



**NURUL ISLAM
MASJID**

the
**Qari Yousuf
Noorbhai**



**ULAMA
AWARDS**



Contents.

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Introduction.

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST KIND THE MOST MERCIFUL

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“The Ulama are indeed the heirs of the Prophets.” (Abu Dawood and others)

It is therefore incumbent on us to love them, to obey them in good, to defend them and ask for Allah’s Mercy for those who are deceased among them.

The Nurul Islam Ulama Awards, the first of its kind, is an acknowledgement in the name of Qari Yousuf Noorbhai, the central figure of Nurul Islam, and an embodiment of a true community worker. Initially, the proposal to openly acknowledge the ulama of Lenasia was met with some hesitancy and trepidation by those nominees whose qualities of humility do not permit them recognition on a public platform.

Coming at a time when the ummah is in a state of distress with the plight of the Palestinians and the genocide in Gaza, we at Nurul Islam felt that it was time to show appreciation to the ulama who are the backbone of our society, while we still have them amongst us and whilst we continue to benefit from their sterling services. Scholars are like the stars; we cannot imagine the sky without stars, similarly, we cannot imagine our community without the services of our ulama.



Imam Ghazzali has written in his Ihya –

‘If you were to weigh the blood of the martyrs & if you were to weigh the ink of the scholars; the ink of the scholars would outweigh the blood of the martyrs.’

To appreciate the depth and scale of the khidmat of the ulama, the extent of their selfless dedication and sacrifices of time, health, wealth, and family over an entire lifetime must be made known.

It is important for the younger ulama to understand the challenges of their elders; older ulama who have had to make huge sacrifices like travelling great distances, having no support structures, and living under difficult conditions, all in their quest to learn and teach deen. The sacrifices of their wives, children and family members, and the support of the

community, too, cannot be undervalued.

For the first 3 categories of Imamat, Teaching, and Community Work; the criteria were 30 years of service within Lenasia for ulama living in Lenasia or serving via an organisation in the Lenasia area.

A fourth category of Innovative or Impactful Service was added on for younger ulama who have made an impact in Lenasia and surrounds.

This category was based on nominations received from the community.

The event took place at the Nurul Islam Masjid in Lenasia on the 03rd of November 2023. Ulama and the community in attendance praised and acknowledged this remarkable initiative and step in the right direction. An audio recording of the entire programme may be accessed from the following Soundcloud link:

<https://soundcloud.com/radioislam/the-qari-yousuf-noorbhai-ulama-awards>

Whilst we acknowledge those still amongst us, we cannot forget to acknowledge those who have passed on; may Allah reward them and their families for their tremendous sacrifices, and fill their quboor with Noor.

To conclude, in the words of Hakim-ul Ummah

'When you receive a gift, token, acknowledgement or certificate for your services, and the service was not motivated by the return, then this does not go contrary to the station of sincerity and nobility.'

The funds collected during the event to commemorate the Ulama of Lenasia have been directed towards supporting the construction of the Abu Bakr RA Masjid and Center project in Mpumalanga through the Shamsul Huda Foundation (JUSA Middelburg).

Find herewith the names of some of the Ulama of Lenasia that have passed on:

**Qr Y Noorbhai - Ml Fakhrudeen - Ml Ooni - Qr Sayed - Mf Hussein Bhayat
Ml Mahmood Timol - Ml Bayazid Pandor - Ml Nanabhai - Ml Ebrahim Loonat
Ml Hassan Loonat - Ml Yahya Bham - Ml Abdulah Nana - Ml Ebrahim Mia
Hfz Abdurahmaan Mia - Ml Muhammad Mia - Ml Anwar Varachia
Ml Yunus Varachia - Ml Naeem Jappie - Mf Qasim Cassim - Qr Barkatullah
Ml Ebrahim Bhamjee - Qari Habib Ahmed - Ml Omar Ravat - Qr Hanif Tickly**



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Ulama Profile.

QARI YOUSUF NOORBHAI

A man of the people, a man for all seasons, a man the likes of whom the community will never see again; Qari Haafidh Yousuf Noorbhai was an embodiment of all the categories of acknowledgement being awarded. In 1975,

Qari Sahib was appointed as the first Imam of the Nurul Islam Masjid, and not only did he fulfil that role par excellence, but extended it far beyond the Musallah, taking on the work of social welfare, counselling, teaching, and mentoring.

Qari Noorbhai had the remarkable ability to recognise and nurture talent, and to mentor young people. The name Qari Yousuf Noorbhai has become synonymous with the Nurul Islam Masjid, so much so that people from far and wide often refer to it as the Qari Noorbhai Masjid.

Qari Sahib's passion, dedication and much of what he believed in and stood for, still resounds in the hearts of many, even though he has departed from this world. Whilst most of us remember Qari Sahib for his melodious recitation of the Quran, he is also remembered by many as someone with a golden heart.

An Imam who was extremely punctual with salaah, Qari Noorbhai led the community of Lenasia for 10 years. He was so conscientious, that if he missed one salaah, he felt that he was not entitled to take remuneration for it. He often remarked that if you cannot do justice to the Musallah of Nabi ﷺ, then step aside and hand it over.

In 1985 he personally approached and

encouraged Ml Imran Hussain (Nabi), a young and inexperienced graduate, whom Qari Sahib groomed and encouraged to take up the post of Imamat. ***"You couldn't have found a better mentor than Qari Sahib. He moulded us into who we are today and constantly guided us with hikmah and love,"*** are Ml Imran's own words, and the very same sentiments are echoed by the current Imam, Ml Ahmed Saeed Bhigjee.

Qari Sahib remained the beacon of guidance for the Masjid officially until the late 90's, totalling approximately 25 years of his life.

Qari Noorbhai possessed all four qualities of Ahlul Quran, namely Tajweed, strong memorization, understanding and a beautiful voice. Incorrect Tajweed was something Qari Sahib never tolerated and he was never shy of correcting anyone. In the latter part of his life he would dedicate time to visit numerous Masaajid and educate people on how the Quran should be read.

Qari Sahib never changed the pace of his recitation, even when people objected to his slow reading, never compromising on the principles of Tajweed for the sake of people. Any Haafidh who led Taraweeh in front of him would bear testimony to the quality of his hifdh. This came as a result of intense love for the Quran and his outstanding memorisation skills. Qari Sahib would recite one Manzil a day and complete a khatam every week, remaining restless until his khatam was complete.

Qari Sahib was a proficient "saami" one who corrects mistakes of reciters during Taraweeh. His confident but gentle manner of correction eased the process for many a reciter. Even

though Qari Sahib did not formally study what is known as the Aalim Faadhil course, he had spent many years in Egypt studying Quran, Tajweed and Shariah, thus developing a good understanding of the Quran and the Arabic language.

The cherry on the top was Qari Noorbhai's melodious voice coupled with his unique style of recitation, which moved people to tears. People as far as Polokwane and Klerksdorp would travel specially to perform Salaah behind him. The Ramadhan atmosphere during the golden era at the Nurul Islam Masjid is something that many still yearn for.

In his role as a mentor, not only was Qari Sahib willing to hand over the reins, but he went to the extent of preparing, educating, encouraging, supporting and motivating new-comers; complimenting or correcting as the need arose.

A great testimony to his mentorship is the self-same qualities found in his co-imams. Both Ml Imran and Ml Bhigjee have given testimony to this and strive to live up to Qari Sahib's legacy. Often, to ease the nerves of many Huffaadh or Qurra, Qari Sahib would humbly hide his presence in the crowd or stand right at the back so that they could feel comfortable and at ease.

Qari Noorbhai formally studied in Egypt at the Al-Azhar university under various Qurra. His thirst for knowledge did not dry up, as he furthered his studies in Egypt in the latter part of his life. He had scores of certificates and was rated by many of his teachers in the top three amongst their students. Qari Sahib served as the principal of the Maktab and Hifdh Class at the Nurul Islam

Centre for over 20 years. He selflessly devoted himself for the upliftment of the Quran, privately tutoring his staff in the Maktab in his free time without charge, some of whom are still teaching

45 years later.

Qari Sahib also had the sterling quality of being in the forefront of social issues; resolving many family disputes and domestic issues. It was his burning passion to assist people in their emotional distress, hence the majority of his lectures and sermons were centred on solutions to social problems.

Qari Sahib was a welfare organization on his own. He took it upon himself to find money and personally distribute it to the poor. Eventually, Qari Sahib developed a personal database listing the poor, widows, Muadhin and Imams who were in need, even working amongst the underprivileged in Soweto, Eldorado Park and Kliptown, preparing individual envelopes and delivering it personally door to door. In certain crime-stricken and dangerous areas, he even required bodyguards, but this never deterred or stopped him in his care for humanity. As an Imam

he also participated in collecting funds for the Masjid.

Qari Sahib's character, efforts, love for the Quran, and dedication to the Nurul Islam Masjid left an indelible impression on musallees, students, colleagues and the community in general. His demise

left a deep void at Nurul Islam and his legacy is something we will forever try to uphold. Writing and researching about such an august personality and Imam was truly inspirational and served as an eye-opener into the understanding of what Imamat really is. May Allah accept every effort of Qari Haafidh Yousuf Noorbhai (ra) and fill his Qabr with the Noor of Quran and allow for us to follow in his noble footsteps.



أقرب الخلق من الله العلماء

الإمام ابن الجوزي رحمه الله

The closest of all creation to Allah are the Ulama

Category.

