



RAMAPHOSA BESTOWS NATIONAL ORDERS ON DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS

The Order of Ikhamanga recognises South African citizens who have excelled in the fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism, and sport

The Order of Luthuli recognises South African citizens who have contributed to the struggle for democracy, nation-building, building democracy and human rights, justice and peace, as well as for the resolution of conflict



Hashim Mohammed Amla (silver) for his contribution to the sport of cricket. He has brought pride to the country with his many batting firsts in the international cricket arena and remains one of the leading batsmen of our time



Omar Badsha (silver) for his commitment to the preservation of the country's history through ground-breaking and well-balanced research and collection of profiles and events of the struggle for liberation



Rahima Moosa (silver posthumous) for her selfless contribution to the fight for freedom and gender equality in South Africa and gallantly facing down the oppressive government of the time. She left behind a rich legacy as a champion of women's rights



Professor Farid Esack (silver) for his brilliant contribution to academic research and to the fight against race, gender, class and religious oppression. His body of work continues to enlighten generations of fledgling and established academics

South Africa: a Nation that wants to land

Land distribution in South Africa is both urgent and necessary, according to Dr Shuaib Manjra when he addressed worshippers on a Freedom Day Khutbah on Friday 27th April 2018, at the Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town.

He said the skewed distribution of land; the insecurity of tenure, the tardiness with which land claims are being processed, and the housing crisis are cause for serious concern.

"Statistics show that land reform in South Africa peaked in 2007/8 and then went downhill from there. This represents just another failure of the Zuma presidency whose slogan of Radical Economic Transformation seems hollow by the day when black people are sinking into greater poverty and the wealth gap increases. Since 1994, 2.4 million people have been evicted from farms in South Africa - and are in urgent need of smallholdings to provide both for housing and subsistence."

He then added that there were three myths, which must be dispelled; the first is that most land restitution claimants have chosen cash compensation above land restoration. This may be true in urban locations because of the impracticality of restoration; however in rural areas a great majority have chosen restoration. The second myth is that 90% of land reform projects have failed. Empirical evidence suggests that around 50% of projects have improved the livelihoods of beneficiaries to some degree.

"The third myth is that we can employ a kind of 'native fundamentalism' and draw a linear line between specific lands and pre-colonial communities. We can in some specific cases, but in the vast majority of cases communities were mobile, and



changing over time discounting any notion of homogeneity. Furthermore some of these communities were at war and displacing each other. This does not discount the need for land restitution, but questions the basis on which such restitution should be considered.

Allah says in the Quran in Sura Qasas (27: 5) that the oppressed must be the inheritors of the land: **And We wished to be Gracious to those who were being oppressed in the land, to make them leaders and make them heirs and inheritors of the land.**

Thus our call for land restitution and equitable distribution is a Quranic injunction. Allah has honoured and given dignity to human-kind. Part of that dignity is about financial security of which land plays a critical part.

See Islamic Forum Website for text of full khutbah – islamicforum.org.za



Lemu's, Menk & Khunfur for IMASA

The 38th annual convention of the Islamic Medical Association was held at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg from 27-28 April. The main guest speakers were Sheikh Nurudeen Lemu, his wife Salatu, Mufti Ismail Menk and Wadah Khunfur, and a host of other professionals. This is the 38th Annual Convention hosted by IMASA and has become a must attend for members of the medical and health professionals. The 39th convention is planned for Cape Town. See Page 3 for further coverage of the Convention. *Photo by Riaz Ismail Photography* **Sheikh Nurudeen Lemu will be hosting a full day Sharia'ah Intelligence Course at the Suleman Lockhat Auditorium on Tuesday 1 May 2018. Go to islamicforum.org.za site to register. Seats limited.**

Adheema Davis - selected for Mandela Washington Fellowship

Durban architect, Adheema Davis, is one of a handful of South Africans who along with other promising young leaders from across Sub-Saharan Africa, will be travelling to the United States of America for the Mandela Washington Fellowship later this year. "The fellowship is an initiative funded by the U.S government that seeks to further develop within each of the fellows the skills necessary to make an impact in our home countries". Adheema made this revelation while appearing on Radio Al-Ansaar's Friday night talk show, 90 Minutes.

According to the Fellowship's website, "The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, begun in 2014, is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) that empowers young people through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking. In 2018, the Fellowship will provide 700 outstanding young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa with the opportunity to hone their skills at a U.S. college or university with support for professional development after they return home.

The Fellows, who are between the ages of 25 and 35, have established records of accomplishment in promoting innovation and positive impact in their organizations, institutions, communities, and countries. In 2017, Fellows represented a diverse group

of leaders from 48 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. Fifty-one Fellows identified as having a disability, and 50 percent of Fellows were women."

While Adheema will be based in Philadelphia, she is also using the opportunity to travel, and visit a number of places across the eastern seaboard of the U.S, "As an architect, I am intrigued by the impact that space and development have on the socio-political realm, and am thrilled by the opportunity to experience difference - and then come back home and hopefully work towards that capacity in my own city".

In a wide-ranging interview, Adheema spoke about the battle for equal rights by women across the board, and how this manifests in her understanding of both architecture and religion. She commented that this understanding fuelled her practice and further research, and hoped to use the opportunity to put this into play.

