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| **MEDIA STATEMENT**  **TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION COMMITTEE COMMENDS SIU INTERIM INVESTIGATION INTO NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION** **Parliament, Wednesday, 2 March 2022 –** The Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition today received a status update from the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) regarding its investigations into the National Lotteries Commission (NLC). Committee Chairperson Ms Judy Hermans described the engagement with the SIU as fruitful, as it gave committee Members a better understanding of the current progress and the way forward. Ms Hermans said: “These investigations emanated from the proclamation by the President on 6 November 2020 for an investigation covering activities by the NLC from 1 January 2014 to 6 November 2020, in terms of maladministration in the affairs of the NLC pertaining to the investment of funds of the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund and the allocation of money in the fund to beneficiaries who were not entitled thereto.” The committee heard that phase one of the investigation, involving former non-executive board members, senior NLC officials and 12 projects, is still ongoing. The report for this phase is expected to be concluded and submitted to the President in April. The investigation’s interim findings thus far indicate that corruption and maladministration has benefited certain NLC board members and senior officials, as well as their associates, including directors of non-profit organisations, service providers and individuals. The committee commended the extensive SIU investigations and welcomed the progress made thus far. However, it noted with concern the extent of corruption and maladministration uncovered at the NLC to date. All members of committee, representing different political parties, agreed that corruption and maladministration are unacceptable, especially where it enriches a few and denies the upliftment of the most vulnerable in the society. Ms Hermans urged the SIU and other law-enforcement agencies to ensure that perpetrators face the full might of the law. The committee also resolved that it will continue engaging with the SIU once the Phase 1 report has been submitted to the Presidency. Furthermore, it will exercise its oversight role in terms of actions taken by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition to address and resolve maladministration at the NLC.  **ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MS JUDY HERMANS** For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee’s Media Officer:**Name: Rajaa Azzakani (Ms)****Tel: 021 403 8437****Cell: 081 703 9542****E-mail:** **razzakani@parliament.gov.za** Access Parliament online via:

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