



PRESS RELEASE

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Al Jama-ah calls on Education Minister for urgent intervention in gang violence at primary school in Manenberg

Al Jama-ah's leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks made an urgent appeal to Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga during a Mini Plenary sitting on Basic Education yesterday to intervene in the ongoing gang violence in Manenberg on the Cape Flats.

During the sitting Hendricks received a video clip showing gangsters shooting in the precincts of the Downville Primary School in Manenberg and a photo of frightened learners in a Grade 2 classroom taking cover under desks.

Hendricks got immediate assistance from the Chief Whip of Parliament who engaged with the Deputy Minister of Police who intervened through the Provincial Commissioner to despatch a Multi-Disciplinary Team to the area.

"After the debate Minister Motshekga assured me that something must be done to stop the violence. If the Department fails to take responsibility to see that the 8-year-old learners are safe at and outside schools it will go down in history as a failed department," says Hendricks.

In his debate, Hendricks has called on the Minister not to depend on the official opposition party in the Western Cape as they are more interested in Ukraine. "The DA-run Western Cape is hell bent on destroying the education of black learners. They do this by firing the best school principals as in the case of Mr Wesley Neumann of Heathfield High School," he says.

He described the learners of Heathfield High School as being traumatised by losing their beloved principal and that they were calling on politicians of the EFF, ANC, and AL Jama-ah for assistance. Hendricks hopes that Neumann will be transferred back to Heathfield High School and for a satellite police station at the Downville Primary School.

"We hope that schools in high risk areas will have police patrolling when learners come to school and when they return home," says Hendricks. Al Jama-ah is working with NGOs and government for a socio-economic response to gangsterism.

The party reminds all tiers of government to take responsibility for the safety and security of the communities held hostage by crime and to ensure they heed the calls of the community on the Cape Flats.

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