REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2024

1. The Council met at 14:00.

2. The Chairperson took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

3. The Chairperson announced that the hybrid sitting constituted a sitting of the National Council of Provinces.

4. [14:01] Notices of motions.

5. [14:11] Ms J S Mananiso moved without notice: That the Council-

   (1) notes with appreciation the celebrations and commemoration of the disability month held by the Itumeleng Learners with Special Educational Needs (LSEN) School, on 9 November 2024;

   (2) further notes that the event was meant to empower the learners through displaying the items they have produced to their parents and the community at large, and bring awareness to the different abilities of children with disabilities;

   (3) recognises that the event was attended by different stakeholders who play different roles in disability awareness and support to the school; and

   (4) takes this opportunity to congratulate the management of the school, the School Governing Body and the students of Itumeleng LSEN School on an informative and successful program.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

6. [14:16] Mr M Feni moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes with utmost concern the decision by the Department of Basic Education to allow provinces their matric examination papers through private printers instead of using the state-owned GPW printers;

(2) acknowledges that while there is a need for the Department of Basic Education to strengthen security systems to prevent the leaking of matric examination papers, the decision to allow provinces to use their private printers, which has massively increased the cost of printing from less than R1 billion to more than R3.6 billion is unjustifiably and unwarrantedly too high under the current budget constraints;

(3) further acknowledges while provinces are required to use their printing presses in terms of the norms and standards for printing issued by the Department of Basic Education, the failure to use financially viable printing options such as the state-owned GPW printers and implementing robust cost control measures will create avenues for corruption and price gauging by unscrupulous provinces and officials; and

(4) calls on the Minister of Basic Education and the various MECs for Education to ensure that they implement prudent financial systems and control measures to manage the escalating cost of the printing, transportation, storage and security of matric examination papers.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

7. [14:19] Mr N Gotsell moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes that the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve coastline was awarded Green Coast status for the fifth time this year by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA);

(2) notes that South Africa’s first Green Coast Status was awarded to the City of Cape Town’s Blaauwberg Nature Reserve in 2018, and since then was awarded annually in recognition of the City’s commitment to preserving the unique flora and fauna along its coastline;

(3) notes that the Green Coast Status complements the International Blue Flag programme as it allows municipalities to sustainably manage coastal sites outside of traditionally developed swimming beaches;

(4) notes that this achievement comes as a result of the City’s Environmental Management Department and its implementing partner, the Friends of Blaauwberg Conservation Area, sparing no effort in actively monitoring, maintaining and ensuring the accessibility of this coastline, while providing opportunities for environmental education, sustainable tourism and the empowerment of local communities;

(5) commends the WESSA Green Coast Programme which aims to empower local communities through incentivising effective conservation and environmental education initiatives; and

(6) further commends the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve for its ongoing commitment to conserving and monitoring its sensitive coastal areas, for maintaining the high standard set out by the WESSA Green Coast criteria and for continuing to educate and empower local communities.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

8. [14:23] Ms M Dhlamini moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes with devastation that on 5 November 2024, a bridge collapsed and damaged several cars in Manzimtoti, KwaZulu-Natal;

(2) also notes that the collapse of the bridge on the N2 South was caused by heavy rainfalls that were accompanied by thunderstorms in the province;

(3) further notes that a day before, a family was severely injured during a thunderstorm in Umgungundlovu in the same province; and

(4) calls on Disaster Management authorities to be on high alert, especially in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

9. [14:24] Ms N P Mcinga moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes that shack settlements and inhumane settlements, “amagali”, “amabobosi”, “amatyotyombe”, “blikhuise”, are a daily reality for thousands of people across the country;

(2) further notes that section 26(1) of the Constitution stipulates that everyone has the right of access to adequate housing; whilst section 26(2) goes on further to provide that the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right;

(3) recognise that millions of poor and vulnerable people across the country face significant challenges in accessing adequate housing and other basic services including water, sanitation, electricity, and refuse removal;

(4) further recognises that in Cape Town, Buffalo City Municipality and in many other urban centres and provinces, there still exists numerous shack dwelling communities who struggle daily with no access to proper sanitation, clean water, or electricity;

(5) acknowledges that RDP housing was supposed to be the answer for many homeless South Africans; however a large number of houses built by government over the past three decades, has been inadequate due to shady tender procurements;

(6) further acknowledges that shack settlements continue to grow in South Africa, and the GNU government is neglecting the rate and scale at which these shack-dwelling settlements are growing; this a daily reminder of the failures of our government to address this crisis; and

(7) calls on the Minister of Human Settlements to increase the pace at which houses are built for the poor and clear all housing backlogs and corruption.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

10. [14:26] Mr S P Mabilo moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes that on 7 November 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa officiated the auspicious occasion of the unveiling of the statue of King Shaka ka-Senzangakhona, at King Shaka International Airport in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal;

(2) also notes that this statue was erected to honour the life and legacy of King Shaka, a visionary leader who was courageous and united the Zulu people;

(3) further notes that iSilo Samabandla belongs to the group of great warrior kings and queens who took up the spear of resistance against colonial invaders; long before we waged the struggle for our liberation from apartheid rule; and

