



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

Chairperson:  
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:  
A Mbanga x 3218

**DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

Thursday, 20 April 2023 [Virtual]

Present:

N N Mapisa-Nqakula (Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Majodina, P C P (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)
Frolick, C T (House Chairperson)	Mkhaliphi, H O
Gwarube, S (Chief Whip of the Opposition)	Ntlangwini, E N
Hendricks, M G E	Ntombela, M L D (House Chairperson)
Herron, B N	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
Lotriet, Dr A	

Staff in attendance:

Secretary to Parliament 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 were tendered on behalf of Deputy Speaker Mr S L Tenoli and Mr S N Swart.

**3. Consideration of draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted, as proposed.

#### **4. Consideration of minutes of 16 March 2023**

On the proposal of the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, seconded by Mr Shaik Emam, the minutes of 16 March were adopted.

#### **5. Matters arising**

Mr Xaso provided feedback on the following matters:

##### *Electoral Amendment Bill*

The Bill had since been assented to by the President.

##### *Appointment of South African Broadcasting Corporation Board*

The President had since appointed the Board.

##### *National Gambling Amendment Bill*

Consultation with the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) on the processes that should be followed for establishment of a mediation committee were taking place.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party appealed to the Speaker that a follow up be made with the Office of the President on appointment of members to the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence as the committee was struggling to form a quorum during its meetings. The Speaker replied that the matter would be followed up but that it was possible that the delay was caused by vetting of candidates by the Security Stage Agency.

Mr Singh requested that members be apprised of the document on the Capacity of Committee Rooms, which had been circulated to members. Mr Xaso indicated that the document outlined 15 committee rooms available within the parliamentary precinct for use by committees, as well as their capacities. The list did not include Good Hope Chamber but also indicated which venues were hybrid enabled. Mr Xaso also advised that, for purposes of the forthcoming debates on Budget Votes which were scheduled to commence on 9 May, the Good Hope Chamber and S12A would be used and the sittings would be fully physical. Furthermore, Committee Rooms 1 and 2 in the Marks Building, which have a capacity of 72 people, were also under consideration as a back-up venue.

Mr Papo commended the administration on the implementation of the decision to make available committee rooms in Parliament and requested that meetings should be properly coordinated to ensure that there were no clashes with booking of committee rooms. He said the implication of that was that officials could be invited to a meeting where there was no quorum, resulting in a fruitless and wasteful expenditure for the department concerned. Political parties should encourage their members to attend meetings physically as the era of virtual sittings had ended. Mr Singh added that, in the following week, the administration should advise on what should happen during Budget Votes, as far as capacity was concerned as all members were expected to attend physically. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party reaffirmed that the Chief Whips' Forum (CWF) had agreed that all members should be encouraged to attend physical committee meetings in Parliament. With regards to Budget Votes, it had been agreed that they should be staggered and the capacity of venues should be taken into consideration. As a result, only members of that committee should be given preference when attending. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party also urged the Speaker to encourage parliamentary staff to come to work as some were last seen prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. She said that it was further agreed that Committee Section should make available a roster on scheduling of committees in order to avoid unnecessary clashes.

Ms Mkhalihi asked for a report that would clarify which committees were allowed to meet in hotels due to the limited venues in Parliament and reiterated that the institution should operate fully as it was also clear that there would be load shedding for a while when members were connecting virtually. The Speaker requested that a report on that matter should be considered at the level of the CWF. Mr Shaik Emam suggested that, given the challenges that Parliament was facing, consideration could be made on the entire block of flats that was up for sale in Roeland Street as a future option for venues, as it was situated directly opposite Parliament. The Chief Whip of the Opposition said that the physical attendance of the Budget Votes was a step in the right direction as it would also require Ministers to attend in person, adding that she hoped this would be extended to other sittings.

