



PRESS RELEASE

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District Six: AL Jama-ah joins Deputy President on oversight visit

The long-awaited oversight visit by the Deputy President David Mabuza initiated by Al Jama-ah's leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks will take place on Tuesday 22 March 2022.

The delays in the process of restitution caused much distress amongst the claimants and Hendricks intervened by engaging with the Honourable Deputy President, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Land Reform and Agriculture, to undertake an oversight visit to District Six. In response to this urgent quest, the reply was positive, an affirmation of government's commitment to redress the past's injustices by ensuring that the land be restored to its rightful owners.

The Honourable Deputy President thus committed himself in Parliament that the IMC on Land Reform and Agriculture to undertake an oversight visit; one that intends to ensure that all bureaucratic delays including occupational certificates related to District Six, will be resolved.

Since the late 1960s, District Six and several other places across the country were re-zoned and officially declared white areas in accordance with the apartheid state's Group Areas Act. District Six, which was the home of a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-cultural, and multi-religious community for generations, was, because of apartheid's loathsome inhumane policies, transformed into an empty quarter for decades.

Many of us, who lived there and think back about those agonizing years, recall how we – as closely-knit families - were forced out of our homes. All of us remember how we were dislodged, uprooted, and carted away to distant places far from the city centre. And all of us cannot forget the extent to which these despicable Acts deeply had harmed and continues to hurt us emotionally.

While we continue to grapple mentally with the painful past, we express our joy that we – as families – can reclaim that which we had lost; and in this regard, many of us joined groups such as the District Six Beneficiaries and Redevelopment Trust that were willing to assist us in bringing about the required restitution. We are aware that as these groups worked to achieve this goal, they encountered many hurdles along the way.

Al Jama-ah will have a luncheon in one of the Courts of District Six on the eve of the Inter-Ministerial visit which takes place on Tuesday 22 March 2022 to be led by the Deputy President. The luncheon symbolises District Six as the hub of the Resistance during the darkest days of apartheid. One of the first residential areas to have its residents forcibly removed and the last area to get Restitution. A digital version will be available on our website at <https://www.aljama.co.za/>.

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