**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO GBV AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT DURING REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE EFF ON 9 AND 10 JUNE 2022**

A report from an independent investigation by Adv Elizabeth Baloyi-Mere into allegations of gender-based violence (GBV) and/or sexual harassment during the removal of Members of the EFF by members of the Parliamentary Protection Services (PPS) during the Presidency Budget Vote debate in June has found no evidence of GBV or sexual harassment.

The report did find that the removal of members was characterized by violence on both sides. The report further found that the actions of the Speaker during the sittings were in line with what is provided in the rules and up to and including the involvement of the PPS personnel.

Recommendations for Parliamentary Administration

1. No female Member of Parliament should be touched by a male member and no male Members of Parliament should not be touched by any female PPS personnel.
2. To give effect to the above PPS must be well resourced and the number of female security officers increased. There should at all times be an adequate number of female PPS personnel on the precinct even though there are other subcommittees doing oversight work outside Parliament during any given sitting of Parliament.
3. The threats directed towards the PPS personnel should be taken seriously and Parliament should not wait until something drastic happens to a PPS member for it to take these threats seriously.

Recommendations for Members of Parliament

1. It is incumbent upon all stakeholders involved to obey and abide by the rules that they have agreed to, including the standing orders within which the PPS personnel operate. In the same breath it is also important to exercise patience with one another and for all parties to treat each other with respect especially because it is called upon them to do so by the very same Rules of the House.
2. Members of Parliament should, when requested to vacate the chamber, whether they are escorted by the PPS personnel or just told to do so by the Serjeant-at-Arms, to act honourably and walk out by themselves without putting up a fight and causing the PPS personnel to have to physically remove them.
3. The above recommendation will only be possible if Members of Parliament change their attitude and abide by the rules that they took an oath and swore to uphold.
4. Members of Parliament should accord respect to the PPS personnel and not verbally or physically abuse them in anyway. This includes the making of threats towards PPS personnel.
5. There should be a balance between the members’ rights and the rights of the Speaker and Parliament to carry on with the business of the day. There can never be a situation where there is a stalemate or a staring contest between the Members of Parliament and the PPS personnel where a member refuses to leave the Chamber and the PPS personnel are not allowed to touch and remove a member from Chamber.
6. It does not appear that the rules are the problem but the attitude of the parties is the problem and it is therefore recommended that the Speaker holds a meeting with all the Chief Whips with the aim of making sure that everyone complies with and abides by the Rules of Parliament.
7. The speaker is also empowered to see to it that the rules are obeyed and has the power to enforce the rules therefore it is only a question of making sure that the correct thing is done at the correct time.