Imamat



Old Nurul Islam masjid



Saberie Jumuah Masjid (First Masjid built in Lenasia)



Old Rainbow Masjid





Imamat.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Maulana Ahmed Saeed Bhigji
Birthplace: Ghala: Surat, Gujarat, India
Qualifications: Haafidh; Aalim
Category: Imamat

Name: Maulana Hanif Bhamjee
Birthplace: Elandsfontein
Qualifications: Aalim; Hifdh
Category: Imamat & Teaching

Nominated for the category of Imamat at Nurul Islam Masjid, Ml Ahmed Saeed Bhigji grew up and schooled in India and learnt Hifdh at Madrassah Rahmaniyyah Khambia in Alipor, Surat.

Thereafter, Maulana commenced with his Alim fadil course at Darul Uloom Falaah Daarain Tadgeshwar, India, up until class 4. He then moved to South Africa and completed his class 5-dora Bukhari at Darul Uloom Zakariyya. Under the auspices of the illustrious Mufti Radha ul Haq Sahib, Maulana Bhigji did his Tamreenul Ifta course. Maulana taught for a few years in Darul Uloom Zakariyya and did a short stint as Imam at the Rainbow Masjid, Himaayatul Islam.

In June 1994, Maulana Bhigji began Imamat duties at Nurul Islam where he is currently still leading the congregation. Always smiling and jovial, Maulana did not allow the fact that he did not know much English deter him from performing Imamat at Nurul Islam Masjid and endearing himself to the community. A sympathetic and caring individual who puts himself forward offering condolences to the bereaved and congratulations to those experiencing joyful events like the birth of a child, Maulana Bhigji epitomises the essence of a community leader. Maulana has been residing in Lenasia for 32 years and amongst his students is the renowned orator and scholar Maulana Bilal Moola.

Nominated for the category of Imamat but also having an essential role in teaching, Maulana Hanif Bhamjee was born in Elandsfontein, Johannesburg.

Maulana went across to India to do his Hifdh-ul Quran course first in the village of Dabel and then Hardoi; later completing his Alim fadil course in Jalalabad.

Returning to South Africa after graduating, Maulana undertook an Imamat post in 1983 at the Jamiah Masjid in Lenasia, and has been involved in this service for the past 40 years.

Excluding the period of about one month in 2015 when he was assisted with his Imamat duties due to an accident he had been involved in, Maulana Hanif has been the sole Imam at this masjid.

In addition to this prestigious position, Maulana has also been teaching Hifdh & Maktab.

Maulana Hanif is well-known for his love of walking, when even during the hard Covid lockdown, Maulana would walk in either the masjid yard or within his own home for approximately 30 to 40 minutes daily.



Imamat & Teaching.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Maulana Ashraf Mulla
Birthplace: India
Qualifications: Aalim; Hifdh
Category: Imamat & Teaching

Name: Sheikh Ja'far Saleh
Birthplace: Birthplace: Malawi
Qualifications: Qualifications: Aalim; Hifdh
Category: Imamat

Maulana Ashraf Mulla, an esteemed figure in Quranic education, was born and raised in India, where his deep connection with the Quran began.

After completing his studies, including a transformative period with Maulana Maseehullah in Jalalabad, he dedicated himself to teaching in Bharuch, India. In 1996, he relocated to South Africa, where his impact on the community was profound.

At Madrasa Dawat ul Haq, he not only taught Nuraani Qaaidah but also played a pivotal role in its transformation into a center of learning and spirituality.

As the Imam of Masjid-e-Ashraf, he has led congregational prayers for 27 years, making him one of the longest-serving teachers and imams in Lenasia.

His legacy is evident in the countless students he has guided to become Huffaadh and Alim, shaping the community's faith and devotion for generations to come.



Sheikh Ja'far Saleh was born in Malawi at a place called Dedza. As a young man, Sheikh Ja'far left Malawi for Mombasa in Kenya where he studied the Aalim fadil course for 5 years.

Sheikh Ja'far then returned to his hometown in Malawi where he taught for 3 years.

When he eventually came to South Africa in 1985, Sheikh Ja'far took up the post of muadhlin at Shan-ul Islam Masjid for a few years before returning to Malawi for a year.

Sheikh Ja'far then came back to SA in 1989 and commenced Imamat at Masjid Bilal in Lenasia, where he was the only Imam for the first 12 years, and is currently still performing Imamat for the past 34 years.

أرفع الناس منزلة عند الله من كان بين الله

وبين عباده ۞ وهم الرسل والعلماء

سفيان بن عيينة رحمه الله

*The most esteemed in the sight of Allah
are those who serve as intermediaries
between Allah and His slaves.*

They are the Messengers and the Ulama




Imamat & Teaching.


30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Qari Nazir Ahmed Timol
Birthplace: Newlands, Johannesburg
Qualifications: Hifdh; Qari
Category: Imamat & Teaching

Name: Qari Ilyas Aswat
Birthplace: Luwara, India
Qualifications: Aalim; Hifdh; Qari
Category: Imamat

Son of Marhoom Ml Mahmood Haashim Timol  who was one of the founders of Maktab and Hifdh classes in Lenasia; Haafidh Qari Nazir Ahmed Timol was brought up in Market Street in the Johannesburg CBD and then moved to Lenasia, where he has been residing for the past 52 years.

Haafidh Nazir Ahmed attained his qualifications in Pakistan, and in Binnori Town and Hardoi in India under the auspices of Maulana Yusuf Binnori and Ml Abrarulhaq. Under the guidance of Qari Noorbhai, Haafidh Nazir Ahmed performed taraweeh for 2 years at the Nurul Islam masjid once he returned from his studies.

Qari Sahib had initially requested Haafidh Nazir Ahmed to read 4 rakaat of the salaah as his part, but seeing the potential in his student, he increased it to 12 rakaat. For 44 years, from 1979 until the present day, Haafidh Nazir Ahmed has dedicated his time to teaching at the LMA. He also held the prestigious position of Imamat at the Sufi Masjid for 34 years, and was the sole Imam at that masjid for 32 of those years. Some of his students include Ml Moosa Badat, Muhammad Akhalwaya (Board of LMA) and Ml Goolam Kara. All of his children completed their Hifdh and Alim fadil or Alimah courses, and his grandchildren are also Huffaadh. Haafidh Qari Nazir Ahmed would be honoured to dedicate this award to his late father .

Born in India and relocating to South Africa, Qari Ilyas Aswat has been in service of the LMA for the past 33 years.

Qari Ilyas began his Islamic studies in 1971 at an early age at Madrassah Jamiah Islamiyah Taleem-ud Deen in Dabhel, India.

It was here that Qari Sahib completed his hifdh-ul Quran; his Alim fadil course, and graduated from the Qira'at course.

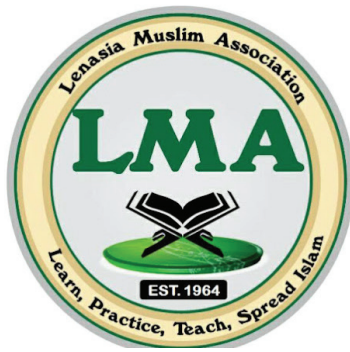
In 1983, Qari Sahib went on to attend Darul Uloom Deoband where he received tajweed sanad. Qari Ilyas initially began teaching in India at Darul Uloom Ashrafiyyah in Rander, Surat, as the head of Qira'at and tajweed.

A few years later, in 1989, Qari Sahib came to Durban in South Africa where he taught Hifdh and simultaneously performed Imamat at the Sunford Jamaat Khana.

In February 1990, Qari Ilyas took up the position of teaching at the Lenasia Muslim Association, where he is still teaching up until the current time. Four years later, alongside teaching, Qari Ilyas took up the post of Imam at the Banglawali Masjid in Extension 2 where he has been performing Imamat duties for the past 29 years.

Category.

Teaching





Teaching Hifdh.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Haafidh Mahomed Adam
Birthplace: Dundee; KZN
Qualifications: Hifdh
Category: Teaching Hifdh Classes

As the ninth child amongst 13 siblings, Hafidh Mahomed Adam's early years were spent in the rustic, charming town of Tayside, near Dundee, KZN.

A profound spiritual shift occurred in young Hafidh Mahomed's parents' life with the inaugural Ijtima in Dundee in 1968; guiding them to set their son on a journey to become a Hafidh.

At the tender age of 13, Hafidh Mahomed left school, and in 1969, alongside three other boys, Hafidh Mahomed set sail for Pakistan. They enrolled at Mufti Zainul Arbedeen's Madrassah, Darul Uloom, in what was then called Lyallpur (now Faisalabad).

Under the expert guidance of Qari Abdul Aziz, Hafidh Mahomed mastered his Hifdh studies and returned to South Africa in 1973.

By 1974, he honed his skills at Newcastle Darul Uloom, studying under Maulana Qasim Sema. However, it was in Lenasia, under the wing of the illustrious Qari Yusuf Noorbhai at LMA, where Hafidh Mahomed's understanding of the Quran deepened, and his comprehension of Islamic teachings and philosophy broadened.

Qari Noorbhai's passion, wisdom, and commitment were infectious, laying a solid foundation for Hafidh Mahomed's future teaching career.

Owing to his fluency in Zulu, and with the insights gained from Qari Noorbhai, LMA established a madrassah for the children of Soweto, overseen by Maulana Banoo.

When the time came for Qari Noorbhai to transition to Nurul Islam, Haafidh Mahomed, with a heart full of gratitude and respect, followed.

For 17 years, he poured his soul into teaching Hifdh classes there. Later, cherishing his autonomy, Haafidh Mahomed initiated his own classes, serving students from both Lenasia and Soweto. Today, he runs a thriving madrassah in Soweto and has been teaching cumulatively for an astounding 45 years.

