



**PRESS RELEASE
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Al Jama-ah supports South Africa's position for meaningful engagement between Russia and Ukraine

The Al Jama-ah party concurs with the position that was adopted by President Cyril Ramaphosa that the conflict should be mediated through 'meaningful engagement' between Russia and Ukraine instead of using their military might to resolve their difference.

While South Africa seemed to have tried its best not take sides by making an honest plea to both nations to bring an end to their 'irrational' combat, our country's diverse communities have already experienced the awful outcomes of that clash in the economic sphere.

It appears that third parties (such as the USA) and unknown stakeholders (such as military hardware companies) wants the fight to continue.

Related to this, Al Jama-ah wants to emphatically stress that the global community has been alerted to the fact that NATO – as a third party - has been playing a diabolical role too. Instead of this intergovernmental military alliance stopping Ukraine from becoming a potential member and entering the battle against Russia, which is a known superpower, it spurred it on to go to war!

While both are recognized sovereign states in our world system, Ukraine should not have listened to NATO; and it should not have stood up militarily against the might of the Russian army. NATO (and the UN) could have dissuaded Ukraine's president from taking up arms.

Besides that, it should have made sincere attempts through conciliation by going to a negotiating table outside the Europe-Asia arena; they could have come to the African continent to address their issues, but it seems our continent is only good enough to be raped and ravaged by unscrupulous conglomerates.

Even though we are all hopeful that the arbitration and reconciliation will happen, none of us can ignore the fact that all of us in South Africa, like several other nations, have by now felt the brunt of that ongoing disputed conflict. We must act fast by making use of feasible socio-economic strategies that may be able to help secure and cushion our economies from being scuttled and be brought back on an even keel.

The South African government and we, as political parties, must collectively think 'out of the box' by pursuing methods in not only mending this ailing and frail economy but in also growing and expanding it in inventive ways.

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