**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**SC ON SECURITY AND JUSTICE ADOPTS REPORT ON PROTECTION OF DEMOCRACY AGAINST TERRORIST AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AMENDMENT BILL**

**Parliament, Monday, 12 December 2022 –** The Select Committee on Security and Justice has adopted its report on the Protection of Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Amendment Bill without amendments, as well as the public participation process report.

The committee received six written submissions and held public hearings on 7 and 8 December 2022. The committee also received departmental input on the written and oral submissions, and was satisfied with the responses received.

The Bill seeks alignment with internationally adopted standards on offences related to terrorist training, joining and establishment of terrorist organisations, as well as empowering the Director of Public Prosecutions to issue search warrants for vehicles, persons and premises suspected of acts of terrorism.

The Chairperson of the Select Committee on Security and Justice, Ms Shahidabibi Shaikh, said: “In the deliberations and processing on this Bill, we were acutely aware of the dire consequences of South Africa being potentially grey-listed and the importance of processing this Bill timeously.” The bill will help to prevent terrorism in South Africa, particularly in avoiding grey listing.

Ms Shaikh pointed out that if a country does not remedy its deficiencies adequately, it risks being identified by the Financial Action Task Force as a jurisdiction with strategic deficiencies. Such identification has severe and adverse economic consequences for trade and transactions with other countries, and affects economic growth.

The committee expressed its gratitude to the public for their comments and engagement on the Bill. The committee considers the Bill a well-considered, effective piece of legislation that is in line with international laws.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND JUSTICE, MS SHAHIDABIBI SHAIKH**

For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee’s Media Officer:
Name: Jabulani Majozi (Mr)
Parliamentary Communication Services