إن الله وملائكته

وأهل السموات والأرض

يصلون على معلم الناس الخير

الإمام ابن القيم رحمه الله

Indeed Allah, the Angels and all the pure inhabitants of the heavens and earth send salutations of the one who teaches good



Teaching Hifdh.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Haafidh Adam Jacob
Birthplace: Rustenburg
Qualifications: Hifdh
Category: Teaching Hifdh Classes

Teaching Hifdh for the past 32 years, Hafidh Adam Jacob was born in Rustenburg but moved to Lenasia while he was still young.

Commencing his Hifdh-al Quran learning under Qari Yusuf Noorbhai, Hafidh Sahib then went on to Mia's farm and completed his memorisation of Quran.

Thereafter Hafidh Adam went to Hardoi where he did his dhor under the auspices of Hadhrat Maulana Abrarul Haq.

Hafidh Sahib then went on to study a few years of the Alim course at Darul Uloom Azaadville.

In 1990/1991, Hafidh Adam started teaching at the Nurul Islam Masjid in addition to assisting Ml Imran Nabi with Imamat.

Around 1994, he moved over to masjid Ashraf where he served for approximately 16 years.

Subsequently, Hafidh Adam went to teach at Khanqah Sheikh Zakariyya and eventually began his service with Ml Yaseen Cajee at Darul Quran Hifdh Academy, where he still teaches up until the present.

Hafidh Sahib had many students, amongst them: Hafidh Azhar Vadi; Mufti Ahmed Dhorat; Qari Yusuf Osman and Ml Yusuf Ravat.

إن لم يكن أولياء الله في الدنيا والآخرة الفقهاء والعلماء فليس لله ولي

الامام أبو حنيفة رحمه الله

***If the Fuqaha and Ulama are not among the Friends of Allah (Awliya),
then who else stands a chance?***

العلماء هم ضالتي في كل بلد، وهم بغيتي إذا لم أجدهم

ووجدت صلاح قلبي في مجالسة العلماء

ميمون بن مهران رحمه الله

***Wherever I go, I earnestly search for the Ulama, and if at first I do not find them,
I intensify my search, and I find solace in their company***



Teaching at Darul Uloom.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Qari Rashid Ahmed Dabhelia
Birthplace: Johannesburg
Qualifications: Hifdh; Alim fadil; Qira'at
Category: Teaching at Darul Uloom

Name: Ml Mohammed Wadiwala
Birthplace:
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh
Category: Teaching

Teaching for 33 years at Darul Uloom Zakariyya, Qari Rashid Ahmed Dabhelia was born in Johannesburg and thereafter brought up in Lenasia.

Qari Rashid commenced his Hifdh journey under the tutelage of Maulana Mahmood Timol. Qari Sahib was then taught by Maulana Ebrahim Mia at the Jaamia Masjid and then by Qari Yusuf Noorbhai at Nurul Islam.

Qari Sahib then went on to Dabhel, India, where he completed his Hifdh; his Alim fadil course; and his Qira'at studies.

In January 1990, he began teaching at Darul Uloom Zakariyya where he still teaches until today. Some of his students include the renowned scholar and orator Maulana Sulaiman Moola; Maulana Mohammed Monia; Maulana Ashraf Varachia; and Mufti Mohammed Bulbulia.

Qari Rashid Ahmed also holds programmes covering the subjects of Tafseer, Hadith, Fiqh and Seerah at Masjid Noor, Saaberie Masjid and Masjid Ashraf.

A humble and dedicated individual with a pleasant nature, Maulana Mohammed Wadiwala commenced the Alim Fadil course at Darul Uloom Zakariyya and completed at Karachi Binnori town, and has been involved in the service of teaching for the past 33 years.

Immediately after graduating, Maulana taught at the Jamiah Masjid in Lenasia. Shortly thereafter, Maulana Mohammed commenced teaching Maktab at the Jamiah Khanqah Sheikh Zakariyya in Lenasia where he has played a primary role for the past 30 years.

Additionally, and also at the Khanqah, Maulana teaches the Alimah class, where girls from all over the world have benefited from his knowledge and wisdom.

Maulana Mohammed took formal bay'at under Maulana Ishaq Mia and Maulana Ebrahim Mia, and is a Khalifah at the Khanqah.

أمن أراد التَّظْر إلى مجالس الأنبياء فليُنظر إلى مجالس العلماء

سهل بن عبدالله التستري رحمه الله

If one wishes to catch a glimpse of what the gatherings of the Ambiya ﷺ were like, he should observe the majalis of the Ulama



Teaching at Muslim School.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Haafidh M. Suliman Vaid
Birthplace: Johannesburg
Qualifications: Hifdh
Category: Teaching at Muslim School

Hafidh Mohammed Suliman Vaid was born in Bree Street, Johannesburg but shortly thereafter, his family relocated to Dullstroom; Mpumalanga.

For much of his schooling he boarded in Pretoria and when he completed standard 8, he moved to Mia's Farm where he completed his Hifdh with Haafidh Abdurrahman Mia (ra).

However, Haafidh Mohammed's Hifdh journey was far from over, and in 1974, in order to perfect his learning of Quran, he left for India where he resided in his gam of Dhabhel for a few months. Soon thereafter, he moved to UP, Hardoi, where he restarted his Hifdh alongside other SA students.

Hafidh Mohammed returned to South Africa in 1980 where he and Ml Kaka established the Hifdh class at the Saaberie masjid. Having taught there for almost 5 years, Hafidh Mohammed then joined Madrassah Zakariyya.

When he first started there, the Darul Uloom premises were still in the process of planning to put up a madrassah so classes were taught from a house. This did not deter Hafidh Mohammed, who taught there for almost 10 years before the madrassah buildings were erected and Darul Uloom Zakariyya was fully functional.

Thereafter, Hafidh Mohammed joined LMS in 1991, started Hifdh class in Lenasia South, where he has been living for the past 35 years.

70 plus students completed Hifdh there, and up till today, Haafidh Mohammed still teaches there. Hafidh also joined the Lenasia Muslim school at the end of 1991 and continues to serve at the school occasionally, helping out when needed.

Amongst his students are Qari Ismail Aziz, principal of Madrasah Tarteelul Quran; Mufti Zaid Rangila living in the UK; Marhoom Ml Hamaad Modisi who converted over 5000 people to Islam. An asset to his students, Haafidh Mohammed Suliman Vaid still goes daily to Hifdh class to teach.



أَمَرَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

أَنْ نَنْزِلَ النَّاسَ مَنَازِلَهُمْ

عن عائشة رضي الله عنها

Rasulullah ﷺ instructed us to deal with each person at his level



Teaching at Muslim School.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Maulana Nazeer Jassat
Birthplace: Bethal, Mpumalanga
Qualifications: Hifdh; Alim; Honour Degrees
Category: Teaching at LMA & LMS

With a total of 30 years of service at the Lenasia Muslim Association & Lenasia Muslim School, encapsulating 25 years of Imamah and 25 years with the Lenasia Muslim School, Maulana Nazeer Ahmed Jassat is currently at the Rainbow Masjid, and works in a supervisory capacity at the LMA Maktab, as well as teaches at Madrassah Hamd (girls Darul Uloom).

Maulana Nazeer was brought up in Bethal and schooled in Standerton, and he commenced Hifdh with Marhoom Hafez Rashid Danka who started the Hifdh Program in Bethal. Attending Hifdh class at 5am and thereafter travelling 70 km's to Standerton daily for school, then Hifdh preparation again after Maghrib proved challenging for the young boy.

Things changed when Maulana Nazeer, on a trip to Cape Town with friends, ended up spending a night in the Cape Town Ijtima, which eventually culminated in Maulana enrolling for Hifdh at Darul Uloom Zakariyya in 1985 and completing his matric simultaneously at the Uloom through correspondence.

From 1988 until January 1994, Maulana Nazeer studied the Alim Fadil course at Darul Uloom Zakariyya. Upon his completion Maulana started teaching at LMA as an Ustaadh of the Bilal section and in the following year, at LMS, initially in the primary section and later as HOD finally

earning the title of CIO.

During his tenure at LMS, Maulana studied through the University of Johannesburg and achieved his honours in Islamic Studies, honours in School Leadership and Management, and his PGCE's.

Maulana's additional scholarship achievements include Muslim Personal Law, under Ml Faizel Manjoo; Mediation and Arbitration with Prof Rajah and Advocate Dolly. (JUSA)

Maulana Nazeer also established a social committee at the Rainbow Masjid; served as assistant treasurer at the Jamiat Lenz Shura and on the SGB at Alpha School, and is a founding member of Radio Islam International.

Maulana's Hifdh class has produced a number of Huffaadh. Maulana Nazeer Ahmed Jassat lives by the proverb: Always maintain flexibility in this ever changing world.





Teaching at Muslim School.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Ml Shabeer Rahim Khan
Birthplace: Ladysmith 1957
Qualifications: Hifdh; Alim fadil
Category: Teaching at LMS

Having resided in Lenasia for 37 years; before completing matric, Maulana Shabeer Rahim Khan was inspired by Ml SubhanAllah Khan and Ml Ismail Kathrada to become an Alim.

From 1972 to 1976, Maulana studied in Newtown Binnori town where he completed his Hifdh. He went to study in Hardoi and concluded his Alim fadil course in Jalalabad in 1985.

In 1995, Maulana achieved his B.A Honours in Islamic Studies and in 2015, he completed his PGCE's. The primary khidmat Maulana receives acknowledgement for is teaching.

From 1985, Maulana Shabeer started teaching at the LMA and after 3 years, he began teaching the senior classes. He later on became a supervisor, serving at the LMA for a total of 22 years. From 1988 to 1990, Maulana taught Hifdh classes at Darul Uloom Zakariyya.

