



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 4 February 2016, E249

Present:

Mbete, B(Speaker)

Bhengu, F	Hlophe, HO
Boroto, MG (House Chairperson)	Mente, NV
Didiza, AT (House Chairperson)	Tsenoli, SL (Deputy Speaker)
Frolick, CT (House Chairperson)	Waters, M

Staff in attendance:

G Mgidlana (Secretary to Parliament), Adv ME Phindela (Acting-Secretary to Parliament), M Xaso (Secretary to the NA), N Bell and Adv C van der Merwe (Constitutional and Legal Services); and S Tshabalala(Committees).

1. Opening remarks

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:30.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Dr GW Koornhof (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President), Mr JH Steenhuisen (Chief Whip of the Opposition), Prof NM Khubisa, Dr CP Mulder and Mr N Singh.

3. Consideration of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, with the addition of an item on report on legislation with Constitutional Court deadlines.

4. Consideration of Minutes of 19 November 2015

On the proposal of Mr Bhengu, seconded by House Chairperson Ms Didiza, the minutes of 19 November were adopted.

5. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

6. **Report by the Committee Section**

Mr Tshabalala presented a document on Bills and other matters before committees as follows:

The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training intended to finalise the *Higher Education Amendment Bill* on 9 March, while the Portfolio Committees on Social Development and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries intended to finalise the *Plant Improvement Bill* and *Plant Breeders' Rights Bill* on 11 March. The *Children's Amendment Bill* and the *Public Service Commission Amendment Bill* could be finalised by the respective portfolio committees on 23 March.

The Portfolio Committee on Communications intended to shortlist candidates to fill the vacancy on the South African Broadcasting Corporation on 16 February and conduct interviews on 1 March.

7. **Report by Bills Office**

Mr Bell presented a report on bills before the National Assembly committees and reported that all the Bills passed in 2015 had been sent to the President for assent. He added that some of the Bills that were regarded as priority the previous year were still being considered by certain committees.

He added that the *Insurance Bill* had recently been introduced and had not yet been tagged.

8. **Report on Constitutional Court Deadlines for Legislation**

Adv van der Merwe presented a report on legislation with Constitutional Court deadlines and highlighted the following:

- The deadline for the *Protection of Performing Animals Bill*, which had lapsed the previous year, had been extended to 27 August 2016; and that
- The Estate Agency Affairs Board was considering reviewing the whole *Estate Agency Affairs Act*, but it was not clear what would happen to the provisions that had a Constitutional Court deadline of 26 February 2016.

Adv van der Merwe added that the amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act had a deadline of 27 August 2017 and the Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services was consulting with the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development on the possibility of introducing a committee bill.

In response to Mr Waters' enquiry about the implications of Parliament missing the Constitutional Court deadline of 22 February 2016 for the amendment of the *Financial Intelligence Centre Amendment Bill*, Adv van der Merwe explained that the Bill dealt with search and seizure aspects and the National Treasury had indicated that it would still be able to administer the Act without the amending provisions.

In response to a concern raised by Mr Waters about the lack of clarity on the provisions to be amended in the Estate Agency Affairs Act after the deadline of 26 February, it **WAS AGREED** that the matter would be clarified.

9. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

Mr Bhengu presented the parliamentary programme for the First Term and said that the period of 9 and 10 February was set aside for Committees and Oversight. The President's State-of-the-nation Address was scheduled for Thursday, 11 February at 19:30. A Joint Sitting on the debate on the State-of-the-nation address was scheduled for 16 and 17 February, to be followed by the Reply by the President on 18 February.

The Nation Assembly plenaries would commence on 23 February with members' statements, consideration of First Report of Rules Committee of National Assembly, 2016, Second Reading debate on *Expropriation Bill*. The requests for approval of *Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977* and the *African Maritime Transport Charter* would also be considered that day, including the motion to revive business that had lapsed the previous year.

The Budget Speech was scheduled for 24 February, followed by a plenary on 25 February. Mr Bhengu also reported that the Deputy President would answer questions on 2 March on 17 March.

Mr Bhengu added that Friday, 4 March, would be a Constituency Day to allow members to be in their constituencies for the Voter Registration weekend of 5 – 6 March.

The Speaker reminded the Committee that the programme of Parliament should allow members to attend to the business of Parliament and to be able to do oversight work. Mr Bhengu added that the matter would be discussed at the Chief Whips' Forum. The

Speaker proposed that the matter of programming of business and constituency periods should also be considered by caucuses.

In response to Mr Waters' question about when the motion of no confidence in the President would be scheduled, the Speaker replied that she had hoped that she would be able to report on the decision taken after consultations with the Leader of Government Business. As soon as the consultations had been finalised, the date would be communicated accordingly.

Mr Xaso informed the meeting that a meeting on finalisation of the Rules of the National Assembly was planned for 19 February. The report on the new Rules would thereafter be considered by the House on 23 February.

10. Announcements

There were no announcements.

11. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:05.