



PRESS RELEASE

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Al Jama-ah calls on WC Legislature to appoint a commissioner on environment

The Al Jama-ah Western Cape calls on the province's legislature to appoint a commissioner on Environmental Affairs to carry out unbiased oversight visits. Already it seems the MEC for Environmental Affairs is biased in dealing with appeals from the City of Cape Town by overturning three directives and ignoring reports of the Public Protector and Human Rights Commission.

Al Jama-ah's WC MPL Hon Galil Brinkhuis says apart from unsightly dumping sites on the Cape Flats and in the townships, the province faces several environmental challenges including water, energy, the ability to treat waste products and air pollution.

"The Western Cape does not have a commissioner to oversee the immense environmental problems existing in the province. The DA-run province is bias and does not give a true report on the environmental challenges," says Brinkhuis.

Residents in Sandvlei in Macassar still have raw sewerage dumped into the rivers causing skin diseases, harming livestock and flows into the sea where it contaminates marine life. The province fails to provide efficient services and sanitation facilities in informal settlements causing blocked canals which overflow into the houses of residents in Masiphumelele

"The province claims that in recent years it made great strides in improving waste management, but we cannot see this improvement. Wherever one walks on the Cape Flats and in the townships, you are met with dumps and the stench of sewer," adds Brinkhuis.

Al Jama-ah views the environmental crisis in the province as worse than climate change. The party calls on the province to speed up the appointment of a commissioner.

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