



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 14 May 2015, E249

Present:

B Mbete (Speaker)

Bhengu, F	Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to The Deputy President)
Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Singh, N
Dlakude, D E (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Sizani, P S (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)
Frolick, C T (House Chairperson)	Steenhuisen, J H (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Khubisa, Prof N M	Waters, M

Staff in attendance:

G Mgidlana (Secretary to Parliament), Adv M E Phindela (Acting-Deputy Secretary to Parliament), B Tyawa (Deputy Secretary to Parliament), M Xaso (NA Table), T Mbata (Constitutional and Legal Services Office) and S Tshabalala (Committees).

1. Opening remarks

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:39.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of the Deputy Speaker, Mr S L Tsenoli, Ms A T Didiza, Mr M Q Ndlozi and Dr C P Mulder.

3. Consideration of the agenda

The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted.

4. Consideration of Minutes of 23 April 2015

On the proposal of Mr Singh, seconded by Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party, the minutes of 23 April were adopted.

5. Matters arising

The Speaker indicated that the Report of the Minister of Police on the report of the *Ad Hoc Committee to consider the Report by the President regarding the security upgrades at the Nkandla private residence of the President*, was almost ready for tabling and the Ad Hoc Committee to consider it would be established as soon as the report was tabled. The Chief Whip of the Opposition raised a concern that the availability of the report had been delayed for long and enquired when it would specifically be tabled. The Speaker replied that it would be difficult to pronounce herself on a specific date on behalf of the Executive however an impression had been created for her to believe that it could be available the following week.

The Speaker also indicated that she was considering the concept paper on the sixtieth anniversary of the Freedom Charter which had been drafted by the Secretary to Parliament. The Secretary to Parliament added that the concept paper for the celebration of Africa Day had been finalised and that arrangements would be made for the celebrations to be held in the morning of 28 May, followed by the joint sitting in the afternoon. The Speaker informed the meeting that the Executive Authority was unlikely to agree that all the Members of Parliament should attend the planned anniversary of the Freedom Charter in Kliptown as a result of the likely high costs, based on advice given by Secretary to Parliament. Once the concept paper had been considered, the Executive Authority would communicate their recommendations to parties.

Mr Singh said that the visits planned for members to areas affected by xenophobic attacks on 22 – 23 May had been overtaken by the establishment of the *Ad Hoc Joint Committee to Inquire into the Incidence of Violence against Foreign Nationals* and suggested that members could be provided with golf shirts displaying a message about Parliament's stance on the attacks. House Chairperson Mr Frolick indicated that during the Chief Whips' Forum meeting the previous day, parties were reminded to submit names of members who will serve on the Ad Hoc Joint Committee so that it could start its work.

6. Report by the Committee Section

Mr Tshabalala presented a document on Bills and other matters before committees and reported that the *Ad Hoc Joint Committee to Inquire into the Incidence of Violence against Foreign Nationals* had been established in both Houses and letters had been sent to parties requesting submission of names of members who would serve on it, by 14 May.

He said that on 5 May, the Portfolio Committee on Communications published a progress report on the recommendation of candidates for appointment to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa and would be conducting interviews to finalise recommendation of candidates to both the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa and the South African Broadcasting Corporation on 2 – 5 June.

Mr Tshabalala also reported that the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries had finalised the following international agreements on 12 May:

- Agreement to the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission;
- The Convention for the Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna; and
- The Food and Agriculture Organisation Port State Measures Agreement to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

Mr Singh indicated that the *Medical Innovation* Bill was receiving a lot of attention from the public and that some organisations had reached their own conclusions, besides those intended by the Bill. He also appealed to House Chairperson Mr Frolick to urge the Portfolio Committee on Health to finalise the bill as soon as possible in order to allay all the perceptions about the Bill.

Mr Waters asked whether the Portfolio Committee on Communications would do justice to the recommendation of candidates for appointment to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa and the South African Broadcasting Corporation by conducting interviews only between 2 – 5 June. He said that previously the interviews for the SABC Board took about two weeks and wondered whether the committee would, this time, properly apply its mind to the recommendations. Similarly, the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries intended to hold hearings on the *Plant Improvement Bill*, *Performing Animals Protection Amendment Bill* and *Plant Breeders' Rights Bill* on 12 May. With regard to the *Children's Amendment Bill*, he enquired why there was no progress on the Bill as it had been referred to the committee a few months ago.

House Chairperson Mr Frolick said that his office was monitoring the processing of all the Bills before the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and also advised that the dates given by the Communications committee were provisional and would be adjusted if necessary. There was also a possibility for the committee to consider a legal opinion on extending the scope of the interviews due to a number of applications received.

Prof Khubisa indicated that it would be difficult for all smaller parties to be represented by two members in the *Ad Hoc* Joint Committee to Inquire into the Incidence of Violence against Foreign Nationals. The Speaker urged that the matter of increasing the members of smaller parties in the Ad Hoc Committee should be further considered. Mr Singh said that he would convene a meeting of the smaller parties to determine how many were interested to be represented in the Ad Hoc Committee.

7. Report by Bills Office

Ms Mbata presented a report on bills before the National Assembly committees and indicated that there were 18 bills before committees in the National Assembly. The *Banks Amendment Bill* and the *Financial and Fiscal Commission Amendment Bill* had been passed by the NA and referred to the NCOP for processing.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

Mr Bhengu presented the Second Term programme and highlighted the following:

The Budget Vote on Energy had been rescheduled for Tuesday, 19 May at 10:30 in the morning and committee meetings that were scheduled for that morning would continue as planned.

The Joint Sitting on Africa Day, which was provisionally scheduled for 22 May, had been rescheduled for 28 May at 14:00. As a result, Vote 2: Parliament had been rescheduled for 2 June and that 22 May would be a Constituency day. It was agreed that a seminar on Africa Day in the form of a roundtable discussion would be held in the morning of 28 May, prior to the Joint Sitting.

Consideration of the report from the Joint Standing Committee on *SA Defence Review 2014* and the debate on '*the relevance of symbols in building a new democratic heritage in light of recent campaigns to remove certain statues*' were scheduled for 4 June. Consideration of reports on budget votes and statutory appointments were scheduled for 2 and 3 June, respectively.

On the proposal of the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, it was agreed that a special sitting be scheduled for Wednesday, 20 May at 14:00 for a condolence motion for Ms Ruth Mompati. It was also agreed that on 20, 26, 27 May as well as 2 June, there would be no notices of motions and motions without notices.

The Speaker reported that, when she attended the SADC-PF Executive Committee, a request was made to her that South Africa should host the SADC-PF Conference on

an emergency basis. The Democratic Republic of Congo, which had promised to host the event before, had indicated that it was no longer available to host in June 2015. Because a special appeal was made to her and the matter was urgent, she had to agree on the spot. She indicated that ordinarily she would consult on such matters. She had agreed to the request and the conference would take place on 6 - 11 July in Durban. A parliamentary delegation would attend the conference.

In response to the question of the Chief Whip of the Opposition about who would bear the costs of the conference, the Secretary to Parliament explained that protocol dictated that host countries bear some costs and SADC-PF Secretariat would be consulted on finer details of the costs. As hosts, South Africa would bear the cost of providing the venue and that it was customary for the host country to host the leaders of the delegation. The KwaZulu-Natal Legislature would also be consulted on how it could defray some of the costs in terms of support staff and a cost structure would be finalised for consideration by the Executive Authority. Mr Singh advised that if the costs were prohibitive, they could be included as adjustments in the Medium Term Budget.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:21.