



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**16 September 2022**

### **AL JAMA-AH calls on South Africans to honour and celebrate their heritage**

The Heritage Day is a great opportunity for all South Africans to shine a spotlight on the legacy of their established heritage. We are a diverse community with various religious beliefs, rich cultures, and traditions.

The South African Muslims have much to owe to the commitment and steadfastness of the Muslim political prisoners and slaves who were brought to South Africa in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Dutch colonialists and who have held on to their faith despite the very challenges circumstances. Robben Island as historical as it is for the whole country, is very much part of the history of Islam in South Africa. The Karamat (shrine) of Tuan Matarah Sayed Abdurahman Motura on Robben Island, is a symbol of the struggle for religious freedom during colonialism.

We are proud to mention that amongst the anti-apartheid resistance fighters were the late Imam Abdullah Haron, Sedick Isaacs, Fatima Meer, Rahima Moosa, Barney Desai, Ahmed Kathrada, and many more. They have continued the legacy of our forefathers to resist oppression and discrimination. The rich legacy of our forefathers should encourage Muslims to continue efforts to eradicate poverty, to protect those unable to fend for themselves and to resist all forms of oppression including gangsterism, criminal activities and to promote good moral values.

For many centuries the Nikah (marriage ceremony) of Muslims have not been recognised by both the former apartheid and current governments. The AL Jama-ah Party has made great efforts by submitting a Private Members Bill to Parliament for the recognition of Muslim marriages. The non-recognition of the Nikah certificate of Muslims is nothing but discrimination. "As our forefathers and political activists fought against discrimination, we will continue that legacy of resistance against all forms of discrimination and oppression," says party leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks.

Al Jama-ah Party will host two Heritage Day Programmes, see details on next page.

For further media enquiries contact national spokesperson:

**Adv. Shameemah Salie**  
**Cell: 084 423 0476**





## **AL JAMA-AH HERITAGE DAY EVENTS:**

- 1. PRESENTATION ON NIKAH BILL – INFORMATION SESSION WITH YOUTH**  
**DATE: SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2022**  
**VENUE: ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL, CNR NEW ORLEANS & ROOIKRANS AVENUE, NEW ORLEANS IN PAARL**  
**TIME: 10:00AM – 2:00PM**  
**For further details on this event contact: Ayesha Allie-Patel – Cell: 081 595 6164 / Tel: 061 365 6630**
  
- 2. AL JAMA-AH – STRAND**  
**Fundraising Initiative – In celebration of Heritage Day – A Ratieb Jamaat Sword Performance and lunch will be served.**  
**DATE: SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2022**  
**VENUE: IQRAA HALL – 7 HAMOND STREET, STRAND**  
**TIME: 11AM – 5:00PM**  
**For further details on this event contact: Mr Galil Brinkhuis on Cell: 066 205 1879**