



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 24 October 2019, E249

Present:

S L Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Mkhaliphi, H O
Dlakude (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Mulder, Dr C P
Julius, J W W	Ntombela, M L D (House Chairperson)
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Papo, A H M (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)
Lesoma, R M M	Pilane-Majake, Dr M C C (Programming Whip)
Mazzone, N W A	Singh, N
Mente, N V	Wessels, W W

Staff in attendance:

Mr M Xaso (Secretary to the National Assembly), Dr T Ganyaza-Twalo (Committees), Ms T Mtyobile and Adv C R Van der Merwe (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening

The Deputy Speaker opened the meeting at 08:34 and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of the Speaker, House Chairperson Mr C T Frolick, Ms P C P Majodina (Chief Whip of the Majority Party), Mr J H Steenhuisen (Chief Whip of the Opposition), Messrs X Ngwezi, S N Swart and N L S Kwankwa.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.

4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 24 October 2019

On the proposal of the Programming Whip, supported by Mr Julius, the minutes of 24 October were adopted.

5. Matters arising

Mr Singh asked if any reasons had been provided by the Department of Justice and Correctional Services on requests for the extension of Constitutional Court deadlines as reported in the previous meeting. Adv van der Merwe explained that developing policy that informed legislation could present challenges unless a judgment related to a technical amendment. Bills also required extensive consultation and cooperation between departments. She said that the role of the Legal Services unit, among other things, was to ensure that departments were following up on matters as soon as possible but that it was not always easy to develop and process legislation within a period of 24 months, thus there was on occasion a need to request an extension. The Deputy Speaker requested that Legal Services should furnish its findings on instances where deadlines were not met, so that Parliament was in a position to provide reasons to the Constitutional Court when required. He suggested that the process of responding to the judgments should be examined as in his view, the timeframes were generally adequate.

6. Report by Committee Section

Dr Ganyaza-Twalo presented a report on matters before committees. She indicated that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on amending Section 25 of the Constitution had agreed on a programme for processing the bill and finalising the report on 25 March 2020. The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services would be receiving briefings on the Recognition of Customary Marriages Amendment Bill and Judicial Matters Amendment Bill on 5 November.

Dr Ganyaza-Twalo also advised that the Portfolio Committee on Communications had resolved to establish a task team that would determine the programme for the filling of vacancies in the Council of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa).

Ms Mazzone expressed concern that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on amending Section 25 of the Constitution had only allocated four days in respect of public hearings. Dr Ganyaza-Twalo undertook to refer the concern to the committee and report back.

7. Report by Bills Office

Ms Mtyobile presented a report on bills and indicated that the Independent Electricity Management Operator Bill, a private member's bill, had been recently introduced. The Special Appropriation Bill had been transmitted to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

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

The Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports (BRRRs) were scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, 29 October. A motion providing time limits for declarations of vote on BRRRs would be considered by the House that afternoon.

The Minister of Finance would table the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement on Wednesday, 30 October. Questions for oral reply to the President were scheduled for Thursday, 31 October.

The Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party advised that a motion on the revival of bills that lapsed at the end of the Fifth Parliament, as indicated by the Executive as well as two private members' bills, would be placed on the Order Paper for consideration on Tuesday, 29 October. Mr Xaso confirmed to the Committee that the motion to be brought to the House would state that proceedings on the lapsed bills would resume from the stage that they were referred to the relevant committees. The Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party, in response to a request by Ms Mkhalihi, also advised that the whips would consult on a suitable date for scheduling of a condolence motion for the former President of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe.

Ms Mente asked what would happen with the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence during consideration of BRRRs as that committee had not yet met. The Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party clarified that there had been a delay in the appointment of members to that committee due to processes that needed to be undertaken beforehand, but that it would soon be constituted. The Deputy Speaker added that The Presidency had indicated that the matter was in the process of finalisation.

9. Announcements

The Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party informed the meeting that the memorial service for Ms Bavelile Hlongwa, Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy was scheduled for that morning at 10:00.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:05.