



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

Chairperson:  
Speaker

Committee Secretary:  
A Mbangwa x 3218

**DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

Thursday, 22 November 2018, E249

Present:

C T Frolick (House Chairperson)

Bhengu, F	Mazzone, N W A
Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Mthembu, J M (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)
Dlakude, D E (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Mulder, Dr C P
Ebrahim, E I (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)	Singh, N
Khubisa, Prof N M	Steenhuisen, J H (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Kwankwa, N L S	Waters, M

Staff in attendance:

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

**1. Opening remarks**

House Chairperson Mr Frolick opened the meeting at 08:30 and welcomed all present.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were tendered on behalf of the Speaker, Mr S L Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker), Ms A T Didiza (House Chairperson) and Dr G W Koornhof (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President).

**3. Consideration of draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.

#### **4. Consideration of draft Minutes of 15 November 2018**

On the proposal of the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, seconded by the Chief Whip of the Opposition, the minutes of 15 November were adopted.

#### **5. Matters arising**

House Chairperson Mr Frolick reported that consultations on the appointment of the Director of the Parliamentary Budget Office had taken place with the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees on Finance and Appropriations and that there was a view that an appointment should be made in 2019 at the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> Parliament. For the time being, the three deputy directors would act as Director on a rotational basis in order not to disadvantage anyone when the post was advertised. The Chief Whip of the Opposition advised that it was important to ensure that appointments were made in line with the relevant legislation.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party requested that a meeting be convened between the Chief Whips' Forum and the Executive Authority on various security-related matters and construction activities being undertaken on the precinct. Although there had been engagement with the Parliamentary administration on these matters no resolution to the concerns had been found.

#### **6. Report by the Committee Section**

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

The following Bills had been finalised:

- *Road Accident Benefit Scheme Bill*
- *Electoral Laws Amendment Bill*
- *Property Practitioners Bill*
- *National Gambling Amendment Bill*

The Portfolio Committee on Communications had postponed, until further notice, its schedule for interviews of candidates for recommendation to the Board of the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr Tshabalala also indicated that there were only four Bills that were outstanding from the list of 18 prioritised bills, as requested by the Executive.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition expressed concern that he had not yet received a response from the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Service on a process to remove the Public

Protector. The matter had been referred to that committee in February 2018 and that it could not *ad infinitum* drag the process out. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party explained that the matter was before the committee for consideration, as well as a response from the Public Protector. Mr Tshabalala indicated that the next meeting of the committee was scheduled for 27 November and that an update would be provided in the following week.

## **7. Report by Bills Office**

Mr Bell presented a report on Bills before committees and reported that the *National Health Laboratory Service Amendment Bill* had been returned to the National Assembly for concurrence, due to amendments from the National Council of Provinces. The *Adjustments Appropriation Bill* and *Carbon Tax Bill* had since been referred to the Standing Committees on Finance and Appropriations, respectively.

## **8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme**

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party informed the Committee that a motion requesting that the Report of the Joint Constitutional Review Committee on *Review of section 25 of the Constitution, 1996* be referred back to the committee for further consideration and report by 4 December 2018, would be considered by the House that afternoon. Dr Mulder said that he did not understand the rationale of the motion as the committee had finalised its report which appeared in the Announcements Tablings and Committee Reports. The Chief Whip of the Opposition stated that the only concern was the legality of the report, but that as it had been published and scheduled for debate on 4 December the motion could be removed from the Order Paper. It was **AGREED** that the item would be removed from the Order Paper and that the report would remain scheduled for consideration by the House on 4 December.

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

Second Reading debates on *Cybercrimes Bill*, *Child Justice Amendment Bill*, *National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill*, *National Qualifications Framework Amendment Bill* were scheduled for Tuesday, 27 November. Consideration of Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports (BRRRs) from Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and International Relations and Cooperation as well as a debate on “*Implementing the National Development Plan in phases to ensure efficient monitoring and evaluation of its targets, measured against the Medium Term Strategic Framework*” were also scheduled for that day.

The debates on the report to the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement and First Reading and Second Readings on *Special Appropriation Bill*, *Adjustments Appropriation Bill* as well as

consideration of Votes and Schedule to the *Adjustments Appropriation Bill* were scheduled for Wednesday, 28 November.

The debate on 16 Days of Activism of no violence against women and children, Second Reading on *Electoral Laws Amendment Bill* as well as reports of committees on Basic Education, Public Enterprises, Trade and Industry, Health, Social Development, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Women in the Presidency were scheduled for Thursday, 29 November.

Mr Waters asked when the additional slot for questions to the Deputy President would be scheduled, as he had proposed 5 December. Mr Bhengu explained that consultations were taking place on the matter and that parties would be informed once an agreement had been reached.

Notwithstanding the fact that the *Review of section 25 of the Constitution, 1996*, was scheduled, the Chief Whip of the Opposition, supported by Dr Mulder and Mr Singh, cautioned that it should be noted that their parties had concerns about the procedures applied in adopting the report. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party explained that to his knowledge all the processes relating to consideration of the report had been adhered to in a transparent manner.

Mr Singh suggested that the sitting on 6 December could be scheduled to commence at 10:00, as it was the last sitting day. It was, however, indicated that there would be caucuses that morning.

On the proposal of Mr Bhengu, it was **AGREED** that motions and statements would not be scheduled on 27 November due to the number of items on that day. It was also **AGREED** that the global time for the debate on *Special Appropriation Bill* should be in the region of 45 minutes, excluding ministerial time allocation.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party advised that the report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises on the Eskom inquiry should also be prioritised for 6 December.

## **9. Announcements**

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party announced that the Africa Summit in honour of Nelson Mandela's Centenary and his legacy was scheduled for that day. He apologised on behalf of the organisers that invitations had been sent late to some political parties, but hoped that as many Members of Parliament as possible would attend.

## **10. Closure**

The meeting adjourned at 09:10.