



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**No EMBARGO**

**TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2021**

**AL JAMA-AH'S RESPONSE TO SONA: YOUTH WANT EMPIRICAL CHANGE AND  
ADVANCEMENT IN THE ECONOMY**

**GRANTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEARNERS**

Mr President, thank you for speeding up the three Bills to fight Gender Based Violence (GBV). Girl learners want a universal income grant when they enter high school to sustain themselves and this can avoid teenage pregnancies. High school children should get shares when they matriculate from the new BEE you have in mind and they want to be trained to do business plans on how to run SMMEs.

**RURAL ENTREPRENEURS MUST SELL TO THE WORLD**

Your children want you to speed up the expropriation of land without compensation. But they want commercial land in the cities and business hubs. They are eyeing your first Smart City in Lanseria. This was expressed by youth in a Zoom meeting on Ganief Hendricks inaugural lecture on "Role of Youth in Creating A Sustainable Economy." As a Member of the Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development, I have seen how SMMEs are being neglected. We find the largest retailers in our country procuring mainly from white enterprises failing to follow the BEE Act. Black Economic empowerment has many setbacks and government does not do enough monitoring.

Our young people want real empirical change and practical advancement of the poor and dispossessed. Young people reject the NYDA citing it as a structure where young leaders are groomed to become corrupt. But Parliament has not been fooled as new board members, whom I trust to be fully representative of all communities, will be appointed.

For once in our history Mr President use our young people to get entrepreneurs in our rural areas, townships and the Cape Flats to start online ecommerce businesses. **"Rural entrepreneurs must be empowered to sell to the world."** Like shopify they must Ramaposify. They must Malemasify and not build shopping Malls owned by white monopoly





capitalists but income generating websites. While waiting to open the state bank, open state warehouses to embrace online shopping and subsidised state delivery services. Let us Patelisify. This will PAC fy the nation. AL JAMA-AH's logo the Jeem will brand this new abnormal.

## **RECOGNITION OF MUSLIM MARRIAGES**

Muslim wives have written to the Presidency requesting to speed up the **Registration** of their marriages officiated in a mosque by an Imam according to Islamic rights. Since democracy, every Home Affairs Minister have lacked the political will to register Muslim marriages – the same situation as in the dark old apartheid years.

Every Home Affairs Minister is part of harming the dignity of Muslim wives who are still referred to by researchers as “whores” and their children as “bastards” in terms of the SA law. Mr President, if you had watched Muvhango last night you would have seen how Mpho got upset when she found out that the Chief failed to register her marriage. If you didn't watch it, perhaps the First Lady will tell you about it.

The courts have ordered the President to fix the Registration of Muslim marriages, but your Ministers are dabbling in a one statute Marriage Bill while Muslim wives suffer discrimination by SA law on inheritance and other rights they entitled to from their deceased spouse because their marriages are “illegal”.

Mr President, you did say you will cheer for AL JAMA-AH, please support our Private Members Bill which is an interim measure and will put an end to harming the dignity of Muslim wives.

## **MOVING TOWARDS “NEW ABNORMAL”**

In your SONA address you introduced a new historical narrative in Hansard which is called the “new abnormal” by thought leaders in international symposiums still to be held. The “new abnormal” is to embrace change as permanent. After Covid life can ever get back to a new normal. That calls for wanting too much of the pass back. That's why AL JAMA-AH is holding positions as deputy mayor in Estcourt, MEC position for infrastructure in Johannesburg Metro and this week our MPL will offer support to your Premier in the Western Cape to help implement his plans. Our ward councillor in Lenasia have done more in 100 days than what was done in a decade. We came second in a by election in Cape Town business district.

My call to your Minister of Defence to support housing for her men and women especially at Simonstown Naval Base is bearing fruit. Retired and serving generals and chaplains are supporting the first defence force housing co-operative in our history.

This is what the “new abnormal” calls for and not the responses we hear today and will hear tomorrow to your SONA.



The masses are waiting for you to remove discrimination on the Cape Flats a plea I have made to you at all your SONAs and to capture the despicable acts of gangsterism which needs your urgent attention more than talks on “state capture.”

Thank You

**Mr M.G.E. Hendricks**  
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