**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE WELCOMES ANNUAL REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT AND ITS ENTITIES**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 9 October 2019 –**The Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development has welcomed the performance and financial annual reports of the Department of Small Business and its entities for the 2018/19 financial year.

The two entities, Small Enterprise Development Agency and Small Enterprise Finance Agency achieved clean audits, whereas the department received unqualified audit with some findings.

The Chairperson of the Committee, Ms Violet Siwela said, although the performance of the entities was outstanding, the committee also held a view that the department performed well.

“Unqualified audit is a big step in the right direction, considering that the department did not have an organogram in the year under review. We recommend that it pays attention on the areas of concern that were raised by the Auditor-General in order to achieve a clean audit,” said Ms Siwela.

The committee further noted and welcomed the alignment of the services that are provided by Sefa and Seda and, encouraged the two entities to continue working together in order to adequately address the needs of the small, medium and micro enterprises.

The Department and its two entities appeared before the committee today, to brief the committee on their annual performance reports for the 2018/19 financial year.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, MS VIOLET SIWELA.**