



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NO EMBARGO**

**13 May 2022**

### **Al Jama-ah welcomes SANDF's assurances to refrain from using terms offensive to the Muslim community**

The Al Jama-ah party says it is pleased that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is making concerted efforts to refrain from using terms such as "jihadists" and "Islamic insurgents"; these terms are not only repulsive and offensive to the Muslim community and others, but they do not apply to many of those groups that have been targeted by exploitive conglomerates in the northern part of Mozambique and other parts of our continent.

In a reply to a written submission from AL Jama-ah's Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks on the use of the mentioned terms with reference to those categorized/classified as 'terrorists', the party was concerned about the circulated Mozambique news report; herein, the Chief of SANDF apparently referred to the 'rebellious groups' as "jihadists" and "Islamic insurgents".

SANDF Minister Thandi Modise replied that the SANDF will continue to pursue a policy of religious inclusiveness adopting of a disciplined approach and leading a united force. The Minister added that there has never been any form of malice or conscious insinuation, or inflammatory language used against any religious group.

The party is thus pleased with the SANDF's overall response to our community's sensitivities regarding these matters and support this type of approach in these and other circumstances.

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