Ebrahim Rasool

Ebrahim Rasool's life was shaped by a lifelong commitment to justice and co-existence and forged through participation and leadership in the anti-apartheid struggle. This started at High School and included leadership in the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the African National Congress (ANC). He has had to make sacrifices like spending time in prison, where he met Nelson Mandela for the first time, and being under house arrest.

More recently, he was South Africa's Ambassador to the United States of America. Prior to that, his contributions have included being a Member of Parliament in the National Assembly, Special Advisor to the State President of the Republic of South Africa and Premier (governor) of the Western Cape Province.

His social and political involvement has been faith-driven, through involvement in both the Islamic Movement (as a founder of The Call of Islam) as well as the Interfaith Movement. He mobilised Muslims and the broader faith communities to develop deeper understandings of Islam and faith under the prevailing conditions of globalisation in the world today.

Ebrahim Rasool has built up extensive experience of Government having led various Departments like Health, Welfare, Finance and Economic Development, and was instrumental in, amongst others, attracting foreign investment into the Province worth R8 billion (approximately $1 billion) having the highest provincial economic growth rate, and making significant strides towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's).

For his contribution to South Africa Ambassador Rasool has been the recipient of a number of leadership awards: Visionary Leadership and Public Good Award from the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists in 2008; Commitment and Leadership in the Fight Against Crime from Business Against Crime (2009); The 2005 London Financial Times Foreign Direct Investment (Africa) Personality of the Year Award; The Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights presented to him by the Kaiser Family Foundation in 1998; the Inaugural Presidential Award for Outstanding Commitment from the National Press Club in Washington, DC; and Indonesian Diasporean of 2012 Award.

Founder of the *World for All Foundation*, Ambassador Rasool is active in rethinking the intellectual tools for co-operative relations between faiths, cultures and communities at a global level, and establishing justice, dignity, inclusion and equity for those marginalised and excluded, which among others are expressed through the OneAfrica Initiative.

He received a Bachelor of Arts and a Higher Diploma in Education from the University of Cape Town, as well as 2 Honorary Doctorates in Humane Letters (Roosevelt University) and Public Service (Chatham University). He is a Senior Fellow at Georgetown University.

He is married to Rosieda Shabodien, and they have two children, Tahrir Thandeka and Tanwir-Sadr Sinethemba.