

AL JAMA-AH

Manifesto

2024



- WE ARE A TRUSTED POLITICAL PARTNER -



Prof Muhammed Haron, Al Jama-Ah's new CEO



Hon. Ganief Hendricks, MP and leader of Al Jama-ah with Thapelo Amad, Al Jama-ah's Provincial Chairperson and Mayor of Johannesburg



During Women's month, In Tshwane's Atteridgeville 200 Muslim women gathered to attend a Master Class on Muslim Personal Law (MPL) that was organized by the Al Jama-ah Party.

PREAMBLE

Al Jama-ah is a proactive political party that strives to serve all communities; its members work hard towards maintaining and sustaining a democratically elected government.

The Party does not shy away from ploughing all its efforts to not only initiate positive transformation but to maintain healthy environments for all.

Since the Party endeavors towards observing sound good governance practices, it encourages all the country's diverse communities, which are driven by the spirit of ubuntu, to assist one another in realizing the common good for all at both the local and national levels.

The Party confirms that armed with this manifesto and via the national ballot box, its members and supporters are determined to bring about fundamental changes in our beloved country.

It thus spurs on all registered voters to keep our Party in mind as they go to the polls in 2024. In the forthcoming elections, our registered citizens' intentions should be revealed; they should show their fervent desire to vote for positive and healthy change.

As a Party, we believe that together we have the necessary will and power of achieving change for all in South Africa. We have an open democratic political system that is available to us and we should use it to our advantage so that everyone may benefit from constructive socio-economic and political change.

At present, we all encounter wide-spread corruption, rising crime, and mounting negative developments; since each of these harmful and damaging elements weaken our resolve as citizens, these should be brought to an end.

Administrative corruption has, like cancer, taken control of our frail lives. It has infected and paralyzed all parts of our socio-political bodies and it has deeply affected our society sociologically and psychologically; this is indeed one that needs profound change.

Corruption's spread has caused several undesirable growths, and they include, among others,

- Slowing down economic growth;
- Amplifying gross social inequalities;
- Increasing poor educational environments;
- Deteriorating health-care services; and
- Enlarging massive unemployment numbers.

So, to address each of these, the necessity for a radical change has become acute and necessary.

Despite the gains since 1994, we still need transformation to take place in all spheres of our society; from fulfilling our basic obligations towards one another (that is, reinforcing ubuntu) to displaying good governance at all levels (from family to corporate structures).

The Party thus urges everyone the need to implement change; it should be done in the way we manage the socio-political order and its administrative structures so that we can remain faithful to our Constitution accomplishing short and long-term goals.

Our national goal is to boost all the institutions of democracy; and at the same time, we should enable everyone to use their democratic powers and influence to push for positive change communally and nationally.

Via this healthy process, each one becomes an effective agent of change; and all of us, together, will act as powerful instruments for the realization of every citizen's wish.

The wish is that we collectively and inline with the Party's Muslim ethos develop

- Cooperative-spirited communities,
- Morally-minded citizens,
- Dignified societies, and
- A democratically-oriented nation.

A SNAPSHOT VIEW

Al Jama-ah (The Congregation/Ibandla/Die Gemeenskap/Abahlali) Party is a political party that was established as 'a platform for ALL communities.'

The Party is the first Muslim political party represented in the National Parliament and in the Western Cape Legislature.

It has councillors in the municipalities of Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and in the City of Cape Town.

AL JAMA-AH'S GOALS



strives towards social justice for all;



works with everyone to protect life;



secures property for each family;



respects/upholds everyone's honour and dignity; and



supports the freedom of conscience, expression, association, and movement of every individual.

While it underlines and emphasizes each goal, its members counter any policy or act that not only undermines the dignity of South Africa's diverse communities but that disrespects their decency and integrity.

CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES: WHY VOTE FOR AL JAMA-AH?

More than 29 years ago, we, the disenfranchised South Africans, were denied the right to vote under apartheid as a system of discrimination and indignity.

Many of these subjected communities fought for their freedom and for the realization of democracy; several of individuals from among them were tortured, killed, maimed, exiled, detained, and imprisoned. They sacrificed their lives and livelihoods so that all of us can live freely and can go to the polls to vote.

Now that all of us have been granted the right to vote, let us use this chance to cast our votes so that we can maintain and sustain a corrupt-free democratic government.

