**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
   
**CLIMATE CHANGE BILL GETS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM THIRD GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**   
   
**Parliament, Friday, 28 October 2022 –** The Climate Change Bill received an overwhelming support today from the third group of participants who made oral submissions during the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment’s public hearings on the Bill.  
   
The first group of participants presented their oral submissions during the committee’s public hearings that took place at the beginning of September and the following group presented their oral presentations in the hearings that took place on 20 September. The Bill received overwhelming support from both groups.  
   
The Chairperson of the committee, Ms Faith Muthambi, appreciated the divergent and complementary views expressed by participants and said the country needed to reach a balanced view on how to tackle climate change. She said: “Climate change mitigation and adaptation is beyond the capacity of government; hence all stakeholders should come on board and play meaningful roles. The committee appreciates the input and accepts that climate education is required, and that climate action is urgent.”  
   
The committee held a day-long virtual public hearings today on the Bill where over 10 key stakeholders made oral submissions. Among the key issues stakeholders raised were climate resilience, access to climate information, impact on agriculture, the discretionary power of the Presidential Commission on Climate Change, carbon tax and carbon budgets, and the importance of the Basic Education sector.  
   
Ms Muthambi said the Bill is work in progress and should complement the environmental legislations and policies of government. “We should look at budgets to enable successful and smooth transition from the carbon-fuelled economy, and we should ensure that those affected are involved in the value chain of a greener economy.”  
   
She agreed with stakeholders that there is a need for capacity building at all spheres of government and Parliament so that the impact of the Bill is aligned with the objectives of government as contained in the District Development Model and in the municipal district plans.  
   
Ms Muthambi said the committee will schedule more public hearings in the next year in order to ensure that South Africans express their views on the Bill. The public hearings took place just a week before the conference of parties (COP27) begins in Egypt, Sharm El-Sheik, a milestone for South Africa in the fight against climate crisis.  
   
**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, MS FAITH MUTHAMBI.**  
   
For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee’s Media Officer:  
Name: Sibongile Maputi (Mr)  
Parliamentary Communication Services