



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 8 November 2018, E249

Present:

B Mbete (Speaker)

Bhengu, F	Mazzone, N W A
Didiza, A T (House Chairperson)	Mthembu, J M (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)
Frolick, C T (House Chairperson)	Ndlozi, Dr M Q
Khubisa, Prof N M	Paulsen, N
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Steenhuisen, J H (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Kwankwa, N L S	Waters, M

Staff in attendance:

P N Tyawa (Acting-Secretary to Parliament), M Xaso (NA Table), Mr S Tshabalala (Committees), N Bell (Constitutional and Legal Services Office) and Adv K Zweni (Office on Institutions Supporting Democracy).

1. Opening remarks

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:32 and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Mr S L Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker), Ms M G Boroto (House Chairperson), Ms D E Dlakude (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party), Messrs E I Ebrahim (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President), N F Shivambu and N Singh and Mrs H O Mkhalihi.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.

4. Consideration of draft Minutes of 1 November 2018

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

5. Matters arising

With regards to the disruption the previous week of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs meeting by the Black First Land First organisation, the Chief Whip of the Majority Party indicated that the Chief Whips' Forum (CWF) had considered obtaining a report from the administration of Parliament on the matter, but felt that it would be more appropriate to request a meeting with the Executive Authority on various security-related matters as well as construction activities being undertaken on the precinct. The Speaker indicated that a report was in the process of being compiled, which would be shared with the CWF, relating to construction on the precinct, but indicated that the budget and responsibility for this resided with the Department of Public Works.

6. Report by the Committee Section

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

The *Cybercrimes Bill* and *iKamva Digital Skills Institute Bill*, which had been renamed, had been finalised. The following Bills would be finalised as follows:

- *Road Accident Benefit Scheme Bill* on 8 November
- *Performers' Protection Amendment Bill* on 13 November
- *Copyright Amendment Bill* on 13 November

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Filling of Vacancies in the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) had written to the Speaker requesting for an extension of the reporting deadline of 16 November to 29 March 2019. The CGE was also going to place advertisements calling for nominations with a deadline in December 2018.

In response to the Chief Whip of the Majority Party on whether there would be an adverse effect on the work of the CGE should it extend its reporting deadline, Mr Tshabalala clarified that, according to the Chairperson of the Committee, consideration had been given to when the vacancies should have been filled and that the intention was to finalise the report by February 2019. House Chairperson Mr Frolick added that he had requested a meeting with the Chairperson of the

Committee as there was uncertainty about when they would actually finalise the work of the committee, taking into consideration that there would be general elections in 2019. The committee would be encouraged to finish earlier and an update on the matter would be provided in the following week. Adv Zweni also explained that the Commission for Gender Equality had been consulted on the matter and that by March there would still be a minimum of eight commissioners, which would be enough for it to continue with its business. It was **AGREED** that the committee should be encouraged to finalise its work at the latest by February 2019.

7. Report by Bills Office

Mr Bell presented a report on Bills before committees and reported that the *Division of Revenue Amendment Bill* had been referred to the Standing Committee on Appropriations. He also advised that the *Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Amendment Bill*, *Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Amendment Bill* and the *National Health Laboratory Service Amendment Bill* would be returned to the Assembly due to proposed amendments from the National Council of Provinces.

Dr Ndlozi indicated that his understanding was that the *Banks Amendment Bill* had been finalised by the Standing Committee on Finance and that it should be scheduled for consideration by the House. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party explained that, ordinarily, when Bills were finalised, the committee to which they were referred published its report in the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, after which the bill could be placed on the Order Paper for Second Reading, but that a follow-up would be made on the status of the Bill.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

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

On Tuesday, 13 November, Second Reading debates on *Division of Revenue Amendment Bill* and *Electronic Deeds Registration Systems Bill* and consideration of Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports (BRRRs) on Defence and Military Veterans, Rural Development and Land Reform and Tourism as well as a debate on “*through peace and stability - responding to the needs of our people*” were scheduled.

Questions to the Peace and Security cluster and consideration of BRRRs on Sport and Recreation, Small Business Development and Human Settlements were scheduled for Wednesday, 14 November.

On Thursday, 15 November, consideration of two international agreements from the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, BRRRs on Environmental Affairs, Public Enterprises, Transport, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Economic Development, Environmental Affairs, Finance and Water and Sanitation were scheduled.

Mr Bhengu advised that the Deputy President was not available to answer questions on Thursday, 15 November as he was booked off sick. Mr Waters asked if the Deputy President would be scheduled in December in order to make up for that slot, in terms of Assembly Rule 139. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party indicated that it was difficult to determine how soon the Deputy President would recover and appealed for members of the committee to be sensitive about it. The Chief Whip of the Opposition indicated that the Deputy President was scheduled for a session on 22 November and that the assumption was that an additional slot in December could be scheduled. He said that he had also missed a slot in October. It was **AGREED** that the Office of Leader of Government Business would be consulted and advise on a new date, upon recovery of the Deputy President.

Mr Bhengu advised that, as was the case in 2017, that 98 minutes would be allocated to the process of the Votes and Schedule to the *Adjustments Appropriation Bill*, which was scheduled for 28 November. The time would be allocated as follows:

ANC 45, DA 16, EFF 6, IFP 4 and Other Parties 3 minutes each

Furthermore, he advised that ministerial responses would be limited to two minutes per vote.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party advised that the outstanding questions to the Minister of Public Enterprises would be taken immediately after the end of the question session of the Peace and Security cluster on 14 November. The Minister could not attend the session on 31 October as he was out of the country.

Mr Bhengu also presented the draft programme for the First Term in 2019 for noting.

9. Announcements

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party informed the meeting that the CWF had recommended, due to difficulties experienced with flights and transportation, that henceforth, committees be scheduled at 11:00 on Tuesdays in order to ensure that there was a quorum present. Committees were, however, at liberty to meet earlier than that should they wish to do so.

The Speaker announced that as from 1 December, a delegation of SADC Parliamentary Forum would be meeting in Mozambique. The Presidency of the SADC Parliamentary Forum

would be handed over from Angola to Mozambique. In response to House Chairperson Ms Didiza, the Speaker explained that, after 21 years of hard work and resolutions by Parliament, the SADC Parliament would finally be on the agenda of the SADC Summit in Namibia for consideration. The formalities could be finalised in 2019.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:10.