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LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS THROUGH  
EMPOWERMENT AND COLLABORATION

12 February 2023

**Address by Solly Suleman, President: Minara Chamber at networking meeting with His Excellency Ambassador Jarr Ould Inalla, Embassy of Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

BISMILLAH IRAHMAN IRAHIM,

His Excellency Ambassador Jarr Ould Inalla Moulana Abdul Khalick Allie & other ulema from UUCSA representatives of the various organisations, Shabir Chohan CEO of Albaraka Bank South Africa & representatives Albaraka Bank, Asalaam u Alaikum.

I must admit I had no idea where Mauritania was in Africa & thanks to Google, I am now informed of its location climate, economy & challenges.

It is great to know that it is an Islamic Country with tremendous potential.

When Moulana Allie initially spoke to us about Mauritania & UUCSA's desire to support the ambassador we were quite happy to support the initiative.

The Minara Chamber is a duly constituted Muslim Chamber whose membership is open to all irrespective of race & religion.

In fact, we have a number of non-Muslim members who use the platform to trade with many Muslim businesses. Minara is in existence for almost 2 decades & focuses on both benefits to members as well as benefits to the community.

In a number of instances e.g. during the Xenophobia problems as well as during Covid & the looting played a role in helping coordinate information & support to the community.

Minara has a good relationship with Government & Govt departments & often intervenes & lobbies on behalf of members & communities.

Relationship with various embassies & high commissions as well as trade commissions have been developed over decades.

During the looting Minara together with Albaraka & NGO's through an initiative called REHOP provided funding for looted businesses.

Currently in partnership with SAMCT to provide loans or grants to SMME's to develop small business including women & Youth.

Also considering a skills centre to help create jobs & alleviate poverty.

We are members of ICCIA thanks to the generous sponsorship of membership fees paid by Albaraka Bank South Africa.

We are also represented on the eThekweni war room which focuses on lessons learnt from the flooding & looting & strategies to be prepared for future challenges.

Minara is also represented at Provincial level on Economic Advisory committee and eThekweni Economic Advisory Committee.

Also a member of KBCC & SACCI.

We are available and happy to support any and all initiatives of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

We welcome you to use our offices and facilities to promote trade between our countries.

Pre-Covid we participated in many incoming & outgoing trade delegations.

We wish u success in your term of office in South Africa.

JAZAKALLAH

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Solly Suleman (President), Fawzia Peer (Vice President), Razak Jooma (Secretary General), Asgar Mahomed, Dawood Lockhat, Ebrahim Patel, Naseem Kathrada, Aslam Ismail, Zain Mitha, Essa Hassim, Yusuf Arbee, Nazareen Ebrahim