**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON POSTBANK BILL BY TWO WEEKS**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 20 September 2022 –** The Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies met today to process written submissions from members of the public on the Postbank Amendment Bill.

The committee said public participation in Parliament’s law-making and other activities is a constitutional imperative. Parliament is bound and is committed to act in accordance with the Constitution in facilitating public participation in its processes. Section 59 (1) and Section 72 (1) of the Constitution affirm the rights of the public to participate in the law-making and other processes of Parliament and its committees.

In the meeting of 20 September 2022, the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies considered and deliberated on written submissions from members of the public on the Bill. The committee noted that it received only three written submissions after considerable consultation. The committee also admitted that these responses are insufficient, given Postbank’s mandate. The committee has therefore resolved that the public comment process be further extended for another two weeks for more public participation.

The committee would like to invite additional comments on the Bill through written submissions and presentations from the members of the public and all the interest groups within the financial sector. All the written submissions should reach the Committee Secretary by not later than **4 October 2022** at sapostbankbill@parliament.gov.za or fill in the online submission form [https://forms.gle/bq8X92QXBgJAagpm9](https://parliament.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=174940c63c5e06b60f5650bea&id=489fb756ad&e=da105e4f6a). In addition to the written submissions, please indicate if you are interested in making a verbal presentation to the committee.

The proposed date for such engagement for all the presentations will be communicated on a date to be determined by the committee. Please forward all the queries via email to Ms Hajiera Salie, Committee Secretary, at hsalie@parliament.gov.za.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, MR BOYCE MANELI.**

For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee’s Media Officer:
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**Parliamentary Communication Services**