



PRESS RELEASE

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Al Jama-ah Councillor becomes Mayor of CoJ

Al Jama-ah Party announces with great pride and overwhelming sense of gratitude that on this day 27th January 2023 the party marks a historical moment for our political party as well as for the democracy in South Africa. Minority parties in the City of Johannesburg (CoJ) have afforded Al Jama-ah the privilege of choosing a young Thapelo Abubakr Amad as a Mayoral Candidate and with the endorsement and support of the bigger parties, he will become the first duly elected Minority Mayor in the CoJ. Amad, who is an Imam, is born and bred in Soweto and is Al Jama-ah's provincial chairperson.

The residents in the CoJ have experienced a great deal of disruptions in their daily lived experience because of a lack of priorities and poor decision making by the previous administration. These include but not limited to: the termination of employment contracts of employees in the City which impacts negatively on the capacity to deliver services, the recalling of the City's fleet across all critical departments by service providers due to non-payment, and with the fleet essentially being the means to deliver services, the City accelerated on a downward spiral.

These issues together with a wide variety of others, primarily attributed to the previous administration's obsession with settling of political scores by stifling processes and core functions of the City such as revenue collections were amongst the direct implications that were leading to the detriment of a World Class African City.

As a party we expect from our Councillor a true reflection of a collaborative government, practical representation of minority parties as well as opposition parties in all his service delivery drives. Our expectations are that of prioritising of the reactivation of the core functions of the CoJ that are drivers of service delivery as a matter of urgency. For Executive Mayor to leverage opportunities derived from exploring the definition of a City with the richest square mile in Africa and how that can help to realise a meaningful transformation agenda that is balanced and pro-poor as part of his plans.

This Mayor is not only tasked with catering to the bigger political parties' constituency, which is in itself diverse in nature but to also capture the imagination of those who have lost hope in the government. The task at hand requires a servant that is committed, humble and diligent.

We therefore, as Al Jama-ah extend our gratitude to the political parties that form part of the Minority Opposition Parties as well as to the broader Government of Local Unity for the





confidence placed on Al Jama-ah's Mayoral Candidate, Cllr Amad. Although the privilege is accepted with open arms, so are the challenges in the CoJ . We hope that the collective will remain united in collaborating efforts to better the lives of the residents in the CoJ.

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