



ALJAMA TIMES

AUGUST 2020

ALJAMA TIMES is the official newspaper of the AL JAMA-AH PARTY

AL JAMA-AH HAS DELIVERED



HON. GANIEF HENDRICKS,
Member of Parliament & Al Jama-ah leader

AL JAMA-AH has emerged as a powerful political party in South Africa, determined to win more seats in the City of Cape Town (CoCT) and to continue to keep the balance of power at the Inkosi Langalibalele Municipality in Estcourt, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN).

With the upcoming local government elections in 2021, the party is working hard to achieve the balance of power in four other municipalities, CoCT, Nelson Mandela Bay in the Eastern Cape, the eThekweni Municipality in KZN and the City of Johannesburg in Gauteng. Currently AL JAMA-AH also forms part of the government of local unity in the City of Johannesburg.

The party's growth from two municipal seats in CoCT increased to a total of nine municipal seats – six councillors, including a deputy mayor in KZN and one councillor in Gauteng. The party has one seat in the Western Cape Provincial

Legislature and one in National Parliament. Since its inception, 10 years ago, these achievements are indicative of its vision to win more seats.

AL JAMA-AH is led by its dynamic leader and Member of Parliament, Hon. Ganief Hendricks, who said: "We are preparing for 100 councillors to stand in the upcoming municipal elections and we will aim to win the balance of power in the City of Cape Town and in Nelson Mandela Bay.

"We have gained significant successes to the benefit of our voters and all South Africans. Our work inside and outside Parliament and at municipal level proves our ability of good governance."

AL JAMA-AH has raised the various issues from the communities in National Parliament, the Western Cape Legislature and at Municipal level:

NIKAH BILL – We are lobbying for the recognition of religious marriages, including that of other faiths. The party continues to appeal to the Minister of Home Affairs to change the insulting entry of "NEVER MARRIED" on death certificates to that of "WIDOW".

ENVIRONMENT –The party focused on the inhumane living conditions at the Masiphumelele informal settlement in Fish Hoek. Residents are exposed to sewage water which seeps into their shacks when the nine canals overflow during heavy rainfalls. Due to the lack of sanitation facilities residents are forced to dump their waste into the canals.

The party, along with the community, achieved a settlement agreement with the City of Cape Town to improve on living conditions for the community. Since the 2017 settlement, nothing drastic has changed or improved in Masiphumelele.

AL JAMA-AH lodged a complaint to the Public Protector, calling for punitive action to be taken against the relevant officials.

The Macassar and Kramat residents confirmed that the air pollution caused by the sewage pipeline, was partially eliminated after AL JAMA-AH raised the matter with the City of Cape Town.

COOKED FOOD DURING THE LOCKDOWN – The party was instrumental in lobbying to allow community organisations and individuals to cook food for distribution to the needy. Community workers were harassed and following complaints to Cogta, the Minister Nkosana Dlamini-Zuma amended a regulation to allow community workers to cook and distribute food to thousands of starving people.

RE-OPENING OF MOSQUES DURING LOCKDOWN – Following extensive lobbying to Cogta and the President Cyril Ramaphosa's office, mosques and other places of worship were re-opened for prayers, with the same strict Covid-19 regulations which applies to funerals.

FISHERMEN – AL JAMA-AH, alongside other organisations, successfully petitioned the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries to have the Covid-19 regulations amended to grant fishing rights to line fishermen.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) – The party continues to play a key role in providing PPE to burial undertakers, tookamanis, community workers and to other essential workers. The party's MPL in the Western Cape Legislature, Maulana Galil Brinkhuys submitted a question to the Health MEC for the Province to supply PPE to burial undertakers and to recognise them as forming part of front-line workers in the health sector.

CHARITY DRIVE-AL JAMA-AH distributed sanitary towels to young girls and held awareness programmes with several families on COVID-19 safety rules. Party members also distributed masks and bottled sanitisers to various poor communities.

BEITUL-MAAL - Beitul- Maal is focusing on providing PPE for charitable volunteers, cooking and distributing food for poor and getting bodies released for burial. Al Jama-ah was instrumental in providing a DNA test to get a body released in Lentegeur because the deceased had no birth certificate.

AL JAMA-AH MEDIA – The party's experienced media team is updating its website, www.aljama.co.za with regular news on the party's activities. The media team regularly updates Facebook, twitter, Instagram and Youtube with news on its activities and submissions to National Parliament, Provincial Legislature and that of councillors at the various municipalities.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICES -AL JAMA-AH has several National Parliamentary Constituency offices and a Provincial Constituency office in the Western Cape. From these Constituency offices, the public is informed on discussions in Parliament, Provincial Legislature, council on activities by the party.

Constituency offices were launched in Mitchells Plain, Surrey Estate and in Belgravia Estate to encourage public participation in our projects.

