



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 18 July 2019, E249 at 08:33

Present:

T R Modise (Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Ntombela, M L D (House Chairperson)
Dlakude, D E (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Pilane-Majake, Dr M C C (Programming Whip)
Frolick, C T (House Chairperson)	Singh, N
Julius, J W W	Steenhuisen, J H (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Mkhaliphi, H O	Swart, S N
Mulder, Dr C P	Tsenoli, S L (Deputy Speaker)
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Wessels, W W

Staff in attendance:

Ms P N Tyawa (Acting Secretary to Parliament), Mr M Xaso (Secretary to the National Assembly), Dr T Ganyaza-Twalo (Committees), Adv Z Adhikarie and Mr N Bell (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening remarks

The Speaker opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Ms P C P Majodina (Chief Whip of the Majority Party), Ms N W A Mazzone and Ms N V Mente.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.

4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 11 July 2019

On the proposal of Mr Singh, seconded by the Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party, the minutes of 11 July were adopted.

5. Matters arising

Adv Adhikarie presented a legal opinion on the lapsing and revival of Bills, which is attached as an annexure to the minutes. She stated that the Constitution does not provide for the lapsing of business before either House but that the rules of the respective Houses contain some provisions relating to the lapsing of business and there is consistent practice as to how the lapsing and revival of business had been dealt with in previous Parliaments. She recommended that the rules of both Houses should be reviewed to specifically outline processes in respect of the lapsing and revival of Bills, and that the current practice should continue to be followed. She added that the same principle prevailed in respect of private members' bills as a returning member could table a motion for the revival of a bill. If a member does not return, any member can be requested to start the process all over again.

It was **AGREED** that the procedure with regard to the revival of bills would be referred to the Rules Committee and that the contemporary practice of reviving legislation would be maintained pending the finalisation of the Rules in this regard.

6. Report by Committee Section

Dr Ganyaza-Twalo reported that the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services was scheduled to deliberate on the referral of the 'Removal of Advocates N Jiba and L S Mrwebi from their positions in the National Prosecuting Authority in terms of the National Prosecuting Authority Act' on 19 July. The Committee intended to finalise the matter by 24 July.

7. Report by Bills Office

Mr Bell advised that the Bills Office was monitoring the committee progress on the Appropriation Bill and the processing of the second language text of the Bill.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

The Programming Whip presented the draft programme for the First Term and highlighted the following:

The Budget Vote debate on State Security was scheduled for that day at 14:00, followed by the reply of the President on the debate on Vote 1: The Presidency, as well as consideration of reports on the Budget Votes.

Consideration of Votes and Schedule to the Appropriation Bill as well as consideration of the Bill were scheduled for Tuesday, 23 July.

The induction of chairpersons of committees was scheduled for 24 and 26 July and Questions to the Deputy President were scheduled for 25 July.

The Programming Whip also proposed that the period of 29 July – 2 August be set aside as leave period.

The Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party informed the Committee that the reports on Budget Votes would be put together for consideration by the House. The Chief Whip of the Opposition, supported by Dr Mulder, expressed concern in that it would make it difficult for parties to register an objection or request a division on some of the reports if taken together.

It was **AGREED** that each budget vote report would be put individually for decision and that there would be no declarations.

Mr Xaso reported that there were consultations on the scheduling of the next meeting of the Joint Programme Committee. With regard to the Appropriation Bill, he advised that the House may have to suspend Assembly Rule 290(2)(a) which requires that at least three working days should have elapsed before a Second Reading debate on a Bill.

It was noted that in future the Chief Whips' Forum should give consideration to the reduction of the global time allocated for the Presidency budget vote debate.

The Programming Whip also presented the Parliamentary Programme for the Second Term for noting.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 08:58.