



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

Chairperson:  
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:  
A Mbanga x 3218

**DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

Thursday, 3 March 2022 [Virtual]

Present:

N N Mapisa-Nqakula (Speaker)

S L Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Majozi, Z
Frolick, C T (House Chairperson)	Mazzone, N W A (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Gwarube, S	Mkhaliphi, H O
Hendricks, M G E	Mulder, Dr C P
Herron, B N	Ntlangwini, E N
Jafta, S M	Ntombela, M L D (House Chairperson)
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Papo, A H M (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)
Kwankwa, N L S	Shaik Emam, A M
Lesoma, R M M (Programming Whip)	Singh, N
Majodina, P C P (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Wessels, W W

Staff in attendance:

Acting Secretary to Parliament Ms P N Tyawa, Secretary to the National Assembly Mr M Xaso, Dr T Mbatha and Adv C R van der Merwe (Constitutional and Legal Services Office) and Adv M Tau (Committees).

**1. Opening**

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:30 and welcomed everyone present.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies on behalf of Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party Ms D E Dlakude as well as Adv S N Swart were tendered.

**3. Consideration of draft agenda**

The draft agenda, as proposed, was adopted.

**4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 24 February 2022**

On the proposal of Dr Mulder, seconded by Dr Koornhof, the minutes of 24 February were adopted.

## 5. Matters arising

### *Consideration of a comprehensive report on an alternative venue for the National Assembly*

The Speaker noted that a report on a suitable alternative venue for the National Assembly had been presented to a meeting of the Chief Whips' Forum (CWF) the previous day.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party indicated that the report was received as preliminary work outlining various options. A meeting of the CWF to consider a progress report would be held physically on 23 March. Once consensus and a clear way forward had been reached the report would be made public. The report provided for various options for venues for the National Assembly, including the Cape Town City Hall, community halls around the city, the Cape Town International Convention Centre, Good Hope Centre, universities in the Western Cape, a dome/marquee format as well as a modular structure. The meeting also made three suggestions as a short-term arrangement, namely the maximum use of the current space in the Good Hope Chamber, the use of the Old Assembly Chamber as well as the use of community halls in the three parliamentary villages. A report on short, medium and long-term plans was also required. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party also indicated that an overall financial analysis of the work of Parliament prior to and during the pandemic period should also be taken into consideration.

Mr Kwankwa added that the idea of fast-tracking the use of the National Council of Provinces chamber was also mooted as an option when this Chamber was not in use by the Council. He also stated that, views were expressed that, whilst Parliament could be moved to another province as a long-term solution, it should be noted that it was a national heritage site in terms of the law and therefore it had to be restored.

Ms Mkhalihi added that local community halls in the townships should also be considered. She further enquired about the status of committee rooms which could be used for physical meetings. The Acting Secretary to Parliament replied that a list of committee rooms available for meetings was shared with members the previous day. In 90 Plein Street there were five committee rooms available and six in the Marks Building, but those in the Good Hope building were excluded due to the need to keep them as additional space for support to the National Assembly. The communication would be re-sent to individual party whips. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party added that committees were at liberty to apply to meet physically in Parliament as not all committee rooms were hybrid enabled.

The Speaker appealed to members not to discuss the report further in the meeting but rather to give the whips an opportunity to engage with the progress report in the meeting of the CWF.

The Speaker expressed her frustration at the slow pace at which the assessments of the damage to the National Assembly wing were being done.

### *Attendance of members of the Executive during questions for oral reply*

The Speaker reported that a letter encouraging members of the Executive to attend oral question sessions physically in the Chamber had been sent to the Leader of Government Business (LOGB).

### *Written questions that remained unanswered by some Ministers*

The Speaker indicated that communication was sent to the LOGB informing him that a report would be provided to the Rules Committee on members of Cabinet whose questions were unanswered and subsequently lapsed. The matter would also be published in the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports document for the information of all members.

Mr Singh indicated that concerns were expressed during the meeting of the CWF about the non-availability of members of the Executive to provide responses during members' statements. He said that it was not acceptable for Ministers not to be available and suggested that the matter could be referred to the Subcommittee of the Rules Committee. The Speaker replied that the matter would receive consideration.

### *Scheduling of a motion of no confidence in the Cabinet*

The Speaker indicating that consultations on the matter, as well as the motion of no confidence in the President as requested by African Transformation Movement, were at an advanced stage and a date would be communicated in the next meeting.

Ms Gwarube requested that the Speaker also advise on the voting mechanism that would be applied when considering the two motions.

### *Frequency of Programme Committee meetings*

In response to the discussion in the previous week on whether it was necessary for the Programme Committee to meet weekly, Ms Gwarube stated that it would be inappropriate not to schedule the meeting on a weekly basis. She said that the Programme Committee and Joint Standing Committee on Financial Management of Parliament were the only meetings wherein the business of Parliament was discussed in a public forum. Ms Mkhalihi and Ms Ntlangwini concurred, saying that the Programme Committee as a decision-making structure should meet on a weekly basis during session. Mr Shaik Emam explained that whilst he respected the objections expressed, he was still of the view that it was senseless to meet if there were no issues that required consideration.

The Speaker noted the views expressed and confirmed that for the foreseeable future the programme committee would continue to meet on a weekly basis during session.

The Speaker also informed the meeting that she would be meeting with the Chief Whip of the Opposition and Ms Ntlangwini on the incidents that had occurred during programme committee meetings.

## **6. Report from Committee Section**

Adv Tau presented an update on matters before committees and highlighted that the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration had finalised its report on recommendation of candidates for filling of vacancies in the Public Service Commission.

Furthermore, adoption of the report on Determination of the salaries and allowances of the members of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of

Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities by the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs had been postponed to a later date.

## **7. Report by Bills Office**

Dr Mbatha presented a report on legislation before Committees and indicated that the Electoral Laws Second Laws Amendment Bill, which is a private member's Bill, was on the Order Paper for consideration by the National Assembly. Four bills had subsequently been sent to the President for assent.

Adv Van der Merwe presented a report on Constitutional Court deadlines and noted that in respect of the Electoral Act, 1998 that the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs was currently conducting public hearings, where after they would be undertaking provincial consultations. The Committee had also resolved that Parliament should approach the Constitutional Court for an extension of the deadline. The application was currently being prepared.

## **8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme**

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

On Tuesday, 8 March, consideration of reports on 'Oversight visit to North West and Free State Provincial Education Departments' as well as the debate on International Women's Day were scheduled.

Questions for oral reply to the Social Services cluster were also scheduled for Wednesday, 9 March.

On Thursday, 10 March, condolence motions for Mr D M Nkosi and Ms M M Tlou were scheduled. Committee reports would also be scheduled for that day.

Ms Gwarube asked what would happen to the report on appointment of members to fill vacancies in the National Lotteries Commission, which lapsed at the end of 2021. The Programming Whip replied that consultations were taking place on the list of items that would be presented to be revived in the House during the following week.

Mr Xaso explained that the Assembly determined which lapsed business should be revived, and this was done by way of a House resolution. The house could also resolve to revive a matter and refer it back to the relevant committee for further consideration and processing.

## **9. Announcements**

Mr Xaso reminded the meeting that mini-plenaries were scheduled for that afternoon and that these would be conducted virtually.

## **10. Closure**

The meeting adjourned at 09:20.