**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**PSA COMMITTEE WANTS ANSWERS FROM NORTH WEST PROVINCE ON IRRECOVERABLE MONIES OWED TO IT**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 18 August 2021** – The Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration today received a briefing from the Office of the Premier of North West Provincial Government and its departments of Health and Education on financial misconduct and progress on disciplinary cases from the 2019/20 to 2020/21 financial years.

This was followed by a briefing from the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) on the progress made thus far with the establishment of the Public Administration Ethics Integrity and Disciplinary Technical Assistance Unit (PAEIDTAU). The committee also considered and adopted the Committee Report on Ease of Doing Business Bill.

On 2 June 2021, the committee received a presentation from the Public Service Commission (PSC) on financial misconduct in the public service in the 2019/2020 financial year. The PSC report flagged the State Security Agency (SSA) and the North West provincial departments of the Office of the Premier, Education and Health as having failed to submit records on financial misconduct.

The committee had written letters to the SSA and the North West Province has submitted a consolidated presentation. The committee noted from the presentation that the amount involved is R75 889 349.70.

The types of misconduct include fraud and financial misconduct; contravention of section 195 of the constitution, supply chain management (SCM) prescripts and the Division of Revenue Act; and fraud and contravention of SCM processes. The committee is concerned about the amount that may not be recovered amounting to R45 889 349.70 and asked why the province could not recover it.

The committee heard that criminal proceedings were initiated against one employee, a former director-general. The committee recorded its dissatisfaction that nothing has been recovered as yet, but noted that a preservation order for R30 000 000 has been obtained. The province also reported that nine disciplinary cases are still pending.

The committee also noted the progress made by the Department of Public Service and Administration on the establishment of the PAEIDTAU. In March 2020, the unit was formally established as part of the DPSA’s macro-restructuring process and incubated within it. The committee welcomed this development and approval of the Lifestyle Audit Guideline and supports the implementation of lifestyle audits in the public service.

The majority of the committee further adopted the report on the Ease of Doing Business Bill, with the exception of the Democratic Alliance, which had a dissenting view. The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Tyotyo James, said that the overall report is adopted by the committee and that the minutes of today’s meeting will record the objection by the opposition.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION, MR TYOTYO JAMES.**