For the following 29 years, Maulana taught Islamic studies and Life Orientation at the Lenasia Muslim School. In addition, since 1985, Maulana has been doing Imamat in Lenasia South where he started at Masjid Taqwa and is currently the Imam at Masjid 'Uthman Ghani.

At the Lenasia South Muslim Association, Maulana Shabeer serves as the Ameer of the Imams.

In addition to all these achievements, Maulana has been assisting with the social, welfare and burial department since inception.

Many students whom he has taught have achieved high qualifications in secular and Islamic studies and are serving leading roles in their respective places of employment.

Some of his students include Ml Sulaiman Bhayat; Imam and entrepreneur; and Mr Sulaiman Patel, principal at Al Iman School.



إن مثل العالم في البلد

كمثل عين عذبة في البلد

ميمون بن مهران رحمه الله

The example of an Alim in a town is like that of a refreshing spring providing for the inhabitants of that town



Teaching at Maktab.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Maulana Abdul Wajied Kaldien
Birthplace: Kliptown
Qualifications: Alim Fadil
Category: Teaching at LMA

Name: Maulana Ayub Mangera
Birthplace: Fordsburg; Johannesburg
Qualifications: Aalim; Qari, Hifdh
Category: Teaching at LMA

Nominated for his service in teaching; Ml Abdul Wajied Kaldien completed his schooling in Kliptown where he was born and brought up.

He went on to stay at Darul Uloom Newcastle in 1979 and completed his Alim Fadil course in 1984. Maulana undertook 2 years of Imamah in Mafeking and upon his return in 1987, he started teaching at the Lenasia Muslim Association where he is currently teaching.

Maulana also started Imamah in 1987 at Kliptown Masjid where he retains the post of Imamah. In Kliptown where he resides, Maulana founded a girls' Darul Uloom which offers a 5 year Alimah course with a primary focus on Arabic.

Many of the girls enrolled at the Darul Uloom are reverts and often the only Muslims in their family. Alhamdulillah, since inception, 94 Alimahs have graduated from the Uloom.

Alongside this, Maulana founded an Islamic school for underprivileged girls that accommodates 250 students and focuses on teaching Islamiyat to both Muslim and non-Muslim students.

Maulana Abdul Wajied is the ameer of the Uloom and the school, and an executive member of JUSA and JUSA South Gauteng Branch.

Maulana Ayub Mangera has been teaching at the Lenasia Muslim Association for the past 36 years.

Born and raised in Fordsburg, Johannesburg, Maulana Ayub completed his Hifdh-al Quran in Church Street under the famous hifdh Ustaadh Qari Abdul Hamid Sahib.

Between 1975 and 1987, Maulana spent his time in India where he completed his Alim fadil course as well as the Sab'ah Qira'at course in Dhabel.

Since 1987, Maulana Ayub has resided in Lenasia and has primarily been involved at the Lenasia Muslim Association.

In addition, Maulana is also a founding member of Radio Islam International and serves as an executive member of the JUSA South Gauteng Branch and the Nurul Islam Masjid.





Teaching at Maktab.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Ml Mohammed Amien Daya
Birthplace: Finetown, Johannesburg
Qualifications: Aalim; Hifdh
Category: Teaching at LMA

Name: Ml Mohamed Hoosein Goolbhai
Birthplace: Johannesburg
Qualifications: Aalim; Hifdh
Category: Teaching at LMA

Maulana Mohammed Amien Daya, a nominee for the category of teaching, commenced his Islamiyat studies at Mia's Farm and then headed to India where he completed his Alim fadil course in Dhabel at the Jamiah Islamiyah.

Maulana was well known for the Khidmah he rendered to his teachers during his student days. Residing in Lenasia, Maulana Mohammed Amien has been teaching the various Maktab classes as well as supervising Maktab classes at the Lenasia Muslim Association for the past 38 years.

Maulana was also a member of the JUSA South Gauteng Branch for a number of years; serving as part of the burial and welfare in the office. Although he suffered through a number of procedures which ultimately resulted in his leg being amputated, Maulana Daya is an embodiment of Radha bil Qadha. After the amputation of his leg, to this day, Maulana continues to benefit the LMA, its teachers and students.

Maulana is a soft and gentle person and being in his company leaves one with the impression that the love of this world has long left Maulana's heart. Amongst the stellar qualities of Maulana is the love for Allah. One will notice Maulana performing salaah with complete ease and tranquillity and reading lengthy rakaat of salaah.

Serving in a teaching capacity at the LMA for the past 32 years as a Maktab Ustaadh, and an executive member of the JUSA South Gauteng Branch for the past 24 years, Maulana Mohamed Hoosein Goolbhai is nominated for the category of teaching. Since 1989, Maulana has also been serving the Muslim community of Zakariyya Park in the capacity of vice Ameer as the vice Chairman, where he also performs Imamat.

He is also on the board of both masaajid: Masjid Salman and Masjid Zin Nurain Shurah. In addition, Maulana Mohamed Hoosein represents his community on all the sub committees which include the masjid and madrassah building maintenance committee; the welfare committee and the burial committee.

The Jumuah roster for both Masaajid is prepared by Maulana Mohamed Hoosein. Maulana has also established a madrassah in Vlakfontein with 280 children in attendance. Since Covid, this madrassah has relocated to Zakariyya Park and every Saturday, they feed 70 children.

The welfare organisation distributes 150 hampers every month sponsored by Al Imdaad and an anonymous donor, and every Ramadhaan, they distribute 1700 hampers. Maulana always wears a smile and brings out smiles with whomever he meets.



Teaching at Maktab.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Maulana Abdullah Sayed 🕌
Birthplace: Lichtenburg
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh
Category: Teaching at LMA

Before he was born, Maulana Abdullah Sayed's father was the muadhin at the Klerksdorp masjid. Imam Sayed would slaughter chickens for some Hindu people in the community where he met a staunch Christian woman who was working for these very same Hindus.

He invited her to the deen of Islam which she initially refused, but when he invited her into the masjid, she immediately accepted Islam and married Imam Sayed.

Maulana Abdullah Sayed was born in Lichtenburg but moved to Fietas with his family as a youngster, and schooled there with his siblings. In 1972, his father passed away, and in 1974, Maulana Abdullah commenced his Hifdh learning at Mia's Farm under the tutelage of Maulana Abdurrahman Mia.

Completing in 1975, he did dhor in 1976 and then went on to Newcastle Darul Uloom where he did dhor for a further 2 years under Maulana Mansoor-ul-Haq.

Maulana Abdullah started his Alim fadil course in 1979 and graduated under Ml Sema in 1984. Maulana taught at Darul Uloom Newcastle for 1 year and then moved to Darul Uloom Zakariyya where he taught for the next year.

Subsequently, Maulana came to the LMA where Maulana Nanabhai was the principal, and continued teaching there and at the LMS for almost 30 years.

Maulana Abdullah also taught for 10 years at the Eldorado Park Muslim School. At present, Maulana is doing Imam at Masjid Taqwa in Lenasia South and teaching at Bilal Combined School. In addition, Maulana took bay-at the hands of Mufti Ebrahim Mia; and after his demise, to his son Maulana Ishaq Mia.

Many members of Maulana Abdullah's family, including his two brothers and a few of his nieces and nephews are also ulama and involved in the work of deen. Maulana Abdullah Sayed believes that the secret of youth lies in teaching the deen of Allah ﷻ.

Shortly after the Ulama awards, Maulana had returned into the mercy of Allah Ta'ala.



Category.

Community Work





Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Ml Mohamed Seid Banoo
Birthplace: Vrededorp, Johannesburg
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh
Category: Community Work - LMA

Maulana Mohamed Seid Banoo's early days were spent in Fietas, Kliptown, Sophia Town and Mia's Farm, and since 1972, he has been residing in Lenasia. From 1965 to 1967, Maulana attended Darul Uloom, Deoband, and from 1968 to 1971, he continued studying at Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama before moving over to Jamiah Ashraf in Lahore.

Upon his return to South Africa, Maulana did Imamat first at Masjid Noor then at Masjid Bilal for a total of 17 years. Among Maulana's primary khidmat that he is receiving acknowledgement for, is for teaching at the Lenasia Muslim Association and his contribution to the LMA syllabus.

In collaboration with Qari Yusuf Noorbhai, Maulana Mohamed Seid formalised the talimi education system through the establishment of the curriculum and the writing of books; namely: Deenyaat part 3-7; Siratun Nabi part 1-4; the Four Khulafah; Fiqh part 1-4; and Quran Pre-Primer.

Maulana has also written 4 books related to hajj and umrah and has performed hajj as a tour guide for 21 consecutive years. In his capacity of management at the LMA, Maulana is involved in teacher training and development as well as assessments.

Maulana Mohamed Seid is also involved in community work which includes burial services, counselling, amil and healing work, and the establishment of ilmi teaching for disabled children at JISWA and other organisations.

Maulana was honoured with being associated with Hadhrat Maulana Abul Hasan Nadwi ra, and spending the last 10 days of Maulana Ali Mian's life with him, as well as supervising his ghust before his janazah which was attended by over a million people.



ومن أطلق لسانه في العلماء بالثلب

ابتلاه الله قبل موته بموت القلب

الإمام ابن عساکر رحمه الله

**Whoever defames an Alim,
Allah afflicts them with the death of
the heart before their physical death**



Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Ml Mohammed Galid Pandor

Birthplace:

Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh

Category: Community work - LMA

Name: Maulana Yusuf Wadee

Birthplace: Johannesburg

Qualifications: Alim Fadil

Category: Community Work - JUSA

A senior Alim of the community, Maulana Mohammed Galid Pandor graduated from Darul Uloom Deoband over 45 years ago as an Alim, and returned to South Africa where he commenced his Maktab teaching journey.

