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**Parliament, Friday, 30 July 2021 –**A joint meeting by the Portfolio Committee on Police, the Portfolio Committee on Defence, the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Service, the Select Committee on Security and Justice, and the Joint Standing Committee on Defence resolved to refer a request to establish an inquiry into the violence in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng to Parliament’s Presiding officers for further consideration and decision.

The resolution was made as per National Assembly Rule 227 (3), which states: “If there is doubt which portfolio committee must deal with a specific matter, the Speaker in consultation with the Chief Whip must decide the question, subject to any directions of the Rules Committee or a resolution of the Assembly.”

Also, on the matter of composition, the committees resolved that clarity must be sought on the participation of both houses in the inquiry, as per Joint rule 142.

The joint meeting was of the view that the establishment of this inquiry remains of utmost importance in light of the violence, the impact of the looting on the economy and the loss of life as a result of the unrest. Nonetheless, the establishment of this inquiry must be legally sound and guided by the Rules of Parliament and must take into consideration matters such as appropriate timelines to do its work and the composition of such a committee.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE, MS TINA JOEMAT-PETTERSSON.**

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