



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee Secretary:
A Mbanga

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 26 October 2023 [Virtual]

Present:

S L Tsenoli (Deputy Speaker)

Boroto, M G (House Chairperson)	Mulder, Dr C P
Frolick, C T (House Chairperson)	Ntombela, M L D (House Chairperson)
Gwarube, S (Chief Whip of the Opposition)	Papo, A H M (Parliamentary Counsellor to the Deputy President)
Herron, B N	Shaik Emam, A M
Koornhof, Dr G W (Parliamentary Counsellor to the President)	Singh, N
Kwankwa, N L S	Swart, S N
Loate, T	Tseke, G K (Programming Whip)
Mkhaliphi, H O	

Staff in attendance:

Ms T Lyons (NA Table), Ms N Giba (Committees) and Dr T Mbatha (Constitutional and Legal Services Office).

1. Opening

The Deputy Speaker, as Acting Speaker, opened the meeting at 08:33 and welcomed everyone present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of the Speaker Ms N N Mapisa-Nqakula, Chief Whip of the Majority Party Ms P C P Majodina and Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party Ms D E Dlakude.

3. Consideration of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted, as proposed, with the addition of streaming services of proceedings under the Programme item.

4. Consideration of minutes of 19 October 2023

Mr Singh indicated that he had forwarded his apology to a staff member at the National Assembly Table and requested that his apology for the previous meeting be noted in the minutes.

On the proposal of Mr Swart, seconded by the Programming Whip, the minutes of 19 October were adopted.

5. Matters arising

Ms Lyons provided feedback on the following matters:

Referral of National Gambling Bill to the Mediation Committee

The Speaker had written to the Leader of Government Business in view of the lapse of time since the Bill was introduced in August 2018, requesting the Executive to confirm the desirability of Parliament proceeding with the Bill.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

A report on the matter was sent to House Chairperson Mr Frolick by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, indicating that the Minister was to report back to the Committee and provide an update on the engagements with WADA and timelines.

House Chairperson Mr Frolick added that he had discussed the matter with the Minister and an amendment Bill was in its final stages of preparation for introduction in Parliament.

Condolences for the late Prince M G Buthelezi

Mr Singh informed the meeting that Inkatha Freedom Party would be hosting a memorial service for Prince M Buthelezi on 9 November at St Georges Cathedral. Official invitations to everyone would be sent in due course.

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 intended to finalise its report on filling of vacancies in the South African Human Rights Commission on 21 November. On 21 and 24 October, the Committee also deliberated on written submissions received on the matter of Judge President M J Hlophe and Judge N Motata.

Ms Giba also indicated that the *Ad Hoc* Joint Committee on Flood Disaster Relief and Recovery intended to finalise its report on 21 November.

7. Report by Bills Office

Dr Mbatha presented a report on legislation before Committees and indicated that the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness, Response and Cooperation) Bill was on the Order Paper for

consideration. The Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Amendment Bill had been returned to the National Assembly due to proposed amendments from the National Council of Provinces.

In response to the Chief Whip of the Opposition on the timelines for consideration of the matter of Judge President Hlophe, Ms Giba explained that it was not yet clear when the Justice committee would finalise its report, but an update would be provided as soon as available.

8. Consideration of draft Parliamentary programme

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

On Tuesday 31 October, the Second Reading debate on the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Bill, consideration of reports on filling of vacancies on the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) Board and Councillors of Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) Council, as well as the draft notice for salaries and allowances payable to Commissioners of the Commission for Gender Equality were scheduled.

The Minister of Finance would be tabling the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) on Wednesday, 1 November at the City Hall.

Questions for Oral Reply to the President were scheduled for Thursday, 2 November.

Consideration of reports on Budgetary Review and Recommendation Reports (BRRRs) were scheduled as from 7 November.

Ms Lyons informed the meeting that communication on the breakdown of allocation of seats for their guests had been sent to political parties. Correspondence detailing practical arrangements for the MTBPS would also be sent to Members in due course. These were similar to the arrangements that took place at the City Hall on 19 October, apart from additional arrangements for accreditation of guests. In addition, members of the Standing Committees on Appropriations and Finance would have their lock-up venues at the City Hall.

Ms Lyons also advised that a motion would be placed on the Order Paper for consideration of BRRRs on Tuesday which limits the time for making a declaration on any to not more than two minutes. This motion was in line with the practice that had been implemented in the previous years.

Mr Singh asked whether the 40 minutes for condolences on 7 November was the normal allocation as it seemed not enough. Ms Lyons replied that it was the normal allocation and proposed that the matter could be taken outside of the meeting if there was a view that additional time was required.

Streaming services of proceedings

The Chief Whip of the Opposition indicated that a situation was experienced during the week whereby the parliamentary streaming service was offline. As a result, there was concern in that there were mini-plenaries scheduled for Friday which were meeting concurrently, plenaries and committees that were meeting virtually that were not being streamed without an explanation from Parliament. Furthermore, due to the hybrid situation, it was critical to have a sense on how long the streaming 'blackout' would last so as to respond accordingly to queries from the public. House Chairperson Mr Frolick replied that it was the first time that the Chief Whip of the Opposition was raising the matter but indicated that he was aware of communication received from the Press Gallery Association (PGA) addressed to the Secretary to Parliament, Divisional Manager of Communications as well as to his office on the matter. He suggested that the Committee await a report that would advise on what where the challenges but clarified that there were certain services in place and cautioned against casting aspersions on the leadership of Parliament or by inferring some intentions in the institution in alleging that there was a 'blackout' of proceedings in Parliament, which he said was the same tone used by the PGA.

Mr Papo said that he agreed that a report should be made available on some of the glitches that were experienced in certain meetings that were not streamed but stated that generally National Assembly plenaries were normally being streamed. The Acting Speaker appealed that the meeting should await the report.

9. Announcements

The Deputy Speaker informed the meeting that Presiding Officers and party leaders were invited by the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) to a presentation of the Atlas of Results for the 2019 National and Provincial Elections on 10 November 2023 from 09:30 – 11:00. Full details would be communicated to parties in due course.

10. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 09:02.