

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY 2026

1. The Council met at 14:03.
2. The House Chairperson for Committees took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.
3. The House Chairperson for Committees announced that the hybrid sitting constituted a sitting of the National Council of Provinces.
4. [14:05] The Chief Whip of the Council moved: That, in terms of Rule 36(2) and, in the interest of enhancing public participation, conducting oversight and providing a platform for consideration of issues affecting provinces as provided for in section 42(4) and 72(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, the Council –
 - (1) resolves to, from 12 to 15 May 2026, conduct public hearings, hold meetings, conduct oversight visits and sit in plenary in the province of the North West on 15 May 2026; and
 - (2) notes that the estimated cost of effecting the change in venue and maintaining it for the specified period will be approximately R15 000 000.00.

Question put: That the motion be agreed to.

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

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

5. [14:10] Notices of motion.

6. [14:11] Ms K R Molokomme moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes that, on 22 April 2026, President Cyril Ramaphosa, joined by His Majesty King Letsie III and His Excellency the Rt Honourable Samuel Matekane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, officiated and co-launched the opening of the Senqu Bridge in Mokhotlong, Kingdom of Lesotho;
- (2) further notes that the inauguration of the bridge represents a landmark achievement under Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) and stands as a testament to the enduring partnership and close cooperation between the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa;
- (3) acknowledges that Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is a multi-phased, binational infrastructure initiative established in terms of the 1986 Treaty between the two countries, as well as the Phase II Agreement concluded in 2011; and
- (4) takes this opportunity to congratulate the South African and Lesotho governments for building the Senqu Bridge, which is the largest of three major bridges being built to span the Polihali Reservoir, at a cost of approximately R2.4 billion,

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

7. [14:13] Ms S Boshoff moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with serious concern the dangerous condition of the R540 between Lydenburg and Dullstroom, which has once again deteriorated to a state that is placing lives at risk and severely impacting tourism and economic activity in the area;
- (2) further notes that the road had previously been repaired, but due to the collapse of the R36, heavy vehicles are now being rerouted onto the R540, causing further destruction to an already struggling road network;
- (3) acknowledges that Members of Parliament from Mpumalanga in the NCOP previously undertook oversight on this road and raised concerns regarding its condition and the risks posed to road users;
- (4) further acknowledges that both roads now fall under the responsibility of the South African National Roads Agency Limited and that a lack of funding is being cited as the reason for delayed intervention;
- (5) recognises that motorists are being forced to stand alongside the road repairing damaged tyres because of the extent of the road damage, creating a serious safety risk for all road users; and
- (6) resolves to call on the Minister of Transport and SANRAL to urgently intervene with immediate repairs and a clear plan to stabilize both the R540 and R36 before further lives are placed at risk.

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

8. [14:15] Mr M F Mokwele moved without notice: That the Council –
- (1) notes that, on 4 May 2026, the National Department of Health has confirmed a rare Hantavirus case in a critically ill British national in South Africa;
 - (2) further notes the patient was a passenger aboard the cruise ship MV Hondius, which was travelling to the Canary Islands via Cape Verde from Argentina;
 - (3) further notes that this is one case in a contingent of some 150 passengers on the ship that went past several islands, including mainland Antarctica, Falklands, South Georgia, Nightingale Island, Tristan, St Helena and Ascension; and
 - (4) takes this opportunity to call on the Department of Health to work with the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and Gauteng Health Department authorities to conduct contact tracing to stop the potential spread of the virus by identifying and monitoring individuals who may have been exposed to the infected person(s).

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

9. [14:17] Mr M P Sibande moved without notice: That the Council –
- (1) debates government support to South Africa's informal economic sector, as they play an important role in the economy of the country;
 - (2) further notes that according to the latest data from Statistics South Africa, informal sector employment accounted for 19,5% of total employment in the fourth quarter of 2024; and
 - (3) acknowledges that the informal sector is predominantly composed of black people, who make up 88,9% of informal business owners, with the majority being women.

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

10. [14:19] Mr P Noe moved without notice: That the Council –
- (1) notes the rapidly changing global economy and geo-politics, which continue to deepen inequality between the rich countries of the North and the poor countries of the South, and perpetuate the marginalisation of Africa from the global economy;
 - (2) further notes the rise of economic nationalism and the dangers of trade barriers through tariff wars;
 - (3) acknowledges that Africa continues to be the poorest continent in the world despite its rich endowment with natural and human resources; and

- (4) believes that the acceleration of the political and economic integration of Africa remains the key strategic defence against its continued marginalisation in the global economy.

