

# AL JAMA-AH

*Manifesta*

2021



**WE ARE THE ANSWER**

## A SNAPSHOT VIEW

Al Jama-ah (The Congregation/Ibandla/Die Gemeenskap/Abahlali) Party is a political party that should be viewed 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 concerns itself with each goal, its members counter any policy or act that undermines the dignity of South Africa's diverse communities.

## CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES: WHY VOTE FOR AL JAMA-AH?

More than 27 years ago, we, the disenfranchised South Africans, were denied the right to vote under apartheid.

Many of these subjected communities fought for democracy that all of us enjoy today; several of them were tortured, killed, maimed, exiled, detained, and imprisoned. They sacrificed their lives and livelihoods so that all of us can 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 democratic government.

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

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

The Party reminds members that the Local government is the primary contact between the state and communities; it is, therefore, important for all represented communities to be part of the decision-making processes since they affect almost everyone and everything in their daily lives.

## AL JAMA-AH'S POSITION

The Party stands by the side of all communities that do not only want to see but that wish to experience change; they want to see:

- an end to corruption,
- an eradication of crime,
- a termination of homelessness,
- an annihilation of landlessness,
- a cessation of evictions,
- a provision of interrupted water supply, and
- a reduction of high cost of electricity.

## THE PARTY'S CALL

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

It should be remembered that your vote can make a significant difference in your ward for your community; by voting for AL JAMA-AH, you will become part of a party that 'walks the talk' and that serves by delivering and accomplishing its goals.

So, if you vote for AL JAMA-AH, you vote for change, you vote for transformation, and you vote for a better quality of life.

The Party, it wants to stress, stands for good governance, so vote for this type of governance in your municipalities.

So, it passionately implores voters; and it makes a special call on you, the voter, to exercise your 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.

This Manifesto should not be viewed as a mere document for it spells out a programme of action.

The Party, it should be stated, has a proud record of serving communities at all levels of government.

The Party has been involved in, among others, the communal level by distributing food parcels to poor communities and at the national level it busied itself with legislation to bring relief to vulnerable sections (for example, the women) of our society.

Its priority is to eradicate poverty through creating sustainable employment amongst youth, women, and people with disabilities.

Let it be stressed that the Party works to empower the disempowered!

Its objectives are to empower the poor masses and create employment and these are enshrined in the Constitution of our beloved country.

The Party would want to see that every citizen has

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

So, Al Jama-ah remains committed to strive towards true liberation and 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 brought "Parliament to the people" through the establishment of Constituency offices on the Cape Flats (and elsewhere).

## AL JAMA-AH CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For this local government elections and the 5-year term thereafter, Al Jama-ah committed to efficient service delivery for all, and it devotes its work to addressing "bread and butter" issues that affect various sections of our communities daily.

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

Al Jama-ah does not make wild election promises, but it rather responds to the communities' needs and problems.

The Party 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

The Party has made substantial impact in various communities; it responded and assisted them whenever they faced disasters such as fires and floods.

Al Jama-ah's councillors and supporters are continuing to help the needy; it does so by handing out food hampers and giving sanitary dignity packs to schoolgirls.

The Party has made great strides at national and provincial parliamentary levels for new legislation on:

- Maintenance Laws,
- Releasing of Muslim bodies (with no identity documents) for burial,
- Recognition of Muslim Marriages, 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

Local governance plays 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, Ward budgets should be fairly allocated to target the areas to reduce and eliminate the inequality gaps. Every municipal Local Economic Development (LED) department should be geared to alleviate and eradicate poverty.

### 2. CREATE JOBS

Youth account for about 60% of the unemployment population in South Africa. The municipality's LED must absorb youth into jobs.

Al Jama-ah believes that the youth of today requires a special focus through youth development programs that will be skills based.

These will help our youth not only to become skilled but to be educated and become employable!

Al Jama-ah stresses that more business incubators should be created that will result in employment.

The Party has played a major role in the establishment of a business incubator at its National Constituency Office in Mitchell's Plain, Western Cape.

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

### 3. STRENGTHEN BUSINESSES

The LED must strengthen local-, small-, medium-, and micro businesses; local government departments must procure supplies from local businesses.

