



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 19 October 2017, E249

Present:

B Mbete (Speaker)

Bhengu, F	Mkhaliphi, HO
Frolick, CT (House Chairperson)	Mthembu, JM (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)
Khubisa, Prof NM	Ntshayisa, LM
Mazzone, NWA	Steenhuisen, JH (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Mente, NV	

Staff in attendance:

Messrs M Xaso (NA Table), S Tshabalala (Committees) and N Bell (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening remarks

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:30 and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Mr SL Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker), House Chairpersons Ms AT Didiza and Ms MG Boroto, Ms DE Dlakude (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party), Dr GW Koornhof (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President), Messrs M Waters, NF Shivambu, N Singh and NLS Kwankwa.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted, as proposed.

4. Consideration of draft Minutes of 12 October 2017

On the proposal of Mr Bhengu, seconded by Mrs Mkhaliphi, the draft minutes of 12 October were adopted.

5. Matters arising

In response to the Chief Whip of the Opposition, the House Chairperson Mr Frolick indicated that he was expecting a letter from the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services requesting the Public Protector to consider granting an extension of the deadline for the implementation of the remedial action contained in the State of Capture report.

6. Report by the Committee Section

In his presentation on Bills and other matters before committees, Mr Tshabalala highlighted the following:

The Portfolio Committees on Justice and Correctional Services and Public Service and Administration had finalised the *International Arbitration Bill* and the *Public Service Commission Amendment Bill*, respectively. The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs also intended to finalise the *Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill* on 24 October.

7. Report by Bills Office

Mr Bell informed the Committee that the Minister of Finance would also introduce the *Taxation Laws Amendment Bill*, *Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill* and the *Rates and Monetary Amounts Bill* when presenting the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement the following week.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition indicated that he had written to the Speaker concerning the advertisement calling for submissions in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to the *Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Amendment Bill*. He said that he was concerned that the advertisement had a deadline of less than 24 hours and that could affect procedure for the finalisation of the Bill. Mr Tshabalala advised that the matter was receiving attention in the NCOP.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition asked about the status of the Legislative Sector Amendment Bill as his members in the provincial legislatures were grappling with the public hearings on the Bill and requested that members be furnished with the copy of the Bill. The Speaker advised that the objective of the Bill is to assist legislatures to align and co-ordinate their engagements, including with unions at the national bargaining council. Mr Xaso indicated that the Bill was still in a draft form and that a determination on the referral of the Bill to a relevant committee would be made. It was **AGREED** that the NA Table would distribute the draft legislation to members of the Committee.

Mrs Mkhaliphi asked how about the status of the appointment of candidates to the Commission on Gender Equality. Mr Tshabalala responded that the matter was in the process of being finalised by the Presidency.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

Mr Bhengu presented the programme for the Fourth Term and highlighted the following:

The Second Reading debate on *Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Systems Bill* and consideration of reports of Portfolio Committees on International Relations and Cooperation, Higher Education and Training, Telecommunications and Postal Services and Trade and Industry as well as the ANC motion were scheduled for Tuesday, 24 October.

The Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, as well as the tabling and introduction of other related legislation were scheduled for Wednesday, 25 October.

Condolences for Ms TE Baker, MP, reports of the Standing Committee on Appropriations, Portfolio Committees on Environmental Affairs, Labour and Public Enterprises were scheduled for consideration on Thursday, 26 October.

Mr Bhengu indicated that the consideration of the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports were scheduled from 31 October and that declarations on the BRR Reports would be up to two minutes, as proposed in the Chief Whips' Forum. Parties had also proposed that the Multi-Party Women's Caucus (MPWC) be rescheduled from 26 October to 2 November.

Mr Bhengu also informed the Committee that consultations with the NCOP were taking place on a suitable date for the meeting of the Joint Programme Committee (JPC) to consider the

draft Parliamentary Programme Framework for the First Term in 2018. The Chief Whip of the Opposition suggested that a meeting of the JPC earlier in the new year could assist in outlining the processing of legislation, as well as the inflow of legislation expected to be introduced in 2018, in order to prepare for a smooth passage of legislation. The Speaker added that it would not be ideal to have a large volume of legislation in a year before elections, as it could not be possible to process it. She said that the Leader of Government Business should advise Parliament on the priority of legislation to be passed before the elections.

9. Announcements

The Chief Whip of the Opposition, on behalf of his party, expressed appreciation to Parliament and the members who attended the funeral and for the messages conveyed their messages of condolence to Ms Baker's family.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 08:55.