

NCOP passes amended finance bill

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana has welcomed the passing of the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) on Tuesday.



Image source: Getty Images

Addressing the NCOP, Godongwana said the development marked a significant milestone in actions taken by South Africa to address deficiencies identified in the country's ability to deal with money laundering and financing of terrorism by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the risk of greylisting.

"By passing the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill, this house demonstrates its commitment to not only address the issues which risk the greylisting by FATF, but more importantly, this governments' commitment to rooting out and preventing financial crime and the proceeds of corruption," he said.

The Bill amends five pieces of legislation to satisfy the technical compliance deficiencies that were identified in the FATF in its Mutual Evaluation Report last year. These technical compliance deficiencies represent one half of the exam we must pass.

The Minister said the Amendment Bill addresses deficiencies in at least 14 of the 20 recommendations, including an appropriate enhancement of powers and procedures for regulatory authorities.



After a massive outcry from civil society, Finance committee refuses to rubber-stamp greylisting bill

Marianne Merten 12 Oct 2022



He said: "In parallel, the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Amendment Bill, 2022 (administered by the Minister of Police) is currently before Parliament and I hope it will be passed soon. The Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Amendment Bill, 2022, deals with two further

(and core) Recommendations.

“The outstanding four deficient recommendations are being addressed via policy processes and mechanisms.”

When enacted into law, he said the amendments would improve South Africa’s adherence to international best practices in combating financial crimes and corruption and stand as the strongest possible evidence of this house’s commitment to fighting financial crime.

The National Assembly was now expected to consider the report of the Standing Committee on Finance and will vote on the Bill with the amendments proposed by the Standing Committee on Finance in its report.

He said if the National Assembly adopts the Bill with the proposed amendments, the NCOP and the Select Committee on Finance in the NCOP will then consider the Bill.



Rushed legislation to avoid greylisting betrays a weakened law-making regime

18 Nov 2022



“In addition to the laws we are passing, the country is also working to improve the effectiveness of the country’s AML/CFT system. This represents the second half of the exam we must pass.

“This relates to how the country’s AML/CFT laws are implemented and how effective the country’s systems are in combatting financial crime,” he said.

The Minister and the National Treasury Director-General were mandated by Cabinet to ensure coordination across departments, agencies and authorities through an inter-departmental process.

“I believe that through this IDC, we have made the significant progress in improving effectiveness as well as the legislative changes that FATF needs to see for us to pass this exam and avoid greylisting.

“The key areas of work of the IDC include the development of National Risk Assessments and strategy to combat financial crime, improve the intensity of supervision of sectors vulnerable to facilitating financial crimes, demonstrating improvements in investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, improving the availability of beneficial ownership information, enhancing our asset recovery mechanisms, the implementation of targeted financial sanctions for terror financing and proliferation financing, as well as deepened cooperation domestically and internationally to bring those responsible for financial crime and corruption to book.”

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>