**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**COMMITTEES POSTPONE MEETING ON THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 19 November 2019 –**The joint meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities; Portfolio Committees on Social Development, Health, Justice and Correctional Services; Basic Education; Higher Education, Science and Technology; and Police – Select Committee on Health, Select Committee on Social Services, Security and Justice, and the Multi-Party Women’s Caucus postponed its meeting today.

The committees’ decision to postpone the meeting was as a result of documentation that was not in order, which Members found was unacceptable as the letter from the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities clearly outlined what was expected. Furthermore, the Interim Steering Committee on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide did not submit the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide as requested.

During the meeting, members expressed their frustration in the manner in which the department was proceeding with the presentation. Members also voiced their concern about the lack of representation by lead departments responsible for implementing the NSP and the Emergency Response Action Plan on GBVF at the meeting.

After deliberations, the chairpersons resolved to adjourn the meeting and agreed that another date will be arranged to reconvene a meeting in order for the ISC and all relevant government departments to appear before the committee.

The committee is resolute that gender-based violence and femicide require a collective effort which was evident in the attendance by members from all the committees that were invited at today’s meeting. Furthermore, the committee also acknowledges the attendance of civil society at today’s meeting.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, MS NONHLANHLA NCUBE-NDABA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, MS MAURENCIA GILLION.**