**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE SUPPORTS IN PRINCIPLE STRATEGIC PLAN OF PARLIAMENT**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 12 May 2020 –**The Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament has supported in principle the highlights of policy priorities and strategic plan for the sixth administration of Parliament, and believes that the institution will benefit a great deal in respect of how it will conduct its business.

The policy priorities and strategic plan were presented by the Acting Secretary to Parliament, Ms Baby Tyawa.

The committee understood the rationale behind anchoring the strategic plan on the National Development Plan’s impact targets for 2030, but still felt that it lacked details on international relations. The Co-Chairpersons, Ms Peace Mabe and Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu, then encouraged Ms Tyawa to highlight on that aspect in the next presentation about the Annual Perfomance Plan (APP) for the 2020/21 financial year.

The committee welcomed the report that Parliament has put measures in place to mitigate the impact of Covid-19, and that engagements with the National Treasury are ongoing to address the issue of political party funding.

The committee held a view that inadequate funding of political parties, as well as under-resourced Parliamentary Constituency Offices impacted negatively on the ability of Members of Parliament to sufficiently conduct constituency work.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF PARLIAMENT, MS PEACE MABE AND MS DIKELEDI MAHLANGU.**