**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE APPLIES TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO EXTEND SCOPE OF ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL AND SEEK FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 30 August 2022 –** The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs has resolved to request approval from the National Assembly (NA) to extend the scope of the Electoral Amendment Bill [B 1 – 2022] as a result of the substantive changes the committee intends to make to the Bill.

This request is in line with NA Rule 286(4)(b) and 286(4)(c), which in essence allow a committee to make substantive changes after receiving public submissions and deliberating thereon, where the committee has identified certain other sections of the Bill that require an amendment or subjects are introduced that the Bill does not address. The committee must then seek approval from the NA to make those substantive changes.

Furthermore, as a result of the proposed substantive changes, the committee will request the National Assembly to grant the committee a period of 14 days to seek further public comment on the changes. This resolution is in line with paragraph 43 of the Western Cape High Court judgement in Truworths v Minister of Trade and Industry 2018 (3) SA 558 (WCC) 10, which highlight when changes to “the draft regulations in a material respect, calling for further comment might under certain circumstances be advisable”.

The committee is hopeful that the National Assembly will consider the request favourably to enable the committee to conclude its processes meticulously.

Meanwhile, the committee received the Electoral Integrity global report 2019-2021, which rated the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) relatively highly in comparison with other countries around the world. “The report is testament to the continued good work that the IEC is doing and its role in strengthening our democratic order,” said Mr Mosa Chabane, the Chairperson of the committee.

The committee welcomes that in terms of the Perception of Electoral Integrity ratings, South Africa is ranked second with only Cape Verde, which scored highest on the African continent. Furthermore, the committee welcomes the fact that the report rates South Africa highly in comparison to other countries around the world, with only eight countries on the continent of America ranking higher than South Africa, only seven ranking higher in Asia and 25 European countries ranking higher than South Africa.

The committee views this report as an opportunity to address the areas of weakness identified in the report, which include voter registration, media coverage and campaign finance. The country as a whole must move in earnest to remedy those areas to ensure that the country’s electoral processes meet the highest standards. The committee acknowledges that some work has been done already, including the implementation of the Political Party Funding Act, which will address the area of campaign finance.

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

**For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee’s Media Officer:**
**Name: Malatswa Molepo (Mr)**
Parliamentary Communication Services
Tel: 021 403 8438