



**PRESS RELEASE
NO EMBARGO**

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AL JAMA-AH says for many Freedom Day spells out a betrayal of the struggle for true liberation!

On Wednesday 27 April 2022 the South African nation is expected to celebrate Freedom Day. As we reflect on this day which all South Africans should be proud to be part of, the realisation is that the **freedom** fought for is a “far cry away.”

Al Jama-ah acknowledges the achievements made but in comparison to the overall basic needs of poverty-stricken communities, genuine transformation is at an unjustifiable slow pace! Poverty, inequality, crime, gangsterism, and unemployment are at the bottom of government’s priority list. The economic gap between the rich and poor are widening and so too the trust between the masses and politicians. We have a government who is reluctant to implement the ideals of the freedom struggle.

The slogan: “Education for Liberation” means nothing for the poor as we have a situation of “Education for the rich vs education for the poor.” More than 500 000 learners cannot be placed at schools due to lack of schools. Criminal activities and gangsterism are factors depriving youth from attending schools in their own areas and holding communities hostage.

Further, convicted fraudsters and rapists made it on to the nominations list for local government councillors. President Cyril Ramaphosa’s 2018 Sona (State of the Nation Address) was filled with hope. But since then, we see slow progress, continuous corruption, and the lack of ethical and accountable leadership within all three spheres of governments.

“Our children under the age of five are dying of acute malnutrition. The Children’s Institute at the University of Cape Town revealed that children suffer the slow violence of malnutrition which slowly eats away their potential, eroding their physical health and cognitive developments which undermine their education and economic prospects,” says party leader and Member of Parliament, Hon Ganief Hendricks.

While children in South Africa are suffering of malnutrition and crime, we call on the government to remember the plight of children in Palestine, Yemen, Iraq and in parts of Africa who are dying of malnutrition and proper medical care due to imposed wars.

We therefore remind President Ramaphosa that the negotiated settlement was never the final settlement for a true democratic system. To celebrate Freedom Day citizens must at least enjoy land ownership, economic power, employment, housing, safety, and security and protected from illegal evictions from farms.

For further media enquiries contact the national spokesperson:

Shameemah Salie

Cell: 084 423 0476



