He gives opportunity to one nation and one continent and then He offers the same

opportunity to another nation and another continent.

Now is your time. You have been oppressed and ruled by others for a very long time. Rest assured that your glorious time is fast approaching. People were made to think that yours is an inferior race. I can say about myself that at a young age, when I used to read books in English, I used to think about your race as an inferior one; but when I grew up and read the traditions and the Holy Qur'an, I came to know that it was all wrong.

God has not made an exception of your people. God mentions all races and nations as equals. When He sends any prophet in the world, He gives sufficient intelligence also to the men, who are addressed, to accept that prophet. If you did not have sufficient intelligence, or in other words, had you been an inferior race, then, God forbid, it would have been His fault for sending a prophet to a people who had no intelligence to accept him. But this is not the case.

Islam says that Europeans, Americans, Asians, Africans and people in far-off islands are equal. All of them have the same power of understanding, learning, memorising and inventing....

As far as Ahmadiyyat goes, I assure you that we (and when I say we, I mean myself and all the Ahmadi who follow me) consider all people on earth as equal. All of us are equal and have the same powers.

I assure you that during my lifetime, I am not going to allow any Ahmadi to adopt the aforesaid mistaken ideas as prevalent in the world. Just as the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had said that he would crush such ideas under his heels, so I assure you that I will also crush such ideas under my heels.

So go and prove yourselves true Ahmadi. Tell your brothers that you went to Pakistan and Rabwah and found that in Pakistan also there are brothers who feel for you and consider all Ahmadi equal, and that you did not see Pakistanis, rather Africans in different colours. They are looking towards African brothers as their own kith and kin. I am expecting the same sacrifice from Africans and ask you to preach and convey the message of Islam to every corner of your country."

Now, a hundred years on, we can see the immense progress being registered by our Jama'at all over Africa. May all African Ahmadi join their Mauritian brothers and sisters in celebrating the first centenary of the entry of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam into Africa!

Bibliography

This article was inspired mostly by "L'Ahmadiyyat à l'Île Maurice (1912-1965)" by Al-Haaj Ahmad Yadullah Bhunnoo, published in *Le Message* of 30 Oct 1965 and 15 Nov 1965

The Review of Religions; Sept 1955; pp. 532-533

Brief overview of the Centenary Jalsa Salana Mauritius 2015



The 54th Jalsa Salana of Jama'at Ahmadiyya Mauritius was held on the 13th to 15th November 2015 at the prestigious Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre. By all accounts, the Jalsa Salana was a great success, Alhamdulillah, with participants from all over the world, giving an international flair to the atmosphere of the convention. Of course, this was a special occasion, celebrating as it does the Centenary Year of the arrival of Ahmadiyyat in Mauritius.



Special guests included representatives of the Jama'at, Mirza Kurshid Ahmad Sahib, Nazir-e-Ala Sadr Anjuman Pakistan (photo above); Shiraz Ahmad Sahib, Naib Nazir-e-Ala Qadian; Ch. Hamidullah Sahib, Wakil-e-Ala; Amir Jama'ats from several countries, including Muhammad Bin Saleh Sahib, Ghana; Sharif Odeh Sahib, Kababir; Abdul Basit Shahid Sahib, Indonesia; Ibrahim Noonan Sahib, Missionary-in-Charge Ireland; Azhar Haneef Sahib, Missionary USA. In addition, Missionaries who had previously served in Mauritius as well as the descendants of some of the pioneering Missionaries were among the delegates. Of course several Mauritians from the diaspora made the long journey to be part of this historic occasion. Altogether, more than 20 countries were represented at the Jalsa Salana.

The format of the Jalsa Salana proceedings followed along the established lines of every Jalsa Salana around the world: a 3-day event, each day starting with collective Tahajjud Prayers, Fajr Prayers, Darsul Qur'an,

etc. The Opening Speech was by Mirza Kurshid Ahmad Sahib, Nazir-e-Ala, who congratulated the Mauritius Jama'at on the Centenary. He also emphasised the importance of Jalsa Salana and quoted extensively from the writings of the Promised Messiah in support of his speech.

