

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 September 2026

RODNEY PLETT APOLOGISES TO ABDUR RAHAMAAAN, TO THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY AND TO NORWOOD

JOHANNESBURG — Rodney Plett, the Norwood resident shown in a video of a confrontation with Mr Abdur Rahamaan on 21 September 2026, has issued the following personal statement.

"I want to say a few words about what happened in Norwood on the afternoon of Monday, 21 September.

That day was Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the day on which Jews ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done to other people. I had been fasting for approximately 23 hours and, as it was a fast day, I had not taken my medication. I had a headache and was rushing to shul, where I was due to perform security duty. As I was travelling along Scholtz Road in Norwood, indicating to turn right onto Algernon Road, a high-powered bakkie travelling in the opposite direction at a high speed suddenly braked and turned left into Algernon Road, where I was also about to turn, without indicating that he intended to do so. I had not anticipated the vehicle turning and, from my perspective, I came close to colliding with it. I became angry. I should simply have carried on to shul, but instead I chose to confront the driver and express my anger. That was a serious error of judgement on my part. None of those circumstances excuses what followed. On that day of all days, I swore at Mr Abdur Rahamaan and insulted him, and then I made a remark about Israel and Muslims that was hurtful and wrong. In hindsight, I should never have responded in the way that I did. I have watched the video. I am ashamed of what I see, and I am truly sorry.

I am not going to try to explain those words away. Nothing makes them acceptable, and I will not insult Mr Rahamaan by looking for an excuse.

I have asked myself many times since Monday why I brought the war into it. I do not have a good answer. I was angry, and I reached for the thing I knew would hurt most. Mr Rahamaan had done nothing to deserve that. This war has brought grief to Jewish and Muslim families all over the world, including here in South Africa. Many have watched people they love, or people they connect with, suffer. I took that pain and threw it at a stranger in the street as if it were a weapon. I know what it feels like when someone mocks that grief. I did to him exactly what I would never want done to me. That is what I am most ashamed of, and I am truly sorry to him, and to every Muslim South African who heard my words and felt that I meant them too.

Mr Rahamaan and his family, and every Muslim South African, are entitled to feel safe and respected on their own streets. My words did nothing to help him feel that. I would welcome the chance to apologise to him in person, whenever and wherever he is willing.

My legal representatives have formally approached Mr Rahamaan's attorneys with a proposal regarding an apology and settlement. We have not yet received a response and remain ready to engage constructively when they are in a position to do so.

I also owe an apology to my own community. Judaism teaches that when one Jew behaves badly in public, people do not see one man; they see all Jews, and the name of God is shamed with him. We call this a chillul Hashem, and on Yom Kippur, of all days, that is what I caused. Thousands of Jewish South Africans who have spent their lives building friendships with their Muslim neighbours, and who had nothing to do with what I said, have been judged by it. I apologise to them, to Rabbi

and Mrs Rodal and the Chabad of Norwood congregation, and to the wider Jewish community. My shul has always taught me the opposite of what I said. The responsibility for repairing this is mine, and I intend to carry it.

I know that saying sorry is not enough. I intend to show by how I live from now on that I mean it.

Because there is a police investigation, I will not comment further on the events of that afternoon, and I will not be giving interviews. I ask only that no one harass or threaten Mr Rahamaan or his family, and that no one uses what I did to set the communities of Norwood against each other.

Norwood has always been a place where families of all different faiths and backgrounds live side by side. I ask everyone, whatever they now think of me, not to let what I did divide this community.”

— **Rodney Plett**