

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
PROVINCES**

TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025

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. [14:02] Notices of motions.
5. [14:12] Mr K M Mmoiemang moved without notice: That the Council-
 - (1) notes with utmost humility and exhilaration the appointment of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Thoko Didiza as the President of the Africa Group in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which is a Geopolitical Group of all Members of the African Content in the IPU;
 - (2) acknowledges the appointment of Honourable Didiza, who is currently leading South Africa's parliamentary delegation to the 150th IPU in Tashkent, Uzbekistan;
 - (3) further acknowledges that her appointment stands as a testament to her exemplary leadership, stewardship and unwavering commitment to the advancement of the ideals of peace, development and co-operation on the African continent, and
 - (4) takes this opportunity to congratulate and wish Honourable Didiza well as she undertakes the critical responsibility of leading the Africa Geopolitical Group

in the IPU to remain at the forefront of advancing the African agenda of a prosperous, integrated, and peaceful continent.

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

6. [14:22] Ms K R Molokomme moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with dismay that no person has yet to face the wrath of the law for the building collapse in George, Western Cape on the 6 May 2024;
- (2) further notes that this tragedy claimed 34 lives and to date no one has been held accountable;
- (3) acknowledges that a report into the incident found that while the materials used in the construction were of good quality, the building's structure was not designed to support the weight of the building; and
- (4) calls on the Minister of Human Settlements to release the full report and the police to act against all those who are criminally liable.

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

7. [14:26] Ms M Makesini moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes that the City of Tshwane has taken a progressive and commendable step by approving a policy that grants special leave to employees undergoing "ukuthwasa" the sacred and ancestral calling to become traditional healers;
- (2) further notes that this policy affirms the dignity, cultural identity, and spiritual responsibilities of African people, which have long been undermined and marginalized under colonial and capitalist systems;
- (3) acknowledges that the Traditional Healers Organisation has rightfully welcomed this decision and has called upon other organs of state and private institutions to follow suit;
- (4) recognises that the cultural and spiritual practices such as "ukuthwasa" are not only legitimate but are a foundation to the identity and well-being of many African workers across this country.
- (5) applauds the City of Tshwane for leading with revolutionary consciousness and affirming African spiritual practices in the workplace;
- (6) calls upon all municipalities, provincial governments, national departments, and private sector employers to adopt similar progressive policies that recognize and protect African identity in its totality; and
- (7) reaffirms the importance of traditional healing, African spirituality, and the decolonisation of workplace policies across South Africa.

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

8. [14:29] Mr M M Peter moved without notice: That the Council-
- (1) notes with deep concern the tragic incident that occurred at KwaKomani Technical High School, where a Grade 12 learner suffered severe injuries during a woodwork class, resulting in the loss of three fingers, highlighting the serious failure in ensuring learner safety in technical education;
 - (2) further notes that the school reportedly lacked sufficient safety equipment for its learners, with only two goggles, no gloves, and 15 helmets for a class of 25, underscoring a systemic failure in safety protocols;
 - (3) emphasises the critical importance of technical education in South Africa, as it forms the foundation of a skilled workforce necessary for economic development;
 - (4) requests that learners must be properly safeguarded to succeed in these environments;
 - (5) condemns the failure of the Department of Basic Education to ensure the proper provision of safety measures and equipment in technical schools, and the lack of adequate supervision and oversight which put the life and future of the learner at risk;
 - (6) calls on the Department of Basic Education to urgently investigate the incident, equip all technical schools with the necessary protective gear and tools, implement robust safety protocols, provide immediate and ongoing medical care and psycho-social support to the injured learner, and ensure adequate academic support to allow him to complete his final examinations.

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

9. [14:30] Ms M M Bains moved without notice: That the Council-
- (1) notes that 7 April marked World Health Day with a focus on maternal and newborn health;
 - (2) further notes that this annual event, marking the anniversary of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) founding in 1948, aims to raise awareness about critical health issues and promote health equity globally;
 - (3) acknowledges that this year's theme, "Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures", launches a year-long campaign dedicated to improving the health and well-being of mothers and their newborns;
 - (4) recognises that globally, approximately 300,000 women die annually due to pregnancy or childbirth, while over two million babies die within their first month of life, and around two million more are stillborn; and
 - (5) calls on the Department of Health to increase access to essential maternal and child healthcare.

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

10. [14:36] Ms D W Fienies moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes that the month of April is observed as a World Autism Month, dedicated to increasing understanding, acceptance, and support for the Autistic Community;
- (2) further notes that 2 April is observed as World Autism Awareness Day, and is recognised by the United Nations, and this year the theme was “Advancing Neuro-diversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals “;
- (3) acknowledges that Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that affects social interactions, communication, and behaviour; and
- (4) calls on the Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities to continue with their plans of including matters of Neuro-diversity conditions and Neurological disorders in the new legislation.

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

11. [14:39] Ms O D Medupe moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes that “Opeation Shanela” continues to make commendable progress in the fight against crime, with 13,633 suspects having been arrested through the multi-disciplinary operation;
- (2) further notes that several takedowns and major drug busts were recorded which include the confiscation of R50 million worth of crystal meth during an intelligence driven operation in Aliwal North in the Eastern Cape;
- (3) acknowledges the major success in the interception of a truck and vehicle car hijacking syndicate in which four suspects were arrested; and
- (4) calls on the police to continue with this operation to ensure that we deal with crime decisively.

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

12. ORDER OF THE DAY [14:41]

Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Public Infrastructure and Ministries in Presidency (Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, 4 December 2024, p 36) **Oversight visit to KwaZulu - Natal Province from 23 to 25 October 2024, dated 04 December 2024.**

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be agreed to.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West and Western Cape.

Report accordingly agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

13. [14:55] The Council debated the following subject :31 years of democracy:
Commemorating 31 years of collective efforts to build a new society rooted in the ideals of the Freedom Charter.
14. The Council adjourned at 18:16.

Xolile George
Secretary to Parliament