**Media Statement: Finance Committees Welcome Presentation on Draft Disaster Management Tax Bills**

**Parliament, Thursday, 23 April 2020 –**The Standing and Select Committees on Finance welcomed a joint presentation from the National Treasury and the South African Revenue Service (Sars) on two 2020 draft Bills, namely the Disaster Management Tax Relief Bill and the Disaster Management Tax Relief Administration Bill.

The two committees held a view that both draft Bills were a step in the right direction to assist small businesses to increase their production capacity and keep some liquidity during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The committees then undertook to process the Bills within the legislative framework and Rules of Parliament, and work together in harmony with the executive and legislative arms of the state.

Co-Chairperson Mr Joe Maswanganyi said that although the country is under a national state of disaster, Parliament’s constitutional duty to pass legislation and conduct oversight remains critical, and the committees are committed to fulfilling that role.

Next week, the committees will be briefed by the Minister of Finance on the R500 billion social and economic relief package, which was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa, and the legislative framework that governs the administration of the Covid-19 Solidarity Fund, as well as the procurement of goods and services from the fund.

**ISSUED BY PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MR JOE MASWANGANYI, AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MR YUNUS CARRIM**