In service of the Lenasia Muslim Association for 44 years, Maulana Pandor was initially an educator and then from 2001, he served as the principal of the entire LMA organisation with all its various branches, a post which he currently still holds.

Maulana was a key role player in the establishment of the Ulama of Lenasia which was founded with the intention for the ulama to be more accessible in their service to the community.

This organisation subsequently evolved into the Jamia-tul Ulama and then JUSA South Gauteng Branch, where Maulana serves as an executive member. At a very difficult time in the history of Nurul Islam, Maulana Pandor came in as chairman, a position which he held for 10 years. Maulana revived a dying school and converted it from a standard Islamic School into a Girl's only Islamic school, the first of its kind, where classes from grades 1 to 12 are taught. Maulana Mohammed Galid Pandor thrives on his passion for the Quran and conducts Tafseer programmes at the Nurul Islam Masjid and the Rainbow Masjid.

Maulana Yusuf Wadee and his only brother, Mohammed, grew up in Sophiatown, Johannesburg. Maulana commenced his basic kitaabs whilst still in South Africa and tajweed with Qari Noorbhai before leaving for India to study the Alim Fadil course. Commencing with his studies initially at Deoband Madrassah, Maulana Yusuf then went on to Banda where he completed his Alim course under Maulana Siddique Bandwi. Upon his return to Johannesburg, Maulana married his Khala's daughter. Despite not having children, Maulana has become a spiritual father for the community of Lenasia.

Maulana's deeni khidmat included teaching afternoons at the Lenasia Muslim Association up until 1997 while working at the Jamiat-ul Ulama in the mornings. Since 1998, Maulana Yusuf has been the Ameer of Da'wah wal Irshad; Jamiat-ul Ulama, as well as an executive member of JUSA South Gauteng for the past 38 years. Maulana is also Ameer of the Tasheel series; where he has worked on the preparation of the Islamic Maktab syllabus from grade 1 to grade 12, as well as a kitaab series for younger learners. Additionally, Maulana co-ordinates the South African Ulama Forum; is the Ameer of the Cape Town madaris and has been instrumental in founding the Ulwazi Skills Centre; Habbatul Ilm, and the Male and Female Frail Care Centres. Maulana Yusuf recently joined the committee at Madrassah Aisha and is a founding member of Radio Islam.



Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Ml Mohammed Abdul Hay Kaka
Birthplace: Brits
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh
Category: Community Work

Considered to be one of the most senior Ulama alive in Lenasia, Maulana Mohammed Abdul Hay Kaka's lifetime of service and dedication has earned him a well-deserved nomination for the prestigious Qari Yousuf Noorbhai Ulama Award.

Born in Brits and brought up on Mia's Farm, Maulana studied at Mia's Farm in the early 60's, and became the first Hafidh to complete under the auspices of the esteemed Ustaadh Hadhrat Hafidh Abdurrahman Mia (ra).

In the late 60s, he journeyed to Karachi, Pakistan, spending a decade learning deen and serving his asatidha; namely, Maulana Yusuf Binnori (ra), who left an indelible mark on Maulana Kaka, influencing his path of service and dedication.

Upon his return to South Africa, Maulana Kaka took on the role of Imam at Saaberie Masjid in Lenasia, and played a pivotal role in establishing Karsie Dorp Masjid.

A founding member of the JUSA South Gauteng Branch, and an executive member JUSA, Maulana's dedication to khidmat spans over 4 remarkable decades.

The Lenasia branch of the Jamiat, nurtured by his unwavering dedication, has grown into a diversified organization serving masjid, welfare departments, prisons departments,

and burial departments. Recognizing the need for female education, Maulana Kaka pioneered the establishment of Madrasa Aisha for Alimah courses, as well as the Ulwazi Skills Development Centre, empowering underprivileged new Muslimahs with education and knowledge.

Maulana Kaka's dedication was not confined to official roles. He offered counselling to countless couples facing difficult times, often extending these sessions late into the night.

Maulana Kaka's contribution to the Deen extends to the establishment of Radio Islam, and to the board of the South African Halal Association (SANHA), where he played an essential role in ensuring the sanctity of halal practices.

Maulana also played a vital role in the Muslim Prison Board. Maulana Mohammed Kaka's life, a tapestry of service and dedication, is an inspiration for the ummah.





Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Maulana Heider Ali Dhorat
Birthplace: Lichtenburg
Qualifications: Aalim; Hifdh
Category: JUSA & Radio Islam International

Chartering into territories unknown, Maulana Heider Ali Dhorat is a true visionary who has been serving the community for over 30 years.

Maulana is responsible for a number of innovative projects like Radio Islam where he is the Amir; founding the Lenasia Muslim School where is still the chairman; pioneer of the RI mobile clinic which visits various locations to distribute medicine for free, as well as the Rescue 786 ambulance services.

Additionally, Maulana Heider Ali sat on the board of Nurul Islam; is the assistant secretary general of JUSA South Africa; an executive member of JUSA SG; and a Shura member of JUSA South Africa.

Maulana has always had good interaction and relationships with local ulama as well as ulama from abroad, and has received khilafat from Mufti Radha-ul-Haq Sahib.

Maulana Heider Ali always kept his work hidden, not even mentioning some of his community work to his own children.

Growing up in Lichtenburg where he helped in his father's shop, Maulana completed his matric in Pakistan while attending Jaamia Faruqiya under Ml Khalil-ullah Khan (ra).

He came back to SA 2 years into the course and then went on to complete his Alim Fadil course in Newtown.

Maulana Heider Ali then returned to Lichtenburg where a number of his family and community members completed their Hifdh-ul-Quran under his tutelage.

Thereafter, Maulana moved to Lenasia, teaching first at Darul Uloom Zakariyya and then at the LMA.

Currently, Maulana is also active in the work of Tabligh and is involved in the running of the security in Lenasia.



من السنة أن يوقر أربعة

العالم ❖ وذو الشيبة ❖ والسلطان ❖ والوالد

الإمام طاروس رحمه الله

**It is from the Sunnah) to honor four:
the Alim, the Elderly,
the Muslim Leader, and one's Parents**



Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Maulana Ismail Choonara
Birthplace: Heidelberg
Qualifications: Hifdh; Alim
Category: Community Work - JUSA

Maulana Ismail Choonara was born in Heidelberg where he completed his Hifdh course, and then left South Africa to pursue the Alim Faadhil course in Jalalabad.

Upon his return Maulana served for a brief period as Imam and Maktab ustaadh in outlying areas and finally settled in Lenasia in 1985, where he established himself as a renowned Hifdh Ustaadh. Alongside Imamat, Maulana Ismail served as a Maktab Ustaadh for over 10 years at the Saaberie Madrassah and gave talks on the spiritual significance of Haj and held special weekly discourses.

Being nominated in the category of community work, Maulana became actively involved in establishing the Jamiat office in Lenasia where much time was given towards welfare cases and the establishment of the Jamiat burial department.

He served as vice-chairman of the Lenasia Muslim burial society and was the Ameer of the Jamiat in Lenasia for one year. Amongst the youth, Maulana Ismail was instrumental in getting schools to close before Jumuah in order for learners to perform Jumuah salaah and was also responsible for introducing the concept of giving young Huffaadh the opportunity to lead Taraweeh salaah.

Maulana holds the title of principal of the combined madaaris in Eldorado Park under the auspices of the Jamiat.

Pivotal in the role of establishing the Lenasia Muslim School where he is still active to date, Maulana Ismail is also a founding member of the Association of Muslim Private schools.

At the time of the Somalia drought, Maulana assisted in aid collection and was part of the delegation that personally delivered more than 90 tonnes of aid.

Maulana was also part of the delegation that addressed the ANC prior to taking power, with regard to not becoming radically modernised in the interest of the running of the country. Additionally, Maulana was also a founding member of Radio Islam International which continues to benefit the ummah today and was involved in initiating the Lenasia Eidgah.

Maulana Ismail Choonara is currently 68 years old and serves as an active member of the Jamiat-ul Ulama in his capacity as a senior inspector in the Taalimi Department.





Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Ml Saber Mahomed Ismail
Birthplace: Vrededorp
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh
Category: LMA & JUSA

Name: Maulana Ali Asmaljee
Birthplace: Germiston
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh
Category: Masjid Hamzah & JUSA SG

Completing his Hifdh-ul Quran under the tutorship of Hafidh Abdurrahman Mia (ra) at Mia's Farm, Maulana Saber Mahomed Ismail was born in Vrededorp and has been residing in Lenasia for the past 44 years.

Maulana commenced his Alim Fadil course in Dabel, India and then completed his last two years at Darul Uloom in Deoband. For the past 43 years Maulana Saber has been teaching and supervising Maktab at the Lenasia Muslim Association.

Amongst his students are Qari Ismail Abdul Aziz, Maulana Ebrahim Eshak, Dr Imraan Hoosen & many others. Maulana Saber's service extends to community work, the category for which he is being nominated. As an executive member of JUSA South Gauteng Branch, Maulana serves as Amir of the Eid Gāh (the biggest in SA) committee. Moreover, Maulana Saber is also one of the founding members of Al-Aqsa School Lenasia and still holds the position of a board member for the past 23 years.

Maulana served at Channel Islam International for about 10 years and was amongst the founding members of Radio Islam International where he served for approximately 5 years. In addition, Maulana Saber has also held the post of Imam and teaching at the Jāmiyah Masjid for 3 years from 1980 to 1982.

Brought up in Germiston and completing his matric in Benoni, Maulana Ali Asmaljee commenced his Alim fadil course with Maulana Abdul Hamid in Germiston.