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

Ms Giba presented a report on legislation before committees and indicated that the National Health Insurance Bill, Climate Change Bill and Traditional Affairs General Amendment Bill, among others, would be finalised during April and June. Mr Xaso added that some committees had been briefed on Parliament's Implementation Plan to give effect to the Recommendations in the Report of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector, including Organs of State. Further discussions would be held with House Chairperson Mr Frolick on how the process should be considered going forward. The issues that pertain to the functioning of Parliament were before the Subcommittee on Rules, which was scheduled to meet the following day with a view to report to the Rules Committee, which was also going to meet in the following week.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition asked if there was feedback on the availability of Cabinet's Legislative Programme for 2023. Mr Xaso replied that the list had since been submitted and consisted of 42 Bills, 12 of which were prioritised. None of the Bills on the priority list had been introduced yet but discussions were taking place with the Bills Office with a view to advise the Speaker on the matter, regarding the timelines for introduction of such legislation. He said that as far engagements with the Leader of Government Business were concerned, he was aware that the Speaker had initial discussions on matters affecting Parliament.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party suggested that provision should be made for opportunities on consideration of reports on the State Capture Commission by relevant committees, similarly to the arrangement of mini-plenaries on Budget Votes. Furthermore, Parliament should endeavor to ensure that committees would be able to finalise their reports, as referred to them, prior to the adjournment of the Sixth Parliament. House Chairperson Mr Frolick advised that, during the workshop of Joint Chairpersons of Committees held recently, there were numerous inputs made by chairpersons on the matter, as well as the guidance on what was exactly referred to them. There were discussions at technical level on having meetings with chairpersons, some of whom had already been briefed on the aspect referred to their committee. He said that a comprehensive report would be made available in the next meeting. The relevant chairpersons of committee had also been requested to include the report in their quarterly progress reports, some of which had already been received and being implemented. The Speaker added that she was aware of the directive issued to

chairpersons on how this matter should be integrated within their programmes as she also attended the workshop.

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

Dr Mbatha presented a summary on the status of legislation and indicated that the Prevention of Illegal Eviction Amendment Bill, which is a private member's Bill, was on the Order Paper for First Reading. The Judicial Matters Amendment Bill had recently been introduced. She also indicated that the Merchant Shipping Bill.

In addition to the Electoral Amendment Bill as alluded to earlier, Dr Mbatha indicated that the following Bills had since been assented to by the President:

- Employment Equity Amendment Bill,
- Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Amendment Bill
- Second Adjustments Appropriation (2022/23 Financial Year) Bill

Mr Singh asked if there was an update on the Maintenance of Surviving Spouses Act, 1990 (Act No. 27 of 1990) and Intestate Succession Act, 1987 (Act No. 81 of 1987), which has a Constitutional Court deadline of 29 June 2023. He indicated that he doubted if the Judicial Matters Amendment Bill before the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, which was addressing the amendments, would be finalised on time after public participation prior to the deadline. Dr Mbatha replied that a report on the matter would be provided in the next meeting.

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

The Speaker indicated that 2023 marked 100 years since women were accepted into the legal profession. In order to commemorate that, she had requested the Programming Whip to advise on a suitable date for a special debate in celebration of that in the next meeting.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party presented the Parliamentary Programme for the Second Term and highlighted the following:

A Leave Period was set aside for the period of 24 – 28 April.

Plenaries and virtual mini-plenaries were scheduled to commence on 2 May.

Mini-plenaries on Budget Votes were scheduled to commence on 9 May.

Vote 2: Parliament was proposed for 30 May.

Vote 1: The Presidency, as well as the Reply thereon were scheduled for 31 May and 1 June, respectively.

Consideration of the Appropriation Bill, as well as Votes and Schedules, were proposed for 6 June, starting in the morning.

Questions to the President and Deputy President were scheduled for 11 and 25 May, respectively.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party also indicated that the period of 19 June – 28 August, had been set aside for Constituency Period, as well as the Voter Registration period of 18 – 19

November, in order for members to embark on preparations for the 2024 General Elections. Furthermore, there was consideration for scheduling of a Youth Parliament.

Mr Xaso informed the meeting that the time for the Joint Rules Committee, which was scheduled for 25 April, would be extended in order to consider the item of Framework for the amendment of Joint Rules, as requested by whips. In response to Dr Lotriet, he advised that time allocation for Budget Votes would be forwarded to political parties after the meeting. Mr Xaso also informed the meeting that Parliament and the Presidency Budget Votes would be held in the Good Hope Chamber in the normal hybrid sitting.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition asked, in preparation for the debate on Budget Vote, which cluster would the Minister of Electricity belong. Mr Xaso indicated that the matter would be outlined in the deliberations of the meeting of Rules Committee as it was part of the new ministries that had recently been announced.

The Parliamentary Programme for the Second Term was accordingly adopted.

## **9. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **10. Closure**

The meeting adjourned at 09:14.