(4) congratulates the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the Department of Transport and the Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) for fulfilling their undertaking to erect this memorial in honour of iSilo.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

11. [14:27] Mr J H P Britz moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) commemorates all the brave people who laid down their lives for their beliefs and ideals in wars within and beyond the frontiers of our beloved country;

(2) also notes that the international Remembrance Day takes place on 11 November every year; and

(3) calls on this House to honor their memory and commitment to our freedom.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

12. [14:28] Mr M P Sibande moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes that on 11 November 2024, it was the birthday of the iconic South African Artist, Dr Esther Nikwambi Mahlangu;

(2) also notes that Dr Mahlangu is well known for her bold large-scale contemporary paintings referencing her Ndebele heritage. was born on 11

November 1935, in a farm located outside of Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province;

(3) acknowledges that her artistic work is celebrated worldwide and has collaborated with international companies and her work commissioned by international museums; these include BMW, Rolls-Royce, Belvedere Vodka and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; and

(4) further acknowledges that Dr Mahlangu has received numerous honours; these include the South African Order of Ikamanga (in Silver) in 2006, the first United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), South Africa NGO and Multi-Stakeholder Award in 2019, and several honorary degrees of local and international universities; and

(5) wishes her to live long and enjoy good health.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

13. [14:32] Mr M G Modise moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes that the Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi has announced that the province will implement the new by-law and regulations for the operation of spaza shops and re-register tuckshops, following the deaths of 23 children due to foodborne illnesses across the province;

(2) further notes that the MEC for Finance and Economic Development and all Members of the Mayoral Committee will develop a template of re-registration for businesses, especially those that were involved in illness and deaths of children;

(3) observes that the provincial government has admitted that it is aware that the informal sector is a vital component of the economy and addresses poverty, unemployment and inequality but has the responsibility to trade by legal requirements and in a manner that promotes public health and safety; and

(4) takes this opportunity to congratulates the Gauteng government for its uniform approach in dealing with this health scare and send our condolences to the families that have lost their loved ones.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

14. [14:34] Ms S M Mokoena moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes and recognises the devastating crisis of gender-based violence (GBV) that plague our society;

(2) also notes that the violence which primarily targets women, children, and persons with disabilities, has reached epidemic proportions;

(3) acknowledges that the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November to 10 December 2024, is a sobering reminder of how much work remains to end this scourge;

(4) also acknowledges that while we honour the resilience of GBV survivors, we must also confront the painful reality that our collective efforts have yet to stop this violence and that the time for real action is now;

(5) notes with concern that the numbers are staggering, yet this government continues to let down South Africa's most vulnerable;

(6) also notes that in 2022/2023, SAPS crime statistics reported approximately 10,000 women murdered and over 50,000 cases of assault against women and that one in five women has experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner according to a 2023 report from Stats SA;

(7) further notes that children remain vulnerable, with over 8,000 cases of sexual offenses and more than 13,000 cases of assault reported; child trafficking is also on the rise, with children making up 60% of trafficking victims according to a 2023 UNICEF report; and

(8) notes that disabled people, especially women and children, face heightened abuse risks and they are twice as likely to experience physical abuse and sexual violence, lacking access to necessary support structures according to a report on SABC News in 2023.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

15. [14:36] Ms O D Medupi moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes with profound sorrow and sadness the passing of Mandisa Monakali, a key voice in today's gender-based violence discourse;

(2) also notes that 30 years ago she founded and was the Executive Director of Ilitha Labantu;

(3) further notes that she was also a survivor of domestic violence and was driven by the desire to see women and children protected from any form of violence;

(4) further notes that her impact extended far beyond the borders of South Africa as Mandisa was a global advocate for women's rights, representing our nation at international conferences and bringing attention to pressing issues such as gender equality, human rights, and peace; and

(5) sends our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all those who had the honour of knowing and working alongside her.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

16. [14:37] Mr M M Peter moved without notice: That the Council-

(1) notes that the 45-year-old Siphosoxolo Myekethe who allegedly orchestrated the murder of 18 people in Lusisikisi, was released on parole on 2 May 2023,

after serving more than 21 years for life imprisonment on charges of murder and armed robbery;

(2) further notes that according to the South African Department of Correctional Services, more than 65% of parolees return to prison within two years, which shows the poor parole board system that often results to the release of un-rehabilitated convicts;

(3) condemns the parole release of convicts of schedule 8 offences, which includes rape and murder as they are more likely to commit more crimes;

(4) notes that the current rehabilitation centre process in the correctional services does not provide effect guidance for the offenders to be back in communities;

(5) blames the department of correctional services as these incidents involving parolees reoffending underscore a stark reality that our correctional system is failing to prepare inmates for life beyond prison walls;

(6) acknowledges that the crisis demands urgent reform to address the systemic weaknesses that not only undermine successful reintegration but also jeopardise the safety of our communities; and

(7) calls upon the Department of Correctional Services to prioritize investment in better facilities and infrastructure to enable a thorough rehabilitative setting and instill stricter parole regulations which would not include schedule 8 offenders.

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

17. [14:40] The Council debated the following subject: Infrastructure development in local government as the only path to viable municipalities.

Debate concluded.

18. The Council adjourned at 18:09.

X GEORGE
Secretary to Parliament