**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS ADOPTED ITS REPORT ON DIVISION OF REVENUE AMENDMENT BILL**

**Parliament, Saturday, 27 November 2021 –**The Standing Committee on Appropriations adopted its report on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill [B19-2021] yesterday, in accordance with the Money Bills and Related Matters Act, 2009.

The Bill was presented in Parliament by the Minister of Finance in the National Assembly (NA) on 11 November 2021, when the Minister presented the 2021 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS).

The Bill was tabled in Parliament in terms of section 12(4) of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act No. 9 of 2009. The Act requires the Minister of Finance to table a Division of Revenue Amendment Bill, with a revised fiscal framework if the adjustments budget affects changes to the Division of Revenue Act for the relevant year.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) made a submission on the Bill. The committee invited the Financial and Fiscal Commission, the Parliamentary Budget Office and the South African Local Government Association to comment on the Bill.

Cosatu submitted that the MTBPS provided few new ideas or interventions to grow the economy with no new measures provided to increase the badly needed state revenue, nor to deal with the ballooning levels of corruption and wasteful expenditure. Furthermore, Cosatu submitted that the essence of the MTBPS as with the previous budgets of the past few years, has been to shift the blame to the public service wage Bill.

The committee has welcomed the proposed additional allocations such as the
allocation to the provincial equitable share of R14.7 billion to assist provinces
to implement the wage agreement of the Public Service Co-ordinating
Bargaining Council for the 2021/22 financial year; and of the R350 million to
fund the employment of assistant nurses who will fulfil the responsibilities
required in the Covid-19 vaccination programme, Covid-19 wards, High Care
Units, patient observation and other duties through the Presidential Youth
Employment Initiative.

Also, the committee has welcomed the acknowledgement by the South African Local Government Association that the tough economic outlook and tight fiscal space, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic means that the local sphere of government must continue to provide services within a tight fiscal space. The committee has always been of the view that money cannot be a panacea of all problems, the local sphere of government should also look at other sources of revenue including efficiency savings in order to continue providing the required services to the people.

The committee is going to submit the report to the NA, where it will be debated and passed, and sent to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHLAF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, MR SFISO BUTHELEZI**

For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee's Media Officer:
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E-mail: mlukani@parliament.gov.za**MEDIA STATEMENT**

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