



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 3 November 2022 [Virtual]

Present:

N N Mapisa-Nqakula (Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Lotriet, Dr A
Dlakude, D E (Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition)	Mkhalihi, H O
Frolick, C T (House Chairperson)	Mulder, Dr C P
Gwarube, S (Chief Whip of the Opposition)	Ntombela, M L D (House Chairperson)
Jafta, S M	Papo, A H M (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Shaik Emam, A M
Kwankwa, N L S	Singh, N
Lesoma, R M M (Programming Whip)	Wessels, W W

Staff in attendance:

Secretary to Parliament Mr X George, Secretary to the National Assembly Mr M Xaso, Ms N Giba (Committees), Dr T Mbatha and Mr N K Bell (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening

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

2. Apologies

Apologies from Deputy Speaker Mr S L Tsenoli, Chief Whip of the Majority Party Ms P C P Majodina and Mr S N Swart were tendered.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.

4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 27 October 2022

On the proposal of House Chairperson Ms Boroto, seconded by Mr Singh, the minutes of 27 October were adopted.

5. Matters arising

The Speaker reminded the meeting that the National Assembly Rules Committee was scheduled for Friday, 4 November, in order to consider, among other matters, Parliament's Implementation Plan on the Zondo Commission's Report into State Capture.

Consideration of reports emanating from Parliamentary Group on International Relations
House Chairperson Ms Boroto indicated that, even though the meeting resolved on the processes that should be followed, the Programming Whip provided an outline on the matter. Mr Xaso noted the House Chairperson's input and also clarified that the reports listed on the programme had already gone through the Parliamentary Group on International Relations (PGIR).

6. Report from Committee Section

Ms Giba presented an update on matters before committees as follows:

- The Agricultural Produce Agents Amendment Bill had been withdrawn in accordance with Assembly Rule 334
- The Standing Committee on Finance intended to finalise the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill on 3 November

Ms Giba also indicated that the Portfolio Committees on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and Employment and Labour intended to finalise reports on their comprehensive oversight work on the living and working conditions of farm workers, farm dwellers and farmers on 4 November.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition asked what the status of the Agricultural Produce Agents Amendment Bill, as the report was indicating that it had been withdrawn and at the same time reflected that it was before the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. Mr Xaso indicated that, in terms of the rules, a Minister may withdraw a Bill before Second Reading stage. Mr Bell clarified that the Agricultural Product Standards Amendment Bill was still before the Committee and should not be confused with the Agricultural Produce Agents Amendment Bill which had been withdrawn.

With regard to the Committee on Section 194 Inquiry which was considering a revised programme, which might impact on the aim to finish date of 25 November 2022, Mr Xaso explained that the committee had not been given a date for completion of its report by the House. The Committee had the power to determine its programme and to set its own deadlines regarding business before it.

In response to the Chief Whip of the Opposition on what would happen to legislation aimed for finalisation in November as well as which ones might not be finalised, Mr Xaso indicated that a report on the status of all the Bills would be presented in the next meeting. He said that the matter was receiving attention as the Speaker had written to the Leader of Government Business requesting an engagement on the legislative programme between the current period and the time Parliament would adjourn for the next Elections in 2024. House Chairperson Mr Frolick added that the report from the

Committee Section was comprehensive and that while the entire report was not usually presented in the meeting, the information was available. He said that he was continually in contact with chairpersons of committees for an update on the timeframes for processing of legislation hence there was a projection for finalisation of legislation towards the end of the year with a hope that some of them would still be considered by the House before the end of the term.

7. Report by Bills Office

Dr Mbatha presented a report on legislation before committees and indicated that the Deeds Registry Amendment Bill had been introduced. The Sectional Titles Amendment Bill had been sent to the President for assent, bringing to eight the total number of Bills that had been sent to the President for assent.

Mr Singh asked what were the timelines for assenting to Bills by the President. In terms of the process, Dr Koornhof explained that the President normally applies his mind independently by checking on the processes followed in Parliament as well as checking on compliance of legislation with the Constitution. There were no fixed timeframes, but the Presidency normally tried to process these matters as soon as possible.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

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

Consideration of Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports were scheduled for Tuesday, 8 November.

Questions for oral replies to the Governance and consideration of the Revised Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals were scheduled for Wednesday, 9 November.

Mini-plenaries were scheduled on Thursday, 10 November to consider motions from four parties. Topics from the Economic Freedom Fighters and Freedom Front Plus were still outstanding.

Dr Mulder indicated that a topic from his party would be made available after being finalised that morning by their caucus.

9. Announcements

Mr Xaso announced that the Rules Committee was scheduled to meet the next day at 11:00, virtually, and its agenda would include the report of the Subcommittee on Review of Rules.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 08:57.