



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

Speaker

Committee Secretary:

A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 26 October 2017, E249

Present:

MG Boroto (House Chairperson)

Bhengu, F	Mkhalihi, HO
Dlakude, DE (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Mthembu, JM (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)
Ebrahim, EI (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Singh, N
Khubisa, Prof NM	Steenhuisen, JH (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Mazzone, NWA	Waters, M
Mente, NV	

Staff in attendance:

Ms PN Tyawa (Acting-Secretary to Parliament), Messrs M Xaso (NA Table), S Tshabalala (Committees) and N Bell (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening remarks

House Chairperson Ms Boroto opened the meeting at 08:35 and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of the Speaker, Mr SL Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker), House Chairpersons Ms AT Didiza and Mr CT Frolick, Dr GW Koornhof (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President), Messrs NF Shivambu and NLS Kwankwa.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted, as proposed.

4. Consideration of draft Minutes of 19 October 2017

On the proposal of the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, seconded by Mrs Mkhalihi, the draft minutes of 19 October were adopted.

5. Matters arising

In response to Ms Mente's question about appointments of recommended candidates to serve

as commissioners on the Commission for Gender Equality, Mr Xaso reported that the President

had made the appointments.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition asked whether the extension of the deadline for the implementation of the remedial action contained in the Public Protector's State of Capture report had been granted. Mr Xaso indicated that a letter had been received from the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services but it did not indicate a date within which the Committee would finalise the matter. The Speaker had requested the end of March 2018 as the matter also needed to be processed by the other House. The Chief Whip of the Opposition said that the Chairperson of the Committee was in dereliction of duty as the matter had been referred to his Committee in February 2017. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party said that the committee could not finalise the matter within the prescribed timelines and that requesting an extension was in keeping with practice. He further said that concerns on the need for committees to attend to matters referred to them timeously were raised by the Programme Committee before, and that the Committee is giving attention to the matter before it.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition said that a lack of consequences for dereliction of duty by office bearers would encourage such behaviour. He also indicated that while Parliament has a dedicated unit that is supposed to monitor Chapter 9 institutions and advise the Speaker, the unit was earlier this year unaware of reports that were outstanding for tabling. In response to the Chief Whip of the Majority Party that it was unfair to isolate the chairperson, the Chief Whip of the Opposition stated that the Chairperson had not informed members of the committee that he had received such communication from the Speaker. It was **AGREED** that the matter would be referred to House Chairperson Mr Frolick for consideration.

6. Report by the Committee Section

In response to the Chief Whip of the Opposition regarding the advertisement calling for submissions in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to the *Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Amendment Bill*, Mr Tshabalala reported that an erratum would be printed advising of the extension of submission days on the Bill. The final date for submission had been moved to 7 November. Interested stakeholders had been consulted on the additional time to provide inputs and the committee would continue with its deliberations on the Bill. Furthermore, a detailed response from Mr Xaso in that regard had been forwarded to the DA.

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

The Portfolio Committee on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs had finalised the *Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill*. The Portfolio Committee on Transport would be considering new amendments on the *National Land Transport Amendment Bill* on 31 October. The closing date for written submissions on new amendments was 14 November. The Standing Committee on Finance intended to finalise the *Taxation Laws Amendment Bill* and *Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill* on 8 November.

7. Report by Bills Office

Mr Bell informed the Committee that the following Bills had been introduced and tabled by the Minister of Finance during the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement:

- *Adjustments Appropriation Bill*
- *Division of Revenue Amendment Bill*
- *Taxation Laws Amendment Bill*
- *Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill*
- *Rates and Monetary Amounts Bill and Revenue Laws Bill*

The Bills Office would keep track of the classification and provision of second language texts of the Bills before they are forwarded to the President for assent, once they were passed by the two Houses.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

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

On Tuesday, 31 October, Second Reading debate on *Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Systems Bill*, consideration of First Report of the Rules Committee, Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports of Portfolio Committees on Tourism, Mineral Resources, Defence and Military Veterans, Labour and Police as well as a motion from the DA were scheduled.

Questions to the Social Services cluster were scheduled for Wednesday, 1 November. Questions to the President were scheduled for 2 November. There was a proposal for a meeting of the Joint Programme Committee, subject to the availability of the NCOP.

Mr Bhengu also advised that the Ministers of Basic Education, Human Settlements and Water and Sanitation would not be available to answer questions in the following week but the Deputy Ministers would be available. The Chief Whip of the Opposition raised a concern that some ministers tended to prioritise international engagements over the business of Parliament, and informed the meeting that he would raise a point of order in that regard. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party said that the ministers concerned would be performing their official duties wherever they would be, but added that he agreed that the manner in which ministers answered questions needed to be improved and that the matter would be considered by the Rules Committee. Ms Mente indicated that she did not believe that ministers were prioritising their oversight responsibilities, and cited an example of the Minister of Social Development who was always not available to account to Parliament. House Chairperson Ms Boroto advised the meeting that the matter of Minister's unavailability to answer questions was receiving attention through the structures in Parliament and that the Minister of Social Development would be available on that day. Mr Waters said that while he acknowledged the undertaking for the establishment of mechanisms to attend to unanswered questions, the Minister of Basic Education had not been available even to answer questions. He said that during the last session she chose to go and open a school instead of coming to Parliament, and that this showed that some ministers were consistently undermining the institution and shirking their responsibilities.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:10.