**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO GET FULL REPORT ON LANDING OF UAE PRESIDENT IN EASTERN CAPE**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 2 May 2023 –** The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs has resolved to hold a special sitting to enable the Minister of Home Affairs together with the Commissioner of the Border Management Authority to give a full report and account of the circumstances surrounding the landing of the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in the Eastern Cape.

The resolution forms part of Parliament’s constitutional obligation to hold the executive accountable, as well as the need to ensure that domestic and international law is applied. “The committee has noted the media briefing the Minister and his counterparts have made on the subject, but it remains our responsibility to ascertain that indeed domestic laws and regulations have been followed. The committee has also resolved that it is prudent that it satisfies itself that there is documentary proof of all assertions made and that every regulatory provision has been followed,” said Mr Mosa Chabane, the Chairperson of the committee. The committee will apply to the House Chairperson responsible for committees to hold the session on Friday, 5 May 2023.

The committee has also impressed upon the department the urgency of addressing the consequential amendments required arising from the President’s signing into law of the Electoral Amendment Bill. The committee will in its next ordinary session, on Tuesday 9 May, receive a detailed briefing on the amendments.

Meanwhile, the committee today received a briefing on a Private Members Bill from MP Mr Ganief Hendricks on the Registration of Muslim Marriages Bill. The committee agreed that the Minister of Home Affairs and Mr Hendricks should meet and find points of convergence, as the department is in the process of developing an Omnibus Marriages Bill, which provides for the solemnisation, registration and dissolution of all marriages.

The committee commends Mr Hendricks’s willingness to delay his Private Members Bill to circumvent a dual process on the same issue. Nonetheless, the committee highlighted the need to keep in mind the deadline set by the Constitutional Court to ensure compliance with the court order.

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

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