


**THE  
MUSALLA  
(EIDGAH)  
  
IN  
PORT ELIZABETH**



Published by:  
JAMIATUL ULAMA (Eastern Cape)  
P.O. Box 8049,  
Port Elizabeth

# **THE *MUSALLA* (EIDGAH) IN PORT ELIZABETH**

Rasulullah (sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) said:

**“Whoever adheres to my Sunnah at the time of the corruption of my Ummah will receive the reward of a hundred shuhadaa (martyrs).”**

In the desire to gain this immense and wonderful thawaab, the Jamiatul Ulama (Eastern Cape), more than 20 years ago initiated the Musallaa (eidgah) in Port Elizabeth. Allah Ta’ala is our Witness – and This Divine Testimony will be conspicuous for all to observe on the Day of Qiyaamah – that the sole motive for establishing the Eidgah was to revive the Sunnah of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) and to derive the wonderful thawaab stated in the aforementioned Hadith.

Our first Eidgah was on the site where today Musjid Mansoor stands. Thereafter we shifted the Eidgah from one site to another since we had no Waqf land for this purpose.

The Eidgah was established by the Jamiatul Ulama. The ex-imaams who are the students of the writer hereof were at that stage part of the Jamiatul Ulama and were our subordinates acting on our instructions.

The writer hereof (A.S. Desai) put them in charge of the Eidgah, Musjidul Fuqara and the madrasah of Musjidul Fuqara. They did not initiate any of these Projects nor did they inherit these from their fathers. Rather, they were our subordinates and juniors and were placed in charge of these Deeni Centres

and were acting in the capacity of subordinates. Their present stance is therefore one of grave insubordination.

## **THE PRESENT EIDGAH SITE**

During 1997, the writer hereof on behalf of the Jamiatul Ulama, approached the City Council to purchase ERF 968, the site of the present Eidgha. The City Council informed us that the ground was the property of Ready Mix materials, the Quarry. We approached the Quarry and by Allah's fadhli, Ready Mix materials granted us permission to indefinitely use the site (ERF 968) for the purposes of the Eidgha.

We have to emphasise that the Quarry assigned control and custody of the ground to us, to the Jamiatul Ulama, not to the ex-imaams nor to the unknown new body, Malabar Educational Trust, which they have spawned. The correspondence regarding the Eidgha is reproduced in this booklet to enable the Muslim community to see and understand the true state of affairs.

## **AFTER THE DISMISSAL**

After we had dismissed the imams of Musjidul Fuqara, they embarked to their attempts to undermine the authority and the rights of the Jamaat. In furtherance of this scheme, they applied to the Quarry for control of the Eidgha. In effect they desired the Quarry to repossess the Eidgha site from the Jamiatul Ulama and hand it to them.

Since the Quarry had changed ownership from Ready Mix Materials to Lafarge South Africa, the ex-imaams saw the opportunity of gaining control of the Eidgah. Hence, Mr. Anton barnard notified us that “Mr. N. Desai was the new applicant”.

For reasons best known to the ‘new applicant’ and the new owners of the Quarry, they (Lafarge) deemed it appropriate to appoint the ‘new applicant’ the “*mutawallis*” of the Eidgah. Thus, the position as it stands today is that we have the scenario of the kuffaar owners of the site cancelling the permission which the previous owners had granted, and at the instigation of the ex-imaams handing the ground to them.

## **UNISLAMIC**

While this action of the ‘new applicant’ is in conflict with the Shariah and un-islamic, the details of which we shall not discuss, unless we are pressed to do so, there may be some goodness in it for the community in that further dissension will be avoided if the Eidgah had remained under our jurisdiction. For some it would be intolerable to stand in the Eidgah as muqtadis. The danger of a rival ‘eidgah’ was therefore a distinct possibility. So, in the interests of the whole community and for the sake of a superficial unity – a unity at face value – it is best that the new applicants – the ex-imaams – be in control to enable them to have the imamate platform.

