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MEDIA STATEMENT

PUBLIC WORKS PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE REFERS THE EXPROPRIATION BILL BACK TO THE NATIONAL HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

The National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Public Works has adopted a resolution that the Expropriation Bill should be sent to the National House of Traditional Leaders (NHTL) for further deliberations and comments.

The chairperson of the Committee, Honourable Ben Martins, MP, said that the Committee had considered the letter from President Jacob Zuma, in which he recommended that the Bill should be referred back to Parliament to address its constitutionality.

The decision of the committee will be tabled in the National Assembly for formal adoption and then the Bill will be sent to NHTL where comments will be made for a period of 30 days.

Thereafter the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and the National Assembly will consider the new comments. If the NHTL raises substantive issues that require attention, the Committee may address the new input by tabling an Amendment Bill, as outlined in the Joint Rules of Parliament.

Upon the adoption of the Bill, with or without amendments, it will be referred to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) for further consideration.

The Expropriation Bill was first tabled in Parliament in 2015. Some of its objectives are:

- To provide for a piece of legislation of general application to address the inconsistencies in the expropriation for all State organs that are empowered to undertake expropriation in accordance to several pieces of legislation;

- To facilitate the expropriation of property for a public purpose or in the public interest, subject to payment of just and equitable compensation, and
- To provide for consistency, predictability, transparency in the execution of expropriation in accordance with the principles and the spirit of administrative justice.

ENDS

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