



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga x 3218

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 14 September 2023 [Virtual]

Present:

N N Mapisa-Nqakula (Speaker)

S L Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Mkhaliphi, H O
Frolick, C T (House Chairperson)	Mulder, Dr C P
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)
Jafta, S M	Shaik Emam, A M
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Swart, S N
Kwankwa, N L S	Tseke, G K (Programming Whip)
Lotriet, Dr A T Lotriet	Wessels, W W
Majodina, P C P (Chief Whip of the Majority Party)	

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 08:30 and welcomed everyone present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of the Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party and Mr N Singh.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted, as proposed.

4. Consideration of minutes of 7 September 2023

On the proposal of the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, seconded by the Programming Whip, the minutes of 7 September were adopted with a correction that the Emperors Palace is in Kempton Park, not Johannesburg.

5. Matters arising

Mr Xaso provided feedback on the following matters:

Processing of the Judicial Service Commission's decision relating to a complaint brought by Justices of the Constitutional Court against Judge President M J Hlophe before the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services

In the previous meeting it was agreed that a determination should be made on what should happen to the matter. As there was no legal impediment for the matter being proceeded with, the meeting was advised that the Committee should proceed with consideration of the issue and determine its programme in terms of the powers provided to committees in the rules.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition asked what was outstanding for the Committee to finalise its report on the matter. House Chairperson Mr Frolick indicated that he had a discussion with the chairperson and a report on the way forward would be made available in due course. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party cautioned that Mr Swart should, in principle, refrain from trying to represent the interests of the Justice committee at the level of Programme Committee. Mr Swart had earlier indicated that the chairperson of the committee be consulted given the workload in that committee.

Mr Kwankwa proposed that the chat function on the platform be restored for discussions amongst members so as not to disrupt proceedings of the meeting. Mr Xaso advised that there had been reasons for disabling this function and further consideration should therefore be given to these reasons prior to enabling the function on the platform.

Consideration of the report on Recommendation of a person for appointment as Public Protector

The Cape Town City Hall was not available on 21 September and other possible venues were being explored. It was also noted that at least two committees were planning to travel internationally during this period. As a result, the Programme Committee should take a decision about having a physical sitting that day.

Mr Papo suggested that an alternative date should be looked at as the National Assembly was still within the timeframe of end October to fill the post. Ms Mkhalihi enquired when a report on the status of the buildings of Parliament would be made available and whether there were any plans for a suitable venue to be available by the start of the next Parliament. Ms Ntlangwini concurred with Ms Mkhalihi that it was important to have a look at the renovations that had already been started and suggested that other matters should also be scheduled for consideration on that day should a suitable venue be available, instead of only considering the report on appointment of a Public Protector. The Speaker indicated that the Chief Whips' Forum (CWF) had recently been briefed on developments around the restoration of buildings. If necessary, another meeting could be arranged.

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party said that she agreed with the sentiments that a suitable date within the timeframe for filling of the vacancy should be looked at in October.

It was AGREED that the report on the appointment of a Public Protector would be rescheduled for a suitable day in October. Furthermore, the programming team was to advise and secure venues for any other matters that could require physical sittings in the Fourth Term and that this should be done as early as possible.

Date for Medium Term Budget Policy State

The Speaker confirmed that the Medium Budget Policy Statement was scheduled for 1 November at the City Hall.

9th Brics Parliamentary Forum

The National Assembly would be sending 29 members in addition to the official delegation. Should members require additional information on the matter, a meeting could be arranged.

6. Report from Committee Section

Ms Giba presented a report on legislation before committees and indicated that the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services had finalised an interim report on permission for it to go beyond subject matter on the Cannabis for Private Purpose Bill. On statutory amendments, the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs had finalised its report on filling of a vacancy on the Electoral Commission.

7. Report by Bills Office

Dr Mbatha presented a report on legislation before Committees and indicated that the Judicial Matters Amendment Bill was on the Order Paper for consideration.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

The Programming Whip presented the Parliamentary Programme for the Third Term as follows:

On Tuesday, 19 September, consideration of Correctional Services Amendment Bill, Judicial Matters Amendment Bill, Public Administration Laws General Amendment Bill, Animals Protection Amendment Bill, Request for Approval of The 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Draft Notices on remuneration of Commissioners of Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) and Councillors of Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) were scheduled. The debate on Heritage Day under the theme 'Celebrating our cultural diversity in a democratic South Africa' was also scheduled for that day.

Questions to the Economics cluster as well as the report on filling of vacancy on the Electoral Commission were scheduled for Wednesday, 20 September.

Questions to the Deputy President were scheduled for Friday, 22 September, followed by Constituency Period on 26 September – 9 October.

As discussed earlier, the meeting would be advised on which matters could be scheduled for Thursday, 21 September in light of the fully physical sitting to consider the person for

appointment as Public Protector now being moved to October. The sitting would be in a hybrid format.

Mr Xaso added that the draft motions on the establishment of the ad hoc committee on General Intelligence Laws Amendment Bill and Report of the National Assembly Rules Committee on Funding of Political Parties would also be scheduled for consideration during the week.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition asked whether consideration could be given to reschedule questions to the Deputy President for Thursday, instead of Friday which she said was a Constituency Day. The Chief Whip of the Majority Party explained that the Office of Deputy President was already committed to that date and Friday was also a normal working day. She suggested that, in future, consideration should also be given to starting sittings in the mornings at 10:00 and matters that have deadlines should be prioritised. Ms Ntlangwini added that consideration could also be given to shortening the Constituency Period in order to schedule more issues so as to ease the workload.

It was AGREED that, due to the number of orders scheduled for 19 September, some of the items would be rescheduled for Thursday.

The Speaker informed the meeting that, following the adoption of the report of Committee on Section 194 Enquiry on Recommendation for Removal of Adv B Mkhwebane from the Office of Public Protector, she had notified the President accordingly. The President had replied and this reply was published in the Announcements Tablings and Committee Reports document of 13 September.

9. Announcements

Mr Xaso reminded the meeting that mini-plenaries scheduled for Thursday and Friday were virtual.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:18.