



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**19 October 2022**

### **Al Jama-ah supports independence for Western Sahara**

Al Jama-ah's leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks was part of a State Visit by His Excellency Sheikh Brahim Ghali, President of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic to South Africa in Pretoria on Tuesday 18 October 2022.

Hendricks who joined SA President Cyril Ramaphosa on the high-level State Visit, was received by the President in a private room for a one-on-one meeting before they were joined by Sheikh Ghali. They were later joined by two delegations from Western Sahara and the Chief of South Africa's National Defence Force, General Rudzani Maphwanya.

Al Jama-ah has given the party's undertaking to canvass support to get two thirds at the next General Assembly meeting of the United Nations to extend the expiring date of a Referendum Committee which is requesting for the independence of Western Sahara. The UN-supervised referendum has more than 30 years ago made provision for the Saharawi people to determine their country's independence.

"South Africa has achieved liberation with the assistance from the Saharawi people. As a nation we must support their just struggle for independence. We applaud SA's stance to continue strong bilateral relations with the people of Western Sahara," says Hendricks.

During his meeting with President Ramaphosa, the President shared memories on his military support during the time when apartheid forces attacked ANC bases in neighbouring countries; The former ANC leader OR Tambo's signed undertaking to Western Sahara that the party would 'reciprocate' when it is in power and ANC's promise 'not to allow the rise of apartheid as in the case of Israel and occupied Western Sahara'.

For further media enquiries contact national spokesperson:

**Adv. Shameemah Salie**

**Cell: 084 423 0476**

