**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**POWERS AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS PENALTIES FOR INCIDENT OF 11 JULY 2019**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 31 March 2021 –**The Powers and Privileges Committee today met to consider the mitigating and aggravating factors, as well as the appropriate penalties that should be imposed on Members of Parliament that have been charged and found guilty for the incident that occurred on 11 July 2019 when the Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Pravin Gordhan, delivered his budget vote speech before a mini-plenary of the National Assembly.

The committee has accepted the arguments and the submissions of the Initiator, Adv Ncumisa Mayosi. The committee will recommend to the National Assembly that Section 12(5)(g) of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act (“the Act”) is the appropriate sanction for Mr Nthako Matiase and Ms Primrose Sonti. Section 12(5)(g) of the Act states that when a House finds a Member guilty of contempt, the House may impose a penalty such as the suspension of a Member with or without remuneration for a period not exceeding 30 days, whether or not the House or any of its committees is scheduled to meet during that period. In respect of both Mr Matiase and Ms Sonti, the committee agreed to recommend a sanction of suspension without remuneration for a period not exceeding 30 days, whether or not the House or any of its committees is scheduled to meet during that period.

Regarding Mrs Khonziwe Hlonyana, Mrs Rosina Komane, Mr Khanya Ceza, Mr Makosini Chabangu, Mr Thokozani Langa, Mr Brian Madlingozi, Mrs Mathibe Mohlala, Mr Mothusi Montwedi, Mrs Thembi Msane, Mr Dumisani Mthenjane, Mr Nazier Paulsen, Mr Henry Shembeni, Ms Mathapelo Siwisa, and Mrs Lorato Tito, who have been found guilty as charged, the committee will recommend the invocation of Section 12(5)(f) of the Act to the National Assembly, which states that when a House finds a Member guilty of contempt, the House may impose a penalty such as a fine not exceeding the equivalent of one month’s salary and allowances payable to the Member concerned by virtue of the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act.

The committee has noted the objection of Dr. Mbuyiseni Ndlozi to the Initiator’s submissions on appropriate penalty and the committee’s recommendations thereof.

The committee will further recommend to the National Assembly that the sanction that was imposed on Mr Matiase and Ms Sonti in 2014 be implemented. The committee will request a report on the outcome of the 2014 Western Cape High Court application and any attendant implications for Parliament. Such a report will be tabled at the next committee meeting, for noting and report.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE POWERS AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE, MR PHILLY MAPULANE.**