**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**COMMITTEE ON COGTA CALLS ON ETHEKWINI METRO TO IMPROVE ITS PUBLIC CONSULTATION STRATEGIES**

**Parliament, Saturday, 1 August 2020 –** The Mayor of the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda and other leaders of the municipality appeared before the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) yesterday in a virtual meeting, to report on the petition of the municipality’s Ward 52 communities that include Bhambayi, Emamba, Emaoti and Brooksfarm.

The petition contained a list of 14 matters that include housing, roads, drainages, distribution of food parcels and vouchers, satellite primary health facility, satellite police station facility, electrification contractor, Multi-Purpose Centre worth R30 million, allegation that only ANC members become sub-contractors in projects, and the alleged rude behaviour of certain ward councillors.

Mr Kaunda and his team made a presentation that covered each and every matter in the petition. Although the committee welcomed the report of the municipality on the matters, it urged the municipality to keep communities under its jurisdiction always informed about its work, especially special service delivery projects as sometimes discontent and protests arise from the lack of public consultation and information, in particular.

Asked about the existence of mechanisms for public meetings and the frequency of those meetings, Mr Kaunda said there are mechanisms in place and that they meet with the communities on a monthly basis. He said one of their consultation strategies is the monthly meetings of zones that include 24 wards. Furthermore, Mr Kaunda said the municipality uses other platforms such as social media for communicating with the people.

On food parcels, he said eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality was the only municipality in the country that publicised its food parcels distribution strategy. He attributed the dissatisfaction on food parcels on the fact that the municipality didn’t receive the amount of food parcels in proportion to its populace. He said they distributed 1 000 food parcels per ward, and according to him not all the deserving and the needy households received food parcels due to the limited number of parcels the municipality received.

The Chairperson of the committee, Ms Faith Muthambi, asked Mr Kaunda about the existence of strong systems in place to ensure that Covid-19 resources reach the intended recipients in the municipality. She also urged Mr Kaunda to share the turnaround strategy of the municipality with the committee as the municipality is listed amongst the dysfunctional municipalities by the Department of Cooperative Governance.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, MS FAITH MUTHAMBI.**