**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**SCOPA CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON FRAUDULENT CONTRACTS OF STATE FUNERALS**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 3 March 2020 –**The Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) is concerned about the fact that the Director-General of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Adv Sam Vukela, is one of the officials that have been implicated in a forensic investigation report by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) on the fraudulent contract management and payment irregularities for the state funerals of Ms. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Dr. Zweli Skweyiya and Ambassador Billy Modise.

Scopa is expecting a full report from the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure on the implementation of the recommendation that necessary corrective action must be taken against the Director-General within 14 days. Scopa has also requested a report from the Minister on the interaction with the President on the process of reviewing the procedures for state and official funerals that address the management of the funeral process, to curb vulnerabilities to fraud and corruption. The committee also wants this report within 14 days. The committee has also directed the Minister to interact with the President in so far as the disciplinary processes of the Director-General within this period of 14 days are concerned.

The committee will write to the Leader of Government Business to inform him of today’s processes so that if necessary, this matter can be discussed at Cabinet level. The Chairperson of Scopa will also interact with the Speaker of the National Assembly on this matter. The committee will also seek legal advice form the Parliamentary Legal Services to ascertain which steps can be taken on this matter.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF SCOPA, MR MKHULEKO HLENGWA.**