**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FINALISES THE ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL WITH AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY NCOP**

**Parliament, Friday, 10 February 2023**–The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs today finalised and concluded its processes of considering the Electoral Amendment Bill, and it is satisfied that its processes were rigorous, open and followed an enhanced public participation process.

After the adoption of the Bill by the National Assembly (NA), the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) suggested various amendments to the adopted Bill. Following its consideration of the Bill and public submissions from individuals, civil society and political parties, the committee accepted those amendments as it was of the view that they strengthen the overall objectives of the primary Bill.

Some of the amendments proposed by the NCOP included a clause to provide that parties, that are registered but not represented in the NA or provincial legislatures, will also have to show the same number of signatures in support of their party when intending to contest an election. Once the independent candidates and registered parties are represented in the NA or provincial legislatures, they would be exempt from this requirement.

Also, the NCOP proposed clause 23 in the Bill establishing an Electoral Reform Consultation Panel to investigate, consult on and make recommendations in respect of potential reforms of the electoral system.

Following a decision to open for a further round of public consultation after the NCOP proposed amendments, the committee received 81 submissions with 12 being substantive and 69 were short submissions. The committee has noted with appreciation the participation of individuals and organisastions in this process.

The committee will recommend to the House to adopt  and pass the Electoral Amendment Bill.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATI**ON **SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS, MR MOSA CHABANE**.

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