



PRESS RELEASE

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Al Jama-ah calls on government to use the loan to stop harmful emissions from Medupi Power Station

The Al Jama-ah party is making an urgent appeal to the government to utilise the loan from the World Bank and African Bank for the purpose intended and that is to put an end to harmful emissions from the Medupi Power Station in Lephalale in Limpopo.

Al Jama-ah's leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks who is currently visiting Lephalale, says the party is dismayed that the sulphur dioxide emissions are still 3500 mg per cubic meter instead of the required below 500mg per cubic meter.

Hendricks raised the matter at a Plenary session in Parliament on Thursday 5 May 2022 during a debate on "Energy Crisis and threat of protracted failure of Eskom." Based on the dangers to the Lephalale community, the Chair of Scopa should be calling the chaos at Eskom as an important matter of national importance.

"There is absolutely no flue gas sulphurisation and the loan given for this must now be paid. During my visit I also saw coal flue ash nearly as high as Table Mountain, one of the seven wonders of the world. But this flue gas will go down in history as Africa's biggest killer and climate change's biggest enemy," says Hendricks.

Sadly, it seems that the situation will only be corrected when the 7th Parliament convenes. "That Parliament will blame the 6th Parliament for its failure to stop the harm caused to the residents of Lephalale. The 25 000 residents make up children, men, women, and elderly who are a dying a slow death because of the harmful emissions," says Hendricks.

He further calls for investigations into why there is no public participation on the radar regarding the new loan from the National Development Bank of BRICS. "China claims that this loan and its conditions including environment mitigation will be signed by South Africa's Minister of Finance before Christmas this year. This loan should speed up the protracted Eskom delay. South Africa will have blood on its hands if urgent steps are not taken to reduce the killer sulphur dioxide emissions and remove the deadly coal flue ash mountain," says Hendricks.

Al Jama-ah shares its sorrow with the residents of Lephalale and the Limpopo province who are suffering to provide South Africa with energy but they themselves who live in





informal settlements have no electricity. They are exposed to raw sewage that is dumped into the river close to their informal settlement. Some of the raw sewage is from the Medupi coal power plant, from the nearby white suburb and the luxurious security complexes inhabited by expatriates from several countries who work at Medupi.

Al Jama-ah calls on Scopa investigating the energy crisis to re-look into its priorities.

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