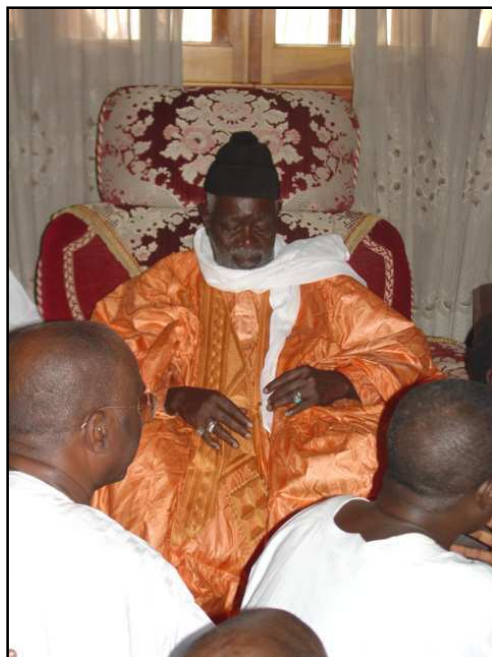




**SPEECH BY KHALIFE GENERAL SERIGNE
MOUHAMADOU LAMINE BARA MBACKE**
*during a meeting with officials of the rural community of Touba and
heads of villages in the presence of the administrative authorities of
the region of Diourbel*

Monday, April 21, 2008 /14 Rabîc Th-Thânî 1429 h at the residence
Cheikhoul Khadim in Touba



***Translated by the translation committee of the International Institute
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May Allah's Peace, mercy and blessing be upon you.

To my fellow murid followers, I express my warmest greetings. I myself have convened this meeting for the sole purpose of our common goal, which is this holy city of Serigne Touba and to draft a working agenda that I want to pursue with you as a continuation of what has been initiated by our honorable authorities who preceded me.

First, I want to tell you that I renew my confidence in Serigne Mewndou Diakhaté just as our authorities who preceded me, have done in the past. Indeed not so long ago Serigne Saliou Mbacké - May Allah's mercy be upon him - did publicly confirmed him to this position.

I would like therefore to inform everybody that I reiterate the trust that my superiors had towards him, so much so that I confirm him at the head of this responsibility (village chief). Because as you all know, Touba is a land title legally to the full ownership of Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba which he entrusted to me today guardianship. Therefore, I would like each of you (village chiefs) to keep on the duties he performed before, aware that he is acting on my behalf in his respective field whereby he is my eye and my ear and holding the position of representative of Sheikh (Serigne Touba), who guards the integrity of the sacred land, which has been always the main concern of the Sheikh.

The most important recommendation to you is that everyone strives for the best of his ability to focus on his job damning any action prohibited by Allah and His Prophet (Peace be upon him) and by the Sheikh so that it won't be allowed, and indeed cleanse the sector in accordance with the wishes of the founder

Each one of you should go over the land management that was assigned to him along with the departments of planning, cadastre and surveyor for a more precise knowledge of the land limits, the state of the plots distribution, meaning the land already awarded and the remaining ones just as it was presented to me by Serigne Mewndou Diakhaté. He filed a comprehensive report of the land management that was assigned to him.

He made a clear statement that helped me understand the whole situation and this is how I want everybody else to proceed. Hence we will identify the city limits in every sector and the additional areas of the land title that have yet to be surveyed. That way, nobody can proceed with a private estate subdivision (personal). Wherever land is available and not yet planned in the TF, it must be identified and after subdivision of the plots, the occupants of origin should be awarded and the rest will return to the Murid community.

Regarding your relationship with the Rural Council, I urge you to work together in respect for the individual rights. Thus I advice everyone to comply with the collection and payment of rural taxes because if you fail to honor your taxes you can't expect a fulfillment of your rights and needs; that is the basic principles and mechanisms of a functioning Rural Council. As far as I am concerned, I pledge to assist you, I will create a commission that will accompany Makhtar Diakhaté in his job.

The commission will account for money collected from your taxpayers, will examine the destination of funds and will report to you.

My assistance to Makhtar Diakhaté will be to intervene whenever he reaches his limits with the means and possibilities of taxpayers' money, in a community objective or a city development project. In this case, I myself will assist along with the Murid followers to boost the goal and achieve it.

As for this commission it will have to validate all development projects underway; if Makhtar (PCR) is able to handle it, so be it, he can go on otherwise, keep me informed and I will invest my energy until the projects finalizes wherever it meant to be with the help of counselors.