## MUQTADIS

As far as we are concerned, we have been muqtadis and ordinary musallis since the very inception of the Musjid and Eidgah more than two decades ago, officiating as Imaams only when necessary and very reluctantly. We therefore have no dilemma and no problem about performing Salaat behind those whom we have dismissed from the imamate. Even though their imamate at the Eidgah is Islamically untenable since they have usurped the rights of the Jamiatul Ulama with the aid of the non-Muslim new owners of the Quarry, we have no hesitation to perform Salaat behind them because the Shariah commands that Muslims perform Salaat behind even a faasiq if he happens to have grabbed that position. It is haram to split the Jamaat and break away from the Jamaat solely on account of the fisq of the imam although it is not permissible for those in charge to appoint faasiqs as imams.

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) said: "Whoever breaks away from the jamaat, dies the death of jaahiliyyah (i.e. the period of paganism, kufr and shirk which prevailed before the advent of Islam)."

We, therefore, give the assurance to all concerned, that we shall join the Muslim community at the Eidgah as ordinary musallis and derive the barakaat of this Sunnah of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam).

## OUR NASEEHAT

While we shall have no jurisdiction over the Eidgah proceedings, it is our duty to offer some Naseehat (advice and admonition) to the 'new applicants' regarding the manner in which they conduct the Eidgah. We put to them the following advice and we hope that they will put aside their malice and rancor and implement the naseehat we are offering:

- (1) The time of the commencement of Eid Salaat should be honestly stated. It has always been their habit to say that "Eid Salaat" will commence at a certain time, when by "Eid Salaat" they actually mean their talk. The Eid Salaat is not the talk or the lecture. There are those, including us, who have no inclination to listen to their lecture. They should therefore honestly announce the time when the Eid Salaat –i.e. the actual Salaat, will begin so that we arrive in time. This will obviate the need for some of us to wait in our cars for the Salaat to begin.
- (2) They should dispense with the team of monitors/marshalls who cause much distress to musallis. There is absolutely no need for the monitors to repeatedly come around and shunt people from place to place. The musallis attending the Eidgah are not small children. Furthermore, it is their inalienable rights to sit anywhere in the Eidgah. No one has the right to come and shunt them forwards. Only when the Salaat is about to begin should they move forward to form the suffof (rows). The one who will lead the Salaat or the one who assumes it upon himself to make announcements

should merely and respectfully inform the people of the manner and need to form straight saffs.

- (3) To facilitate straight saff formation, some sort of adhesive tape should be run along the matting and the musallis should be explained that the heels should be placed on the tape. This will ensure the straightness of the rows.
- (4) A small child should not be separated from his father, if the latter has brought the child with into the saff.
- (5) There should be no amateur 'traffic officers'. Sufficient traffic officers should be engaged by liaising with the traffic department. A few hundred rands will procure the service of a sufficient number of qualified traffic personnel to regulate the cars.
- (6) Lastly, but most importantly, proceed to the Eidgah in humility. Banish the ujub and takabbur and remember that tomorrow you will stand in the Divine Court as criminals to answer for deeds and misdeeds.

Was-salaam

**A.S. Desai**

**For**

**JAMIATUL ULAMA (Eastern Cape)**

**P.O. Box 8049,**

**Port Elizabeth**

15<sup>th</sup> Zil Qa'dh 1422/ 31th January 2002

## Other publications

1. Sighting the Hilaal
2. Rooh-e-Hilaayat and astronomical calculations
3. The Eid Hilaal 1436
4. Eid, I'tikaaf and Eid Mubaarak
5. Hajj- By: Maseehul Ummat Moulana Maseehullah Khan Sahib (Rahmatullah Alayh)
6. Qurbaani – Laws pertaining to Qurbaani
7. Ziyaarat of Rasulullah(Sallallahu alayhi wasallam)

Copies of the books may be requested from:

<p><b>The Publisher:</b> Mujlisul Ulama Of South Africa P.O. Box 3393, Port Elizabeth, 6056 South Africa Mujlisul.ulama@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>The printer:</b> As-Saadiqeen Islamic Centre (A.S.I.C) P.O. Box 818 De Deur, 1884 South Africa Email:assaadiqeen@gmail.com</p>
---	--

***Printed by: As-Saadiqeen Islamic Centre  
www.asic-sa.co.za***