**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**COMMITTEE POSTPONES BRIEFING ON UPGRADE OF LAND TENURE RIGHTS AMENDMENT BILL**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 26 May 2020 –**Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, today postponed the briefing it was going to receive from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on the Upgrade of Land Tenure Rights Amendment Bill to 26 June 2020.

The postponement will allow the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) and the National House of Traditional Leaders (NHTL) to present their inputs on the Bill for the consideration of the committee.

The committee received a presentation from the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) on the NARYSEC programme which was launched in 2010 for the equipment of the rural youth with skills that would empower them to create employment in their communities. The committee heard that 25 244 young people are now trained as a result of the programme.

The Department of Rural Development will come back to the committee to present the successes of the programme, and the comprehensive exit plan for the graduates of the programme.

The Chairperson of the committee, Inkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, has asked the department to report at the committee’s next meeting the number of Indian, Coloured, White, San and Khoi rural youth who have benefitted from the programme as from the current presentation it is only the Nguni speaking youth that benefits from the programme.
Inkosi Mandela said: “The programmes of the department must reflect the policies of our government and ensure that we truly build a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it black and white.”

He added: “Our planning cannot perpetuate the discriminatory patterns of the past and we must learn to advance national reconciliation, nation building, and social cohesion through championing programmes that are inclusive.”

Last year, the committee called for the review of the programme, and it is hoped that the reviewed policy which is soon going to be presented to the committee by the department will reflect all the ethos of nation-building that are enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa. The committee would also like to see increase in the number of the youth that accesses economic opportunities and become self-sustainable and self-reliant.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, NKOSI ZWELIVELILE MANDELA.**