**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE NEARS CONCLUSION OF DELIBERATIONS ON ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 23 August 2022 –** The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs has taken a major step in concluding deliberations on the Electoral Amendment Bill. Following a lengthy process that included a nationwide public participation process and sitting throughout the parliamentary recess period, the committee is now at a stage where it will finally consider the A-List Bill with all amendments and possibly adopt the report for it to be processed by the National Assembly.

The committee today finalised some of the amendments, including the decision to allow independent candidates to participate in elections in different regions, with a proviso that regions are ranked in terms of preference and that votes will not be aggregated. The committee has also re-emphasised the requirement that independent candidates be represented by agents within a voting station to ensure fairness. Furthermore, the committee has resolved that the quota of such agents will be left to Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) to determine in the regulations.

The committee has mandated the legal teams to draft the A-List Bill to be presented to the committee on Thursday for finalisation. The committee will then send a report to the National Assembly with a Bill it considers fair and reasonable, and which responds adequately to the Constitutional Court judgment.

Meanwhile, the committee also received an update report from the Border Management Authority on the establishment of the agency. The committee welcomes the assurance that the Authority has completed and signed implementation protocols with the South African National Defense Force and the South African Police Service. These were completed in May and June 2022 respectively. These protocols will ensure coordination and collaboration in closing gaps relating to South Africa’s borders.

While the progress is commendable, the committee has highlighted the need to secure the necessary funding to ensure that achieving success is not compromised by lack of adequate funding. Regarding the resourcing of the Authority, the committee has called for the Authority to include cadets previously trained by the department, with greater consideration of youth, women and people with disabilities.

In addition, the committee deliberated on a letter received from the President requesting the National Assembly to consider the draft notice of determination of the salaries and allowances of members of various institutions, including IEC commissioners in terms of the Determination of Remuneration of Office Bearers of Independent Constitutional Institutions Laws Amendment Act, 2014 (Act No. 22 of 2014) for 2020/21.

The committee concurred with the President’s determination of a retrospective salary increase of 3% be implemented for the IEC Chairperson and other full-time Commissioners given their salary level for the 2021/22 financial year.

For the part-time Commissioner, salary increases will be as per that approved by the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development on 7 June 2022 on the President’s recommendation of a 3% increase to the salaries of Constitutional Court judges and judges of other courts. The committee will thus recommend to the National Assembly that it approves the notice determining the remuneration of IEC Commissioners.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS, MR MOSA CHABANE.**

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