



Nuruddeen Lemu to conduct Shari'ah Intelligence workshop

Mohammad Nurudeen Lemu who is the main keynote speaker at the 38th annual IMASA (Islamic Medical Association of South Africa) Convention to be held in Johannesburg 28-29th April 2018 will be hosting a special intensive one-day seminar on Shari'ah Intelligence at the Suleman Lockhat Auditorium, 222 Kenilworth Road on 1st May 2018.

In the age of globalization, different opinions and experiences influence how we perceive Islam and its teachings. We are sometimes left confused and frustrated, wishing there was some way to understand exactly how all the rulings that are said to constitute Shari'ah fit together and to understand the place of Shari'ah rulings in our current milieu.

Shari'ah Intelligence is the ability to navigate the often complex and divergent opinions that stem from scholars of different generations and Schools of Juristic Thought. This course helps to build a greater appreciation about how competent Muslim jurists understand the Shari'ah and use its principles to formulate methods of deriving general and specific rulings.

The course will outline the Basic Principles and Objectives of Islamic

Jurispudence and give an introduction to Usul- al-Fiqh and Maqasid Al-Shariah.

For more details and to register for the course go to the Islamic Forum website - islamicforum.org.za. Cost of course which will include refreshments is R100. Seats are limited so you are urged to book early.



Mohammad Nuruddeen Lemu, son of the famous Sheikh Ahmed Lemu, is

a renowned Islamic scholar, known and respected by West African Muslims and throughout the Islamic world. He is a composed intellectual, a devout Muslim and an advocate of moderation, justice and open-mindedness. Mohammad is Director of Research and Training at the Da'wah Institute of Nigeria and the Assistant General Secretary of Islamic Education Trust (IET) in Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. He was one of those nominated by the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) to represent Nigerian Muslim Leaders at the last National Conference (CONFAB 2014). Mohammad develops contents and conducts train-the-trainers courses in understanding the principles and objective of Islamic jurisprudence, enhancing inter-faith dialogue and engagement, and many more and has given talks and facilitated training programmes in more than 20. He holds a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria, a Masters of Science in Resource Management from Edinburgh University in the U.K. and is a fellow of the Africa Leadership Initiative of West Africa (ALIWA) and of the Aspen Leadership Institute

Yvonne Ridley speaks on rape becoming a weapon of war

Rape has become a weapon of war, more so in Syria where more than 7,000 women are presently in detention without charge or conviction and who are systematically being violated and tortured by President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

Journalist, author and human rights activist, Yvonne Ridley speaking at a lecture organized by the Caring Sisters Network, Muslim Women's Forum, South African Muslim Network and the Salaam Foundation, she said that she would do anything to secure the release of the women, even if it meant having tea with the devil. "I have been a journalist for over 40 years and I have seen some really grim stuff, but nothing like what is happening to women in Syria. They are held in prisons and hellholes and are systematically being tortured, subjected to extreme torture and are raped, at times by gangs of men for days," she said.

In a shocking disclosure, she told of how the perpetrators used sex enhancing substances and alcohol then raped women in a room, which had a giant photograph of President Bashar al-Assad looking down on the bed. She recalled the horrendous experience of one woman, whom she called Nadeira whose brother agreed to pay 17,000 (USD) for her release. But this man is now in jail because he could not pay the full amount. Such is the atrocities



being perpetrated by the Assad regime that has the support of Russia, Iran and China.

In an emotion charged gathering at the Suleman Lockhat Auditorium in Durban, Ms Ridley called on the delegates to become "the face of the bodies", which are being used as weapons of war. "I hope that when you leave here, you will be determined to work against rape being used as a weapon of war. Put pressure on your President who is about to host Russia's Vladimir Putin to secure the release of these 7,000 Syrian women. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also be in South Africa soon."

President al Assad, she added, has "given" the Russians an entire naval base in Syria, which is now a strategic presence in the Middle East. "The least Putin can do is to get the release of the 7,000 women. "Al Assad has done him a big favour." She singled out these two leaders as being "soft on rape" and that they should be targeted to take a far tougher stance on women's bodies being used, which "in fact is a crime against humanity".

Ms Ridley, who was once held captive by the Taliban in Pakistan for 11 days, said that this regime is regarded as the most brutal in the world, yet they treated her with respect and courtesy. "Allah protected me and showed me the way to Islam. I now work for all the victims of war wherever they might be in the world. We need to network, unite and make a stand against this horrendous violence," she said.

Sharing the platform was Shamshad Sayed who was part of a group of women from 56 countries who took part in a protest against the war in Syria and violence against women and children. Zeenat Adam, a former diplomat and civil society activist said that rape was perpetrated against men and boys as well during war. She said that this barbaric act of brutality had to be highlighted, the perpetrators made accountable and that this inhumane practice must be stopped.

Dr Ganief Aysen - move away from hamper mentality for change

The South African Indian Muslim community must reach out to their brethren across the colour line and the best way to do this is by getting involved in the early development education of children. Dr Ganief Aysen, president of the Greater Edendale Muslim Society which now runs 16 crèches, caring and educating over 500 children, made an impassioned plea to the general Muslim community to move away from their "hamper mentality" and make a solid contribution to the efforts of the Society. In an interview on Radio al-Ansaar's Friday night programme, 90 Minutes, the Doctor said that this will, in turn, enable the Society to bequeath a lasting legacy during.

