



INTRODUCTION TO TEAM 24

Team24 is a newly established fight back team within Aljama-ah aimed at coming to the aid of people during the Coronavirus epidemic. Councillor Faried Achmat and his Team 24 have been working around the clock to assist the vulnerable during this lock down. Councillor Achmat Hendricks is heading up the hotline.

Team24 spokesperson Councillor Faried Achmat says: "We are ready to assist communities especially those in the poorer areas. We are receiving calls from big companies to assist their workers affected and anxious by the virus. We are also making sure workers get treated fairly by their bosses with regard to salary payments and that they are provided with the necessary protective wear during the 21-day shutdown. Everyday workers are being unfairly treated by management. Labour inspectors also fail in their duty to check whether management are adhering to the lock down Employment and Labour Regulations. Our big concerns are how the elderly, poor and vulnerable people will cope not only with the virus, but the overall lock down period."

In a live interview on Radio Islam, Hon. Hendricks called for a "holy war" against the Coronavirus, citing that the virus has infringed upon Islamic rituals such as communal prayers, possibly also the annual performance of Hajj by more than 3-million people throughout the world and more than 70-million who visit the holy precinct throughout the year.

A special module with scripted lessons will be compiled into a syllabus for expedient training in handling a corona-related death. Councillor Dawood reported that in KZN the Stanger Muslim burial service, which is affiliated to the Islamic Burial Society held an informative conference on Covid-19 which was held on 23 March 2020.

Some pertinent issues discussed at the conference were the prevention of contamination of the Coronavirus when handling the mayyit (dead body). Team-24's task team also raised concerns on burial procedures should communities be faced mass funerals.

Moulana Gaill, who heads the task team of investigators admitted that the Muslim communities were ill-equipped in handling and dealing with mass corona-related funerals. The task team also raised concerns that Muslims may be forced to leave the mayyits cremated, which is against the Islamic faith.

The Constituency office supports satellite offices at the Nani Huda mosque in the Strand and the Salamudin Mosque in Lentegeur, Mitchells Plain, and is further supported by Constituency offices in Belgravia near the Vygieskraal informal settlement and a Constituency office in Umtata.

All these offices will have hotlines run by Constituency Officers. Co-ordinating these hotlines is Cllr Achmat Hendricks who himself will run a 24/7 hotline and escalate help to members of the Party's Team24.

Team 24 also consists of councillors in five municipalities throughout South Africa, each with their own hotlines.

The first port of call for help is the nearest Constituency officer and then the 24/7 hotline.

AL JAMA-AH is working around the clock to implement an online video training and development course to empower members of their Team-24 to understand the regulations which changes from day-to-day.

This enables them to assist basically workers on no-work-no-pay, and small businesses which were operating as from 28 February 2021.

The long-term objective is the Party's helpdesk will assist newly-emerged small businesses to access grants up to R2.5-million.

Party leader Hon. Genief Hendricks believes half the jobs in South Africa is now expected to be lost largely due to the corona pandemic, with all hope of the country's ability to sustain much more needed job opportunities remaining bleak for upcoming business entrepreneurs.

"A special video-training and development programme is on the radar," Hendricks added, saying: "We at Al Jama-ah, however, fight back against the economic and industrial scavage and destruction which Covid-19 is causing, through our Team-24 task teams."



KEY PLAYERS OF TEAM 24

COUNCILLOR AK DAWOOD

from Stanger will head up our burial support services and assist undertakers with body bags and plastic coverings. Cllr Dawood will focus on compliance issues.

COUNCILLOR HOUSEN KHAN

from Durban provided 40 hampers for the evictees in Shell Cross. Khan represented AL JAMA-AH on Markaz Saheeba Al Ansaar Radio on Sunday 5 April 2020 from 11am to 12pm.

ASGHAR KHAN

from Umtata, KZN is further engaging with community representatives and business people to begin an outreach programs. He joined the delegation of Umtata councillors with MEC Khoza (Social Development) at the pension payout points in Umtata and Scottburgh. They handed out flyers, sanitation packs and informed seniors on the importance to wash hands regularly and on the use of hand sanitizers. People recognized him as the Al Jama-ah representative and the only opposition councillor who attended the outreach programme.

KABELO NTHEKISO

from Estcourt and Veli Luthali from Grootville led a campaign of delivering food, toiletries and sanitary towels to the needy ahead of the national lock down. They have provided relief to 12 families in Loskop and wish to continue this initiative moving forward.

