**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO INVITE IEC TO RESPOND TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 10 November 2020 –** The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs has resolved to invite the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) to respond to public comments on the Electoral Laws Amendment Bill [B 22 – 2020].

The committee welcome the extensive interest in the amendment Bill, especially because of the impact it will have on the voting process. “The 12 330 submissions received point to the interest that South African individuals and groups have on this process. It also strengthens the strategic objective of Parliament of ensuring that decisions made in Parliament are reflective of the will of the people,” said Adv Bongani Bongo, the Chairperson of the committee.

Some of the issues raised by members of the public that should be responded to by the IEC include the socio-economic impact assessment done for the Bill, the impact of the IEC’s intention to introduce e-voting, especially in relation to what security measures protect the election, as well as the cost implications of potential future electronic voting (e-voting) in its internal costing of the Bill?

Regarding the matter of e-voting, the committee concluded that there will be extensive consultation on the matter, considering that the country cannot hide from this eventuality in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. While this is so, adequate mechanisms must be put in place to protect the integrity of any future e-voting process.

The committee will next week interact with the IEC to receive its (IEC’s) response on the issues raised by the public.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS, ADV BONGANI BONGO.**

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