**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS RECOMMENDS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON USE OF THE WORD ‘COLOURED’**

**Parliament, Friday, 25 February 2022 –** The Select Committee on Petitions and Executive Undertakings considered a petition from the People Against Racial Classification (PARC), a community-based non-profit organisation. The petitioners are calling for the removal of the word “Coloured” from all government forms, private institutions and in the Employment Equity Act.

According to PARC representative Mr Glen Snyman, the word “Coloured” is confusing, derogatory and racist and should be removed from government employment forms. The committee felt that PARC raises important issues that should be discussed by the public.

The committee invited the departments of Home Affairs and Employment and Labour to participate in the meeting where the petition was considered. According to the Department of Home Affairs, the issuing of identity documents does not mention race; only the nationality of the person appears on the document.

The Department of Employment and Labour urged the petitioners to reconsider the request to remove the word “Coloured” from the Employment Equity Act and to rather seek a national dialogue.

The Chairperson of the committee, Hon Zolani Mkiva said: “The Minister of Employment and Labour and the Minister of Home Affairs are clear that we are all South Africans and the classification that is there is intended to deal with the imbalances of the past.”

The committee urged the petitioners to engage their communities further so that there is unity going forward. Furthermore, the committee recommended that there should be a national debate on the matter.

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

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