The highlights of the Second Day included speeches by the special guests, among whom were several Government Ministers, Mayors and Councillors. The Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Mr. Xavier Duval, led a 2-minute silence for the victims of the Paris attacks which took place a day earlier. The keynote address on this day was by Shiraz Ahmad Sahib, Naib Nazir-e-Ala, India. He spoke on how Islam not only teaches of peace but also practices it. He used extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) as well as verses from the Holy Qur'an to illustrate his speech. The topic was quite apt coming as it did the day after the Paris killings.





Azhar Haneef Sahib, Missionary USA.



Muhammad Bin Saleh Sahib – Amir Ghana

The Closing Address was by Ch. Hameedullah Sahib, Vakil-ul-Ala, in which he recalled the prophecy of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) declaring that the Second Century of Ahmadiyyat will be one of victory; he cited other prophecies of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), and urged the Jama'at to become more active in Tabligh and reminded the members of Khalifatul Masih V's directions in this regard.

Among other speakers were some of the Amirs and Missionaries from abroad. The Amir Jama'at Mauritius, Moussa Taujoo Sahib, spoke about the salient features of Ahmadiyyat in Mauritius in the past 100 years.

The event was widely reported in the press, radio and television over the next few days. Thus the message of the Jama'at received wide publicity, Alhamdulillah.

Mauritius Ahmadiyya Centenary Commemorative Event



On Saturday the 31st of October 2015 the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK held a function to celebrate the centenary of the inception of Ahmadiyyat in Mauritius and Africa.

The function which took place in the Tahir Hall of Baitul Futuh and was chaired by Respected Rafiq Hayat Sahib, Amir UK, was well attended by Senior Jama'at officials, including Naib Amir and Missionary In-charge Maulana Ataul Mujeeb Rashed Sahib, Naib Amir Mansoor Shah Sahib, General Secretary Rana Mashood Sahib as well as National Secretaries and Regional Amirs.

Following recitation from the Holy Qur'an and English translation by Maulana Ata ul Qayyum Joomun

and Mr Ahmed Owusu respectively, Mr Tommy Kallon, President of PAAMA UK, delivered the welcome address. He used his address to apprise the audience of the purpose of the event and reminded the PAAMA members of their responsibilities as African Ahmadis. A brief history of Ahmadiyyat in Mauritius was then presented by Humayon Jahangheer Khan of Jamia Ahmadiyya UK. He said Mauritius was the first country of Africa to be enabled to accept the message of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi through the pioneer Missionary Hadhrat Sufi Ghulam Muhammad (on whom be peace) from India. Referring to a place in Mauritius called 'Corner of the World' he said the introduction of Ahmadiyyat to Mauritius constituted a

glaring fulfilment of the prophecy of the Promised Messiah, 'I shall cause thy message to reach the corners of the earth.' A message from Amir of Mauritius in Creole language was also read by Mr Abdullah Jingoo and was rendered into English by Mr Khalid Bhunnoo. Finally Amir Sahib UK delivered the Keynote address and led the silent prayer before a break for Isha prayers. Dinner was served after Isha.

In his keynote address Amir Sahib praised the Mauritius community for their dedication and hard work. He also made reference to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V's visit to Mauritius where Huzur had praised the Jama'at of Mauritius and fervently prayed for them. Amir Sahib said it was during his visit to Mauritius that Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV announced the beginning

of the 24-Hour broadcast of MTA. Amir Sahib also commended the Pan-African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association for their continuous progress over the years through the efforts of the previous and current administrations.

In the past PAAMA had celebrated the 50th independence anniversaries of various African countries marking the liberation of these countries from colonial rule. This event was to mark the beginning of the anniversaries celebration of the spiritual liberation of Africa.

The session was a very successful one in terms of organisation and attendance with some travelling from as far as France and Germany to attend



TOP: Rafiq Hayat - Amir UK and Tommy Kallon, PAAMA President.

MIDDLE: Humayon Jahnageer Khan of Jamia UK and Mr Khalid Bhunnoo

LEFT: Group photo with Maulana Ataul Mujeeb Rashed - Naib Amir and Missionary In-Charge UK.

