

## Iqraa Trust partnership empowers more than twenty schools



Iqraa Trust team with some principals and MUT staff at the libraries handing over

It has not even been a year since Iqraa Trust, through its Chairman Dr Mahmoud Youssef Baker, reached out to MUT as a possible partner in a number of teacher development and schools enhancement projects. Yet the partnership has seen over 25 schools from Umlazi Township benefiting already.

Iqraa Trust is a humanitarian organisation that has been investing in higher education through bursaries and interest-free loans to University students for many years. Their focus spreads across a number of areas including sustainability and green solar energy, capacity development in financial sustainability, teacher development, research and innovation as well as the Iqraa Trust Knowledge Centre. Noting that the Trust had not yet reached Umlazi Township, Dr Baker identified MUT as a strategic partner to ensure that Iqraa's work also impacts on Umlazi's local communities. He met with the MUT Vice-Chancellor, Dr Malaza where they discussed a number of areas of collaboration between the two institutions. Some areas identified included bursaries for MUT students and mentorship by Iqraa Trust when MUT establishes its own foundation. The spin-offs of the partnership have been instantaneous, with Umlazi Township schools being the biggest beneficiaries. Understanding MUT's vision 2020-2025 of growing together with the community of Umlazi, Dr Baker works closely with MUT's Marketing and Communications (MarComms) department to enhance MUT's stakeholder engagement programmes. Dr Baker is an economist who is very passionate about education and believes that building a strong foundation at an early age for learners is the key to building a successful nation.

On 13 September 2018 Dr Baker visited Khalipha Primary School in Umlazi's Z Section to donate library books to five primary schools in the township. This was the start of a very strong partnership. In February this year Iqraa Trust donated mobile libraries stocked with 150 books each, valued at R250 000, to ten primary schools. These mobile libraries can hold more than 1000 books each and Dr Baker refers to the 150 books as just a 'starter pack' for these schools - some of which did not have any reading materials for their learners at all.

Asked why he thought it was important for these schools to have libraries, Dr Baker said, "Imagine a nation that does not read: they will not be able to catch up with technology and the realities of the world. Even at work you will be a liability if you do not read and keep abreast with the world news. Even at universities, distinguished academics are those that read. Please use these libraries efficiently; we will visit with you to do a follow-up and assist with training."

Dr Baker said Iqraa Trust supports any good cause. This was proven on 15 March 2019 when the Trust responded positively to a proposal by MUT to support the Circle of Excellence awards to recognise schools that achieved 100% for English First Additional Language in the 2018 matric exams. Although Dr Baker was not familiar with the CoE Awards concept, he knew that his Trust would want to be associated with the CoE after reading the proposal and noting how hard the teachers and learners of Umlazi Township schools push themselves to achieve great results with limited resources. He approved a donation of 100 dictionaries that were distributed to the nine schools that each achieved a 100% pass rate in English in 2018 - Enaleni High School, KwaMgaga High School, Menzi High School, Mafumbuka High School, Mason Lincoln School, Shumayela High School, Velabahlake High School, Zwelibanzi High School, and Vukuzakhe High School. The schools had indicated a need for dictionaries and specifically requested that MUT secure a donor to provide them. All these schools have learners from financially disadvantaged families and one of the schools is a school for learners with special needs. While a dictionary might seem like an easy purchase for some people, for many of these learners they are unaffordable. The donated dictionaries will enhance the learners' understanding of English which is a challenge for many learners transitioning from high school to university.

The MUT and Iqraa Trust partnership is set to grow as the two parties collaborate further to assist Umlazi educators to submit applications for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching, for a possible opportunity to attend a six-week teacher development programme in the United States.



Dr Baker

# DELIVER

## MUT to strengthen governance through new divisional heads

"Good governance is at the heart of any progressive organisation. Once you sort out governance issues, you will succeed as an organisation." These were the words of Dr Enoch Duma Malaza when he first joined MUT as Vice-Chancellor and Principal less than a year ago. Today we salute the new managers that have been recruited to be part of decision-making and good governance at the University.

**Meet the team tasked with ensuring optimal performance, inculcating a risk awareness culture and a passion for innovation:**

**Fozia Madhi, Senior Director: Legal Services**

This seasoned University attorney brings with her 29 years' legal experience and 23 years' management experience.

Born and raised in Johannesburg, she left Johannesburg to work at Walter Sisulu University in the Eastern Cape in 2008. In December 2018, she relocated to Durban to join Mangosuthu University of Technology as Senior Director: Legal Services.

Fozia has a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) qualification from the University of Witwatersrand, and was admitted as a qualified attorney in June 1994. She also has a Masters of Law (LLM) qualification from UNISA and she specialised in Labour Law, Human Rights Law, Family Law and Insurance Law.

Fozia says her "passion is education, in particular the education of disadvantaged students who through their qualifications can create a better life for themselves and their families and a better South Africa and world".

She had to hit the ground running in order to deal with student issues and various backlogs at the beginning of the year. The last time the University had an attorney was in 2014. She hopes that she will be able to reduce the University's legal bill as the university has had to source many different attorneys. "I intend mending relationships and ensuring constructive engagement even when there are disagreements by encouraging mediation and amicable resolution of legal matters," Fozia said.

**Muzi Khumalo, Senior Director: Operations**

Muzi has been seconded to the executive management team, where he made his mark using his project management experience during student fee negotiations. He has introduced new systems in procurement in order to allow an efficient and effective procurement system. "Transition may be difficult initially, but in the end, we will ensure a transparent and timely procurement system," he reassured executive management.

His responsibilities span across various departments, including Infrastructure Planning & Projects, Estate & Facilities Management, Safety & Security, Transportation & Circulation, and Printing & Postal Services. "These functions are instrumental in providing support services for effective academic activities at the university. A more responsive, accountable Operations directorate will support teaching & learning and culminate in the pipeline for MUT include establishing a Call Centre Help Desk for all University Operations, improving infrastructure investment spending to R40 million per month, establishing automated systems & work flow processes, as well as advocating a culture of professionalism.

Muzi says the first thing he thinks about when he wakes up is "my to-do list for the day". Muzi hails from Bergville and has two sons.

**Jerome Mabaso, Director: Internal Audit, Enterprise Risk Management and Compliance**

A PhD in IT has not deterred Jerome - the man tasked with MUT's Enterprise Risk Management, internal audit and compliance management - from being a sports fanatic, athlete, avid supporter of Kaizer Chiefs and Manchester United, Ukhozi listener and man of prayer.

His plans for MUT include "inculcating a culture of risk awareness and risk management throughout the University; enhancing and protecting organisational values by providing risk-based and objective assurance, advice and insight; as well as fostering a culture of ethics and compliance that is central to all of the University's operations and activities". He sees his role as contributing towards the achievement of University goals. "Whatever strategy the Institution implements, there must be systems of controls in place to ensure that the strategy achieves the mission".

In less than four months at MUT, he has impressed the Audit and Risk Committee with the systems he has put in place. "It is always fulfilling to be part of the winning team. I therefore would like to maintain a good reputation for MUT, and enhance its brand by being the guardian of governance across the University. I see myself as a 'game-changer', where I bring motivation, enhance risk management discipline, and promote good corporate governance," says Jerome.



Muzi khumalo



"To resolve legal matters amicably!"  
Fozia Madhi



Welcome to MUT!  
Dr Malaza, left, welcomes Dr Mabaso