**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**EVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE TO CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE BILL [B9-2022]**

**Parliament, Saturday, 12 March 2022** – The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms. Faith Muthambi says the committee will soon start with the public participation process calling for inputs on the Climate Change Bill.

This follows a briefing the on the Climate Change Bill [B9-2022] by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment; and the First and Second Quarterly Performance Report for 2021/22 by the South African National Parks (SANParks) and the South African Weather Service (SAWS).

The committee welcomed the presentation on the Climate Change Bill and enquired why it had taken so long for the Bill to come to Parliament.  Minister Barbara Creecy informed the committee that in 2020 there were no opportunities for meetings due to the onset of Covid-19. The Bill was also held up at the National Economic Development and Labour Council which needed to iron out issues to ensure that there won't be double dipping in the private sector.

The Department had to work on the carbon budget required by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as countries give themselves a budget to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.  The department informed the committee that a socio-economic study was done which demonstrates that climate change initiatives can benefit communities and has further requested the Committee to hold a meeting with Treasury and the Department to discuss how the Glasgow Agreement of developed countries assisting developing countries can be implemented.

Ms. Faith Muthambi informed the meeting that the committee will start with the process of public participation by advertising the bill and calling for inputs, thereafter the committee will hold public hearings.

Mr Dumisani Dlamini of South African National Parks informed the committee that due to the budget being revised by R600m, the entity was unable to achieve all its targets. SANParks is heavily reliant on tourism and due to the pandemic their income from domestic and international tourists was lower than previous years.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, MS FAITH MUTHAMBI.**
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