



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 20 May 2021 [Virtual]

Present:

T R Modise (Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Mulder, Dr C P
Frolick, C T (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
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

Staff in attendance:

Ms P N Tyawa (Acting Secretary to Parliament), Mr M Xaso (NA Table), Adv M Tau (Committees) and Ms T Mtyobile (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening

The Deputy Speaker opened the meeting at 08:32 and welcomed all members.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party Ms D E Dlakude and Ms T L Marawu.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted, with the addition of an item on 'the absence of Ministers during budget vote debates' which would be discussed under the agenda item on the Programme.

4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 13 May 2021

On the proposal of Mr Singh, seconded by the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, the minutes of 13 May were adopted, with a correction of Mr Singh's initial.

5. Matters arising

Mr Xaso informed the members that a meeting of the Rules Committee was scheduled for 25 May, in order for the Speaker to provide a feedback on her determination on the composition of the Committee on Section 194 Enquiry. With regards to the date of the Joint Programming Committee (JPC), the dates of 27 May or 3 June were being considered in consultation with the National Council of Provinces. The meeting of the JPC would consider, among other things, a reviewed Parliamentary Programme Framework which would take into account the date of the Local Government Elections on 27 October 2021. The draft framework would be made available in the following week for consideration by the Programme Committee, prior to the meeting of the JPC.

Mr Xaso also indicated that a document on Covid-19 statistics from the Parmed Medical Aid Scheme had been circulated to members. The Deputy Speaker indicated that the Office of Acting Secretary to Parliament would be engaging with Parmed in order to reconcile the figures in the document and provide an update to members.

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.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party asked whether it would be possible for the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Bill and Domestic Violence Amendment Bill to be considered by the House during the current term, as they were dealing with gender-based violence and femicide. Mr Xaso explained that every effort would be made to schedule matters that would be finalised during the current term.

In response to Ms Mkhali on the number of committees that were scheduled to meet during mini-plenaries, House Chairperson Mr Frolick indicated that the report from Committee Section did outline the seven committees that were allowed to meet, as they were outside the relevant cluster of the mini-plenaries on that day.

Mr Swart expressed concern that the research document that was normally provided by the Parliamentary Research Unit in respect of budget votes was only made available a day before the votes were debated, thus making it difficult for members to prepare adequately. He requested that the matter be followed up as it placed a strain on members in their preparation for the debates. House Chairperson Mr Frolick stressed that the lack of human resources in the Committee Section was having an impact on processing of public submissions on the National Health Insurance Bill. He said that, unless something drastic was done, it was unlikely that the process would be completed this year as expected, and that this would have negative consequences on the passage of the Bill. Mr Xaso replied that the concerns raised had been noted and that there were measures being put in place from the side of the administration to address the issue of capacity in this regard.

7. Report by Bills Office

Ms Mtyobile presented a report on legislation before Committees and indicated that the Performers' Protection Amendment Bill and Copyright Amendment Bill were on the Order Paper for consideration. The Housing Consumer Protection Amendment Bill and Land Court Bill had been introduced.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

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

Mini-plenaries on budget votes were scheduled to continue on Tuesday, 25 May.

The condolence motion for Ms J M Mofokeng was scheduled for 26 May. The following debates were also scheduled for the week:

- Africa Day on 26 May under the theme '*The year for Arts, Culture and Heritage – Building a better Africa and a better world in the midst of Covid-19*'
- Bullying amongst learners in schools as a matter of national public importance as well as committee reports from the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services on 27 May
- Joint Sitting on 25th Anniversary of the Constitution on 28 May.

Mr Xaso indicated that, due to challenges experienced with quorum, the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence could not finalise its report and, as a result, was requesting that Vote 8: National Treasury (State Security) be rescheduled for 1 June at 11:00. A communication in that regard would be sent to the Speaker. Mr Xaso also advised that the theme for the Youth Day debate on 1 June was '*Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society amid Covid-19*'.

The absence of Ministers during a budget vote

Mr Singh enquired as to the reasons why the Acting Minister in The Presidency was not available to present Vote 9: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation budget, which was scheduled for 19 May. Mr Xaso undertook to follow up on the matter and provide feedback in the next meeting. In future, a concerted effort would be made to ensure that any communication relating to the unavailability of a minister would be given through whips prior to the debate taking place.

9. Announcements

House Chairperson Mr Ntombela advised that South Africa had been invited to the 142nd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which was scheduled for 24 – 28 May. The session would be debating the overall theme of '*Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow*'.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:05.