



**PRESS RELEASE
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AL Jama-ah calls on private schools to offer free education to unplaced learners

The Al Jama-ah party is deeply concerned about the fate of thousands of learners in the Western Cape whom the department is unable to accommodate at schools for the year 2022.

Al Jama-ah's Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks is calling on private schools to accommodate 10 unplaced learners and to provide them with free education as part of the school's social responsibility programme. Hendricks further calls on the department to liaise with former Model C schools to provide placement for learners.

The province has faced challenges every year of placing learners in schools. Currently an estimated 18 000 – 20 000 learners have not yet been placed in schools in the province. "The unplaced learners pose crisis in our education. Sadly, thousands of learners miss out on school every year. The department cannot blame late applications on the insufficient placement for learners but should have dealt with the insufficient space at schools over the years," says Hendricks.

Funding for education should not be held back and rather be spend on more resources and educators which will help alleviate the numbers of unplaced learners. This is not the time for politicking while the education of children on the Cape Flats and Townships are at spell. Nothing stops the WCED from requesting more funding from National government.

Al Jama-ah calls on the WCED to intervene in cases where the former Model C schools turn down applications to maintain their "small" classes.

For further information contact national spokesperson:

**Adv. Shameemah Salie
Cell: 084 423 0476**

