



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:

A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 12 March 2020, E249

Present:

C T Frolick (House Chairperson)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Mazzone, N W A (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Ntombela, M L D (House Chairperson)	Pilane-Majake, Dr M C C (Programming Whip)
Majodina, P C P (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Ngwezi, X
Ntlangwini, E N	Kwankwa, L N S
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Papo, A H M (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)
Julius, J W W	Ntshayisa, L M
Wessels, W W	

Staff in attendance:

Mr M Xaso (Secretary to the National Assembly), Dr T Ganyaza-Twalo (Committees) and Ms T Mtyobile (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening

House Chairperson Mr Frolick opened the meeting at 08:30 and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Speaker Ms T R Modise, Deputy Speaker S L Tsenoli, Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party Ms D E Dlakude, Dr C P Mulder, Messrs N Singh and S N Swart.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was accepted, with the addition of concerns around the issue of coronavirus, the cleanliness of the parliamentary precinct, and load shedding as item 9.

4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 5 March 2020

On the proposal of the Programming Whip, seconded by the Chief Whip of the Opposition, the minutes of 5 March were adopted.

5. Matters arising

There were not matters arising.

6. Report by Committee Section

Dr Ganyaza-Twalo presented a report on matters before committees and highlighted the following:

The Ad Hoc Committee on Amendment of Section 25 of the Constitution would be conducting hearings in Gauteng on 13 – 16 March.

The Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs intended to finalise the following petitions in the Second Term:

- *Petition from the residents of Alberton, calling on the Assembly to investigate public participation and legislative compliance in the proposed housing development in Alberton, submitted in terms of Rule 347*
- *Petition from the residents of Germiston, Ekurhuleni metropolitan municipality calling on the Assembly to investigate the numerous power outages*
- *Petition from the residents of Boksburg, Ekurhuleni metropolitan municipality, calling on the Assembly to investigate the numerous power outages*

House Chairperson Mr Frolick clarified that he had been advised that his report the previous week that the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs had finalised the three petitions was incorrect, and apologised for that. He said that he had since written to the Chairperson of the Committee for an explanation in that regard.

7. Report by Bills Office

Ms Mtyobile presented a report on Bills and indicated that the Division of Revenue Bill and the Appropriation Bill had since been referred to the Standing Committee on Appropriations,

following the adoption of the report on the Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals. The Fiscal Responsibility Bill, which is a private member's bill, had also been recently introduced.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

The Programming Whip presented the draft Parliamentary Programme for the First Term and highlighted the following:

The Annual Meeting of Commission on the Status of Women, which was scheduled for 9 - 20 March in New York had been postponed due to the outbreak of coronavirus. A debate in the form of a Joint Sitting on Tuberculosis, and as part of relaunching the Global TB Caucus for Parliamentarians, was scheduled for Friday, 13 March.

Consideration of Recognition of Customary Marriages Amendment Bill, Judicial Matters Amendment Bill and Prescription in Civil and Criminal Matters (Sexual Offences) Amendment Bill, as well as the following committee reports were scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, 17 March 2020:

- *South African Human Rights Commission Report on Investigative Hearing into Lack of Safety and Security Measures in Schools for Children with Disabilities in South Africa*
- *South African Human Rights Commission Report on Investigative Hearing into Status of Mental Health Care in South Africa*

The debate on Human Rights Day was also scheduled for the same day under the theme "*The year of unity, socio economic renewal and nation-building*". It was also **AGREED** that consideration of the reports on request for approval by Parliament of the *Draft notice and Schedule determining the rate at which salaries are payable to Magistrates annually* and *Draft notice and Schedule determining the rate at which salaries are payable to Constitutional Court Judges and Judges annually*, also be scheduled for 17 March.

Questions to Ministers in the Governance cluster, and consideration of the Division of Revenue Bill were scheduled for Wednesday, 18 March. A question session for the Deputy President was scheduled for Thursday, 19 March 2020.

House Chairperson Mr Frolick informed the meeting that a Media Training workshop for Chairpersons of Committees was planned for 25 – 26 March during the constituency period.

9. Concerns around coronavirus, the cleanliness of the parliamentary precinct, and load shedding

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party reported that the Chief Whips' Forum (CWF) had deliberated on the concerns around the general cleanliness of Parliament, especially in light of the outbreak of coronavirus. She proposed that Parliament needed to have some kind of action programme to deal systematically with the issue of cleanliness and its response to mitigating the spread of the virus within Parliament. It was suggested that as a way of limiting the spread, the institution should look into having isolation areas in place, as well as control measures to limit the number of visitors onto the precinct, given that the total number of Members of Parliament and staff is itself very large. It was noted that the overall cleanliness of the precinct and in particular the ablution facilities were of great concern. It was further noted and welcomed that all international trips would be put on hold until April 2020. The Chief Whip of the Opposition proposed that Parliament should consider installing sanitising facilities within the precinct that could be accessible to everyone in all the buildings and that surfaces, including microphones in the Chambers and committee rooms, should be regularly sanitised. Ms Ntlangwini proposed that in addition, consideration be given to the impact of load shedding, and whether Parliament as a National Key Point should also be subjected to load shedding. She was of the view that visitors should not be discouraged from coming into Parliament to listen to their public representatives.

The Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President stated that Parliament could not escape load shedding, as it was part of the area affected on the local power grid. He however suggested that Parliament should ensure that the backup mechanism in place is always functional, and that the schedule for load shedding be taken into consideration when planning the business of Parliament. Mr Kwankwa added that the institution should ensure that hygienic precautionary measures are in place, considering that the public had been given assurances that the pandemic was 'under control'. House Chairperson Mr Frolick indicated that certain measures needed to be put in place and proposed that the volume of parliamentary tours also be managed. He said that the Acting Secretary to Parliament had been briefed on the matter and the CWF would be updated in the following week on the measures that were being put in place. There was also consideration for committees that were expected to engage in activities that would attract a large number of people, to postpone these to a later date.

10. Announcements

There were no announcements.

11. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:05.