More than 250 years ago a prophecy was made that there would be a "Circle of Islam" around the Cape. According to local beliefs the circle is complete, comprising the tombs of Auliyah (friends of the Almighty) who were brought as slaves to the Cape. These shrines are often referred to as Kramats or Mazaars.

The Cape Mazaar Society and vidamemoria initiated the serial nomination of the Kramats towards declaration of the 'Circle of Tombs' as National Heritage Sites

The first phase involves 10 Kramats and further sites will identified in future.

## Nominated sites are:

Sheikh Yusuf Kramat, Faure
Sayed Mahmud, Summit Road Constantia
Sheikh Abdul Mutalib, Constantia Forest
Sheikh Abdurahman Matebe Shah, Constantia
Tuan Dea Koasa, Simonstown
Tuan Ismail Dea Malela, Simonstown
Sheikh M Hassen Ghaibie Shah, Signal Hill
Tuan Kaape-ti-low, Signal Hill
Sayed Moegsien bin Alawieal Aidarus, Mowbray
Sheikh A ibn Muhammad Allraqi, Mowbray
Sheikh Noorul Mubeen, Oudekraal

The contribution of the Muslim Community to the history and traditions of the City of Cape Town have been vital since early Cape Settlement. The social and cultural uniqueness of the city is largely due to the important role played by its inahbitants through the centuries.

The Kramats are not only places of spirituality but are tangible signs of the emergence and spread of the Islamic faith throughout the Western Cape and the rest of South Africa. The Saints resting in these holy shrines played a significant role in developing contemporary South Africa.

The Kramats are of heritage significance in terms of religious, historical and cultural value. The declaration of the Kramats would ensure the preservation and protection of these heritage resources for the benefit of present and future generations

Heritage sites reflect the legacy that will be reflected in the formal record and provides an opportunity for communities to take pride in their heritage, their stories and their identity.

The declaration of the Western Cape Kramats as Heritage sites is another significant milestone in the unfolding development of the Liberation struggle of our Democracy of South Africa. It is vital for the bright future of a Nation to pay homage and salute the sacrifices of our forefathers for liberation from the tyranny and enslavement of the colonial occupiers of yesteryear.

Sheikh Abduragmaan Alexander Imam Masjidul Quds in Gatesville and President: Cape Mazaar Society

## aim of consultation

create awareness of nominations
supplement significance
garner support for declaration

All comments received will be included within a participation report to be submitted to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

SAHRA will then make their decision regarding declaration as national heritage sites.

## how to comment:

website www.vidamemoria.co.za or email kramats@vidamemoria.co.za

Comments must be submitted by 15 December 2020