



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker

Committee Secretary:
Andrew Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 17 July 2014, E249

Present:

C T Frolick

Bhengu, F	George, Dr D T
Didiza, A T	Singh, N
Dlakude, D E	Steenhuisen, J H (Chief Whip of the Opposition)

Staff in attendance:

M Xaso (NA Table), T Mbata (Constitutional and Legal Services Office) and S Tshabalala (Committees).

1. Opening

House Chairperson, Mr Frolick, opened the meeting at 08:34.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Ms B Mbete (Speaker), Mr S L Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker), Ms M G Boroto, Messrs P S Sizani (Chief Whip of the Majority Party) and M Waters and Dr C P Mulder.

3. Consideration of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

4. Consideration of Minutes of 10 July 2014

On the proposal of Mr Singh, seconded by Ms Dlakude, the minutes of 10 July were adopted.

5. Matters arising

Mr Steenhuisen indicated that he would raise the matter of scheduling of Questions for Oral Reply during consideration of the Parliamentary Programme.

6. Report by the Committee Section

Mr Tshabalala presented a document on Bills before NA committees and other matters before committees.

He reported that the Standing Committee on Finance had agreed to the amendments proposed by the National Council of Provinces on the *Financial Management of Parliament Amendment Bill*.

7. Report by Bills Office

Ms Mbata confirmed that the *Financial Management of Parliament Amendment Bill* had been finalised by the Standing Committee on Finance and was ready for consideration by the House.

Mr Singh enquired about when the revival of the private members' bills would be reflected on the programme, as the Chief Whips' Forum had agreed that they be revived. Mr Xaso explained that the bills would be revived by a motion passed by the House and procedural motions are not reflected in the programme. He said that a decision had to be made about when the motions would be considered by the House.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

Mr Bhengu presented the draft Parliamentary Programme for the First Term and highlighted the following:

Extended Public Committees (EPCs)

The Extended Public Committees on Police, National Treasury and Energy were scheduled for 10:00 on Monday, 21 July and the EPC on Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, including Statistics South Africa was also scheduled for that afternoon. The Budget Vote debate on State Security, previously scheduled for 21 July, was re-scheduled for 23 July.

Budget Vote 2: Parliament was scheduled for 22 July and Budget Vote 1: The Presidency was scheduled for 23 July, and the President would reply to the debate on 24 July. On the proposal of Mr Bhengu, it was agreed that on Tuesday 22 July and Thursday 24 July there would be no motions (notices of motions and motions without notice) and members' statements.

Mr Steenhuisen indicated that the Chief Whips' Forum had discussed the addition of 10 more minutes to the time allocated for debating the Budget Vote on Statistics South Africa, and the additional time be divided proportionally amongst parties.

Scheduling of Questions for Oral Reply

Mr Bhengu advised the Committee that as there was no decision yet on the clustering of ministries, the proposed plenary on Questions for Oral Reply on Wednesday, 30 July should not take place.

Mr Steenhuisen said that the week of 28 July – 1 August was an ordinary working week and Questions for Oral Reply had not been scheduled yet in the First Term. He reminded the Committee that Parliament had a constitutional obligation to hold the Executive accountable and he was of the opinion that Cluster 1: Peace and Security would not change and therefore Questions to that cluster should be scheduled without delay.

Ms Dlakude, the Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party, proposed that Questions be scheduled for the Second Term and in the meantime parties should make inputs on the proposed clusters so that they could be forwarded to the Leader of Government Business. Mr Steenhuisen pointed out that, according to Rule 108(6), Questions may be submitted at least six working days prior to the Question day and therefore there was enough time for processing of Questions.

Mr Frolick advised that, as a principle, matters that were considered or resolved at the Chief Whips' Forum meeting should not be brought to the Programme Committee for another discussion and advised that Questions were not the only mechanism for exercising oversight over the Executive. He also indicated that, as usual, the Leader of Government Business should be consulted on the clustering of ministries and Parliament could not unilaterally take a decision on the matter. Ideally Questions should be scheduled in advance in order to ensure the availability of the Executive. It was agreed that the proposal on the clustering of departments should be finalised by the end of that week and Mr Bhengu would update the Committee on the matter at the next meeting. Mr Steenhuisen expressed his objection to the decision not to schedule Questions and indicated that he was still of the opinion that Questions should be scheduled for the First Term.

9. Announcements

Ms Dlakude reported that a memorial service in honour of the late Ms N D Ntwanambi was scheduled to take place that afternoon in the Old Assembly Chamber after party caucuses. Mr Xaso added that the funeral would take place on Saturday, 19 July and more details would be forwarded to all parties.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:00.