



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbangwa x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 20 February 2020, E249

Present:

T R Modise (Speaker)

Tsenoli, S L (Deputy Speaker)	Ngwezi, X
Majodina, P C P (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Pilane-Majake, Dr M C C (Programming Whip)
Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Swart, S N
Frolick, C T (House Chairperson)	Wessels, W W
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Singh, N
Julius, J W W	
Mazzone, N W A (Chief Whip of the Opposition)	
Mkhaliphi, H O	
Mente, N V	

Staff in attendance:

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

1. Opening

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:35 and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of the Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party Ms D E Dlakude, House Chairperson Mr M L D Ntombela and Dr C P Mulder.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.

4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 28 November 2019

The minutes of 28 November 2019 were adopted on the proposal of Dr Pilane-Majake, seconded by Mr Wessels with an amendment to include the apology of Dr C P Mulder.

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. Report by Committee Section

Dr Ganyaza-Twalo presented a report on matters before committees highlighting where there had been progress since the last meeting:

- The Ad Hoc Committee on Amendment of Section 25 of the Constitution was conducting hearings in groups in various provinces across the country.
- The Portfolio Committee on Finance was to schedule a programme to consider the newly introduced Auditing Profession Amendment Bill referred to it.
- The Portfolio Committee on Transport held a meeting on the Road Accident Benefit Scheme Bill on 18 February and would deliberate further thereon on 26 February. The Committee has also finalised the Airports Company Amendment Bill and the Air Traffic and Navigation Services Amendment Bill on 18 February 2020. The Committee aimed to finish its deliberations on the National Land Transport Amendment Bill on 26 February 2020.
- The Economic Regulation of Transport Bill was referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport on 31 January 2020; the committee is to finalise a programme to consider the Bill.
- The Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Technology finalised the Science and Technology Laws Amendment Bill on 3 December 2019 and it was scheduled for consideration by the Assembly on 25 February.

- The Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs finalised its report on Border Management Authority Bill on 18 February 2020.
- The Portfolio Committee on Social Development was considering the Social Assistance Amendment Bill and public hearings would be held on 26 February. The committee was scheduled to finalise the Bill on 19 March 2020.
- The Portfolio Committee on Health had conducted public hearings on the National Health Insurance Bill from January to February in the Free State, North West and Western Cape provinces.
- The Portfolio Committee on Police was considering petitions from the residents of Kempton Park to investigate chronic inadequate visible policing and from the residents of Kokomeng and neighbouring villages to investigate and prioritize the re-opening of Kokomeng police station. Both petitions were to be finalized on 11 March 2020.

Dr Ganyaza-Twalo also highlighted the process of committees on Finance and Appropriations for considering the Division of Revenue Bill.

She further reported in respect of the statutory appointments before committees, as follows:

- The Portfolio Committee on Communications had shortlisted candidates for filling of a vacancy in ICASA on 11 February and planned to hold interviews on 25 – 27 February with an aim to finalise the matter on 3 March 2020.
- The Portfolio Committee on Communications had advertised for the filling of four vacancies in the MDDA Board and the closing date was 14 February. The Committee planned to hold interviews during the 2nd term of 2020.
- The Standing Committee on Finance and Standing Committee on Appropriations were still to schedule dates for shortlisting and interviews for the position of Director of the Parliamentary Budget Office.

Mr Swart raised a concern around legislation that had constitutional court deadlines. Adv Van der Merwe indicated that Legal Services would present a report on this matter in the meeting scheduled for the following week. Mr Singh also noted that in terms of the public hearings being held by the *Ad Hoc* Committee to amend Section 25 of the Constitution, provision should be made for members from parties not represented on the committee to attend and participate in the public hearings.

Mr Frolick informed the meeting that there was an arrangement in the past for members from these parties to be funded to attend the public hearings, but that this had financial implications and further discussions around the budget going forward would be required.

Mr Julius requested that the Committee Section update its report to reflect public hearings on the National Health Insurance Bill being held in Gauteng.

7. Report by Bills Office

Adv Van der Merwe presented a report on Bills before Parliament. Two Bills were recently introduced, namely the Economic Regulation of Transport Bill before the Portfolio Committee on Transport and the Auditing Profession Amendment Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Finance. The list of legislation to be introduced in the coming year from the Office of the Leader of the Government Business (LOGB) had not yet being submitted.

There were five bills on the National Assembly Order Paper for consideration. Mr Swart noted that there was a need for engagement with the Leader of Government Business (LOGB) on the reasonable timeframes for the President to assent to Bills passed by Parliament.

The Speaker indicated that this was a matter that would be taken up with the LOGB and that the list of priority legislation from the Executive would also be requested.

Ms Mazzone indicated that this information was important for researchers and whips dealing with legislation to be able to plan appropriately. Ms Mente indicated that the sessions to develop the new strategy for the 6th Parliament had noted the need for appropriate turnaround times for the completion of bills and the need for parliamentary structures to keep members informed about forthcoming legislative and oversight work. The Speaker concurred adding that although the new strategy for the 6th Parliament was not yet finalised it was imperative that work to reach objectives set out therein should be ongoing.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

The Programming Whip, Dr Pilane-Majeke, presented the draft programme.

The Chief Whip proposed that a debate on Human Rights Day be scheduled for 17 or 18 March 2020.

Mr Swart requested information on which legislation would be considered on 25 February 2020 and also the topics for the subjects for discussion in mini-plenaries. Mr Mahlangu responded that on 25 February the Assembly would consider the Second Reading debate on the Science and Technology Laws Amendment Bill as well as the National Public Health Institute of South Africa Bill which had been returned by the Council with amendments. The subjects for discussion in mini-plenary sessions would be made available. In response to a question from Ms Mente, it was indicated that motions were scheduled in terms of an agreed rotation of political parties.

The Speaker also informed the meeting that she had received a request for debate on a matter of public importance on the coronavirus and a date for this was still to be determined.

Mr Wessels enquired about the correspondence from the Questions' office with regard to deadlines for oral questions specifically in respect of questions to the President. The Speaker indicated that the matter would be looked into after the meeting.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:10.