



Press release

No Embargo

24 October 2021

Al Jama-ah's leader and president, Honourable Ganief Hendricks, sets the record straight on the Party's political standing.

Hon. Hendricks spoke to the South African Broadcast Corporation (SABC) after the public broadcaster conducted a series of election manifestos with political parties.

After an hour interview with the SABC, the Party leader was misquoted and not given an opportunity to explain himself. Hon. Hendricks has since consulted with *'ulama* (jurists and theologians) in and outside the Party; and it was decided that the Party should set the record straight.

He emphasized that, "We (the Party) are not a Boko Haram organization, we are not ISIS, and we are not a terrorist [type of] organization." Al Jama-ah, when established by a group of Muslims, was formed in a mosque; a sacred space for Muslims. While it faithfully follows Islam (as its way of life), it also unapologetically identified with and adheres to the South African Constitution.

The Party unashamedly and proudly reflects - in serving the South African society - a Muslim identity. Armed with this identity that is embedded in universal values, it is open to all South Africans.

Over the years, Al Jama-ah has grown steadily; but, despite holding privately and publicly onto an Islamic ethos, it has struggled to attract the Muslim vote; important of note is the fact that most of the party's supporters come from outside the house of Islam and that the Party considers a plus.

In the interview, the Hon. Hendricks referred to *Shari'ah* (Muslim legal system) that has been defined and described in accordance with the post-911 understanding by secular political circles. It is an established fact that these circles have been calculatingly aided by a secular anti-Muslim media to perpetuate a negative notion of *Shari'ah* as a divine system and its adherence as anti-rationalists and irrational citizens.

The Party, Hon. Hendricks wishes to underline, that it distances itself from the damaging perceptions that the orientalist influenced media disseminated and continues to propagate. And it also obviously rejects anyone that associates Al Jama-ah with organizations such as Nigeria's Boko Haram and Syria's ISIS; groups





that deliberately misrepresent and misinterpret Islam's teachings as embedded in its foundational sources.

Considering these, Al Jama-ah does not identify with their acts nor with their articulation of Islam. The Party vehemently counters their erroneous interpretation of 'Islamic law', and this type of understanding it would never support or encourage.

As far as the Party is concerned, it unwaveringly upholds the *Shari'ah* as a holistic, immutable system. While that is the case, the Party expresses the view that the *Shari'ah*, which is rooted in its fundamental sources, permits Muslims to interpret aspects of it within different timeframes and various contexts. This understanding takes place as long as it does not go against Islam's basic teachings but that functions in accordance with the letter and spirit of the *Shari'ah*.

For more inquiries contact national spokesperson:

Adv. Shamemmah Salie

Cell: 084 423 0476