**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**LACK OF CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT IN MPUMALANGA MUNICIPALITIES CALLS FOR SPECIAL VISIT BY COMMITTEE TO THE PROVINCE**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 30 November 2021 –**The Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Water and Sanitation has resolved to visit Mpumalanga Province early next year to ensure the application of consequence management against anyone identified to be in the wrong by various S106(1)(b) investigations as per the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000.

The committee received a comprehensive report on Section 106 (1)(b) investigations into Lekwa, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, Govan Mbeki, and Dr JS Moroka local municipalities and is convinced that despite the reports uncovering various wrongdoing, no concomitant action has been taken. Also, even in instances where criminal cases have been opened no arrest or prosecution has been implemented.

"The committee has seen it sensible to arrange a broad engagement in Mpumalanga where stakeholders such as the municipal leadership, the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Special Investigating Unit, the National Prosecuting Authority, and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation under one roof to get to the bottom of the lack of consequence management," said Mr China Dodovu, the Chairperson of the committee.

Some of the identified issues in various municipalities include the non-compliance with supply chain management processes including fictitious quotations and supplies, the sale of the Reconstruction and Development houses and empty stands, corrupt relationships between councillors, municipal officials and service providers, acts of nepotism, the R40 million spent on the construction of a fresh produce market that was never completed and the R18 million spent for boreholes on drought relief projects with some boreholes being drilled in homes of councillors and officials of the municipality.

The committee remains steadfast that any wrongdoing must be met with concomitant action and the non-implementation of consequence management is a direct affront to the rule of law. As a result of that, the committee has resolved to process an urgent application to visit the province with the aim of ensuring necessary commitments from stakeholders to implement consequence management.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, MR CHINA DODOVU**

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