

*In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful*  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**HEAD OF AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY DECLARES GHANA AN  
EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD**

**Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad inaugurates Khilafat Centenary Jalsa  
Salana 2008 in Ghana**

The first Jalsa of the Khilafat Centenary was today inaugurated by the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, His Holiness, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad at Baag-e-Ahmad (Garden of Ahmad) in Ghana. The opening session was attended also by His Excellency, President J.A. Kufuor, Head of State of the Republic of Ghana. The event was telecast live via satellite link throughout the world on MTA. Thus millions of people around the world took part in this historic event.

In his welcome address, the President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Ghana, Maulvi Abdul Wahab Adam Sahib spoke of the great honour he felt as this occasion was being graced with the presence of both His Holiness and His Excellency. He then went on to comment upon how the people of Ghana were indeed blessed because in other countries religion was often the reason for division, yet in Ghana differing faiths and religions brought a sense of unity and

cohesion. This was exemplified by the attendance of various representatives of different faiths including the Senior Member of the Roman Catholic Church in Ghana who said that the Ahmadiyya creed of *'Love for All, Hatred for None'* was practised as well as preached by Ahmadis and he urged people of all backgrounds to come together and accept this universal teaching.

Following an introduction by Chairperson, Al-Haj Al-Hassan bin Salih, His Holiness took to the stage at 12 noon and addressed the audience for around forty minutes. His Holiness began by thanking the Almighty God for granting him the opportunity to partake in this year's Annual Convention.

Throughout his address, His Holiness spoke of his special love and bond with the Ghanaian Jama'at (Community) which was a result of the eight years he had spent living in Ghana, some years prior to being appointed Head of the Ahmadiyya Community. His Holiness said:

***"I have great expectations of Ghana. It is my prayer, that may you always march forward. Perhaps these aspirations are because I spent part of my life here."***

Speaking of his time in Ghana, His Holiness observed that at the time Ghana itself was facing many difficulties yet this did not deter him, in fact he made a conscious effort of trying to solve some of the problems faced by the country and be part of its future prosperity.

His Holiness spoke also of the development of the Ghanaian Jama'at. He said that nearly 90 years ago members of the Community from India were sent to

Ghana and acted as pioneers as they preached the true message of Ahmadiyyat to the people. At first people joined in their ones and twos, yet those people were of such nobility and piety that through them more and more people joined the Jama'at. His Holiness said that the Ghanaian Jama'at must never forget those pioneers and indeed their services must be fully documented so that the future generations are not left without the knowledge of the sacrifices made by their forefathers.

His Holiness commented on the devotion of the Ghanaian Jama'at towards the institution of Khilafat. He said that in this respect they most certainly were an example to Ahmadis in other parts of the world. His Holiness congratulated the Jama'at for having fulfilled their pledge of allegiance. However he counselled against complacency by urging members of the Community to continue to bow down before Almighty God in prayer.

In the latter part of his address, His Holiness instructed that every Ahmadi must try and improve himself and that it was necessary for each person to develop the qualities of absolute truth and forbearance. If these two principles were inculcated it would lead to the progression of society as a whole and to a situation of entrenched peace. These two principles, if obeyed, could rid the world of many of the ills that it faces today. His Holiness concluded his speech by wishing the country of Ghana continued prosperity and expressing his belief that the continued development of Ghana was dependent upon the hard work of its Government and citizens alike.

Following the address of His Holiness, His Excellency President Kufuor took to the stage and whereupon he congratulated the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

on its Centenary celebrations and expressed his delight that the first Convention of the year was taking place in Ghana. Referring to Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, His Excellency said that His Holiness was no stranger to Ghana as he had lived there for a number of years and thus had assumed the multiple roles of brother, friend and teacher to the people of Ghana.

The morning session was duly completed by silent prayer which was observed by the tens of thousands of people, men, women and children who had come from all over the world to attend this auspicious event and simultaneously by Ahmadi Muslims throughout the world viewing the event on television.

**End of Release**

For further information:

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