In reflection on her humanistic path, she paid tribute to her parents, who exposed her to an inherent respect and value for others, and without whom she would not have the opportunities that she has had; and to the late Mrs. Hafsa Moolla, the founder of Islamic Guidance, who concentrated on the empowerment of women through education and Islam throughout her lifetime. "Islam instils within us a moral compass, a capacity to equip ourselves and the disenfranchised with the opportunity to live a better, equitable, and meaningful



life. Architecture, and its practice in a country like ours – still baring the scars of racial and spatial injustice – has taught me much the same – what can I do to make a difference?". She said that young people in South Africa were keen to make changes and to develop our society, but that action must be taken in order to provide a sustainable platform where their voices can be heard, their contributions felt, and their leadership encouraged.

Farook Khan - 90 Minutes - Radio Al Ansar - 27th April 2018

Essop Khan - an entertainer and philanthropist has passed on

One of South Africa's leading theatre personalities, Essop Khan died this week, a forgotten hero, who apart from nurturing scores of actors, raised millions of Rands for charities, schools, clinics and madressahs throughout his 50 year career. Mr Khan who became a household name along with his colleagues, Muhammad Ali and Savy Ramsamy did not get the recognition they deserved from the mainstream theatre community. Nor did the Muslim community acknowledge the trio for their philanthropy – it is estimated that during their tenure on stage, more than R25 million was raised by them for organisations. Yet the trio earned no more than R9 000 which they shared with their co-stars after each performance. There were promoters who made a hefty profit from their performances and still paid them a pittance. What was even more cruel was that they were hijacked, had their equipment stolen and were even physically attacked by gangsters when they visited townships throughout the country.

This week, a devastated Mr Muhammad Ali lamented the loss of a colleague, friend and brother with whom he explored the floorboards for 50 years. He was too distraught to talk and so was Mrs Ramsamy who could not come to terms with Mr Khan's passing. They were regarded as the leading comedy artists in the fringe theatre

world and each year for 20 consecutive years, came up with fresh new scripts which had audiences rolling in laughter in the aisles. After each performance, members of the audience would flock to their dressing room for a personal chat, extend invitations for dinner and to secure a much sought after autograph.

Mr Khan was also in demand to play characters and cameo roles in the movies and television productions. He did not get star billing, but he did not complain; only to return even more committed to his art. He arrived on the scene in 1960 when a number of luminaries like Professor Fatima Meer, Devi Bhugwan and a host of others launched the movement for non-racial theatre movement. This is where he met Muhammad Ali and a few years later they teamed up and very quickly recruited Mrs Ramsamy to join them in what became a hilarious line up of star studded productions like Jamal Syndrom, My Other Wife and The Muthoos Are Coming to Dinner. They appeared in just one serious drama, the Sacrifice that was based on the real life story of anti-apartheid activist, Valliammah Moodliyar who died while on a hunger strike in the Pietermaritzburg Prison.

A family member said that Mr Khan had not been well for sometime, but he seemed to be coping. Then last week, he suffered



a stroke and was admitted to hospital after which he suffered a number of strokes. Doctors asked family members to take him home and make him comfortable because they could not do anything to improve his condition. He died at his Overport home surrounded by family members, relatives and close friends. South Africa lost one of its most gentle souls who had no regrets about the manner in which he lived his life.

Tribute by long time friend Farook Khan

IMASA Hosts 38th Annual Convention

The 38th Annual convention of the Islamic Medical Association was held at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg from 27-28 April. The main guest speakers were Sheikh Nuruddeen Lemu and his wife Sister Salatu Lemu who is the director of research and training of the Dawah Institute of Nigeria. He is the son of the famous Sheikh Ahmed and Ayesha Lemu.

Both speakers made a huge impact on the conference delegates and in particular Sheikh Lemu raised many issues concerning our understanding of the Usul al Fiqh and the Shariah and its implementation in the context of our times. One of the key issues he raised was that in order for us to have clear rulings on many of the issues that confront us today, particularly in the field of medicine, we need scholars who are well versed in all the classical schools of thoughts, not just the famous four. In addition, just as we have sub-specialisation in the field of medicine, we also need scholars who have sub-specialisation in the Islamic sciences. Just as a general medical practitioner cannot treat every ailment and has to refer to other specialist, an ordinary graduate of a Darul uloom is not qualified to issue rulings on any and every issue. We require scholars specialising in such fields as usul ul Fiqh, maqasid as shariah, finance, medicine, tasawwuf, etc.

The research papers that were presented at the conference covered a very large wide range of topics from diabetes, psychology, taking care of the elderly, allied health, dental health, etc. A very encouraging feature of the conference was the number of highly qualified Muslim women doctors and professors present and who presented papers and contributed to the discourse. There were parallel programmes for the youth, university students and spouses.

At the gala dinner on Saturday evening Mufti Ismail Menk and Wadah Khunfur (ex-director of Al Jazeera) and currently director of the Sharq Forum spoke on the theme: **Islam - Present and future**. Both speakers emphasised that Islam is the Deen of Allah and He is the one who will see it continue till the end of time. As Muslims all we have to do is to follow His commands and do our utmost to establish His order on earth.

A spokesperson for the conference expressed deep gratitude to all the presenters and delegates for a very successful 38th IMA conference. The next conference will be held in Cape Town. - **Picture credit: Riaz Ismail Photography**



Sheikh Nuruddeen Lemu



Mufti Ismail Menk



Sister Salatu Lemu



Wadah Khunfur



On stage - Presenters for the 38th Annual IMASA Conference



Founding members of IMASA Dr Goolam Hoosen, Dr Mohammed Khan with Sheikh Nuruddeen Lemu