As we celebrate the Mauritius centenary this year, we celebrate the arrival of Islam Ahmadiyyat in Africa at a time when the true teachings of Islam had been overridden by traditional beliefs and wide spread extremist misconceptions. The inception of the Jama'at in Africa paved a way for the reinvigoration of the fundamental teachings of Islam as taught by the Holy Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his ardent follower, the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him). One of the most pivotal Islamic teachings the Jama'at has ensured is the revival of the prestigious honour and status Islam has bestowed upon women, through the establishment of Lajna Imaillah. Women all over the world have been and continue to be subject to traditional beliefs and practices, and most unfortunately extremist misconstrued Islamic beliefs that subjugate them to very demeaning treatments that are akin to the very "jahilliya period" (Days of Ignorance) maltreatments that Islam salvaged them from.

Under the auspices of the ultimate purpose of the mission of the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi (peace be upon him), the establishment of the Lajna Imaillah by the Second Khalifa, Hadhrat Mirza Bashirudeen Mahmood Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him), continues to assure the true teachings of Islam with regards to the important role of women in Islam and their respective societies. He highlighted the fact that women have a key role to play as much as men to ensure the progress of Islam. He reiterated that such an Association would not

only curtail the misconceptions spread by the enemies of Islam about the treatment of women but it would also make women realise and carry out the obligations Islam has bestowed upon them in order to receive Allah's bounties. This he said would also enable them to educate and mould their children according to the teachings of Islam.



"...the establishment of the Lajna Imaillah by the Second Khalifa, Hadhrat Mirza Bashirudeen Mahmood Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him), continues to assure the true teachings of Islam with regards to the important role of women in Islam and their respective societies."

Since its establishment in 1922, the Association has created a purely Islamic based platform for Ahmadi women all over the world to learn and disseminate Islamic teachings amongst themselves, their children and others, and to support each other in carrying out their Islamic and moral duties. Every Jama'at all over the world

has a Lajna section that enables women, regardless of race, culture or class, to participate in activities and other schemes that would give them the chance to carry out their basic Islamic duties and other duties like community services as well as to revitalise their moral conducts on a daily basis. Like all other wings of the Community, such a profound structure prescribed by the Second Khalifa has created a bond of sisterhood between Ahmadi women, regardless of creed, class or age. This is clearly manifested in the acceptance of every Ahmadi woman into any Lajna group where she is assured comfort, love and support anywhere in the world regardless of her background.

As mentioned, the sole purpose of the Association is to accord women a platform that enables them to fulfil their Islamic obligations alongside men in order to ensure the progress of Islam Ahmadiyyat. Under the unique guidance of Khalifatul Masih V, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Lajna members are constantly reminded to uphold such prestigious honour with due diligence and in accordance with the principle of service to Islam. This is particularly pertinent in the current world where the concept of the status of women continues to be stretched from another perspective of supposed "empowerment" of women.

By the Grace of Allah and through the continued guidance of the Khalifa of the day, every Ahmadi woman continues to be a testimony of the resurgence of the important role of women, neither as subjects nor as competitors but as partners to men in ensuring the progress of Islam.

Country Profile: MAURITIUS

By Asafa Kponou (France)



Port Louis - ©Peter Kuchar

To understand the significance of the arrival of Ahmadiyyat in Mauritius, and the key role it has played in disseminating the message of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) to other parts of the world, it would be useful to have an overview of the island, its history and population.

Mauritius is a tiny island in the south east corner of Africa, about 1,200 miles away. At around 750 square miles, it can fit snugly within the area bounded by the M25 around Greater London. An officially secular state, Mauritius is a religiously diverse nation, with freedom of religion being enshrined as a constitutional right. According to the 2011 census, its population of 1.2 million consist of 49% Hindus, 33% Christians, 17 % Muslims, 0.5% Buddhists, 0.5% others. Ahmadis are around 2% of the Muslim population.

Mauritius has a reputation for stability and racial harmony among its mixed population of Asians, Europeans and Africans.

Originally an uninhabited island, the first historical evidence of the existence of Mauritius is on a map produced by the Italian cartographer Alberto Cantino in 1502. This map shows that Mauritius was originally known as 'Dina Arobi', named by Arab sailors during the Middle Ages.

