



Aliqadar Muffadal Maula (TUS) in Kampala

Something very important happened to the members of the Bohra community in Uganda and worldwide on July 12 2012. It was the visit to Uganda of Aliqadar Muffadal Maula (TUS), 53rd designated Dai al Mutlaq of the Dawoodi Bohra community. He had come to lay the foundation stone of the Bohra community centre on Muyenga Hill, Kampala, the first time the Bohra community of Uganda will have such a centre. It will sit on 3.5 acres of land and comprise a *masjid* (mosque), school, a social hall and living quarters. The mosque will be able to accommodate up to a thousand people.

The venue for the *milap* (audience) was Sheikh Hussein Malkan, Mukhi of Uganda Bohra Jamat's house on Muyenga Hill. It looks on a magnificent view of the city. Mumins had arrived by 2 pm. The jamat leaders from all over the world posed for a group photo in a very jovial mood. Dai arrived from Entebbe airport around 4 pm. The jamat men came forward to acclaim him with chants of *Allahu Akber*. Women stayed back a little. The children chanted the loudest. All members of the congregation were weeping. The successor Dai walked through the crowd, acknowledging the jamat's greetings. He was formally welcomed at the threshold of the house by Mukhi Sheikh Hussein Malkan. They stepped into the house and re-emerged from the door at the right into the verandah. The Mukhi kneeled down to petition the Dai. As if from the blue - physically but also *koodhrati*, like from up above - my name was called out and I walked to the dais to present my book to the Dai and obtain his blessings for myself and my book. A blessed day for everybody.

A copy of the book will be taken to Mumbai by Sheikh Hussein soon to present formally to Maula Aliqadar (TUS) and Aqa Maula (TUS).