All citizens, who are registered voters, have the right to vote in the upcoming national elections.

So, with your vote Al Jama-ah can implement change in national government and give meaningful hope to all sectors of our communities.

The Party reminds everyone that the national government is accountable for service delivery for all; while local government is the primary contact between the state and communities, the national government also takes responsibility. It is, therefore, important for all represented communities be part of the decision-making processes by voting; the outcomes affect everyone and everything in their daily lives.

AL JAMA-AH'S POSITION

The Party works in the interest of all communities for positive and healthy change; it cooperates with others to see:

- an end to corruption at all levels,
- an eradication of crime in all sectors,
- a termination of homelessness in all areas,
- an annihilation of landlessness, and a cessation of evictions in all provinces,
- a provision of uninterrupted water supply for all, and
- a reduction of high cost of electricity for every household.

THE PARTY'S CALL

As a political party in South Africa's democratic landscape, AL JAMA-AH calls on ALL registered voters to vote for it since it is '**A Platform for All Communities**'.

It should be remembered that every vote can make a significant difference in the Wards where diverse communities reside.

So, by voting for AL JAMA-AH, the voter will become part of a party that 'walks the talk' and that delivers and accomplishes its goals.

So, when an individual votes for AL JAMA-AH, he/she votes for change, he/she votes for transformation, and he/she votes for a better quality of life for everyone.

The Party identifies with the common good for all and it stands for good governance, so vote for this type of governance in our beloved country.

So, it passionately implores voters and it makes a special call on all registered voters to rationally exercise his/her valued vote in an informed manner.

AL JAMA-AH'S GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATION

Al Jama-ah Party is represented in all 3 Spheres of government: National Parliament, Provincial Legislature, and Municipalities; and during January 2023, the City of Johannesburg voted a key Party member in as its mayor.

This **Manifesto** should not be viewed as a mere docile document; it is an active one that spells out a **programme of action**.

There is ample evidence of the Party's proud record of serving communities at all levels of government; this to be witnessed in both the urban and rural areas.

Communally, the Party has been involved in distributing food parcels to poor communities; and nationally, it busied itself with ground-breaking legislation to bring relieve to all vulnerable sections (for example, the women) of our society.

While its priority is the complete eradication of poverty, it works towards setting up sustainable employment structures for the youth, women, and those who have disabilities.

Let it be stressed that the Party works to empower the disempowered, and it strives to uplift the poor and the needy!

It set itself the task to empower the poor masses by creating employment opportunities; for these tasks are enshrined in the Constitution of our beloved country.

The Party would want to see that every citizen and resident has a right to

- clean water,
- decent housing,
- health care,
- land to produce,
- employment, and
- basic education.

So, Al Jama-ah continues (a) to strive hard towards achieving true liberation and (b) to attain most if not all the democratic ideals that are enshrined in our Constitution.

As lawmakers in all spheres of government, the Party has helped and continues to assist communities with various service delivery problems; it has literally brought "Parliament to the people" through the establishment of Constituency offices in areas such as the Cape Flats, Fordsburg, and elsewhere.

AL JAMA-AH CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For the national government elections and the 5-year term plan thereafter, Al Jama-ah remains committed to efficient service delivery for all. It devotes itself to making a difference by, among others, addressing all the "bread and butter" issues; ones that affect various sections of our communities daily.

AL JAMA-AH IS HERE TO SERVE AND NOT BE SERVED!

Though Al Jama-ah shies away from making wild election promises, it proactively responds to the communities' needs and problems.

It believes in the Chinese proverb: "You give a poor person a fish and you feed him/her for a day. You teach him/her to fish, and you give him/her an occupation that will feed him/her for a lifetime."

AL JAMA-AH IS HERE TO DELIVER AND TO ACCOMPLISH

Nationally and provincially, the Party made substantial impact among a few communities by responding and assisting everyone that faced disasters (e.g., fires & floods).

Al Jama-ah's councillors and supporters continue to help the needy; they do so by handing out food hampers and giving sanitary-towel dignity packs to schoolgirls.

So far, the Party made rapid strides at national and provincial

parliamentary levels for new legislation on:

- Recognition of Muslim Marriages,
- Amendments to the Maintenance Laws,
- Releasing of Muslim bodies (with no identity documents) for burial, and
- Stopping spillages of sewage and poorly treated wastewater into healthy waterways.

IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE'S RECORD

AL JAMA-AH is the only party that reported pollution of our waterways to the South African Human Rights Commission; it thus forced the City of Cape Town to put in place proper oversight structures regarding the treatment of wastewater and sewage pollution of our waterways and oceans.

AL JAMA-AH exposed the pollution that caused the popular Cape snoek to be infested with a peculiar disease. Besides, the pollution also caused harm to our children who played on the beaches and our animals and livestock that roamed the riverbeds; all of these have been witnessed in the Kramat and Zandvlei areas in the Western Cape.

AS A BONA FIDE PARTY, WE DEAR VOTER, HAVE AND ARE THE ANSWER SO, LET US WORK TOGETHER

1. FIGHT POVERTY

National officials along with local government play a pivotal role in alleviating poverty, and it has the best advantage in knowing the communities' needs and the resources that should be employed to provide efficient service delivery.

So, national, provincial, and municipality budgets should be fairly allocated to reduce and eliminate the inequality gaps. The National Ministry along with every Local Economic Development Department (LED) should help alleviate and eradicate poverty.

2. CREATE JOBS

Youth account for about 60% of South Africa's unemployment population. LED must absorb youth and those with scarce skills into jobs with the support of national government.

Al Jama-ah believes that special focus should be on youth development programmes; these, being skills based, will not only empower our youth educationally but would be ensured of employment!

Al Jama-ah supports the idea for the creation of more business incubators to open up employment opportunities. The Party, for example, played a key role in the establishment of such an initiative at its National Constituency Office in

Mitchell's Plain, Western Cape; and it reached out to other provinces too.

It promotes the implementation of special youth job categories, programmes for business openings, private sector funding to absorb youth into employment, national state-owned enterprises like police-, the army- and others to open skill training and development programmes.

3. STRENGTHEN BUSINESSES

LED must strengthen local-, small-, medium-, and micro businesses; with the aid of the national government, the local government departments must procure supplies from local businesses and (inter)national companies.

Al Jama-ah proposes the idea that money earned in one's area must be spent in that area: Cape Flats and other townships in all provinces must be a key focus for socio-economic development.

It agrees that stimulating LED would contribute towards long term sustainable jobs for all.

4. OFFER FULL EMPLOYMENT IN MUNICIPALITIES

Al Jama-ah established an employment desk at municipalities in order to ensure jobs for matriculants as a first step towards full employment in local and national government.

5. PROVIDE DIGNIFIED HOUSING

Al Jama-ah wants state land across the country to be confiscated without compensation to provide backyard dwellers and the homeless people 100 square meters of land with a title deed.

An end to the systematic eviction of farmworkers described as “redundant” by farmers or in cases where farms had been sold to develop housing estates. If farmworkers must be relocated, their best interest should be considered first.

Al Jama-ah requests to see the formation of dignified housing for all our communities.

Today, South Africans reside in overcrowded homes, and there has been an increase in homelessness and informal settlements. The Party believes homes are a source of dignity for our people, so let us work towards this goal!

The densification of white suburbs must be targeted to develop affordable homes for the homeless and trading areas for black traders (Africans, Coloureds, and Indians) who are mostly confined to already overcrowded spaces in sprawling areas such as the Cape Flats, Soweto, and elsewhere.

6. SECURE AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY FOR ALL

It demands that electricity should be affordable and that disconnections is not an option! Al Jama-ah wants to ensure adequate electricity supply to all areas, especially in rural areas in different parts of the country.

It is in the business to ACCOMPLISH better service delivery for all South Africans.

The Party successfully submitted a petition to Parliament to have electricity installed in rural villages such as Mpame village in the Eastern Cape; it made similar requests for other areas.

Al Jama-ah wants to stop illegal connections of electricity; many get killed because of unlawful connections.

7. PROVIDE HEALTHY WATER FOR EVERYONE

Since water is a basic human right, the Party is against water disconnections; also, the imposed water-drip system on the poor who cannot pay is unacceptable.

Al Jama-ah demands that proper treatment of wastewater is in place; and it does want sewage and other pollutants to occur in any of our waterways.

8. PUT IN PLACE SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES

Crime remains a headache; it is big problem for us all and the police presence is invisible; this should change. In addition, law enforcement is mostly deployed in historically white

suburbs and shopping centres; this too should be stopped!