Al Jama-ah supports 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 economic development.

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

#### **4. OFFER FULL EMPLOYMENT IN MUNICIPALITIES**

Al Jama-ah will establish an employment desk at municipalities that will ensure jobs for matriculants as a first step towards full employment in local government.

#### **5. PROVIDE DIGNIFIED HOUSING**

Al Jama-ah wants state land in the various municipalities 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 wants to see the formation of dignified housing for all our people.

Today, South Africans are faced with the challenge of overcrowding in homes, the challenges of homelessness and informal settlements. We believe homes are a source of dignity for our people!

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 on the Cape Flats.

#### **6. SECURE AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY FOR ALL**

Electricity should be affordable and NO disconnections. Al Jama-ah wants to ensure adequate electricity supply to all areas, especially in rural areas.

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

The Party has successfully submitted a petition to Parliament to have electricity installed in rural villages I Mpame in the Eastern Cape.

Al Jama-ah wants to stop illegal electricity as too many of our people die daily through illegal connections.

#### **7. PROVIDE HEALTHY WATER FOR EVERYONE**

Water is a basic human right.

Al Jama-ah is against water disconnections and the water drip system imposed on the poor who cannot pay.

Al Jama-ah wants to ensure that proper treatment of wastewater and that no sewage or other pollution occurs in our waterways.

#### **8. PUT IN PLACE SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES**

Crime is a big problem in our country. Police visibility and law enforcement are mostly deployed in historically white suburbs and shopping centres.

Al Jama-ah agrees that government

1. identifies the springboards for criminal incidents and anti-social behaviour,
2. shuts down shebeens and drug dens,
3. eliminates the drug organised syndicates and peddlers,
4. investigates allegation of corruption at local police stations,
5. increases visible policing,
6. deploys uniformed ground patrol who are supported by undercover police officers, and that
7. police stations be given more patrol vehicles, more police stations to be accessible to communities; and the formation of mobile police units where there are no police stations.

#### **9. COUNTER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Al Jama-ah wishes to point out that women, children, the frail and elderly are not safe and effectively protected against violence, rape and other crime, that awareness campaigns against gender-based violence and femicide should be 365 days.

It states 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 safety for abused women and children.

#### **10. SECURE BUDGETS FOR EVERY WARD**

Al Jama-ah wants every ward to have its own budget to reduce the apartheid-era inequalities between historically white suburbs and the Cape Flats and townships.

## 11. SET UP QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Due to the apartheid system poor areas still have infrastructure backlogs and the growing population are adding to the problems. Poor communities are facing challenges with no or 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, there is no proper infrastructure to accommodate the growing taxi industry. The taxi bays lack ablution facilities and covering to protect commuters against rain.

The sweet and chips sellers who feed their families and put their children through school, college, and university, should also have the right to affordable and proper space to conduct their business.

The current jobs rolled out by the National Government under Community Work Programme (CWP) or Community Development Workers (CDW) should not be promising jobs for party loyalists only. These programmes serve to address unemployment and to create decent work to lift people 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 far from the city and in the rural areas, out of sight of the growing housing estates.

Communities are not given enough opportunities to participate in cases of interference of land and use thereof resulting in pollution of rivers and canals.

Communities must be allowed to have more participation on Land Use for eg. if they want shebeens or "house taverns" to be operated from residential homes.

In rural areas, thousands of farmworkers continue to be 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 and the sanitation and drainage system regularly upgraded.

Al Jama-ah demands that the evictions of former farmworkers stop.

Al Jama-ah holds the view that those who served individuals and families with eviction notices should adhere to the 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 clean 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, there are more shebeens and drug dens than recreational facilities – this must end!

Places of learning and recreational facilities must be safe and pleasant, safe parks, sports and recreation establish healthy communities.

Improve on accessibility to public libraries, encourage interest in art galleries, community theatre, sports, and other social events.

Create a developmental municipality.

Provide relief to the poor, promote genuine social development through employment, sports, arts, and culture.

Public participation should be accessible to all communities.

## 15. OFFER PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

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

Everyone must be treated with dignity and respect.

**ALUTA CONTINUEA:  
Today and Tomorrow for  
Everyone**