



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 21 April 2022 [Virtual]

Present:

N N Mapisa-Nqakula (Speaker)
S L Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Mazzone, N W A (Chief Whip of the Opposition)
Dlakude, D E (Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	Mulder, C P
Frollick, C T (House Chairperson)	Papo, A H M (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)
Gwarube, S	Shaik Emam, A M
Hendricks, M G E	Shivambu, N F
Herron, B N	Singh, N
Jafta, S M	Swart, S N
Lesoma, R M M (Programming Whip)	Wessels, W W
Majodina, P C P (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	

Staff in attendance:

Acting Secretary to Parliament Ms P N Tyawa, Secretary to the National Assembly Mr M Xaso, Mr N K Bell (Constitutional and Legal Services Office) and Adv M Tau (Committees).

1. Opening

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:31 and welcomed everyone present. She requested members to observe a moment of silence for the people who had lost their lives in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and the Eastern Cape. The Speaker noted that the tragic events which unfolded in KZN and parts of the Eastern Cape including the devastating flooding, damage and loss of life would have a profound and lasting impact, not just for those directly affected, but for all South Africans. The disaster had occurred as the country was recovering from the economic hardships that had been brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and the unrest of the previous year. She also indicated that she had received a letter from the President calling for a joint sitting on 26 April 2022 at 14:00, to ensure that the elected representatives of the people of our country can be directly involved in oversight of the work that was needed to provide relief and to rebuild. Secondly, as a related issue, she said that she had received a letter from the Chief Whip of the Majority Party proposing the establishment of an ad hoc joint committee to exercise oversight on interventions for flood relief following the state of disaster. The matter had been discussed in the Chief Whips' Forum and there was an understanding that the National Assembly would establish the ad hoc committee on 26 April.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from House Chairperson Mr M L D Ntombela, Dr G W Koornhof, Ms E N Ntlangwini and Mr N L S Kwankwa.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed, with the addition of item on “establishment of ad hoc joint committee to exercise oversight on interventions for flood relief”.

4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 31 March 2022

On the proposal of Mr Singh, seconded by Mr Shaik Emam, the minutes of 31 March were adopted.

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Report from Committee Section

Adv Tau presented an update on matters before committees and indicated that the following Bills could be finalised in May:

- Children’s Amendment Bill on 6 May
- Criminal Law (Forensic Procedure) Amendment Bill on 6 May
- Electoral Laws Amendment Bill on 16 May
- National Road Traffic Amendment Bill on 17 May
- Expropriation Bill on 25 May
- National Health Insurance on 27 May.

Adv Swart expressed concern on the lack of progress in the processing of Protection of State Information Bill, private member’s Bills such as the Animal Protection Bill as well as the Inquiry into Violence and Looting in Gauteng and KZN Provinces. He requested that an update be made available on these matters. House Chairperson Mr Frolick replied that a report had been provided on some of these matters in the previous meetings and that it should be noted that committees were dealing with a number of matters before them. In terms of rules of the Assembly, committees determine their own agenda. Furthermore, chairpersons of committees had been implored to meet as often as required to conclude the work before their committees. A comprehensive report on the progress in relation to the aforementioned matters would be made available in the next meeting.

With regard to the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry on the Request by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition to make recommendations on the suitability of candidates for the position of Chairperson of the Board of National Lotteries Commission, Mr Xaso indicated that the matter had been revived and referred back to the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry for further consideration on 22 March 2022. Mr Shivambu, however, indicated that he had hoped that the report from Committee Section would provide an update on the appointment of the chairperson for the National Lotteries Board. He said that this was a legislative matter which was already long overdue as the post was vacant for more than 24 months. The fact that a report in that regard was not available was a cause for concern. The Speaker requested that a report on the matter be made available in the next meeting.

In response to Ms Gwarube, House Chairperson Mr Frolick indicated that the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs was well on track to finalise the Electoral Laws Amendment Bill. The public participation process had been completed and the committee was waiting for a response from the department on issues that had been raised. As a result, the committee had postponed its meeting in order to allow the department time to provide the responses.

7. Report by Bills Office

Mr Bell presented legislation before committees and indicated that the South African Postbank Limited Amendment Bill and National Youth Development Agency Amendment Bill had been certified for introduction. All the 23 Bills that had been passed by Parliament in 2021 had been assented to by the President.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

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

The Joint Sitting for the President's Address on 'the devastation caused by catastrophic flooding along parts of the eastern coast' would be scheduled for Tuesday, 26 April.

The period of 25, 28 and 29 April was set aside as a Leave Period.

Mr Shivambu, supported by Dr Mulder, proposed that provision be made for party responses after the address by the President. It was AGREED that parties would be given the opportunity to respond to the President's address. Mr Xaso indicated that it was not yet clear as to whether the President intended to reply at the end as was the case when he addressed the issue of gender-based violence in 2019. Mr Papo said that it would assist if clarity could be sought on whether the President would reply or not, in case that he would like to respond to certain issues at the end. In response to Adv Swart, the Speaker said that she could not recall an instance whereby the President made available his statement prior to delivery thereof. Mr Xaso pointed out that this was a Joint Sitting and therefore not the same as instances of Executive Statements in the National Assembly.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party requested that provision be also made for consideration of a motion on the establishment of ad hoc joint committee to exercise oversight on

interventions for flood relief. Mr Xaso explained that as a joint sitting was not empowered to take decisions, the National Assembly would have to meet separately in order to adopt the motion, subject to concurrence of the National Council of Provinces. It was AGREED that the National Assembly would meet at 12:00 in order to consider the motion. Members would then proceed to the Joint Sitting at 14:00.

The Speaker informed the meeting that she had received a letter from Chief Justice Raymond Zondo advising on the list of candidates recommended for appointment as commissioners to the Electoral Commission of South Africa. The matter had been referred to the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs for consideration and report.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:25.