Al Jama-ah agrees that government should

1. identify the springboards for criminal incidents and anti-social behaviour,
2. shut down shebeens and drug dens,
3. eliminate the drug organised syndicates and peddlers,
4. investigate allegation of corruption at local police stations, and it should increase visible policing,
5. deploy uniformed ground patrol who are supported by undercover police officers, and that police stations be given (a) more patrol vehicles, (b) more police stations to be accessible to communities, and (c) the formation of mobile police units where there are no police stations.

9. COUNTER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Al Jama-ah is aware that our women, children, frail individuals, and weak elderly are not safe and nor are they adequately protected against violence, rape, and other criminal activities; so, awareness campaigns against gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide should be beefed up for 365 days.

It demands that the ‘16 Days of Activism Against Violence against Women and Children’ should run throughout the year coinciding with every school holiday. It argues for an improvement in support for places of security and safety for abused women and children.

10. SECURE BUDGETS FOR EVERY WARD

Al Jama-ah wants every Ward across the country to have its own budget to reduce the apartheid-era inequalities between historically white suburbs and the townships all over the country.

11. SET UP QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Due to the apartheid system, poor areas still have infrastructure backlogs and our growing population adds to the challenges. Poor communities are facing encounters with no adequate provision of basic services such as clean water, sanitation, roads, street lighting and old water pipelines.

Although the taxi industry provides a major source of transport to workers and communities, it has no proper infrastructure to accommodate its commuters. The taxi bays, for example, lack ablution facilities and shelter to protect themselves against rain. Unfortunately, taxis have also been breaking traffic rules; their misbehavior need attention via imposing strict regulation.

All street hawkers and small businesses (such as sweet & chips sellers) should have the right to affordable and proper space to conduct their business.

Jobs rolled out by the National Government should not promise jobs for party loyalists only; these should be for all. It should serve to address unemployment by creating decent work so that all our people can be lifted out of poverty.

12. CREATE SPATIAL PLANNING & LAND USE

The legacy of apartheid is still alive and kicking in spatial planning.

Housing for the poor continue to be developed; these are far from the city and in the rural areas. They are set up out of sight of the growing housing estates.

Communities are not given enough opportunities to participate in cases of interference of land use. This result in polluting our rivers and canals and it should be avoided.

In rural areas, thousands of farmworkers continue to be unacceptably evicted from their homes.

13. SEE THAT EVERYONE GETS BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY

Speed up delivery of quality and better houses.

Backyard dwellers and people living in informal settlements must have access to electricity, clean water, sanitary services, access to healthcare, and be on the housing data base;

They should have access to public transport.

Sanitation and drainage system should be regularly upgraded.

Al Jama-ah demands that the evictions of former farm workers stop forthwith.

Al Jama-ah that all those served with eviction notices should adhere to Section 25 and 26 of the Constitution; these prevent evictions without the necessary consideration of the plight of women-headed homes, children, elderly, and the frail.

Build decent houses and create safe and morally-oriented communities.

And more social housing must be built to accommodate the indigent and homeless people.

14. PROVIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PARKS FOR EQUALLY

It is pathetic that in most poor underdeveloped residential areas, one finds several shebeens and numerous drug dens than recreational facilities for the youth – these are structures that should be closed asap!

Recreational facilities and places of learning must be protected spaces; they should, at all times, be safe, and they should be pleasant. So, we need safe parks as well as sports and recreation establishment where healthy communities are nurtured and developed. Public participation should be accessible to all communities.

There should be an improvement on accessibility to places such as public libraries, art galleries, and community theatre; community members should be encouraged to participate in sporting codes and get involved in other social events for the sake of cultivating communal values captured in ubuntu.

Create developmental municipalities across the country.

15. OFFER PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

Communities must have reasonable access to free primary health care facilities.

Everyone must be treated with dignity and respect wherever they are within South Africa's porous borders.

16. STRIVE TO CO-GOVERN

Al Jama-ah has been and remains a pro-active and responsible party.

It is ready to co-govern wherever and whenever possible.

For the nation, it is prepared to channel its energies to serve committedly and to deliver efficiently

ALUTA CONTINUA

Today and Tomorrow for
Everyone



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A POLITICAL PLATFORM FOR ALL COMMUNITIES