We call on the public to join AL JAMA-AH and to stand a chance to be nominated as a councillor for the upcoming 2021 local elections.

For further information regarding our projects please contact Ayesha Allie on 021 224-0318.

AL JAMA-AH HONOURS Women's MONTH

AL JAMA-AH'S WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

THE plight of abused women, conditions of shelters for women and the dignity of Muslim women married in accordance with Religious Marriages, were discussed on the AL JAMA-AH's virtual platforms in celebration of Women's Month during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the National Assembly Debate on Women's Month, Hon. Ganief Hendricks honoured all the young women who stood up against injustices during the 1976 student uprisings. He related to the spell-bound Members of Parliament how the then fearless and brave 20-year-old Valerie Truter, sister of Christopher Truter (15), whose brains were shot out of his skull by the apartheid security police in Bonteheuwel, picked up pieces of his brains and joined paramedics as they carried him to an ambulance. AL JAMA-AH will honour the 65-year-old Mrs Valerie Truter Petersen by erecting a plague on the field where he was shot.

Guest speaker under the theme, "Gender-Based Violence – Impact of Covid-19" - Ms Nuraan Osman, Director of Ithata shelter in Heideveld on the Cape Flats for abused women, expressed disappointment in the government for delaying the registration and funding of shelters. Hon. Hendricks raised the matter in Parliament and criticised the government for the delays. Hendricks will also lobby the relevant Portfolio Committees to assist in expediting registration and funding of shelters.

AL JAMA-AH's second webinar on Women's Month: "Women Striving For Food Security and Sustainability," encouraged women to grow their own food. Guest speaker, Ms Nadia Mortensen, Director of Community Projects Garden, shared valuable information on the benefits of growing one's own food.

Mrs Joan Van Kersteren, who does Home-Based Backyard Gardening, spoke about how she embarked on home gardening for food sustainability. Mrs Kersteren said she had a poor upbringing and soon realised the need to plant and grow her own food. She inspired the audience with her selfless ways which came about during her poor upbringing as a child.



VELI LUTHULI, Councillor at the Inkosi Langalibalele Municipality in Estcourt, KwaZulu-Natal and the daughter-in-law of Chief Albert Luthuli, visited Thembeni Orphanage in Grootville where she spent time with the orphans and handed out parcels of fruits and other treats. The late Chief Luthuli was also from Thembeni.



MUMIENAH GAMIELDIEN, Constituency officer of AL JAMA-AH in Mitchell's Plain, is involved with women and self-sustainability projects through home gardening and educational projects. She is also involved in entrepreneurship and attends lessons in technology. She attends the Graduate school of business at UCT.



RUTH KHODANI, AL JAMA-AH's Virtual National Parliamentary Officer in Atteridgeville in Pretoria treated and distributed sanitary pads to young girls and took them on expeditions with treats and fun games. She focuses mainly on child headed households and on the needs of learners. Ruth Khodani assists learners with their school projects and try to motivate them to improve their lives through Aljama-ahs "Adopt-a-girl-child" campaign. Aljama-ah sponsors them with gift packs, sanitary towels, cosmetics and food parcels.



BELINDA PETERSEN -Al Jama-ah's constituency officer at our Belgravia office, visits impoverished women as well as abused women. She participates in gender-based violence workshops. Giving Khoisan women a voice, is Princess Belinda who is the Party's Western Cape Constituency Officer for Khoisan.



AYESHA ALLIE-PATEL- Al Jama-ah's news editor, researcher for Member of National Parliament, Hon. Ganief Hendricks and Member of Western Cape Legislature, MPL Galil Brinkhuys.



NISA SIERS-Al Jama-ah's Communications, Marketing and Social Media Manager in Cape Town.



TEAM 24 IS ASKING FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

R150
PPE
clothing

R50
Body
Bag

R10
5 cups
of soup

DONATE

BANK	Nedbank
ACCOUNT NAME	Beitul Maal
ACCOUNT NUMBER	1204676925
BRANCH CODE	198765
REFERENCE	Beitul Maal

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

MASIPHUMELELE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

Hon. Ganief Hendricks, Member of Parliament and Al Jama-ah leader focused on the inhumane living conditions at the Masiphumelele informal settlement. Residents are exposed to sewage water which seeps into their shacks when the 9 canals overflow during heavy rainfalls. Due to the lack of sanitation facilities residents are forced to dump their waste into the canals.

AL JAMA-AH have complained to the Portfolio Committees on Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), the Western Cape Provincial Legislature, the Public Protector and the SA Human Rights Commission.

Whilst on Constituency break, Hon. Hendricks was invited to an online Zoom meeting with Western Cape Public Protector's legal representatives to address the complaints on Masiphumelele. About 20 000 residents has access to only 200 toilets forcing them to dump waste into the canals. "After 25 years of democracy the African child still plays in sewage, learns in sewerage and during heavy rainfalls the African child must live in sewerage," Hendricks said.

