



**PRESS RELEASE
NO EMBARGO**

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AL JAMA-AH salutes PC Jones, a Black Consciousness exponent

Al Jama-ah Party is saddened by the death of Black Consciousness exponent and Azapo stalwart, Peter Cyril Jones, popularly known as PC.

PC passed away on Wednesday 15 February 2023 at his home in Gordon's Bay after suffering from a stroke. He was the last person (besides security branch officers) to have seen Steve Biko, Black Consciousness leader, alive and only came to know three weeks later of Steve Biko's killing in detention on 12 September 1977. PC and Biko who were both leaders of the Black People's Convention (BPC) got arrested at a roadblock in Grahamstown on 18 August 1977.

PC Jones was also instrumental in establishing a SASO (South African Students Organisation) branch at the University of the Western Cape where he was studying. He will be remembered as a committed and passionate comrade who strived for a better life for black people. His passion to uplift rural communities led to him moving to the Eastern Cape where he was involved in a sustainable development and integrated rural village renewal programme.

He worked hard to turn communal lands, where most the country's poor people lived, into productive and economically functioned areas. He often questioned whether what Steve Biko stood and died for ever touched the conscience of those who so energetically acclaim him once a year.

We have lost a son of the soil whose sacrifices and pain have yet to be recognised and honoured by this government. We call on President Ramaphosa to bestow the highest honour for freedom fighters, the Order of Luthuli Gold on PC Jones! We further call on the President to bestow the highest honour on freedom fighters still alive but often side-lined because they are members of the Qibla Movement, Azapo, PAC and New Unity Movement.

Our heartfelt sympathies to his wife, children, the Jones family, Azapo and the rest of the Black Consciousness Movement.

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