The island was colonised by several European nations, including the Dutch, the French and the British, with Admiral Wybrand Van Warwyck naming the island 'Mauritius' after Prince Maurice van Nassau of the Dutch Republic in 1598. The Dutch established a

colony in 1638 and introduced sugar cane, domestic animals and deer to the island. However, the Dutch abandoned Mauritius in 1710, after several failed attempts at developing the settlements for substantial dividends.

This enabled the French to take control of Mauritius between the years 1715 and 1810, renaming it 'Isle de France'. The 1735 arrival of French governor Bertrand-François Mahé de La Bourdonnais coincided with development of a prosperous economy based on sugar production. Under his governorship, numerous buildings were erected, a number of which are still standing today. These include part of Government House, Château de Mon Plaisir, and the Line Barracks, the headquarters of the police force.

During the Napoleonic Wars, Mauritius became a base from which French corsairs organised successful raids on British commercial ships. The raids continued until 1810, when the island was captured by the British. Under the terms of the surrender, the settlers were allowed to keep their land and property and to use the French language and law of France in criminal and civil matters. But the island's name reverted to Mauritius. It is thanks to the new rulers of the country that Mauritius has thrived as a multicultural society where, although English became the official language, French language and culture prevailed, alongside those of Indian and Chinese languages and cultures. The lingua franca of the island became Creole, a derivative of French.



Source: Wikipedia

The Seven Coloured Earth(s) (Terres des Sept Couleurs in French) are a geological formation and prominent tourist attraction found in the Chamarel plain of the Rivière Noire District in south-western Mauritius. It is a relatively small area of sand dunes comprising sand of seven distinct colours (approximately red, brown, violet, green, blue, purple and yellow). The dunes seemingly never erode, in spite of Mauritius' torrential tropical rains. The place has become one of Mauritius' main tourist attractions since the 1960s. Nowadays, the dunes are protected by a wooden fence and visitors are not allowed to climb on them, although they can look at the scenery from observation outposts placed along the fence.

Most Mauritians are equally fluent in English and French. However it is a common tendency for Mauritians to switch languages according to the situation. French and English are favoured in educational and professional settings while Asian languages are used mainly in music, religious and cultural activities. The media and literature are primarily in French.

The Creole language, derived mainly from French (a French-based Creole) with influences from the other dialects, is spoken by the majority of the population and is the country's native language. This version of Creole is shared with the neighbouring islands of Rodrigues, Agalega and Chagos. Interestingly, the Mauritian Creole is not dissimilar to the Creole spoken by some of the Caribbean Islands. Some ancestral languages that are also spoken in Mauritius include Arabic, Bhojpuri, Chinese, Hindi, Marathi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

Mauritius attained independence from Britain on 12 March 1968 and has since maintained one of the developing world's most successful democracies and has enjoyed years of constitutional order. It has preserved its image as one of Africa's few social and economic success stories, even being ranked first in good governance in the 2006–2014 Ibrahim Index of African Governance.

Mirroring the island's political consistency, the various cultures and traditions flourish in peace on the island and Mauritius is a multiethnic society, drawn from Indian, African, European (mostly French) and Chinese origin.

The vibrant and colourful culture of the Mauritian people is reflected in the various religious festivities that are celebrated throughout the year. Many of them also happen to be recognised as public holidays, with the entire country profiting from days off for events such as Eid, Diwale and Christmas.

FACTS & FIGURES*

*Mauritius is divided into nine districts which consists of different cities, towns and villages.**

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,261,208 as of 1 July 2014. The population on the island of Mauritius is 1,219,265. Mauritius has the highest population density in Africa.

Mauritius is a multi-ethnic society, drawn from Indian, African, European (mostly French) and Chinese origin.

Mauritius has a tropical climate. There are 2 seasons: a warm humid summer from November to April, with a mean temperature of 24.7 °C and a relatively cool dry winter from June to September with a mean temperature of 20.4 °C.



Mauritius was the only known habitat of the extinct dodo, a flightless bird.

* Wikipedia