**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TOURISM COMMITTEE RAISES CONCERNS OVER PROJECT PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 7 June 2022 –** The Portfolio Committee on Tourism today received a briefing from the Department of Tourism and the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) on the memorandum of agreement (MOA) entered into with the DBSA on tourism infrastructure projects.

The committee heard from the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Mr Fish Mahlalela, that the DBSA was appointed as the department’s implementing agent. Mr Mahlalela described the implementation of the projects as a “mix bag of successes and challenges”.

The committee heard that several evaluations of completed infrastructure projects funded through the Expanded Public Works Programme have occurred, most recently the one completed by the Government Technical Advisory Services in 2017/18. This evaluation recommended a change in the implementing model. The DBSA MOA came into effect on 20 November 2020, and will terminate on 31 March 2023. The DBSA has an Infrastructure Delivery Division that employs build environment professionals, who are busy with 78 infrastructure projects.

The committee heard that all projects will use the asset-based community development approach, where the community will be involved in the projects. Skills required will first be sourced from the community before being advertised more widely.

The committee raised concerns about whether the infrastructure projects will be completed before the end of the MOA which ends on 31 March 2023. The department replied by saying that the MOA can be extended and that most of the projects will be completed during 2023.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, MS MELINA GOMBA.**

For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairpersons, please contact the Committee’s Media Officer:

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