

MEDIA RELEASE

The desperate need for a vehicle to ferry cancer patients from rural areas to treatment centres in Durban can be removed from the Cancer Association of South Africa - KwaZulu-Natal wish list, thanks to two city-based business entities.

Albaraka Bank and the Iqraa Trust recently stepped in to jointly present the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) with a mini-bus to transport patients from its Mkhuhla Interim Home in Umbilo to various treatment centres located in and around Durban.

The vehicle was officially presented to CANSA on Friday 27 October this year.

CANSA runs the interim home in order to provide food, accommodation, transport and support services for out-of-town cancer patients of limited means while they are in Durban for their treatment. Without this service, many patients would not have access to life-saving treatment.

Commenting on the donation, Mr Shabir Chohan, Albaraka Bank's Chief Executive, said:

"This gesture is totally in line with our policy of addressing the needs of the under-privileged. It is all too easy to take so much for granted today, and it is humbling to come to realise that many of our fellow South Africans from country areas, and who are seriously ill, risk being unable to secure the treatment they need because of a lack of transport once they reach Durban. It gives us great pleasure, therefore, to make a positive difference

in the lives of patients in the care of CANSA through the provision of this vehicle."

The Chairman of the Iqraa Trust, Mr Mahmoud Youssef, stressed: "The presentation of this vehicle is in accord with Iqraa Trust's objective of making health-care accessible to all South Africans, particularly the disadvantaged in our community."

He added that the organisation was an ongoing participant in the fields of humanitarianism and welfare, actively engaging in educational, health-care and social development issues.

"We were impressed by the critical work being done by the Cancer Association and were, therefore, very keen to assist the organisation in its efforts to continue providing a vitally needed service," Mr Youssef added.

"The beautiful new 14-seater mini-bus is a dream come true for Mkhuhla House as this will really help our patients, who are ill and in need of extra care and comfort, on their daily journeys for treatment," said Mr Ronny Motsepe, CANSA KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Manager.

Albaraka Bank is a pioneer of Islamic banking in South Africa and is the only fully-fledged Islamic bank in the country. It adheres strictly to Islamic economic principles, providing a viable alternative to interest-free banking, while its social responsibility programme complements its commitment to welfare and charitable organisations.



Pictured : (from left) : Mahmoud Youssef, Ronny Motsepe, Yunus Paruk, Z. Mayat, Shabir Chohan

The Bank's success during the past 17 years, together with its future expansion plans to meet client demand, auger well for its continued ability to assist in significantly addressing the charitable and welfare challenges facing this country.

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