The City has failed to address the sewage in the canals in Masiphumelele over the past seven years. Aljama-ah's City of Cape Town councillor Faried Achmat who visited the Settlement on Youth Day described the living conditions as "unfit and degrading" "It's unacceptable that our people must live in such degrading conditions," Achmat said.



Illegal dumping in Masiphumelele Informal Settlement

He said AL JAMA-AH raised the issue with the former City mayor Ms Patricia de Lille and again two years ago. In 2017 the City was instructed by the Western Cape Environment Department to remove the weeds from the canals.

Community activist, Tshepo Hlomo commended AL JAMA-AH as being "the only political party fighting for our basic human and constitutional rights." "AL JAMA-AH continues to support us in our struggle and people are getting sick because of the germs we are living in" he said.

Environmental activist, Rose Milbank said the pollution is a health hazard to the residents. "How can anyone, especially those little children live in such appalling conditions? The City is not showing interest in improving the conditions," Milbank said. She said the City owns a land next to the settlement which they could use to develop low-cost housing.

MACASSAR SEWAGE POLLUTION

Residents reported to Aljama-ah that the sewage pollution in Macassar into the Kuils River has improved a little and

the stench have largely been eliminated. However, Kramat residents remain concerned that the City of Cape Town continues to pour sewage into the Kuils River, which flows past their small holdings and exposes toxic water to their livestock, people and children playing nearby or in the river. The local Imam said many people have taken ill from the toxins.

The party continues to monitor the upgrading of the sewerage plant and raised concerns that the upgrades to the sewerage plant would lead to the plant increasing its treatment capacity ten-fold.

"More treated sewage will cause more harm and sewage into the sea is poisoning the fish along the coastline," he said. Research carried out by the Universities of the Western Cape (UWC), Cape Town and Stellenbosch revealed that one-third of fish along Cape Town's shores are riddled with diseases. These researchers have worked closely with Al Jama-ah and identified the source of the poison, which they traced to the Zandvlei sewage plant.

GOVERNMENT MUST SPEED UP REGISTRATION OF SHELTERS FOR ABUSED WOMEN



Director Nuraan Osman
of Ihata Womens Shelter

'Government is slow in providing the necessary funding and paper-work for shelters'

SOUTH AFRICA has only one official Muslim shelter for abused women, forcing several abused Muslim women to seek safety at non-Muslim shelters where often they are forced to compromise their Islamic principles.

This was revealed during An AL JAMA-AH Women's Day virtual meeting during the two-week Constituency break. AL JAMA-AH's President and Member of Parliament Hon. Ganief Hendricks said the bad condition of shelters and the plight of abused women was revealed by the Ihata shelter's Director, Ms Nuraan Osman. She was the main

guest speaker on AL JAMA-AH's Women's Day virtual meeting under the theme, "Gender Base Violence – Impact of Covid-19."

Osman called on the government to stop "dilly dallying" when it comes to assisting shelters.

"It's now nearly a year, and the government has not yet made provision for shelters to be registered. The necessary forms are not yet ready, the minimum conditions have not yet been agreed upon," she said.

Hendricks will take up the matter at the National Assembly Plenary sessions when Parliament starts its third term. "The fight with the government will open the doors for the shelters to be registered, and to assist and fund them. This will be a positive step for the government to take instead of dilly-dallying. Most of these shelters are run by NGOs who are known to beautify the shelter environments for abused women, like starting opportunities for the planting of flowers, vegetable garden, painting of the walls, and encouraging women to create business opportunities and empower women to become economically strong," he said. Hon. Ganief Hendricks returned to parliament on the eve of the new Muslim year determined to do what must be done to create jobs and new businesses.

Al Jama-ah is now looking at the involvement of an armed rapid-response unit, because when there's an emergency call from an abused woman she can be assisted by being taken to the police station and placed in a shelter or a temporary place of safety.

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Al Jama-ah has started to roll out a gender strengthening mechanism by providing pro-bona (free) help desks for the following:

1. Marriage/Divorce Dispute Tribunals
2. Social work/psychologist
3. Victim armed response

For further information contact

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ON THE RADAR

Al Jama-ah will establish an armed rapid-response unit to assist abused woman during emergencies. The Party also started Gender Strengthening Mechanism Pro Bona Desks

1. Marriage/Divorce Dispute Tribunals
2. Social work/psychologist
3. Victim armed response

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HOW TO JOIN ONLINE

STEP 1

Visit www.aljama.co.za

STEP 2

Click download to access membership form

STEP 3

Complete the form

STEP 4

Pay R15 into our BANK ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME : Aljama

BANK : Nedbank

BRANCH : Howard Centre, Pinelands

ACCOUNT : 1202085571

BRANCH : 10210900

TYPE : Business PAYU

STEP 5

Send completed form as well as proof of payment
to info@aljama.co.za



MEMBERSHIP