In that period, Maulana Abdul Hamid relocated to Darul Uloom Azaadville, and Maulana Ali went along with him to continue his studies up to his fifth year. Maulana Ali then went on to Deoband, India, where he studied for a further 2 years.

Upon his return, he taught for 2 months in Germiston and thereafter, on the advice of Maulana Abdul Hamid, he moved to Lenasia, Extension 9 where he was the senior Imam at Masjid Hamza for 18 years and carried out Maktab service for 25 years. In 1990, Maulana Ali began teaching at the Lenasia Muslim School where he has taught for the past 34 years. Additionally, Maulana helps in the masjid doing Tafseer, conducting Jumuah programs, and assisting with mayyits.

Maulana Ali also heads the welfare work in Extension 9 which was started by the Jamaat in 1992, helping over 90 needy people on a monthly basis. Maulana Ali is also part of the JUSA South Gauteng Branch since inception in 1986 where he is an executive member and is in charge of the welfare committee, where there is a dire need for khidmat.



Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Qari Basheer Patel
Birthplace: Roodepoort
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh; Qari
Category: Al- Tawheed Foundation

Residing in Lenasia since the age of 3, Qari Basheer Patel commenced his Hifdh-ul-Quran under Maulana Ebrahim Mia, and completed under Maulana Muhammad Kaka.

Qari Sahib studied the first 2 years of his Alim Fadil course in New Town, Karachi, then proceeded to Dabhel, India where he qualified in the dars nizami and qira'tul ash'r al-kubra, under the famed Qari Ahmedullah al-Qasimi.

In 2007 Qari Basheer enrolled for an honours degree in semitic languages at UJ, and thereafter taught for 2 years in Warrenton; a year at the Newcastle Darul Uloom; and in 1992, moved back to Lenasia for Imamat responsibilities at Shan-ul Islam Masjid, where he also established a Hifdh class.

Qari Basheer co-founded the Al-Tawheed Institution focusing on da'wah and taleem of revert Muslims, and established Jamiat-ut Tawheed in which the dars nizami is taught with a special emphasis on Quranic and Qira'at sciences. Various qurra were awarded sanads in the 7 and 10 Qira'at.

Amongst the many local and foreign students who read to Qari Sahib was Qari Basheer Farah Yusuf who was the first to read the 7 Qira'at; as well as Qari Sahib's own daughter - Hf Juwairiah Patel who is busy completing the recitation of the 10 major Qira'at together with her husband;

Hf Dr Masood Bhaila. Qari Basheer is also the co-founder of the South African National Quran Council which organises Quran Competitions for South African Huffaadh countrywide.

Winners are sent to various international Quran competitions like the King Abdul Aziz competition in Makkah, the All-Africa Quran Competition in Tanzania, and the Al-Tibyan competition in the USA.

Qari Sahib has also been serving on the board of RII for the last 10 years and is being appointed chairman of the new board. Additionally, Qari Basheer is a founding member of Hilal TV and also served on the Shura council of JUSA South Gauteng Branch where he is currently still an executive member.



العلماء منار البلاد

منهم يقتبس النور الذي يهتدى

الإمام عبيدالله بن جعفر رحمه الله

*The Ulama are the Lighthouses of the lands,
from whom one draws the guiding light*



Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Mufti Rashid Ahmed Moosa
Birthplace: Durban
Qualifications: Ifta, Alim; Hifdh
Category: LMA & Madrasah Rashidiyyah

After completing his Islamic studies in India, Mufti Rashid Ahmed Moosa returned to his hometown of Durban, and soon thereafter, his taqdeer opened up in Lenasia at the LMA for their syllabus and teaching. In those years, Maulana Banu and Maulana Nanabhai were joint principals.

Mufti Sahib himself started the first printing press for the Lenasia Muslim Association and became involved in curriculum development and publications for over 20 years.

Disillusioned with secular nursery rhymes like Humpty Dumpty, Mufti Moosa saw the need for an Islamic rhymes book. Forty years ago.

Mufti Sahib prepared the book: '64 Rhymes for Muslim Children', a hit throughout South Africa and the whole of Europe.

More than a million copies were sold, creating an awareness of Islamic literature, and subsequently, Mufti Moosa taught and trained many young people to write Islamic books and prepare colouring books.

There was also a need for madrasah after-hours for students attending private 'white' schools so night madrasah was initiated at the LMA. Because many school students did not attend

Jumuah prayers in those years, Mufti Moosa, along with the late Maulana Yahya Bham and others, founded the first Islamic School, a concept which then took off throughout South Africa.

Mufti Sahib also runs Madrassah Rashidiyyah of which he is the founder and principal for the past 40 years, although he now specializes more in Fatawa work and in winding up Islamic estates.

Mufti Sahib is also amongst those who established Khidmatul Awwaam to make hajj more affordable for the hujjaj.

Mufti Moosa played a pivotal role in founding the Ulama of Lenasia. Mufti Moosa's policy was always to keep a low profile in getting a concept off the ground, and then moving on.

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ

وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ

المجادلة

*Allah will raise those, in ranks,
who have believed and those who
are given knowledge many fold*



Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Sheikh Dr Abdel Salam Jad Bassiouni
Birthplace: Cairo, Egypt; 1950
Qualifications: Hifdh; Bachelor Sharia Law; Master's Islamic Studies; and Da'wah, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Category: Al Tawheed Foundation

Sheikh Dr Abdel Salam Jad Bassiouni's life is in essence a dedication to the call of Islam, spearheading initiatives aimed at empowering individuals, nurturing the youth, and fostering a spirit of unity and growth within the community. Since coming to South Africa in 1990, Sheikh Bassiouni's primary mission was the upliftment of the indigenous communities of South Africa through education and development.

Born in Egypt, Sheikh Bassiouni relocated to Lenasia in 1990. His scholarly journey is adorned with prestigious accolades and profound achievements. An alumnus of Al Azhar University in Sharia and Law, he also holds a multitude of advanced degrees, including 2 Master's degrees and a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies. His intellectual prowess extends into academia as an Arabic lecturer at the University of Johannesburg, and as an author.

Amongst his literary contributions are: Needs of the Wise for Guidance of Teachers and Arabic for Non-Arabic Speakers. Central to Sheikh Bassiouni's mission is a profound dedication to da'wah and community work. In 1992, his establishment of the Al-Tawheed Foundation, where he holds the title of CEO, epitomises his devotion to spreading the divine message of Islam. Over three decades, the foundation has evolved into a sanctuary of spiritual enlightenment and community development,

with 20 flourishing centres across South Africa. In 2004, the Al Tawheed Foundation established Bilal Combined School and Bilal Technical College in Lenasia, where students can flourish academically and personally.

In 2012, Al Tawheed Foundation established Jamiatul Qurra in Lenasia, an institution dedicated to the study and memorisation of the Quran. The institution offers comprehensive programs in Hifdh and Qira'at, available to students on both a full-time and part-time basis. Notable students such as Maulana's Shabeer, Bilal, Dawood, and Ibrahim Edema exemplify the enduring legacy of the foundation.

He also founded, and was the chairman for 8 years of the United Arab Communities of South Africa (UACSA), an NGO which focuses on the welfare of Arab expats living in South Africa.

In addition, Sheikh is a member of both JUSA and UUCSA. Sheikh Bassiouni has been a transformative force in community development, establishing welfare centres in collaboration with various Muslim NGOs. Sheikh Bassiouni's legacy shines brightly in the achievements of his students, who have emerged as pillars of knowledge and community service; and his life's work which stands as a monumental testament to his impactful contributions.



Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Maulana Dr Ismail Valley
Birthplace: Vrededorp, 1954
Qualifications: Dentist; Maxillofacial Surgeon; Alim
Category: Crescent of Hope

Having achieved the pinnacle of achievements in both deen and dunya, Maulana Ismail Valley was born in Vrededorp but grew up in Kliptown.

He went on to study BSC at the University of Durban, Westville before going on to complete his degree in dentistry at the University of Western Cape.

Dr Ismail then specialised as a Maxillofacial and Oral surgeon at Wits. Ml Ismail's journey from medicine to becoming an Alim transpired after he had spent 40 days in Jamaat.

Studying kitaabs in Lenasia under local Ulama, Maulana went on to complete the Alim fadl course at Darul Uloom Zakariyya in 1992 and spent 3 years at Darul Ifta and also taught for a few years in Darul Uloom Zakariyya.

Maulana Dr Ismail Valley is a founding member and executive of the Crescent of Hope since 1993.

At the forefront of serving the community, he has travelled extensively with the organisation for humanitarian aid and relief purposes in many countries including Bosnia and Somalia.

Maulana Dr Ismail also had the opportunity of serving at the Gaza Shifa hospital with the Gift of the Givers, witnessing first-hand the severe

bombardment and destruction in the region. Additionally, Maulana Dr also serves as an executive member of the South Gauteng Branch of JUSA.

He was the executive member of Radio Islam International and for some time and hosted a medical programme. Maulana was also an executive member of Nurul Islam Centre and is an executive member and trustee at SANHA.

Maulana Dr Ismail Valley lives in Lenasia and still practices as a Maxillofacial surgeon at Lenmed Hospital.



العلماء هم ضالتي في كل بلد

وهم بغيتي إذا لم أجدهم

ووجدت صلاح قلبي في مجالسة العلماء

ميمون بن مهران رحمه الله

**Allah will raise those, in ranks,
who have believed and those who
are given knowledge many fold**



Community Work.

