



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker

Committee Secretary:
Andrew Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 21 August 2014, E249

Present:

B Mbete (Speaker)

Bhengu, F	Singh, N
Boroto, M G	Steenhuisen, J H (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Frolick, C T	Waters, M
Koornhof, Dr G W	

Staff in attendance:

M Xaso and C Mahlangu (NA Table), T Mbata and N Bell (Constitutional and Legal Services Office), S Tshabalala and G Abdullatief (Committees).

1. Opening

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:37.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Mr P S Sizani (Chief Whip of the Majority Party), Ms A T Didiza, Ms D E Dlakude (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party) Dr C P Mulder and Ms K Litchfield-Tshabalala.

3. Consideration of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

4. Consideration of Minutes of 31 July 2014

On the recommendation of Mr Bhengu, seconded by the Chief Whip of the Opposition, the minutes of 31 July were adopted.

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Report by the Committee Section

Ms Abdullatief presented a document on Bills before NA committees and other matters before committees.

She reported that there were six bills before the Assembly committees and 13 international agreements before the Standing Committee on Finance. The Portfolio Committee on Communications had advertised for nomination of a candidate to fill the vacancy caused by the expiry of the term of office of Ms N Migogo on the Media Development and Diversity Agency board. At the time Mr J Manyi was recommended by the Assembly to fill the vacancy, he had already been appointed as a board member. The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries would also be considering a request from the Minister on nomination of candidates to serve on the National Agricultural Marketing Council on 26 August.

Mr Singh asked whether the Portfolio Committee on Health would process the *Medical Innovation Bill* further as Dr M G Oriani-Ambrosini, the sponsor of the Bill, was no longer a member. Mr Mahlangu explained that the NA Rules were silent on whether a private member's bill could be transferred to another member, however all business introduced in the name of Dr Oriani-Ambrosini had lapsed as he ceased to be a member. The same principle applies to Questions and motions. Mr Xaso added that the committee could also approach the House and request that the Bill be introduced as a Committee Bill.

7. Report by Bills Office

Ms Mbata reported that the *National Environment Management: Integrated Coastal Management Bill* was ready for consideration by the House and there were six Bills before the Assembly committees.

Mr Xaso added that a request from the Minister for Human Settlements for the revival of the *Rental Housing Amendment Bill* had been received. The Bill lapsed at the end of the Fourth Parliament.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

Mr Bhengu presented the draft Parliamentary Programme for the Second Term as follows:

Week of 25 – 29 August

Members' statements, legislation, a motion of the Democratic Alliance and committee reports were scheduled for Tuesday, 26 August; Questions for Oral Reply to the Peace and Security Cluster were scheduled for Wednesday, 27 August and Members' statements, legislation and Committee reports were scheduled for Thursday, 28 August.

Slots for members' motions were created for 2, 9 and 16 September and Questions for Oral Reply were scheduled for 3, 10 and 17 September. The week of 22 – 29 September had been rescheduled for Committees and Oversight and a Joint Sitting on Heritage Day was provisionally scheduled for Thursday, 18 September.

Mr Singh expressed his appreciation to the Speaker and the programming Whips for scheduling the condolence motion for Dr M G Oriani-Ambrosini on Tuesday, 19 August as well as for sentiments expressed during the debate. Mr Waters appreciated the fact that members' motions were scheduled for every week in the second term and said that was a great step forward for Parliament. With regard to the proposed topic on the Heritage Day debate, Mr Waters enquired about the format of the debate and whether parties could submit topics for debate on celebration of national days. Mr Bhengu explained that usually a topic would be related or based on a national theme for the observance of the day and the topic *"Together celebrating our rich heritage and Cultural diversity"* had been proposed by the NCOP, and would be considered by the Chief Whips' Forum the following week.

Mr Waters informed the committee that the Democratic Alliance would send its topic for Tuesday, 26 August before the end of that day and it was agreed that parties should be advised of a topic for discussion at least a week before a debate. Mr Singh asked why the name of the Inkatha Freedom Party had been removed from the slot that had been reserved for a member's motion on 16 September and Mr Bhengu replied that the matter would be attended to.

Ms Boroto informed the meeting that the Joint Rules Committee meeting scheduled for 22 August would no longer take place due to the unavailability of members of the NCOP. The meeting would have considered the establishment of the Parliamentary Group on International Relations which had been long overdue. The Speaker advised that further consultations with the NCOP should take place on the matter as members who would serve on that body needed to prepare themselves.

In response to a query by the Chief Whip of the Opposition, Ms Boroto said that the Quarterly Consultative Forum meeting, previously scheduled for 22 August, had also been postponed to 28 August.

9. Announcements

Mr Singh indicated that the funeral service of Dr Oriani-Ambrosini would take place on Friday, 29 August at the St George's Cathedral at 10:30.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 08:49.