



PRESS RELEASE

NO EMBARGO

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Al Jama-ah demands complete exclusion of mosques and churches from CoCT by-law regulation on “noise pollution”

The Al Jama-ah party is appalled at the City of Cape Town's (CoCT) letter sent to the Tennyson Road Mosque in Salt River, Cape Town complaining of “Noise Nuisance and Disturbing Noise Emanating” from the mosque.

This disturbing letter follows despite the CoCT's announcement on 27 April 2022 that the ‘noise nuisances’ section of its Streets, Public Places, and Prevention of Noise Nuisances By-Law will not apply to places of worship operating within appropriate zoning.

It comes after COCT updated its Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on noise-related complaints to confirm handling matters related to places of worship with ‘sensitivity and dignity’ under provincial regulations and not as a ‘noise nuisance’ under said by-law.

“The City’s updated SOP on noise complaints stipulated that the designated official must ensure sensitivity and care in consulting a place of worship on any regulatory noise abatement measures as may be necessary, so as not to inhibit religious freedom,” read the statement.

The Muslim Judicial Council eagerly welcomed "confirmation" from the CoCT that "Noise Nuisance" complaints do not apply to places of worship with appropriate zoning. On the 28 of April in CoCT chambers despite objections on legality of amendments in council by Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis CoCT reneged on its promise to amend its by-law and exempt the Muslim Call to Prayer and Church Bells from the City’s definition of noise nuisance.

The City promised to amend the by-law following a public outcry three years ago when a noise disturbance complaint was lodged against the 100-year-old Zeenatul Mosque in District Six. The DA run City of Cape Town on 28 April proceeded to leave the by-law intact but only updated its standard operating procedures.

As can be clearly seen from the notice received by Tennyson masjid the call to prayer remains a source of “noise nuisance”.





Al Jama-ah demands that the travesty of referring to religious practises as a noise nuisance must be removed from by-laws completely. Al Jama-ah has previously noted in Chambers that an apology needs to be extended to all affected religious institutions for the insensitivity on calls to prayer and complaints and fines imposed. Reassurance will not suffice.

For further details contact national spokesperson:

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