30 YEARS + OF SERVICE

Name: Haafidh Ismial Kholvadia
Birthplace: Pretoria North; Laudium
Qualifications: Hifdh
Category: Crescent of Hope

Name: Maulana Rafiq Valley
Birthplace: Johannesburg, 1966
Qualifications: Matric, Hifdh, Saba Qiraat Cousee, Alim
Category: Community Work - Publications

Born and brought up in Pretoria North; Laudium, Hafidh Ismial Kholvadia has been residing in Lenasia for the past 37 years.

Choosing to learn the Quran after completing standard 8 at school, Hafidh Ismial left for Pakistan in 1971 to learn Hifdh; and for about 2 years, he studied kitaabs as well, returning to South Africa in 1976. For over 30 years, Hafidh Ismial's primary khidmat has been in serving humanity to attain the pleasure of the Almighty, hence his nomination for the category of community work.

In September 1992, due to a crisis in Somalia and Kenya, Maulana Heider Dhorat requested Haafidh Ismial to accompany a delegation to those countries in order to assist in the distribution of aid, along with the Jamiat and Africa Muslim Agency.

Upon their return, they decided to form an organisation to assist less fortunate people around the world, and subsequently, the Crescent of Hope organisation was created. Since inception; Hafidh Ismial Kholvadia was elected as the deputy Ameer and up until today, he still maintains that position.

Furthermore, Haafidh Ismial is a member of SAHUC and has been serving the hujjaj in the capacity of Head of Mission for the past 15 years.

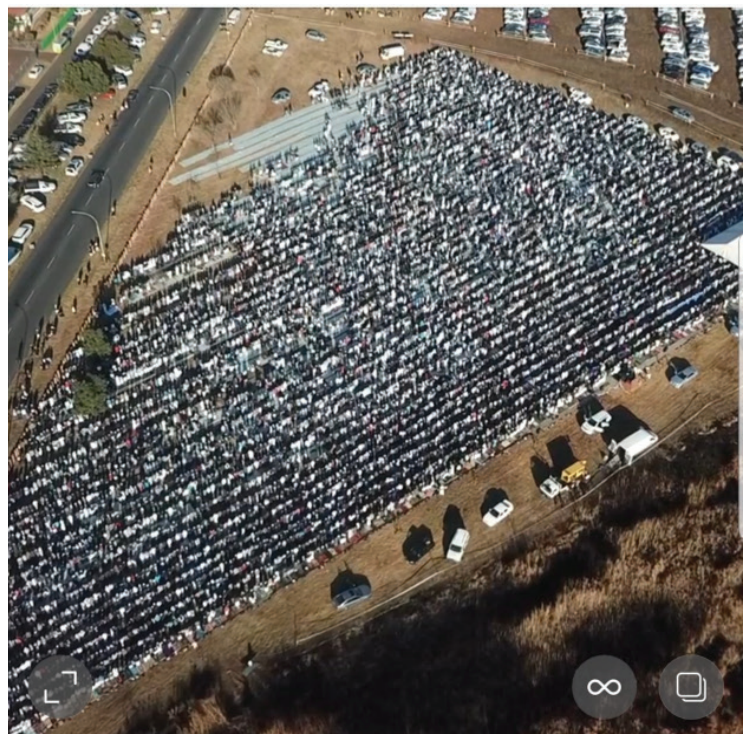
Born in Johannesburg, Maulana Rafiq Valley has been residing in Lenasia since the age of 4. Starting off his schooling at Alpha Primary and matriculating from Nirvana High School, Maulana then went on to pursue his Islamic studies. Being the first student to have completed from the beginning of Hifdh until the conclusion of Alim Fadil course at Madrasah Arabia Islamia in Azaadville, including the Saba Qirat Course, Maulana Rafiq Valley's primary khidmat soon turned to community work. During his time at madrassah, Maulana wrote a variety of books on many contemporary issues and is set to publish the twenty-first edition of The Crescent of Ramadhaan this Islamic year, as well as a new edition of The Haji's Companion. Maulana's main focus over the past 30 years has been community work. Ever since 1990, he has assisted in publishing numerous books on a wide range of topics. After completing his Alim course, Maulana embarked on his one year of jamaat. Upon his return in 1993, he began teaching at Madrasah Mueinul Islam, the girls' madrasa in Darul Uloom Zakariyya, where he taught for 24 years. Girls from all across the world; from America, South America and Australia, to Malaysia, Thailand and the African continent, attended the madrassah. At present, Maulana Valley is an executive member of and serves as treasurer of the South Gauteng Branch of JUSA, and has worked across many departments, including the social departments, of the organisation.

Category.

Impactful Service

As Nominated by the Community

Lenasia hosts the biggest Eid Gah in the country





Impactful Service.

NOMINATED BY THE COMMUNITY

Name: Maulana Yusuf Bhikoo
Birthplace: Lenasia
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh
Category: Dawah



An innovative and impactful Alim, Maulana Yusuf Bhikoo's main focus has always been the Iman of the ummah. Born and brought up in Lenasia, Maulana Yusuf graduated from his Alim Fadil course in 1991 from Darul Uloom Azaadville.

Maulana's initial years were spent teaching new Muslims in Soweto, where he established the Imaaniyaat effort in Soweto as well as in Lenasia. In 2005, Maulana Yusuf revived the effort of Imaaniyaat in South America, an effort which was almost dead, with very few practicing Muslims on the continent.

Throughout the countries of Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and Bolivia; Maulana played a key role in sending ulama to revive the deen on a continent where very few people even spoke English.

Coordinating the arrangements for these ulama; from their living quarters and families to their finances, Maulana managed to set up 16 da'wah centres across these countries, with a role count of over 10 000 students.

In addition, Maulana Yusuf runs Alim and Alimah courses, Hifdh classes, and two makatib locally.

Maulana is also involved in the effort of da'wah in South Africa and other countries. Iman-e-mudhaakirah; reminders on aspects of Iman, has

been introduced in Maulana's Maktab in Lenasia, and he has held workshops throughout South Africa to teach this concept.

Many people from other countries including Palestine, UK, Malaysia, Thailand, USA and Pakistan have come to learn the concept of Iman-e-mudhaakirah from Maulana Yusuf, to instil and incorporate it into their education systems.

Maulana Yusuf Bhikoo is nominated for impactful Imaaniyaat effort in South Africa and in South America.



الناس في حجور علمائهم
كالصبيان في حجور آبائهم

الإمام ربيعة بن عبد الرحمن رحمه الله

Spending time in the company of Ulama is as necessary and uplifting as it is for children enjoying quality time with their fathers.



Impactful Service.

NOMINATED BY THE COMMUNITY



Name: Mufti Sulaiman Moola
Birthplace: Lenasia
Qualifications: Ifta.Alim, Sab'ah Qira'at, Hifdh.
Category: International Orator

Born and raised in Lenasia, Maulana Sulaiman Moola's home environment played a huge role in motivating him to study Deen.

His honourable Dad would discipline him for his follies by making him read 40 Durood, and as a child, he can recall reciting the Durood Kitaab for hours. Every Friday, the Madrassah would send a few youngsters to deliver lectures and Maulana Sulaiman was amongst them, delivering his first Jumuah lecture at the age of 16.

This was the beginning of the road which culminated in Maulana Sulaiman Moola being nominated for the impact of his lectures worldwide. After performing his first umrah at 14, Maulana's next international trip was at the age of 17 to Australia to lead the Taraweeh salaah and deliver lectures.

As the years passed by, Allah Ta'ala blessed Maulana to address thousands of people in different countries around the globe. The highlight of these talks was the privilege Maulana had to deliver a lecture in Arabic, in Masjid-al Aqsa on the 27th Ramadhaan after completion of the Quran.

Maulana Sulaiman's respected dad critiqued his talks and delivery for years. After every discourse, he would alert Maulana to different aspects, ranging from vocabulary, to body

language and duration; and perhaps the thing he impressed upon Maulana the most was to meet people cheerfully after each lecture. Maulana often wondered if his dad would ever be proud of him, but Alhamdulillah, that day came and he is eternally grateful to his father for his coaching.

On the other hand, Maulana Sulaiman's mother would pray for him profusely, and her duas asking Allah to allow his speech to flow freely regardless of crowds, settings, or dynamics, are his biggest motivation.

In her own words: ***"Even if someone wakes you up from your sleep and asks you to speak, through the grace of Allah Ta'ala and my humble duas, you will be able to speak."***

Maulana attributes everything he has accomplished to the grace of Allah Ta'ala, the nurturing of his Dad, the duas of his Mum, and the pivotal role every teacher of his played in shaping him.

Maulana Sulaiman also offers social work privately in regard to substance abuse and marital conflict and he is the author of two books.

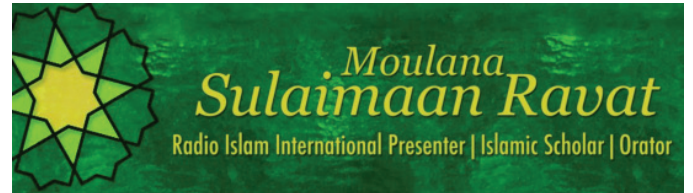
Maulana embarked upon the ifta course, and at the remarkable age of 48, has recently completed the course in India, earning him the honourable title of Mufti.



Impactful Service.

N O M I N A T E D B Y T H E C O M M U N I T Y

Name: Maulana Sulaimaan Mohummed Ravat
Birthplace: Lenasia
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh, Hons. in Islamic Studies
Category: Young Leadership in various Organisations



Taking on the responsibility of leadership and service to the community for the past 23 years, Maulana Sulaimaan Mohummed Ravat has been nominated for his innovative and impactful leadership in various organisations by a young Alim.

