**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE ADOPTS REPORT RECOMMENDING NAMES OF CANDIDATES TO FILL MDDA BOARD VACANCIES**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 15 July 2020 –**The Portfolio Committee on Communications has unanimously adopted a report recommending the names of candidates to be considered for appointment to fill four vacancies at the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA).

The names are recommended in the order of priority, and they are: Mr Hlengane Mathebula, Ms Brenda Leonard, Ms Andiswa Ncingwana and Ms Marina Clarke. The committee report will be tabled for consideration by the National Assembly and, once adopted, the four names will be forwarded to the President for his appointment.

The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Boyce Maneli, said the committee strived for a consensus with regards to the names and praised all political parties for putting South Africa first over their political differences.

Additionally, the committee adopted two reports on the adjustment budgets of the Government Communications and Information Systems (GCIS) and the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT). The GCIS and DCDT presented adjustment budgets subsequent to the Revised Fiscal Framework tabled by the Minister of Finance on 24 June 2020.

The committee further adopted another report supporting the President’s determination to freeze at 0% the salaries of all Councillors and Chairperson of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa).

The committee did not accede to a request by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies to fill only four of the six vacancies on Icasa’s Council, nor altering the skills set as recommended by the National Assembly in line with Section 5(3B)(II), as per the committee’s recommendation in the order of priority.

The committee is of the firm view that the convergence of the regulator need to take into account the skills as outlined in the Icasa Act. In its view, a request by the Minister fails to respond to this section of the Act. The committee firmly held that all six vacancies should be filled, taking into consideration all the required skill sets.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS, MR BOYCE MANELI**