**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE BRIEFED ON INTEGRATED MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 1 September 2021** – The Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration today received a briefing from the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation on the Integrated Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) Monitoring and Reporting System, which tracks progress and supports implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP).

The department informed the committee that the 2019-2024 MTSF was developed in 2019. However, with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, departments had to reprioritise their plans and budgets to respond to the pandemic and towards recovery efforts. The fiscal outlook remains constrained and departments will need to continue efforts to implement only the most impactful interventions.

The ongoing pandemic and the unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng in July this year affected the economic and fiscal outlook. One of the priorities for the 2019-2024 period is the transformation of the economy to serve the people. However, unemployment, poverty and inequality have increased.

The committee advised the department to ensure sector departments’ strategic plans and annual performance plans (including local government integrated development plans) are aligned, to enhance service delivery and grow the economy.

The committee asked the department to use the integrated monitoring and reporting system to assess performance against the NDP and the current administration’s seven government priorities. The reporting system can also be used as evidence to assist the President in assessing ministers’ performance.

The committee notes the remarks by the Deputy Minister in the Presidency Ms Pinky Kekana on efforts to reposition the department to take the lead in planning, monitoring and evaluation. This includes incorporating District Development Model targets and deliverables in this reporting system. Ms Kekana further said: “The DPME must be at the centre of government and become an authentic station of evidence-based information to guide decision-making in terms of government programmes.”

Committee Chairperson Mr Tyotyo James welcomed the department’s repositioning as the government’s knowledge hub.

In response to questions posed by the committee on the Presidential Hotline, the department undertook to report on all matters raised by the public and the remedial actions taken by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation to address them .

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