Maulana grew up in Lenasia where he commenced his Hifdh-al-Quran journey. With much of his youth spent in Lydenburg, Maulana Sulaimaan, under the tutelage of his uncle Marhoom Maulana Omar Ravat, also completed some of his Hifdh and eventually his dhor there.

Upon his return, Maulana spent time with Qari Yusuf Noorbhai, perfecting tajweed and revising dhor. After completing his matric, Maulana Sulaimaan began his Alim Fadil course at Madrasah Arabia Islamiyah.

Always a forward thinker, Maulana soon took up critical and important leadership roles. For almost 20 years, Maulana Sulaimaan has been the programmes manager at Radio Islam International; and is also the voice of Radio Islam on the ever-popular program: Sabahul Muslim.

In addition, Maulana serves at an executive level at the Jamiatul Ulama SA; he is an executive member of JUSA South Gauteng Branch; and is also the assistant secretary general of UUCSA.

Furthermore, Maulana Sulaimaan has been serving the Nurul Islam Centre for over 15 years. Maulana is currently the chairman of an organisation which includes the masjid complex, a nursery school, a fully-fledged girls' school; two halls; a complex of flats; and the business complex of the plaza, and is actively involved in the running of each department.

As a young Alim, Maulana has achieved a lot in his years of service at ground level; he has taken up the responsibility of leadership and key positions, and has prospered in every field.

Apart from this, Maulana has a weekly tazkiyah/khanqah programme and his educational and motivational lectures worldwide have a huge following.





Impactful Service.

N O M I N A T E D B Y T H E C O M M U N I T Y



Name: Maulana Mohammad Seedat
Birthplace:
Qualifications: Alim; Hons. in Religious Studies
Category: SA National Quran Competition

A truly impactful Alim, Maulana Mohammed Seedat is a graduate of Jāmi'a Maḥmoodiyah, Darul Uloom Springs, and holds an Honours in Religion Studies.

Maulana is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Roshnee Islamic School and was the Head of Islamic Studies (HOD) for the period 2013 – 2022; in addition to overseeing the full administration of six madaaris in South Africa.

Maulana Mohammad is recognised for impactful services for his work in founding the SANQC.

Alongside Qari Basheer Patel, Maulana hosted Quran Competitions on a local level under the auspices of the Cii Youth Foundation and the Association of Hifdh Madaaris.

In 2010, the religious attaché of Saudi Arabia requested Cii to host the National Quran Competition.

Over a period of time, the competitions merged, and the South African National Quran Committee (SANQC) was formed.

The intention and common goal was to promote Hifdh al Quran in recognising and raising the standards of recitation.

Maulana Mohammad Seedat is also the chairman of the Cii Youth Foundation, a board Member of Cii Radio and the Chief Financial Officer, as well as being a presenter on Cii Radio from 2003 – 2016.

As an Islamiyah syllabus curriculum developer, he has published three books for younger children and established a Maktab in the Lawley informal settlement.

Maulana Mohammad taught and supervised community development for the Lenasia Muslim Association in Eldorado Park during the period 2004 – 2010.

Additionally, Maulana holds the title of keynote presenter at the University of Johannesburg in the 2021 Religion Studies Orientation programme.





Impactful Service.

NOMINATED BY THE COMMUNITY

Name: Maulana Abdullah Ahmed
Birthplace: Lenasia
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh
Category: Youth development



Maulana Abdullah Ahmed grew up in Lenasia in Extension 13 where a lot of the youth in the area were unemployed and engaged in numerous illicit activities.

Seeing youngsters from good homes involved in crime and drugs; and the added cry of parents and friends, Maulana's concern was ignited to do something to help the youth.

After completing his Hifdh and Alim Fadil course (Darul Uloom Zakariyya); Maulana Abdullah's primary focus became the youth and he worked towards helping those suffering with drug addictions; in addition to doing the work of da'wah.

A church bought by Haafidh Muhammad Coovadia in the area was transformed into a youth centre, and every Friday night, the youth gather here to attend programs on different themes weekly with different activities.

In Ramadan, taraweeh is performed here and many youngsters from the community attend; daily Tafseer takes place; and meals are served.

Alhamdulillah this has created a strong connection between the youngsters and the Masjid.

The centre is also a da'wah Markaz where a lot of people come to accept Islam and acquire knowledge.

Some years later, Maulana Abdullah met brother Ahmed Hassem who was also doing similar work in Lenasia, and with the permission of Allah, they established a much-needed rehab centre after many years of working on the ground.

For the past 12 years, Ml Abdullah has played a key role in both the Muslim Youth Centre and the Lenasia Wellness Centre.

Maulana's motivation and inspiration is the happiness and joy of seeing parents and children uniting; and helping addicts to stay clean.

إياكم أن تؤذوا أحداً من العلماء
فإن من آذى عالماً فقد آذى رسول الله

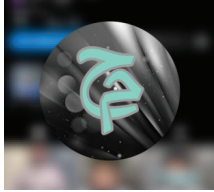
عكرمة رضى الله عنه

**Make sure not to cause harm to any Alim,
for causing pain to an Alim is akin to
causing harm to Rasulallah ﷺ**



Impactful Service.

NOMINATED BY THE COMMUNITY



Name: Mufti Hamzah Moola
Birthplace: Lenasia
Qualifications: Ifta ,Alim , Hifdh.
Category: Social Media

Born and raised in Lenasia, Mufti Hamzah Moola commenced his Hifdh-ul Quran journey at the age of 10.

Thereafter he pursued an Alim fadil course at the Jamiah Al-Ulum al-Islamiyyah for 6 years, graduating in 2020.

Mufti Hamzah then specialised in Fiqh at the ifta department of Darul Uloom Zakariyya, where he graduated before Ramadhān 2023 completing his matric in the same year.

In March 2021, Mufti Hamzah started serving as an Imam at Quwatul Islam Masjid.

Over the years, Mufti conducted various programs in different masajid, establishing connections with several communities and eventually found his niche amongst the youth.

Being nominated for the category of Impactful services, Mufti Hamzah Moola has made a strong impact on the youth through the world of social media (1mansvoice).

He found a massive and endless interest amongst the youth in online engagements.

This spurred him on to begin his online odyssey in 2021, creating bite-sized videos on various Islamic topics to engage the youth.

Since social media is a dynamic platform that demands continuous attention to deliver relevant and engaging content; Mufti Hamzah's main goal is to ensure that the online content he provides is captivating and riveting; structured for and directed to the Muslim youth.

Alhamdulillah, people worldwide have expressed the positive impact these videos have had on their lives.



إذا استطعت فكن عالماً
فإن لم تستطع فكن متعلماً
وإن لم تستطع فأحبهم
وإن لم تستطع فلا تبغضهم

عمر بن عبد العزيز رحمه الله

If you are able to, then become an Alim; if you cannot, then be a student; and if you still cannot, then love them, and if you can't do that, then do not despise them



Impactful Service.

N O M I N A T E D B Y T H E C O M M U N I T Y

Name: Maulana Yusuf Mohummed Ravat
Birthplace: Lenasia
Qualifications: Alim; Hifdh, Hons. in Islamic Studies
Category: Programme Coordinating



Nominated for the category of impactful and innovative service, Maulana Yusuf Mohummed Ravat has always had a passion for organising and coordinating programmes.

During his student days at the Jamiah al Ulum al Islamiyyah, Maulana would arrange Qira'ah programmes all over Johannesburg; where Qurrah of a high calibre would recite, with the sole intention of making the Quran more beneficial for the public and allowing people the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Quran.

Before graduating from his Alim fadil course, Maulana also took up part-time Imam at 2 masaajid in Lenasia.

For the past 5 years, Maulana Yusuf has been serving the Nurul Islam Centre as a full-time Imam and co-ordinating innovative programmes catering to various segments of the community which include male, female, the youth and the elderly.

The purpose of these programmes is to increase the deen and education of the attendees, keeping in mind the evolving nature of the community.

Some of these programmes at the Nurul Islam Centre are the male and female adult education classes, and the Jumuah platforms coordinating a series of discussions on contemporary issues at the various times of the year.

Additionally, the seasonal programmes at the Nurul Islam Centre with varying themes for every Islamic month, are gaining traction throughout SA and other countries that take their lead from the centre.

Last but not least, Maulana Yusuf Mohummed Ravat is the key coordinator of the Qari Yousuf Noorbhai Ulama Awards.

Maulana currently serves as the H.O.D of Islamiyat at Qurtuba Online Academy as well.





Ulama Awards.

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Nurul Islam Centre caters for the greater Lenasia and surrounding areas:

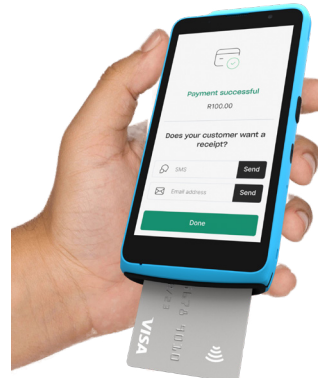
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Nurul Islam Centre

Acc No. 786 001 854 22

Branch Code: 800 000

Zakaat Account

Nurul Islam

Acc No. 786 002 699 10

Branch Code 800 000

Albaraka Bank

Nurul Islam Centre School of Excellence

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Musallah Appeal.

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Nurul Islam Centre caters for the greater Lenasia and surrounding areas:

- Vibrant and soul enriching programmes, classes and workshops in a spacious Masjid and auditorium with ample parking.
- Girls only School in an environment conducive for wholesome Deeni Taleem.
- Nursery School distinguished for excellence.

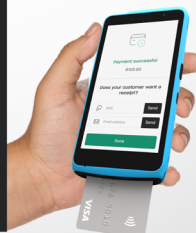
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