



**PRESS RELEASE  
NO EMBARGO**

**22 April 2024**

**AL JAMA-AH ANNOUNCES ITS PREMIER CANDIDATE FOR THE WESTERN CAPE:**

There could have been no better opportunity to have announced its Premier Candidate than at the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the exceedingly popular Al Jama-ah Party.

They say activism is in your blood, and if that is anything to go by, Professor Muhammed Haron is the perfect example of this adage. Visionary leadership is another common trait the Professor shares with his iconic father, martyr Imam Abdullah Haron. Exercising sterling leadership in a principled, thoughtful, and adept manner, the Professor's profound humility and gentle manner immediately wins over the hearts of fellow stalwarts and those who look to him for leadership.

While dedicating his life to the pursuit of knowledge and to gaining a deeper understanding of the values and principles espoused by the Qur'an and the Prophetic practices, the Professor embodies trustworthy leadership. His lived experiences as the only son of Imam Haron who was martyred whilst in detention in 1969 under the brutal apartheid system, adds impetus and depth to his commitment to justice, education, research and community activism and engagement.

The Professor lectured at the University of Botswana's Theology & Religious Studies Department. His background in Arabic Studies and profound understanding of Christian- Muslim relations have been instrumental in his significant contributions to the academic community. His role as an Associate Researcher at the University of Stellenbosch, University of Johannesburg, and University of Pretoria, as well as visiting Professor at the National University of Malaysia and Rhodes University, has further solidified his reputation as a respected scholar.

As the former editor of the University of Cape Town's Annual Review of Islam in Africa and Editor-in-Chief of Duke University's Research Africa Reviews, he has showcased exceptional leadership skills and a steadfast commitment to academic excellence. His authored and edited works, such as "The Dynamics of Christian-Muslim Relations," "Going Forward: South African-Malaysia Relations," and "Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa," reflect his expertise and unwavering dedication to advancing knowledge in his field.





Prof Haron's profound dedication to serving the people of the Western Cape, coupled with his ability to foster unity, justice, peace, and stability, positions him as the ideal candidate to head the Western Cape Provincial Government. His emphasis on spiritual intelligence, moral values, and compassionate leadership, and his steadfast commitment to progress on individual and societal levels, make him the clear choice for those who value inclusive governance and a vision for the much needed change we all wish to see in the Western Cape.

Transitioning into the realm of politics, he mindfully applies the wisdoms gained from his vast and varied Islamic academic pursuits. In his current service as the CEO of Al Jama-ah political party, his nomination as the Premier candidate to head the Western Cape Provincial Government, is a welcomed move that is sure to usher in stability and prosperity, should he be elected as such. His compassion, leadership qualities, and academic expertise uniquely position him to ably navigate the complex issues facing the Western Cape, with skill, empathy, and intelligence.

He holds a Phd Degree in International Relations: South Africa-Malaysia from the Rhodes University (2007); a Doctorandus Degree in Semitic Studies: Arabic, from the Free University of Amsterdam (1990); a BA Honours degree in Semitic Studies: Arabic from the University of South Africa (1987); a MA Degree in Religious Studies: Islamic Studies, from the University of Cape Town (1986); a BA Honours degree in Religious Studies from the University of Cape Town (1985); and a BA degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Durban Westville (1987).

Al Jama-ah is poised to make history not only as the Political Party with the most innovative, progressive, and decisive policies for positive change, but also boasts skilled and qualified members, who clearly demonstrate a passion for ethical, honest and effective governance for all people. What better and more trusted home would you find for your vote on 29 May 2024!

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