**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**COGTA COMMITTEE AGREES TO REVISE PROVISION ON APPOINTMENT OF MANAGERS IN MUNICIPALITIES**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 16 March 2022 –**The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) today agreed to amend the provision relating to the appointment of managers who are directly accountable to the municipal manager in the Municipal Systems Amendment Bill.

The question was whether these managers should be appointed on fixed-term or permanent contracts. Section 57(7) of the current legislation provides that a municipality MAY extend the provisions relating to the employment contract for a Municipal Manager to any manager directly accountable to the municipal manager. The employment contract of a Municipal Manager, in terms of Section 57(6) of the current Act (as amended in 2008), must *be for a fixed term of employment up to a maximum of five years not exceeding a period ending one year after the election of the council of the municipality.*

In 2020, when the committee dealt with this Bill before it was referred to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) for concurrence, it resolved then that the evidence presented before it provided no conclusive evidence as to whether fixed-term contracts are advantageous over permanent appointments or vice versa. Therefore, it decided not to amend the current provision, but to rather continue affording the municipal council discretion to appoint managers on a fixed-term or permanent basis, in consultation with the mayor or executive committee following a recommendation by a municipal manager.

After conducting public hearings however, the NCOP concluded that the contract of employment of a manager directly accountable to a municipal manager must be on a permanent basis. After looking at the amendments made by the NCOP today, the committee resolved to amend the provision of clause 5 to agree that the employment contracts of managers accountable to a municipal manager must be on a permanent basis.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, MR FIKILE XASA.**

For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee's Media Officer:
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