



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**NO EMBARGO**

**28 July 2021**

### **Al Jama-ah to embark on a fact-finding mission in KZN and Gauteng**

Al Jama-ah party President and Member of Parliament Honorable Ganief Hendricks will be part of Members of the Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development (SBD) to embark on oversight visits across communities affected by the recent unrest in Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng Provinces. The visits are set to happen from the 1<sup>st</sup> until the 6<sup>th</sup> of August.

The party welcomes the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa, assuring the nation that government is considering intervention measures to assist the affected businesses including those that are not insured. Hendricks has also committed to giving feedback to parliament and the PC SBD.

“Urgent attention should be given to guide the process and ensure that communities get relief as soon as possible. In Umzinto only one business out of a hundred survived the looting, the rest of the businesses were affected,” says Hendricks

With the country’s high unemployment rate, SMMEs have played a crucial role in supporting better prospects for SA’s economic growth. “We cannot afford to see more businesses shutting down permanently and people losing their jobs,” adds Hendricks.

However, the party is disappointed that learners will have to wait until 1 September to receive the Covid 19 vaccine. The vaccination of the relevant age group should be expedited.

While the pandemic has created delays in the education of our children, recent violent protests have added more challenges to schools in affected communities.

The Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga recently announced that the department suffered damages of about R300m after schools were vandalized during unrest. “This requires speedy intervention to avoid children falling behind in their studies,” says Hendricks.

Al Jama-ah further respectfully submits that the ban on sales of liquor should not have been lifted, our Covid-19 numbers and admissions to hospitals remains high and alcohol trauma cases has proven to impose huge challenges on hospitals.





### **Social support and religious gathering**

The amendment on the regulation to allow gathering of 50 people gives religious leaders more leeway to provide spiritual guidance to communities, especially during these trying times. Prayer is an important part of fighting the challenges we are faced with.

Al Jama-ah also views the reinstatement of the monthly welfare grants and that it has been extended to caregivers as a relief. “We feel that the President should have been bold enough to introduce the universal income grant seeing that revenue numbers are up. The grant would help in the recovery of the economy as it will encourage spending while boosting SSMEs,” says Hendricks.

The party also urges for the Covid-19 statistics that the President used to be compared with the Executive Medical Report of the former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke. “This is the first Independent Medical report into the Covid-19 pandemic. We believe it could provide clearer analytical insights into the situation,” Hendricks says. **Ends**

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