



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 13May2021 [Virtual]

Present:

T R Modise (Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Ntombela, M L D (House Chairperson)
Julius, J W W	Papo, A H M (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)
Kwankwa, N L S	Pilane-Majake, Dr M C C (Programming Whip)
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Shaik-Emam, A M
Lesoma, R M M	Singh, N S
Majodina, P C P (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Swart, S N
Mazzone, N W A (Chief Whip of the Opposition)	Tsenoli, S L (Deputy Speaker)
Mkhaliphi, H O	Wessels, W W
Mulder, Dr C P	

Staff in attendance:

Ms P N Tyawa (Acting Secretary to Parliament), MrM Xaso (NA Table), Adv M Tau (Committees) and Adv. C R van der Merwe (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening

The Deputy Speaker opened the meeting at 08:30 and welcomed all members.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from House Chairperson Mr C T Frolick and Mr S N Swart.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted, as proposed.

4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 6 May 2021

On the proposal of House Chairperson Ms Boroto, seconded by the Chief Whip of the Opposition, the minutes of 6 May were adopted, with the correction that Mr Singh was present in the meeting.

5. Matters arising

Mr Xaso informed the members that the Speaker would soon make a determination on the issues discussed in the previous meeting of the Rules Committee, regarding the composition of the Committee on Section 194 Enquiry. With regards to mini-plenaries, Mr Xaso indicated that members attending the sessions scheduled for 16:30 could start logging in from 16:00, and not earlier. Mr Shaik-Emam proposed that, in future, when scheduling mini-plenaries it should be taken into consideration that it was a challenge for smaller parties with less than three members, as they were not in a position to participate in three mini-plenaries scheduled at the same time. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party advised that smaller parties should prioritise which mini-plenary to attend as no less than two mini-plenaries would be scheduled. Mr Xaso added that provision was in place for smaller parties to be accommodated at towards the end of the debate, should they wish to move from one debate to the other. The parties would, however, be placed in the speakers' list towards the end before the final speakers of the DA, ANC, and the Minister. Parties would have to notify the table staff beforehand so that relevant presiding officers were notified of any adjustments to the sequence of the speakers.

Ms Mkhalihi asked if there was feedback on the scheduling of the Workers' Parliament and whether there was a reconsideration in the scheduling of sittings in Parliament, in light of the possible third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr Xaso replied that the Workers' Parliament had been postponed until further notice. He added that there was an indication that the Youth Parliament would not be scheduled this year. With regards to sittings in Parliament, mini-plenaries that were scheduled for the month of May would be conducted fully on the virtual platform. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party requested that the Office of Acting Secretary to Parliament should assist in monitoring the rise in

the number of cases related to the pandemic, as hybrid sessions were also scheduled in the current term. The Deputy Speaker advised that the matter had been taken care of as there was an ongoing assessment of the situation, which included discussion at the level of the Parmed Medical Aid Scheme. Any relevant information would be made available to members through the normal structures. The Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President cautioned that Parliament should operate within the regulations as it was regarded as a workplace, not a gathering.

Ms Mkhalihi also asked that the programme of Parliament in the next term be clarified, considering that parties were expected to embark on campaigns for the Local Government Elections scheduled for 27 October 2021. Mr Xaso noted that a meeting of the Joint Programme Committee was planned in the current term to consider, among other things, a reviewed Parliamentary Programme Framework which would take into account the date of elections.

6. Report by Committee Section

Adv. Tau presented a report on matters before committees and presented an update on the following matters:

- Finalised reports on Bills and matters before Committees.
- Matters to be finalised during the current term.
- Matters not yet scheduled.
- Committees likely to meet during recess.
- Committees approved to meet during mini-plenaries.

7. Report by Bills Office

Adv Van der Merwe presented a report on legislation before Committees and indicated that there were 37 Bills before committees in the National Assembly. Furthermore, out of 31 Bills on the 2021 Executive Legislative Programme, four Bills had been introduced and two Bills had since been approved by Cabinet. Six Bills would be introduced during the presentation of the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement in October.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

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

From 13 – 25 May, mini-plenaries on budget votes were scheduled. The National Treasury (State Security) budget vote had been rescheduled for 25 May.

The Programming Whip also advised that the following debates would be scheduled:

- Africa Day on 26 May
- Bullying amongst learners in schools as a matter of national public importance on 27 May
- Joint sitting on the 25th Anniversary of the Constitution on 28 May, subject to confirmation by the National Council of Provinces.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:05.