



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker

Committee Secretary:
Andrew Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 9 May 2013, E249

Present:
Speaker

Farrow, S B	Mfeketo, N C (Deputy Speaker)
Jeffery, J H	Schneemann, G D
Kilian, J D	Watson, A
Kubayi, M T	

Staff in attendance:

M Xaso (NA Table), N Bell, W Matidze (Constitutional and Legal Services Office) and N Giba (Committees).

1. **Opening**

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:38.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Ms F Hajaig, Mrs S V Kalyan, Drs M S Motshekga and C P Mulder, Messrs C T Frolick, M B Skosana, J H van der Merwe, S Z Ntapane and I S Mfundisi.

3. **Consideration of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

4. **Consideration of minutes of meeting of 25 April 2013**

The minutes of 25 April were adopted.

5. **Matters arising**

Ms Kubayi enquired whether the schedule of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' on the proposed public hearings on the *Fertilizers and Feeds Bill* had been revised. She also enquired whether there was progress made on the processing of the operational guidelines on Delegated Legislation. Mr Xaso replied that a report on the latter issue would be presented at the next meeting.

Mrs Kilian requested that the Committee be updated on developments regarding the transfer of speaking time between the Executive and the ruling party during Extended Public Committees (EPCs) as was resolved at the Chief Whips' Forum the previous day. Ms Kubayi indicated that the Executive raised a concern after parties had reviewed and increased their speaking times that parties did not consider increasing the speaking time of the Executive in Budget Vote debates. As a result, the Chief Whips' Forum had resolved that, as an interim measure, the ANC would donate five minutes of its time to the Executive. The arrangement would last for the duration of the EPCs, pending a decision of the meeting of the Task Team on Time Allocation on 21 May 2013. In addition, the task team would also consider time allocations for the Presidency and Parliament Budget Vote debates.

6. **Report by the Committee Section**

Mrs Giba presented a document containing information on the following issues: bills before NA committees, bills initiated by committees and other matters before committees.

Mrs Giba reported that the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries had since revised its schedule on consideration of the *Fertilizers and Feeds Bill*. She said that the committee initially intended to conduct public hearings in all the provinces but after Mr Frolick had engaged with the chairperson of the committee, the committee had decided that it would only engage the outstanding stakeholders in two provinces. Mr Jeffery urged that it was imperative that the committee finalise the bill, which was introduced on 27 November 2012, adding that there was no indication of when it would be finalised. Ms Kubayi proposed that the committee should rather conduct hearings in Parliament only and the National Council of Provinces' committee would hold hearings in provinces in line with its mandate.

7. **Report by Constitutional and Legal Services Office (CLSO)**

Mr Matidze reported that there were 23 bills before committees, eight of which were section 76. He also indicated that the *Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill* had recently been introduced.

8. **Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme**

Mr Schneemann presented the Parliamentary Programme for the Second Term and highlighted the following:

The second term programme outlining the changes to Budget Vote debates in plenaries and others in EPCs had been distributed. The Budget Votes on Trade and Industry and Statistics South Africa, scheduled for 15 May had swapped venues and were now scheduled in the Old Assembly Chamber and E249, respectively.

The dates for debates on Africa Day, Youth Day and the Centenary of the 1913 Native Land Act were being considered by the programming whips. Subject to concurrence of the NCOP, the Joint Programme Committee and Joint Rules Committee would be scheduled for 16 May and 5 June, respectively.

In response to the request made by Mr Skosana in the last meeting that certain Fridays be reserved for members' workshops, Mr Schneemann reported that the matter was being attended to but it was difficult to identify suitable dates.

Mr Xaso advised that Mr Watson had made a request for a snap debate on the landing of a private jet at the Waterkloof Air Force Base and the Speaker had approved the request for the debate. Mr Schneemann proposed that the debate be scheduled for 4 June, however Mr Watson indicated that the debate was urgent and suggested that it be considered for the following week. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Chief Whips' Forum for consideration.

Mrs Kilian advised that the Chief Whips' Forum meeting should not be scheduled at the same time as budget vote debates, and indicated that an impression should not be created that there was a difference in status between budget votes that take place in plenaries and those in EPCs. It was agreed that an earlier starting time for the Chief Whips' Forum would be considered.

9. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

10. **Closure**

The meeting adjourned at 09:04.

M V SISULU MP

Speaker of the National Assembly