**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SATISFIED WITHEXPLANATION GIVEN BY MINISTER BUT AWAITS FURTHER DOCUMENTATION ON LANDING OF UAE PRESIDENT**

**Parliament, Saturday, 6 May 2023**– The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs is satisfied with the further assurances given by the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, that all domestic laws and regulations were followed to enable the landing of the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at Bulembu Airport near King William’s Town, in the Eastern Cape.

Minister Motsoaledi appeared before the committee yesterday to brief the committee on the landing of the UAE President and 500 entourage at the Bulembu Airport in the Eastern Cape recently.

The Minister informed the committee that he received an application on 7 April 2023 from the Premier of the Eastern Cape, with all supporting documentation including diplomatic communication between South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. Following due consideration and taking due regard to Section 9 (a) of the Immigration Act, read with regulation 8 of the immigration regulations, the Minister designated Bulembu Airport as a place of entry and exit.

Despite this assurance, the committee also resolved that the Minister must provide the necessary documentation he considered before making a decision to enable the committee to scrutinise the Minister’s decision.

The committee affirmed the intent, although not yet officially communicated, by the Public Protector to scrutinise the landing. The committee acknowledges that the Public Protector’s intended investigation does not preclude the committee from evaluating all aspects of the landing hence the call for all government departments involved to provide Parliament with requisite information.

The committee affirms the assertion that South Africa is open for business and leisure and everyone is welcome to the country. In line with this, the committee welcomed the assurance that the visit will in the short to medium term contribute considerable investments to the Eastern Cape. The investment is necessary for economic growth which is essential for job creation to resolve the challenge of high unemployment rate in the country.

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

For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the Committee’s Media Officer:

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