**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**SELECT COMMITTEE CALLS ON DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A BREAKDOWN OF LAND PARCELS PER DISTRICT**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 8 June 2021 –** The Select Committee on Transport, Public Service and Administration and Public Works and Infrastructure today received a briefing from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure on the progress on the transfer of 14 000 hectares of state land to the Housing Development Agency.

The committee heard that the Cabinet Memo No. 03 of 2019 approved one hundred and sixty-seven (167) land parcels under the custodianship of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, measuring 14 105 hectares**,** to be released and aligned to the Priority Housing Development Areas from 2019/20 to 2024/25.

The department’s Ms Sasa Subban said that the Cabinet memo referred to the release of strategic parcels of land to support economic growth, development and spatial integration as well as fast tracking human settlements development.

The committee also heard that the department had done a high-level verification and due diligence process to determine the viability and availability of the 167 land parcels to be released and had established that, of the total of 14 105 hectares, 91 land parcels equivalent to 920 hectares cannot be released.

Furthermore, the committee heard that 28 land parcels equivalent to 370 hectares were not available due to the utilisation by user departments and custodianship vesting with other spheres of government and privately-owned parties; and that a total of 63 land parcels equivalent to 550 hectares listed in the Cabinet memo are currently used by the Department of Defence’s four military bases. The bases are: Tamboerskloof Magazine site, Youngsfield Military Base, Wingfield Naval Base and Air Force Base Ysterplaat.

The committee called for a breakdown of the land parcels per district per province and it has requested the department to respond as soon as possible.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, MR KENNY MMOIEMANG.**

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