**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**COMMITTEE TO MEET MINISTER ON OVERSIGHT ROLE AT PRASA**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 5 February 2019 –**The Portfolio Committee on Transport will meet with the Minister of Transport in the first quarter of the financial year, to better understand its oversight role at the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa).

The committee Chairperson, Mr Mosebenzi Zwane, said the committee resolved in its two-day strategic workshop that Prasa would be the committee’s priority. “The entity is on its knees and it is possible that by the end of the year it will be unable to operate. This committee’s performance should be measured on its ability to turn around Prasa,” Mr Zwane said.

Prasa was placed under administration after the interim board was relieved of its duties late in 2019. Mr Bongi Mpondo was then appointed as the administrator. Mr Zwane said that the committee acknowledges Mr Mpondo’s role as the Prasa board and that he should account to the committee, but it is important for the Minister to clarify this matter.

The committee held a successful two-day strategic workshop in Cape Town where it resolved to look at stabilising the department and its entities. Unstable boards at entities within the transport sector were also subject of the discussion. Mr Zwane said unstable boards should be attended to and people with the right skills should be appointed to them.

“Reliable public transport and rail safety will be raised in meetings with the department and proper monitoring of department’s programmes will be non-negotiable,” he said.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, MR MOSEBENZI ZWANE.**