



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 22 October 2015, E249

Present:

AT Didiza (House Chairperson)

Bhengu, F	Matiase, NS
Lorimer, JRB	Singh, N
Mazzone, NWA	

Staff in attendance:

C Mahlangu (Undersecretary: NA Table), T Mbata (Constitutional and Legal Services) G Abdullatief (Committees) and Adv C van der Merwe (Legal Services).

1. Opening remarks

House Chairperson Ms Didiza opened the meeting at 08:32.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Ms B Mbete (Speaker), Mr SL Tsenoli, (Deputy Speaker), Mr CT Frolick (House Chairperson), Ms MG Boroto (House Chairperson), Mr PS Sizani (Chief Whip of the Majority Party), Ms DE Dlakude (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party), Messrs JH Steenhuisen, (Chief Whip of the Opposition), M Waters and NF Shivambu, Ms HO Maxon and Dr CP Mulder.

3. Consideration of the agenda

On the proposal of Mr Matiase and Ms Mazzone the following items were added to the agenda:

- (i) Rescheduling of the motion of the EFF; and
- (ii) DA's notice of motion.

The agenda, as amended, was adopted.

4. Consideration of Minutes of 10 September 2015

On the proposal of Mr Bhengu, seconded by Mr Singh, the minutes of 10 September were adopted.

5. Matters arising

It was reported that the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Probing Violence against Foreign Nationals would be revived by both Houses to allow it to report to the House.

6. Report by the Committee Section

Ms Abdullatief presented a document on Bills and other matters before committees. She reported that the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has referred the *Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill* to the National House of Traditional Leaders and the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs intended to finalise the *Local Government: Municipal Electoral Amendment Bill* on 3 November.

Ms Abdullatief also reported that the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services had finalised the *Judicial Matters Amendment Bill* and *Criminal Matters Amendment Bill* on 21 October.

In response to Mr Singh's concern that there seemed to be no adequate coordination of the scheduling of the 22 bills for Second Reading debates before the end of the last term, it was **AGREED** that a determination should be made whether all the bills before National Assembly committees would be finalised by the end of the current term. It was also **AGREED** that the matter should also be discussed at the Chief Whips' Forum. Mr Singh also indicated that there was no progress on the consideration of the *Medical Innovation Bill* and that he had written to the Medical Control Council but had not received answers on their presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Health.

Ms Abdullatief indicated that public hearings on the *Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill* would be conducted after the response from the National House of Traditional Leaders, possibly in November and December.

7. Report by Bills Office

Ms Mbata presented a report on bills before the National Assembly committees and reported that the *Division of Revenue Amendment Bill* and *Adjustments Appropriation Bill* had been introduced and referred to relevant committees. Ms Mbata also reported that the *Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill*, *Extension of Security of Tenure Amendment Bill*, *Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill* and *Justice Administered Fund Bill* had also been introduced subsequent to the last meeting of the Committee. The *Medicines and*

Related Substances Amendment Bill had been amended by the National Council of Provinces and would be referred back to the National Assembly for processing.

Mr Matiase said that during the hearings on the *Medicines and Related Substances Amendment Bill* it was felt that there was a need to review some of the provisions of the principal Act of 1950 and asked whether it was possible to do so. Adv Van der Merwe replied that she was unaware of a request in that regard but that it was possible for a committee to request the House to look into other provisions of the Act.

Mr Singh expressed a concern that the timeframes stipulated by the Money Bills Amendment Procedures and Related Matters Act were not practically implementable although the intention was to allow Parliament to influence the Budget and requested the Legal Services Unit to provide advice on the matter. On the proposal of House Chairperson Ms Didiza, it was **AGREED** that the Legal Services Unit should consult with the Parliamentary Budget Office and provide advice on the matter.

8. Request for a Debate and EFF member's motion

House Chairperson Ms Didiza reported that the Speaker had received requests from the Minister of Higher Education and Training and some political parties to schedule a debate on the protests at universities. It was **AGREED** that a debate on protests at universities would be scheduled for Tuesday, 27 October.

It was also reported that the Chief Whip of the Majority Party was consulting parties on the possible establishment of an ad hoc committee to look at the matter of university protests. Mr Matiase indicated that the majority of members of the EFF were suspended and would not be able to participate in the debate and proposed that the multiparty committee constituted in terms of NA Rule 53A should immediately meet to consider the suspensions and that the EFF motion scheduled for Tuesday, 27 October be postponed to another day. Mr Singh indicated that he was under the impression that the EFF members removed from the House the previous day were not suspended.

Ms Mazzone said that the debate was a matter of national importance and that not all the members of the EFF were removed from the House and therefore they could participate in the debate. Mr Mahlangu explained that consultations were underway on the establishment of the committee in terms of NA Rule 53A and that a draft resolution would be considered by the House the following week. Mr Matiase said that Rule 53A was only applied arbitrarily and that his party was the only one that supported the plight of the students.

It was **AGREED** that the Programming Whip would consult other Whips on the rescheduling of the EFF motion.

9. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

Mr Bhengu presented the Fourth Term parliamentary programme and highlighted that the Minister of Finance would introduce the *Taxation Laws Amendment Bill*, *Finance Bill* and the *New Development Bank Special Appropriation Bill* on Tuesday, 27 October. Members' statements, the debate on Higher Education Transformation as well as committee reports were also scheduled for that day. Questions to Peace and Security cluster and consideration of Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports (BRRRs) were scheduled for Wednesday, 28 October. Members' statements, Second Reading debate on *Criminal Matters Amendment Bill* and committee reports were scheduled for Thursday, 29 October.

The statement by the Minister of Health on *2nd Global Tuberculosis Caucus of Parliamentarians* was scheduled for 3 November. Mr Bhengu informed the Committee that the Joint Programme Committee meeting was proposed for Thursday, 5 November. Mr Bhengu also informed the meeting that there was an agreement with the NCOP to schedule a Joint Sitting on 16 Days of Activism on No Violence against Women and Children for 12 November.

Mr Bhengu also indicated that morning sittings were scheduled for 3, 10 and 17 November in the mornings from 11:00 to consider committee reports. He informed the meeting that 11 February and 24 February 2016 had been confirmed for the State of the Nation Address and the Budget Speech, respectively. On the proposal of Mr Singh it was **AGREED** that the reduction of time allocation for declarations during consideration of committee reports should be considered by the Chief Whips' Forum.

10. Notice of motion from the Democratic Alliance

House Chairperson Ms Didiza reported that the Speaker had received a request of the Democratic Alliance that the House should rescind 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*, which was considered on 13 November 2014, and the *Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to consider the Report of the Minister of Police in reply to recommendations in the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to consider the Report by the President regarding Security upgrades at the Nkandla Private Residence of the President*, which was considered on 18 August 2015. The matter was receiving attention.

11. Announcements

There were no announcements.

12. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:38.