SALIM GOGGA

from Mauduzi is keeping an eye out in his neighborhood for any assistance that may be required. He is also sending out reminders to conscientious members on the seriousness of the situation. He is helping people who are having problems with the Municipality. He is in constant contact via whatsapp with the community and helps them under the most extreme circumstances.

COUNCILLOR THAPELO AMAD

from Soweto. He had the following to say "Al Jama-ah is taking an initiative to help combat the covid19. Some one has to do it, because it will never be done unless we take initiative as a community. We're in the community of Protea South Soweto, teaching people about cleanliness during lock down. We are teaching people to self quarantine and how to keep social distance. We advise that the community should stick to the laws of quarantine. The community is cooperating in what is being taught."

QAANITA KHAN JACOBS

from Cape Town as a member of Team24 and is committed to uphold all rules and regulations pertaining to the pandemic and will contribute in making the public aware of the regulations.

MUMIENAH GAMIELDIEN

from Cape Town, Constituency officer from Mitchells Plain and PA for Cllr. Achmat Hendricks will take all telephone calls on inquiries related to essential services during the lock down period. Mamieneh can be contacted on 021- 224 0553.

PRINCESS BELINDA PETERSEN

from Cape Town duties include providing services such as telephonic advice and consultations, referrals, telephonic support on staff health status and telephonic service delivery assistance when needed.

FU'AD RAHMAN

reporter for Aljama-ah is tasked with gathering and writing news stories and taking of photographs for the Al Jama-ah Times. He accompanies Al Jama-ah teams in the field, is a seasoned journalist/news photographer and has worked at several major newspapers in the city, nationally and abroad. He holds a BA (hons) in Media studies and English literacy theory from the University of the Western Cape.

ROUNDUP OF THE ACTIVISM OF TEAM24

- The appointment of a Covid-19-trained senior nurse at the Al Jama-ah Parliamentary National Constituency Office has boosted efforts of Parliament to reach out to communities surrounding our constituency offices.
- The nurse will, in addition, head the Occupational Health Centre for the Party's staffers. The occupational health service (OHS) was launched to keep us safe and put in place a respiratory facility as a life saving measure for Team 24 members.
- Team 24 has established a training and development programme to assist people to access Covid UIF benefits and relief assistance to small businesses.
- Genief Hendricks has partnered with school principal, Mahdie Samodien and Al JAMA-AH National Executive member Faizel Khan.
- AL JAMA-AH's secretary general, cllr. Faried Achmat will lead the campaign team and act as the spokesperson. The Constituency offices will be managed by 12 hotlines as councillors and staff, described as the "Heart of Team 24" will be supported by a media team.
- Radio Jeeen is on sazar largely to reach the public on how to access benefits relating to lock down and coping with anxiety.
- After hours, there is a hot-line in place under the leadership of councillor, Achmat Hendricks who is based in Lentegeur, Mitchells Plain.
- Telehealth counseling is available by psychologists and social work counseling is available by our social worker at half price by Team 24. People are welcome to call the hot line number. Counseling by a nurse and Parliamentary Constituency officers will be free.
- Team-24 also came to the rescue of high school learners by arranging extramural lessons, especially on Grade 12 learners who are compelled to stay home now that the national education department announced a further stay-at-home period.
- Al Jama-ah sent out volunteers into the communities nationwide to educate the public on the dangers of the Coronavirus before the lock down began. All volunteers are given intensive online training so that they are aware of the health hazards when dealing with the corona virus when they go into the communities.
- The volunteers conducted house visits and handed out small bottles of hand sanitizers, pamphlets and related material on the dangers of the corona virus.
- In South Africa's capital city Pretoria in the central part of the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, Aljama-ah has provided basic essentials, such as groceries and toilet paper to several child headed households.

As part of AL JAMA-AH Team24 Covid-19 project, a Baytul Maal will be set up at our Constituency office at 26 Voel Street in Belgravia Estate, Cape Town.

This Baytul Maal will be used to fund projects to provide humanitarian aid and assistance throughout the country to the less fortunate during this time and will also be overseen by Ameer, Mogamad Bedford.

BANKING DETAILS

BANK : First National Bank
ACCOUNT NAME : Al Jama-ah
ACCOUNT NO. : 6215 3667 575
REFERENCE : Baytul Maal (Please Specify Lillah or Zakaat)

Please donate generously in cash and kind.

Our 24hr national helpline number is 021 224 0553.

