**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND EXECUTIVE UNDERTAKINGS ASSURES PETITIONERS ABOUT FAST-TRACKING THEIR PETITION**

**Parliament, Thursday, 2 December 2021 –**The Select Committee on Petitions and Executive Undertakings has today received a presentation on the gender-based-violence (GBV) collective petition. The petitioners are calling for the assistance of the National Council of Provinces regarding the Presidency's alleged failure to respond to two petitions they have submitted at different times.

According to the petitioners, petition one was submitted by Laura-Lee Gillion and SA Women Fight Back on 6 March 2020, asking for fulfilment of 16 undertakings made by President in September 2019.

Petition two was submitted by the Embrace Project on 30 August 2021 calling out the government's lack of political will to combat gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). It also asked the President to account for the rising rate of GBVF and poor implementation of legislation and the Presidency's emergency response action plan on GBVF.

The petitioners argue that they are requesting the committee to ensure that the President accounts for the South African government's lack of political will to combat GBVF, based on the content and detail contained in each of the two petitions they handed over to it.

The Chairperson of the committee, Honourable Zolani Mkiva, said to the petitioners: "We have noted and welcome your petition as the committee. We will consider it and ensure that it goes through all the internal processes petitions go through and interact with the Presidency."

Hon Mkiva told the petitioners that it was not correct to say or to imply in the petition that nothing has been done to fight GBV. "There is a lot that is done by the government against GBV. The problem is that GBV is a problem that is also linked to the past of the country, which is a very serious legacy," added Hon Mkiva.

He assured the petitioners that the committee will ensure that it fast-tracks their petition and will invite them to come again at the right time.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND EXECUTIVE UNDETAKINGS, HON ZOLANI MKIVA.**

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