**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS WELCOMES NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 10 August 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 (DPWI) and Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) on the national infrastructure management strategy. It also received a progress report on the roll-out of the infrastructure investment plan and a number of projects that have been signed off.

Head of  Infrastructure South Africa Professor Kgosientsho Ramokgopa told the committee that the government needs to make a conscious effort to direct investment to rural areas. The committee heard that the construction industry remains constrained and recorded negative 0.7% growth in the first quarter, which is attributed to the underwhelming results reported for residential buildings and construction works.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure reported that it has 328 projects in the pipeline. Of these, 102 projects are in the energy sector, 69 in human settlements and 41 in transport. KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of projects at 60, followed by 51 for Gauteng and 35 in the Western Cape.

The committee further heard that the department will try to meet the target set by President Cyril Ramaphosa of building 96 bridges in rural areas in time for the next State of the Nation Address in February 2023. Due to the recent floods in KwaZulu-Natal, the province requires 18 more bridges to be built and funding for this has been made available by the provincial government. The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms Patricia de Lille, informed the committee that the department has 24 teams working on bridges across the country and that funding for them has recently been unlocked by the National Treasury.

The committee was informed that the DPWI hosted a technical delegation from China who will assist South Africa in the economic development of small harbours in the country. Technical input from China will equip local engineers with expertise in developing these harbours. Port St Johns has been identified as a business case for this project.

The committee noted progress on assessing and approving the Strategic Integrated Projects Steering Committee’s approved plans, which have achieved a 100% success rate thus far in. The Square Kilometre Array and Meerkat strategic infrastructure project have also been progressing well. However, there is a shortfall of R3.2 billion and a request has been made for funding from the National Treasury’s Budget Facility for Infrastructure.

The Chairperson of the committee, Mr Kenny Mmoiemang, asked the DPWI to present to the committee again in November on the progress achieved on targets and timelines for all strategic integrated projects so that the committee can monitor the progress made on roads and bridges in rural areas.

**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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