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AL JAMA-AH TARGETS 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO ADDRESS CITY OF JOHANNESBURG GOVERNANCE CONCERNS

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA — Honourable Ganief Hendricks—President of AL JAMA-AH, Deputy Minister of Social Development, President Cyril Ramaphosa’s District Development Model Champion for Johannesburg, and representative on the Government of National Unity (GNU) Leaders’ Forum—has confirmed that his campaign to restore stability to local governance remains ongoing. Hendricks states that his primary political objective is to prevent opposition leadership, specifically Democratic Alliance (DA) Mayoral Candidate Helen Zille, from taking control of the municipality and exacerbating its administrative and financial challenges.

Based on the severe governance track record of previous DA administrations, AL JAMA-AH contends that Zille is unlikely to deliver better outcomes than her predecessors, Herman Mashaba and Dr. Mpho Phalatse.

Operating with an initial legislative footprint of one Ward Councillor and two PR Councillors, AL JAMA-AH previously leveraged its strategic position within coalition frameworks to hold the Executive Mayoralty across two separate terms, proving its capacity to lead the metro through turbulent periods.



AL JAMA-AH's direct involvement in Johannesburg municipal politics began while Hendricks was serving as a PR Councillor in Cape Town. Prior to the leadership shift following former Executive Mayor Parks Tau's term, AL JAMA-AH actively endorsed Tau's vision, introducing him directly to the party's constituency by escorting him into the hall alongside a Muslim brigade drumming his platform.

Central to this partnership was a foundational land reform initiative designed to grant land ownership and permanent tenure to over one million informal settlement residents on the plots they occupied. Securing land rights for landless residents remains a central pledge of AL JAMA-AH's manifesto for the 2026 municipal elections.

The party attributes the metro's ongoing operational and fiscal collapse to systemic failures and illegal practices that began under DA-led coalitions following the 2016 local elections:

*** **Administrative Purges & Financial Disruptions:**** Ideological purges of municipal personnel created deep trust deficits. Simultaneously, the arbitrary suspension of contracts delayed payments to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and third-party vendors under broad, unproven allegations of corruption.

*** **Structural Overlap & Illicit Surveillance:**** The creation of the Group Forensic and Investigative Services (GFIS) introduced unnecessary operational redundancies, duplicating the existing mandates of Group Risk and Assurance Services (GRAS)—the City's primary internal auditing unit—and the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD). Under DA governance, this unit functioned as a rogue body that unlawfully monitored and spied on municipal councillors using an illegal interception device ("grabber"). Following a formal investigation, the Public Protector ruled that the metro must lay criminal charges regarding this unlawful activity.



Escalating Unauthorised, Irregular, Fruitless, and Wasteful Expenditure (UIFWE): Consecutive DA-led administrations allowed non-compliant spending to swell, weakening legislative oversight, impairing financial management, and causing severe audit defects.

Operational Deficits: Subsequent DA-led tenures under Dr. Mpho Phalatse left the metro crippled by critical senior management vacancies and severely depleted reserves.

These factors triggered widespread service breakdowns at waste utility Pikitup through terminated vendor contracts, disrupted Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) employment streams, and generated revenue collection deficits where administrative costs far outpaced municipal recovery rates.

Given this historical context, AL JAMA-AH maintains that a return to DA governance under Helen Zille offers no real solution to Johannesburg's crisis. The party will contest the 2026 local government elections on a platform focused on institutional restructuring, rigorous financial governance, and expanding land tenure across the metro.

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