



**PRESS RELEASE  
NO EMBARGO**

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### **AL JAMA-AH is dismayed at CoCT mayor's response to tragic deaths of 4 children**

The AL JAMA-AH party gives its heartfelt condolences to the families of the four children who died after falling into a sinkhole at an N2 bridge near Nyanga on Monday afternoon.

We are dismayed at City of Cape Town mayor Dan Plato's reported comments: "He is not sure why children were playing under the bridge, when there are enough playgrounds in Nyanga." We view it as insensitive and only adding more trauma onto the bereaved families.

The tragic deaths of these young boys unfortunately serve as evidence that recreational facilities for children are not always accessible. The councillor rightly pointed out that the area next to the N2 had for years served as a recreational space for the youth of the adjacent informal settlements.

We call on the CoCt to provide play parks and recreational facilities closer to the homes of children and to allow public participation by communities in the planning and development of their areas. The mayor should rather question as to why no danger sign boards and fencing were erected around the sandbank. In July last year 8-year-old Abieda Pause who was playing near the canal, drowned when she slipped and fell into it. The Tanzanian national, Yusuf Kiboroto jumped in to save her, but also drowned. There is also no fencing or sign boards warning the community from the adjacent informal settlement of the danger the canal poses.

We are calling for an inquiry into these tragic deaths.

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