



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker

Committee Secretary:
A Mbangwa x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 8 June 2017, E249

Present:

Mbete, B (Speaker)

Bhengu, F	Mthembu, JM (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)
Frolick, CT (House Chairperson)	Paulsen, N
Didiza, AT (House Chairperson)	Singh, N
Diakude, DE (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Steenhuisen, J H (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)
Koornhof, Dr GW (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)	Tsenoli, SL (Deputy Speaker)
Kwankwa, NLS	Waters, M

Staff in attendance:

C Mahlangu (NA Table), S Tshabalala (Committees) and N Bell (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening remarks

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:34.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of House Chairperson Ms MG Boroto and Ms NWA Mazzone.

3. Consideration of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, as proposed.

4. Consideration of draft Minutes of 1 June 2017

On the proposal of the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, seconded by Mr Bhengu, the minutes of 1 June were adopted.

5. Matters arising

Mr Mahlangu provided feedback on the following matters:

Political Party Funding

The *ad hoc* committee to look into and make recommendations on funding of political parties represented in national and provincial legislatures had been established on Tuesday, 6 June. The Committee Section had sent a request to all parties to submit the names of their representatives on the committee.

New Date of the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement

The Minister of Finance had proposed the date for the introduction of the Medium Term Budget Policy be changed from 18 October, as was initially proposed, to 25 October. Consultations on the implications of this proposal were taking place and the matter had been discussed at the Chief Whips' Forum (CWF). The NA Table was also developing advice on the matter.

Scheduling of the Multi-party Women's Caucus

The Speaker had written to party caucuses requesting them to expedite the scheduling of the Multi-Party Women's Caucus (MPWC). On 9 March 2017, the Joint Programme Committee had resolved that the MPWC should meet during committee time.

Mr Singh said that the scheduling of the MPWC during committee times would be difficult in that women members of his party would not be able to attend other committee meetings scheduled at the same time. House Chairperson, Ms Didiza, reiterated that the MPWC had requested to meet on a Thursday once in a month, as it took into consideration that a number of women members served in committees. As a result, she suggested that the MPWC could meet at 09:00 – 11:00 and party caucuses could meet thereafter from 11:00 – 13:00. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party suggested that the MPWC be allowed to meet once a month on trial basis, and that a report on the implementation of this arrangement be presented at the Programme Committee in due course. The Chief Whip of the Opposition, however, said that party caucuses were an opportunity to develop their approach to legislation and by sacrificing one caucus every month would be difficult. He added that this arrangement would affect their full participation

and that he was preparing a response to the letter from the Speaker on the matter. He suggested that the Portfolio Committee on Women could confer with the MPWC once in a month during the committee's slot.

The Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party said that the portfolio committee and the MPWC should not be combined, as there were a number of different issues that needed their attention. Furthermore, House Chairperson, Ms Didiza, indicated that if the MPWC were to meet during a committee schedule, this might affect other committees. The Speaker pointed out that, unlike portfolio committees, the MPWC had been established by the Joint Rules of Parliament. It was **AGREED** that the MPWC would be allowed to meet once in a month and that the matter would be referred to party caucuses for further consideration.

6. Report by the Committee Section

Mr Tshabalala made a presentation on Bills and other matters before committees and highlighted the following:

The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries intended to hold additional briefings on the *National Forests Amendment Bill*, *National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill* and *Liquor Products Amendment Bill* on 13 and 20 June. The Standing Committees on Finance and Appropriations intended to have a workshop in June on the review of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act.

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements had finalised petitions from the residents of Johannesburg Central and Soweto, calling for assistance to determine the delay in providing state-subsidised housing in the areas in question and to obtain an update from the Department of Human Settlements on progress with applications made in 1996-97, as submitted by Mr T W Mhlongo. The Portfolio Committee on Police had also finalised the following petitions:

- *Petition from residents of Soshanguve South calling for establishment of a satellite police station*, as submitted by Mr D Bergman
- *Petition from residents of Edenvale, Gauteng, calling on the Assembly to follow up a Carte Blanche expose – prompted by case No 331/05/2015 – on police brutality, bribery and corruption at the Edenvale Police Station*, as submitted by Mr M Waters
- *Petition from residents of Birch Acres, Kempton Park, calling for increased resources to be provided to the Norkem Park Police Station in order to ensure effective and visible policing*, as submitted by Mr M Waters

- *Petition from residents of Birch Acres, Kempton Park, calling for increased resources to be provided to the Norkem Park Police Station in order to ensure effective and visible policing, as submitted by Mr M Waters; and*
- *Petition from wards 65, 66 and 67 of the Ekurhuleni Metro, calling on the Assembly to investigate the spiralling crime rate in Etwatwa, ensure more visible policing and to investigate the alleged complicity between the South African Police Service and crime syndicates, submitted in terms of Rule 347, as submitted by Mr M Waters.*

In response to the Chief Whip of the Opposition on whether the Portfolio Committee on Public Works would only consider the comments from the National House of Traditional Leaders on the *Expropriation Bill*, which had been returned by the President, Mr Tshabalala confirmed that would be the case.

7. Report by Bills Office

Mr Bell reported that his report concurred with the Committee Section's report.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

Mr Bhengu presented the Parliamentary Programme for the Second Term and highlighted the following:

Condolences for Mr Ahmed Kathrada, the debate on *Speeding up land reform by using the limitation clause in the Constitution to bypass the failed "willing seller, willing buyer policy"* and the debate on Africa Day were scheduled for 13 June.

Questions to the Deputy President were scheduled for Wednesday, 14 June. The debate on Youth Day was scheduled for Thursday, 15 June. The consideration of the reports on the *Protected Disclosures Amendment Bill* and the *Financial Sector Regulation Bill* on amendments proposed by the National Council of Provinces would take place on the same day.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party asked if it was possible, notwithstanding the decision to suspend the proceedings after the consideration of the *Appropriation Bill*, to proceed straight to the consideration of the Votes and Schedule, which was scheduled for the afternoon. The Chief Whip of the Opposition said that he was happy to continue but that the Office of Leader of Government Business had indicated that would be a problem for members of the Executive. House Chairperson Ms Didiza also indicated that Cabinet committee meetings were scheduled on Thursdays and that the programme had already been communicated in this regard. It was **AGREED** that the programme would remain unchanged.

12. Announcements

The Chief Whip of the Opposition indicated that he had circulated a motion for the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee on state capture and that the Chief Whips' Forum had agreed to consider the matter further in the following week. The Speaker indicated that the Office of Secretary to the National Assembly had prepared advice on the matter and further consultations were taking place.

13. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:00.