"The community must be encouraged to support the provision of crèches and centres of learning and excellence so that progression through to schools and university would ensure leaders of stature in the future," said Dr Aysen. He revealed how more than 12 years ago, while working at various hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal, he found children were not at school, were not meaningfully occupied and simply whiled away their time.



"I decided to investigate and found that most of these children were infected by HIV/Aids and the communities to which they belonged did not do anything for them, except to wait until they died. I felt that this was very wrong and decided that I needed to do something. With a few well meaning people we built a simple mud building and started a crèche, which provided secular and Islamic education. In a short space of time, there was a dramatic change and we began receiving requests from other little settlements to start such initiatives in their respective neighbourhoods. We did not stop and we brought in more people, like Qari AK Lockhat and his organization and we formed the Greater Edendale Muslim Society. Together we have been able to develop and grow a culture of education for the very young," he said.

Moulana Mokgabudi - The less fortunate want to know you

Madressah child in townships are seen to be poor, broken, wayward with no sense of direction, according to Moulana Ibrahim Mokgabudi who is the General Secretary on the SANZAF board as well as Gauteng General Manager for the Imam Development Project. He holds that the cause of this is that, although the conventional Madressah system works so brilliantly within established Muslim communities, a copy and paste of the exact same system in the townships spells disaster.

What needs to be done in the townships is quite different from what is done in the established Muslim communities. The Madressah system is not in the DNA of children in the townships, they need to be motivated in various ways in order for the system to end up being a part and parcel of their lives. "We need to demonstrate to the parents of the kids that we care for the children holistically and not just trying to push our religion down their throats. We need to demonstrate to them that we are with them for the long haul.

"Along with the Islamic studies, the Madressah needs to incorporate a tuition program into the syllabus, homework assistance program, sporting activities and good quality excursion programs. If you gauge that people in the township don't have an affinity to the word Madressah, don't call it Madressah, call it afternoon school. In this way you will be elevating the program from being in the

As the children grew older, they were sent to primary school and from there to secondary institutions and that some of them were being prepared for university. "The children who come out of these crèches are such high performers in formal classrooms, that parents are coming to us in greater numbers to cater for their children."

He said that the Montessori and the Islamic Organisation of South Africa (IOSA) are doing sterling work to change the hearts and minds of people who are not Indian by providing quality and valuable education. "The children that come to us have been given a new life. Apart from an education, two hot meals a day are provided. Proper tuition and a value-based lifestyle are introduced from a very early age. Some of them have come to us wearing torn clothes, in ill health and unable to speak any other language, except Zulu. In a short space of time, the dedicated men and women who are part of this programme change all that. We have taken ordinary women without formal education and had them trained as teachers. Ensured that they received professional qualifications and now run their own crèches under our banner."

Apart from the education of the children, jobs have been created for teachers, minders, religious instructors and other functions to ensure that the project maintains a very high standard, which invariably impacts on the results in the classroom. He pointed out that starting at this early age, individuals grow up with an Islamic background very quickly attain a sustainable quality of life which enables progress.

Now, with Ramadan upon us, he appealed to people to make contributions to projects which are providing quality education for children still in their formative stages. He called Muslims to give more of their time and money to Africans living in rural areas. Adding, that they had their self-respect and were not looking for handouts, but for acceptance by their brethren. "They want to know you. Be part of your life. To share their experiences and top be understood. They are Muslims and believe in a commitment not only to help them, but also to reach out to others. This is an investment that Indian Muslims should be making and it will change the lives of so many people. It would be a living example of social cohesion which is so greatly needed in our country," said Dr Aysen.

He added that there was a challenge to get Government to chart a way forward by establishing centers of excellence and uniting existing crèches in the rural areas and use the Greater Edendale Muslim Society's model to enable the disadvantaged majority to access quality Early Child Education. The Greater Edendale Area is home to close to one million people, the majority of whom are among the poorest. The involvement of Muslims was urgently required to bring about meaningful change. Education is proving to be a very useful vehicle for change in this sprawling improvised area.

Farook Khan - Radio Al-Ansaar - 90 Minutes - 19 April 2018

margins into mainstream because it won't sound foreign anymore. Don't give the young girls old and worn out abayas to wear to Madressah, sew them beautiful, Shari'ah-compliant dresses that cover them modestly without being black and faded.

"In order to gain prestige and honour in the townships, people need to know that children who attend Madressah are also often the best performers at school. If we can achieve this, we won't need peanut butter and bread to draw the children, the parents will themselves enrol the kids into our Madressahs," he impresses.

Moulana Ibrahim Mokgabudi relates that he often comes across people who want to know whether "Is Islam growing in the townships? Are people taking well to it?" I often respond by saying, "yes it's growing, but also declining at the same rapid speed at which it's growing, if not faster."

The reason? "Nobody wants to appear for the rest of their lives as being 'poor, broken, wayward with no sense of direction'. So if the child does stick around for a few years in the Madressah, it's either because he's hanging around with his friends who happen to attend the Madressah, or he/she is just in survival mode. "The minute the need for survival is over, and the basic needs for him or her to start scavenging for himself have been fulfilled, he has no reason to be seen in that 'church', or it's uniform, ever again."