

Chapter 25

Mandir Public Dedication Ceremony

On behalf of the *satsang mandal*, C.T. Patel addressed the crowd, which had been transformed from a procession to a standing assembly, “The discipline and order that was maintained by all during this spectacular festive procession is a credit to the entire Hindu community.” He then thanked everyone for their support.

The President of the Swaminarayan Satsang Mandal, A.B. Patel, C.M.G.¹ spoke to the assembly and conveyed that this grand event was a golden day for Mombasa.

He then asked Lakshmidas Madhvani of Rameshi to publicly dedicate the mandir to the community. After a short speech, Madhvani went to the mandir gate, which had been decorated by flags, streamers, and colored lights and, turning the silver lock,

ceremoniously opened the mandir to the public at large. On this occasion, he had offered a large donation to the mandir in memory of his elders.

A.B. Patel, Lakshmidasbhai, R.B. Pandya, Chunibhai, Chhotabhai, and other distinguished members of the community as well as the Vaishnav religious leader, Murlidhar Lalji Maharaj, were present at the public dedication ceremony.

Swamishri and the other *sadgurus* went to the balcony and blessed the teeming crowd on the road below. The entire road from the Patel Samaj building all the way to the train station was blocked off and occupied by the festival attendees.

In this way, a golden day in history of Mombasa, which had been filled with great joy and festivity, came to a smooth conclusion.

¹ Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (a British governmental honor)