**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**International Relations Committee Urges South Africa To Support Free And Fair Elections In Libya**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 23 February 2022 –** The Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation today received a briefing from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation on the current political dynamics in Libya in the context of that country's upcoming elections.

The committee heard that at the height of the conflict in Libya in 2011, South Africa was concerned about the safety and security of its staff and moved its mission to neighbouring Tunisia as a temporary measure. Since then, South Africa has called for a political solution to the crisis in Libya as the only sustainable way for peace to be achieved.

The committee heard that the Libyan elections scheduled to take place on 24 December 2021 did not happen, amidst fears of political instability and violence. Whilst South Africa supports the African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council's ongoing efforts, it has consistently called for the AU to remain focussed on the Libyan conflict with a view towards ensuring the attainment of an unwavering political command in the interest of all Libyans.

South Africa is also a member of the AU High Level Committee on Libya. The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Supra Mahumapelo, said: "Given our history and the subsequent struggle to attain our democracy, we call on South Africa to play a more active role in assisting the people of Libya to achieve free and fair elections and to ultimately establish peace and a democratic dispensation that will benefit all the people of Libya."

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, MR SUPRA MAHUMAPELO.**

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