



PRESS RELEASE

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Al Jama-ah welcomes the White Paper on National Rail Policy

The Al Jama-ah party is welcoming the launch of the White Paper on National Rail Policy adopted in Parliament last week.

The new policy allows for private participation in ports and freight sectors to the railway infrastructure. Al Jama-ah says allowing private rail operators will capacitate Transnet to offer reliable transport services to South Africans, reduce the freight volumes from road to rail and minimise greenhouse emissions too.

“The White Paper provides a basis for transport to play a strategic role in social development and economic growth in the country. Our railway has been dysfunctional for a very long time with the most severe negative impact on the poor,” says Al Jama-ah’s leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks.

The party says rail has always been the cheapest mode of transport and it hopes that it will remain economically viable for passengers and commuters now that the sector will have private operators. The party says it further welcomes the fact that the White Paper states that the long-term strategy for the country is to move to a standard gauge.

The party also wants to see that railway transport becomes reliable, economically viable and safe for commuters to always use. The party calls on South Africans to be patient as government is putting mechanisms in place to get the country’s rail services back on track.

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