



PRESS RELEASE

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**AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL
ISLAMIC ORGANISATION
REPRESENTING
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES**

**45 Years of Community
Services**

21 January 2009

A NEW ERA WITH PRESIDENT BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA

On congratulating the American people on the inauguration of their 44th President, the President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Patel hoped that this could also be a real opportunity for positive change and engagement in the world.

The people of the world from all backgrounds should embrace Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr's wishes and dreams that have now come to fruition and reality with the inauguration of President Obama, said Mr Patel.

President Obama's acknowledgement of the damage that some of the policies of the past US administration has done to the world community and his strong wish and desire to engage with the Muslim world in dialogue augers well for the future of the planet. The world is at a cross road and whilst President Obama has offered the olive branch, his Muslim heritage can also help to provide credibility and sincerity to his desire for a changed direction away from 'crusades', added Mr Patel.

Leaders of the world who have a desire for real peace in the world must now use President Obama's term in office as gift to the world to effect some real change, and a just homeland for the Palestinian people will be a good agenda to start with, added Mr Patel.

In concluding, Mr Patel echoed the prayers offered during the inauguration that may God help and guide President Obama and his entire administration as well as all other world leaders to a path of inclusiveness for the benefit of the entire world community.

For further information, please contact:

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