

IPSA launches Guild

ON March 15, the Cape Town-based International Peace University of South Africa (IPSA) hosted a breakfast for the inauguration of the IPSA Guild.

Business Executives, academics and professionals were invited to become meaningful participants in this much-needed initiative.

The Guild will facilitate the sustainability, development and economic empowerment of IPSA in its pursuit of building a world-class Islamic university.

The Guild will provide a platform for both young and established entrepreneurs, professionals and spiritual leaders to engage with, and be addressed by, international and local leaders on relevant issues facing our community, country and the broader Muslim world.

This initiative will enable IPSA to extend its intellectual debates and teachings beyond the walls of its campus.

The inaugural breakfast also honoured existing institutional donors such as Iqraa Trust, the Muslim Judicial Council, Albaraka Bank and the Shahmahomed Trust, among others, as founding members of the IPSA Guild.

The underlying message of the representations made by various speakers was that education and economics is not mutually exclusive but go hand in hand.

Reference was made to the early Prophetic model of Al-Madinah and its clear understanding that economics and piety enjoy a seamless relationship.

The Vice-Rector of IPSA, Shaikh Ighsaan Taliep, focused on the need to bring forth the superiority and importance of education in Islam.

Particular emphasis was placed on facilitation of education according to the Islamic ethos.

The message from Shaikh Ighsaan was clear: "... the promotion of unity in the community through caring for others and desiring for others what we desire for ourselves."

The reality that beneficial knowledge and its correct application as the only solution to the problems facing our community has begun to register in the minds of our people.

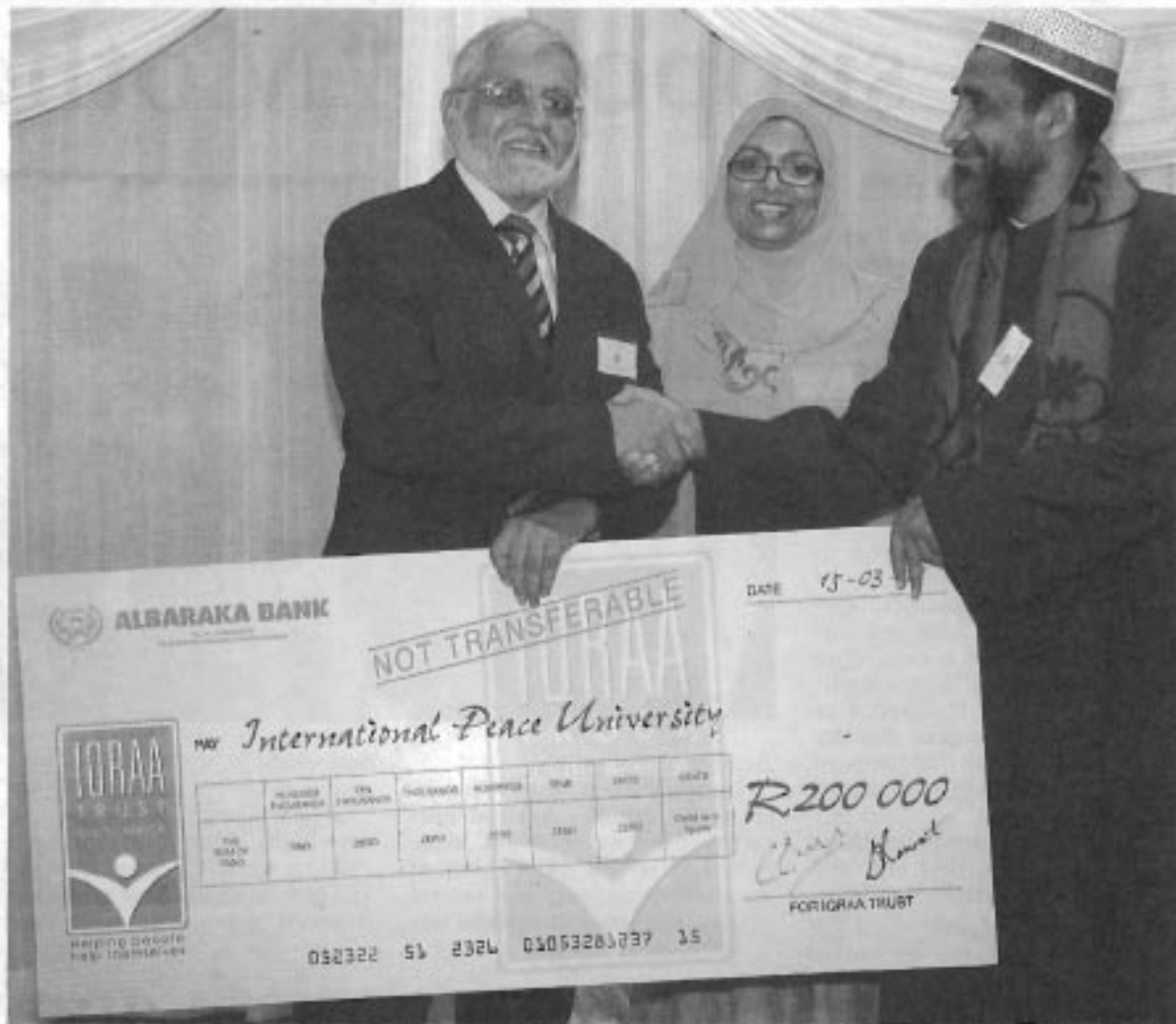
In the words of Sharief Parker of Quality Beverages: "If the business community, professionals and academics do not wake up to the need of a strong educational institution based on Qur'an and Sunnah, I fear for our children and grand-children.

"The responsibility is two-fold. Educators must focus on teaching and we, as a group whom Allah (SWA) has entrusted with financial resources, must ensure the financial viability of these vital institutions such as IPSA."

This realisation was further evident when certain individuals and business houses took ownership of the IPSA Guild initiative by committing their financial and personal support.

They included Adam Essa of Coessa, Mahmood Khatib of Vangate Mall Group, Sharief Hassan of *Muslim Views* and other prominent individuals who preferred to remain anonymous.

All the donors communicated their support and commitment to help develop and sustain IPSA in its quest to educate and uplift our society while at the same time plotting the course towards the development of a first class,



The Iqraa Trust, represented by Ebrahim Essop Vawda (left), was one of several institutional donors that renewed its commitment to support the Islamic Peace University South Africa (IPSA) at a breakfast to launch the IPSA Guild. Receiving the donation on behalf of IPSA are Maulana Ahmed Mukadam, rector, and Mariam Parker, the Director of Finance.

Islamically inspired, tertiary institution.

Though based in Cape Town, IPSA has strong associations with major international universities.

In February this year, IPSA, in conjunction with the Islamic International University of Malaysia (IIUM), commenced its Masters of Comparative Law

degree, taught by experts in their field.

One such individual, Professor Hashim Kamali of IIUM, spent two weeks presenting the first module of the degree.

Furthermore, in collaboration with Gloucestershire University in the UK, IPSA is also in the process of developing a Faculty of Educa-

tion.

The appointment of the former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency Anwar Ebrahim, as Chairperson of the IPSA International Advisory Board, has further strengthened IPSA's potential to become a world-class educational institution.