**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**AD HOC COMMITTEE AGREES TO ASK THE SPEAKER FOR EXTENSION OF ITS MANDATE**

**Parliament, Friday, 22 May 2020 –**The Ad Hoc Committee to Initiate and Introduce Legislation Amending Section 25 of the Constitution met today to discuss the extension of its mandate as its tenure expires at the end of May.

Making opening remarks before the start of the meeting, the Chairperson of the committee, Dr Mathole Motshekga, appreciated the teamwork spirit which he said kept the committee together and united, and which also kept its delegations together in the different provinces where they conducted public hearings. “We represented Parliament very well, and I hope that spirit will prevail going forward. The feedback we get from the people on the ground is that we remained as a multi-party committee,” said Dr Motshekga.

Dr Motshega told the committee that its tenure expires at the end of May though its work has not been finalised, and he decided to bring that before the attention of the committee so that the committee can discuss that. After frank deliberations, the committee has agreed to ask for an extension of its mandate given the fact that the work it was established for has not been finalised. Members of the committee said there are still public hearings the committee must conduct.

The committee asked Dr Motshekga to write to the Speaker of the National Assembly asking her for the extension of the mandate of the committee until such time that it will be appropriate to stop and disband the committee.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO INITIATE AND INTRODUCE LEGISLATION AMENDING SECTION 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION, DR MATHOLE MOTSHEKGA.**