



**PRESS RELEASE  
NO EMBARGO**

**10 March 2021**

**AL JAMA-AH MP CRITICISES THE ANC MPs FOR CONGRATULATING GOVERNMENT OVER DISTRICT 6 HOUSING**

AL JAMA-AH's Member of Parliament Hon. Ganief Hendricks criticised statements made by ANC members during the Parliamentary Plenary Session on Tuesday 09 March 2021 in which they congratulated the government for facilitating 108 District 6 claimants to return home. The 108 flats cost more than half a billion rand.

These claimants are returning to District 6 two decades or more later. The more than half a billion rand spent on 108 flats means a 52 square metre flat costs R4.1million. Half a billion rand would have housed 10 times as more people. Even more disturbing is that the ANC is planning to celebrate this looting on June 16<sup>th</sup> known as Youth Day, a tragic event in our history.

My late mother led the first marches for the return to District 6 with Judge Seraj Desai. She had a safe house in District 6 from where she provided a bed and a warm plate of food to many gogos who visited political prisoners on Robben Island. The prisoners were sentenced for treason including those involved in the Rivonia Trial.

As a young boy then, I had the responsibility to care for the gogos and accompanied them to Robben Island. Resistance fighters who also stayed at the safe house in District 6 were Dr Archie Mafeje, Judge Fikele Bam and some of the Langa march leaders including mr Philip Kgosana and others met with Dr Mafeje at the safe a day before the Langa march took place in protest of the Sharpeville massacre. My mother did not want Dr Mafeje to be involved in the Langa march as he had already addressed an "illegal" meeting in Flagstaff and was being monitored.

My mother died before she could return to District 6 and myself and siblings are the beneficiaries to now return to what was once our home. Since all of us have lived in the safe house, we will now in honour of our mother, periodically live in the house, as it was our mother's wish for us to return to District 6. She was publicly acclaimed by the late and former President Nelson Mandela on a historic stage in the street she was born in, as one of the first 100 people qualified for restitution but we were amongst the last on the list to return.

Hon. Hendricks will refer this exorbitant cost of the houses to Scopa on which he serves as an alternate Member for consequent management and will also lodge a complain with the Deputy President.

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