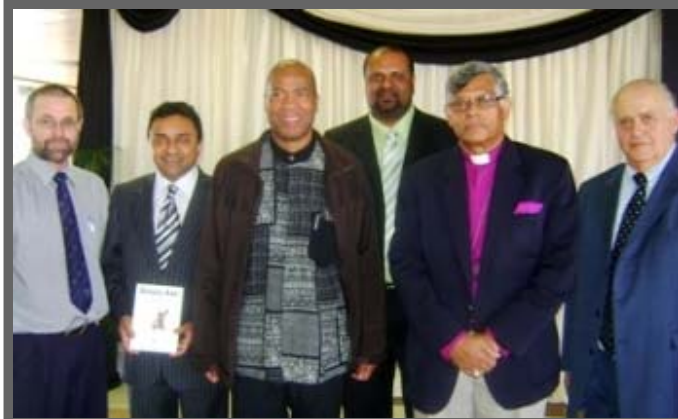


## BOOK TO ASSIST HEALTHCARE WORKERS



Attending the book launch were (from left) Professors Pete Zacharias, Dasarath Chetty, Malegapuru Makgoba, Mr Sean Moodley, Bishop Rubin Phillip and Professor Gerrie Lubbe.

A book aimed at educating South Africa's healthcare workers about this country's diverse religions has been launched at UKZN. Professor Gerrie Lubbe, Chair of the Desmond Tutu Diversity Trust, penned the book *Simply Ask! A Guide to Religious Sensitivity For Healthcare Professionals* to assist healthcare workers in treating patients of the various faiths.

The Desmond Tutu Diversity Trust (DTDT) published the book which was launched in conjunction with UKZN as part of its role in promoting and celebrating South Africa's diversity. The publication is sponsored by TrustAfrica, based in Dakar, Senegal.

Inspiration to write this book came from a series of queries by healthcare professionals who over the years sought Professor Lubbe's advice in their approach to providing healthcare to patients of different religious groups. With this in mind he wrote a book which provides an insight into the popular religions practised in South Africa.

"Through this book we are trying to highlight the relationship between spirituality and healthcare. It's clear that this has become a matter of importance in the area of clinical research. We provide you (healthcare workers) with a guide but if it does not suffice, simply ask the patient," said Professor Lubbe. He added that it was important for healthcare professionals to respect their patients' spirituality because during times of trauma they derived comfort from their religion.

Keynote speaker, Bishop Rubin Phillip of the Anglican Church Diocese of KwaZulu-Natal, described the book as "an important publication" which helps readers understand the connectivity between spirituality and healthcare.