Concerning the implementation of major renovation of Touba that the Government is pursuing, I seek the understanding and collaboration of everyone, wherever in their path the nature of the job would require a shift of a water pipeline or removal of a septic tank which should not be on public roads, in the first place. One should tackle anything that might interfere with the proper working conditions in accordance with all the relevant departments because nobody would constitute an impediment to the smooth running of the common interest Regarding the public roads, I invite those who have stands or booths on it to go back to the markets or to keep it within their homes in order to avoid cluttering the roads.

For those who wander with their selling goods commonly known as street vendors, they should be allowed to continue to sell but they should not gather in any given place, for that can block the lanes and impede the flow of traffic but rather they should keep on wandering for that is the particularity of a street vendor.

As regard to places known as "makette" which are gatherings of crooks and pickpockets and windows for the thieves to funnel their loot, they must be systematically eliminated, along with all places where occur wrongdoing. I give you (village chiefs) the order to keep contact with the police and the sheriff to reprimand such actions wherever they take place. In return the police and the sheriff should take appropriate measures to intervene wherever such acts are reported.

Also, I recommend that you give to all companies that are present in Touba, the respects they deserve in their fields and likewise they owe you back the consideration related to your responsibilities.

Regarding the payment of taxes, I asked you to be lenient toward those with very little income generated by limited junk they sell on a small container as a means of subsistence. This concerns vendors of peanuts and alike. They must be exempted.

The owners of workshops, stores, shops, taxis, carts will have to pay the taxes they owe to the Rural Council because that is the council's source of revenue that makes up its budget. I do not therefore say that nobody pays, however, I did asked not to extend the payment of taxes to everybody.

Regarding the distribution of the land, I would like it to be administered by a regulatory procedure in order to facilitate the award to applicants whose urgent need for a land is really justified. I do not allocate plots for someone to keep them unoccupied or not release them to the needy. All persons who receive plots in my order, supposedly have needy people who depend on them and to whom they should award the land for real occupancy.

If twelve months after the allocation of a plot, no activity is undertaken therein, the premises may be affected to a new comer who shows up with his belongings, ready to settle. We will find thereafter another portion of land to the former beneficiary. This measure is applicable to everyone.

As I mentioned above, I will designate a committee to whom I give mandate to join Serigne Mewndou along with his appointed individuals to administer the land and anything related to it.

The fundamental reason which is the basis of all these measures, is our common purpose to serve Borom Touba in a transparent manner that our noble authorities whom we replaced, had followed while keeping up with the advanced modern world, apart from any conflict and any malice.

These are the provisions that I believe can lead to the achievement of our plans with respect to this city as vowed by its founder and that can guaranty the Sheikh's reward. We will indeed benefit from the blessings mentioned in his prayer as follow: ***"Give a successful outcome to those who dedicate themselves to my service and accept their wishes."***

So be it. May Allah's Peace, Mercy and Blessing be upon you.

After the reading of the speech by Serigne El hadj Fallou Ndiaye, the Khalif General of the Murid added the following :

In regard to the government, we must do our best to comply correctly with the current laws and regulations and their strict application without attempt to thwart whatsoever.

It is though the will of God that these authorities maintain the power and govern the country, and for that reason they have to reach out for us in the war against damned and unwanted behaviors that don't reflect the status of this holy city, yet we are unable to overcome. We must therefore recognize it.

The acceptance of the legitimacy of power demonstrated that the above Responsibility belong to them. Any responsible person must accept to be under a legal authority, otherwise he has no value.

As far as we are concerned, we are known to be supportive of the principle of submission to the authority and therefore we must obey orders and avoid breaking the rules.

To the authority himself, throughout this speech, I seek assistance to safeguard the integrity of the city and its inhabitants, because it is the most sacred sanctuary for us. Everyone has a perfect knowledge that the good and perfect belong exclusively to the city, and we are holding a unique heritage that no one else possesses. That is why we seek assistance from the civilian authority against those who are engaged in improper practices within the Holy City, far from the wishes of its founder. Let us keep them away from the city, hence the peace is guaranteed. Thank you.

All individual whether head of a district or village chief, assuming a mandate on behalf of someone else; should be reminded of his duties by his boss and should appear with his paperwork to take further guidelines. I am addressing to everyone, I exclude nobody.

My hope is that nobody deviates from this, because any failure can lead to something else.

I pray that God grants us the Peace and Mercy.

That is the point I wanted to make.

El Hajj Mouhamadou Lamine Bara MBACKE

Khalif General of the Mourides

Touba April 21, 2008