**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TRANSPORT COMMITTEE NOTES PROGRESS IN DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE, BUT DRIVING LICENCE CARD MACHINE SHOULD BE FIXED**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 19 October 2022 –** The Acting Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport, Mr Lisa Mangcu, has expressed concerns with the continuous breakdown of the licence producing machine that is used by Driving Licence Card Account.

He said the breakdowns caused unnecessary panic among South Africans and should be attended to as a matter of urgency.

“The machine is old but that should not be an excuse. The transport portfolio should not at any stage be found wanting given its critical role not only on service delivery, but driving the economy to new heights,” Mr Mangcu said.

The committee had concluded its engagements on annual reports and financial statements with all entities in the portfolio. The Budget Reviews and Recommendations Reports process is in alignment with statutory requirements where government needed to update Parliament on its mid-term performance on expenditure.

Mr Mangcu said the committee has noted the performance and that an indication is that good work is being realised in the portfolio.

“Obviously not all entities will record the same level of achievements and expenditure. We implore on those entities that are lagging behind to pull and improve. It became evident that the committee needs to play a monitorial role on the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA), and that patience is required with the entity. In achieving infrastructural revival PRASA ought to contribute immensely in the creation of jobs in the country.”

Mr Mangcu added: “We do not want entities to depend on the department and the Minister essentially on anything when in fact they have staff to do the work. They should work to complement the work of the department and drive its performance on service delivery particularly on rail, public transport and integrated transport planning.”

The committee was satisfied with all the entities, but raised concerns with the pending matter of the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project (GFIP) and the likely negative impact it may have on the financial sustainability of SANRAL.

Mr Mangcu said the expenditure as reported, needs to translate into tangible performance and that there needs to be consequences for poor performance. He implored the aviation sector to set the bar even higher, and keep SA as the safest airspace with grounded professionalism that is internationally recognised.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, MR LISA MANGCU.**

**For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairpersons, please contact the committee’s Media Officer:**
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