

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SECTION 25 ADOPTS BILL TO AMEND CONSTITUTION ON LAND EXPROPRIATION WITHOUT COMPENSATION**

**Parliament, Friday, 3 September 2021** – The Ad Hoc Committee to Initiate and Introduce Legislation Amending Section 25 of the Constitution today adopted the Constitution 18th Amendment Bill, which will see the expropriation of land without compensation embedded in the Constitution.

Committee Chairperson Dr Mathole Motshekga said the Bill in its entirety, as well as the memorandum on the objects of the Bill, were endorsed by the majority of members in the committee. There were three votes against the Bill and no abstentions.

The purpose of the Bill is to amend section 25 of the Constitution so as to provide that where land is expropriated for land reform, the amount of compensation payable may be nil. Furthermore, to clarify that nil compensation is a legitimate option for land reform, so as to address the historic wrongs caused by the arbitrary dispossession of land, and in so doing ensure equitable access to land and further empower the majority of South Africans to be productive participants in ownership, food security and agricultural reform programmes.

Dr Motshekga said the Bill is the product of extensive public engagements, spanning the work of two Parliaments and three committees. “It is a historic day as we adopt this Constitution 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bill, which is the product of engagement by all political parties inside the committee and through bi-laterals involving political principals and parties.

“I want to commend all Members because you were always alive to the character of our constitutional democracy, which is both representative and participatory. Today we can proudly say we are adopting a Bill that adheres to those principals. We have carefully listened to the people of this country and have adopted a Bill that will be to the benefit of all South Africans, irrespective of colour.”

The committee is expected to meet on Wednesday to vote on the report on the Bill, after which it will be sent to the National Assembly for consideration.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO INITIATE AND INTRODUCE LEGISLATION AMENDING SECTION 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION, DR MATHOLE MOTSHEKGA.A\**