



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 17 November 2022 [Virtual]

Present:

N N Mapisa-Nqakula (Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Mulder, Dr C P
Gwarube, S (Chief Whip of the Opposition)	Ntlangwini, E N
Hendricks, M G E	Papo, A H M (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)
Herron, B N	Shaik Emam, A M
Hunsinger, C H H	Shivambu, N F
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Singh, N
Kwankwa, N L S	Swart, S N
Lesoma, R M M (Programming Whip)	Wessels, W W
Lotriet, Dr A	Zungula, V
Majodina, P C P (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	

Staff in attendance:

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

1. Opening

The Speaker opened the meeting at 08:31 and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies from Deputy Speaker Mr S L Tsenoli and House Chairpersons Messrs C T Frolick and M L D Ntombela were tendered.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed, with the addition of item 'Timelines for the Section 89 motion' under the Programme item.

The Speaker clarified that she had given a detailed report on the circumstances regarding the extension of the panel's deadline at the meeting of the Chief Whips' Forum the previous day. The letter from the Chairperson of the panel had also been circulated to members.

Mr Singh requested that the presence of members of the Executive, in the Chamber during oral question time, should be discussed in the future. Some ministers were experiencing difficulties with the quality of their connection to the virtual platform and this impacted on them responding to questions.

4. Consideration of minutes of meeting of 10 November 2022

On the proposal of the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, seconded by the Programming Whip, the minutes of 10 November were adopted.

5. Matters arising

Mr Xaso indicated that the Programming Whip would provide an update on the request for a First Reading debate on the Relocation of the Seat of Parliament Bill. An update on the processing of the Electoral Amendment Bill would also be provided by the Committee Section.

6. Report from Committee Section

Ms Giba presented a report on legislation before committees and indicated that the Select Committee on Security and Justice was likely to propose amendments to the Electoral Amendment Bill. As a result, the Bill would be returned to the National Assembly for consideration by the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs around 30 November. The Bill was provisionally scheduled for consideration in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) on 29 November.

Ms Giba indicated that the following Bills had been finalised:

- Rates and Monetary Amounts Amendment Bill
- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill
- Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill

The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services did not finalise the Prevention of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill on 16 November as further submissions on the Bill were awaited. The Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities would be briefed by the department and state law advisor on the National Youth Development Agency Amendment Bill on 22 November, and continue with its programme in 2023.

With regards to the Electoral Amendment Bill, the Chief Whip of the Opposition asked if there would be an opportunity to consider the report on proposed amendments before the adjournment. Mr Xaso advised that it would not be ideal for the report of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs to be considered by the House on 1 December if it was only referred on 30 November, as members of the committee would require time to familiarise themselves with the proposed amendments. The Programming Whip would have to advise on scheduling of the matter during the Programme item.

7. Report by Bills Office

Dr Mbatha presented a report on legislation before committees and indicated that the four Bills that had been finalised by the Standing Committee on Finance were on the Order Paper for

Second Reading debate. The Bills Office was processing the second language texts of the Bills.

Mr Shivambu asked which committee would be processing the Relocation of the Seat of Parliament Bill and what were the timeframes for referral. Mr Xaso clarified that there was a view that the Bill would be referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure, but the matter was being discussed with legal services. The Bill would first have a First Reading debate, as requested by the sponsor Mr J S Malema, and referred to a committee afterwards in accordance with the rules of the Assembly.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

The Programming Whip advised the meeting on the following issues for consideration:

- Mini-plenaries would be scheduled once a suitable slot was identified but cautioned that there were only two weeks left before the National Assembly rose.
- The training on E-Disclosures for Members was scheduled for Monday, 21 November and training on E-Voting would be scheduled in 2023.
- First Reading debate on the Relocation of the Seat of Parliament Bill would be considered in a mini-plenary.

A plenary would be scheduled for 6 December in order to consider the Electoral Amendment Bill and Section 89 Independent Panel Report.

The Programming Whip also indicated that the following matters were scheduled for the forthcoming week:

Second Reading debate on the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing) Amendment Bill, consideration of Supplementary Report of Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities on Suitable candidates for filling of vacancies in Commission for Gender Equality and Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports (BRRRS) were scheduled for Tuesday, 22 November.

The Programming Whip also advised that there would be no declarations on the report regarding the Commission for Gender Equality, as it dealt with a technical issue, but the chairperson would introduce it.

Questions to the Economics cluster was scheduled for Wednesday, 23 November.

BRRRS were also scheduled for Thursday, 24 November.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party indicated that consideration should be given to scheduling of any other urgent business in the sitting of 6 December.

Mr Shivambu indicated that it would be premature to set 6 December as the last day of sittings, without knowing the recommendations of the Sec 89 Independent Panel. In response to the Chief Whip of the Opposition, Mr Xaso advised that the report of the panel would be published in the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Report prior to it being considered by the Assembly and a voting process applicable to a report would apply. Mr Singh indicated that it would assist if members could be advised about the starting time for the sitting on 6 December.

National Men's Parliament

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party asked what was the nature and objectives of the National Men's Parliament, which was scheduled for 21 and 22 November. She expressed concern in that there was an impression that this was an NCOP initiative and not a parliamentary sectoral

event. To that end, she asked which members in Parliament were expected to attend. Mr Xaso pointed out that the programme as well as explanatory notes on the event had been circulated to members earlier and the project was largely driven by the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP and the Deputy Speaker would have been involved but due to his current situation he had not been. The programme was driven by the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), but hosted by Parliament. It would be held in the NCOP Chamber. Mr Swart added that it was important to know who were the people behind the conference and indicated that it was regrettable that members had not been provided with the necessary information at this late stage.

Mr Xaso reaffirmed that detailed notes around the work that was normally done by SANAC as well as its involvement in the programme would be forwarded to members outside of the meeting. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party further asked who should be involved in the event as well as how Parliament should feature at all. The Speaker explained that her understanding was that the forum was attended by the Deputy Speaker in 2021, for instance, and that he and the Deputy Chairperson of the Council were normally at the centre of coordinating the conference in conjunction with SANAC. She also acknowledged that there were challenges with the unavailability of the Deputy Speaker and appealed that Mr Xaso should be allowed to provide the necessary notes on the matter before the end of the day.

The Programming Whip also presented the draft Parliamentary Programme Framework for 2023, for consideration by the Joint Programming Committee on 24 November. She indicated that, in the main, the Framework was taking into account time for plenaries, committees, dedicated oversight, constituency and leave periods. Key factors to be taken into consideration were the following:

- State of the Nation Address
- National Budget
- Budget Vote debates
- Main Appropriation Bill
- Sectoral Parliaments
- Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports/Annual Reports
- Medium Term Budget Policy Statement
- Adjustments Appropriation Bill

She also indicated that it was necessary for the programme of Parliament to create adequate space for members to undertake constituency work in preparation for the 2024 General Elections. As a result, the period of 19 June – 28 August 2023 could be identified for a prolonged constituency period.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:24.