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

11. [14:20] Mr M K Montwedi moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with concern, that for nearly two years the Department of Employment and Labour in Klerksdorp has been operating from a municipal hall and is only able to provide services one day per week, resulting in thousands of workers, jobseekers, UIF claimants and Compensation Fund beneficiaries being turned away without assistance;
- (2) further notes that during the NCOP Select Committee oversight visit from 20 –24 April 2026, officials informed Parliament that the tender documentation for the lease of permanent office accommodation has been sitting in the Minister’s office for more than a year;
- (3) acknowledges that this delay has resulted in a collapse of service delivery in Matlosana, where workers cannot access UIF and Compensation Fund services, employers cannot process compliance matters and vulnerable residents must travel long distances for basic assistance;
- (4) recognises that the Public Finance Management Act and national supply chain regulations explicitly prohibit Ministers from participating in, influencing or interfering with procurement processes;
- (5) calls upon the DA Minister of Public Works to urgently account to Parliament on:
 - (i) why the tender documentation has been in his office for more than a year;
 - (ii) whether this constitutes interference in procurement processes;
 - (iii) what internal failures within the Department have caused the delay;
 - (iv) what immediate steps will be taken to unblock the process; and
 - (v) when the people of Klerksdorp can expect a fully functional Labour Centre; and
- (6) resolves that the House condemns the continued lack of accountability that has paralysed service delivery at the office the Department of Employment and Labour in Klerksdorp and demands urgent corrective action.

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

12. [14:22] Ms D W Fienies moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes that yesterday, 5 May 2026, the world celebrated the African World Heritage Day;
- (2) further notes that African World Heritage Day as proclaimed by the 38th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2015, is an opportunity for people around the world, particularly Africans, to celebrate the continent's unique cultural and natural heritage;
- (3) acknowledges that the Deputy President, His Excellency Mr Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile, delivered the keynote address at the commemorative event hosted by the African World Heritage Fund, in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC), held in Midrand, Gauteng Province; and
- (4) takes this opportunity to call on the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) to strengthen collaborations to ensure Africa's heritage is preserved, valued, and leveraged for shared prosperity.

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

13. [14:24] Ms L P Mhlongo moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with grave concern the recent escalation of public unrest and community marches across KwaZulu-Natal, arising from widespread frustrations relating to illegal immigration, increasing pressure on already strained public services, and perceived weaknesses in law enforcement and immigration control;
- (2) also notes that the continued absence of decisive and co-ordinated government intervention has contributed to declining public confidence and an increasing perception that the rule of law is not being consistently enforced;
- (3) further notes that unmanaged illegal immigration continues to place undue strain on essential public services, including education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, with a disproportionate impact on vulnerable South African citizens;
- (4) calls upon the Department of Home Affairs to urgently implement clear, visible and time-bound interventions to restore integrity to the immigration system, including strengthened verification processes, improved documentation systems and intensified enforcement operations;
- (5) further calls upon the Border Management Authority to urgently reinforce border security measures to curb unlawful entry into the Republic and ensure effective control of national borders;
- (6) demands full accountability from all relevant departments for identified shortcomings in monitoring, enforcement and coordination;
- (7) further calls for decisive consequence management where negligence or dereliction of duty is established; and

- (8) resolves that the government must urgently engage affected communities, particularly in areas experiencing heightened pressure, in order to address legitimate grievances, rebuild public trust and ensure that all interventions are carried out strictly within the framework of the Constitution, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

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

14. [14:26] Mr P A Phala moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes that on 27 April 2026, South Africa celebrated its ‘Independence Day’, known as Freedom Day;
- (2) further notes that on this day we commemorate the nation's first non-racial democratic elections held on April 27, 1994, which marked the end of the evil apartheid system, the fall of white minority rule, and the election of Nelson Mandela as the first Black President;
- (3) acknowledges that this was the triumph of democracy, equality and unity over decades of racial segregation and oppression; and
- (4) takes this opportunity to call on all South Africans to unite behind the vision to create a non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous nation.

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

15. [14:27] Dr I Scheurkogel moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes that BlindSA and differently able rights advocacy groups have for years called for accessible prepaid electricity and water meters for visually impaired South Africans;
- (2) further notes that the technology to make these meters accessible already exists, but that implementation has been delayed by a lack of political will, accountability, and inclusive procurement;
- (3) recognises that visually impaired South Africans should be able to independently purchase, load and monitor their own electricity and water usage without relying on others;
- (4) believes that denying the visually impaired independent access to essential municipal services is discriminatory and undermines their dignity, equality and constitutional rights;
- (5) calls on national, provincial and local government, together with municipalities and service providers, to ensure that all future prepaid electricity and water meter systems are accessible to blind and visually impaired customers; and
- (6) further calls on the Ministry of Electricity to introduce clear timelines, accountability mechanisms and minimum accessibility standards so that no

South African is excluded from basic services because of being differently able.

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

16. [14:31] Mr S A Zulu moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with concern the findings of the Department of Water and Sanitation's Blue Drop Report 2024, which indicate that 46 percent of drinking water systems are in a poor or critical condition, thereby placing millions of citizens at risk;
- (2) further notes that this situation undermines the realisation of section 27 of the Constitution, with rural communities, schools and healthcare facilities being the most severely affected;
- (3) further notes the operational and resource constraints faced by municipal water service providers in maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure; and
- (4) calls upon the Minister of Water and Sanitation to:
 - (i) publish, within 30 days, a public dashboard detailing water quality compliance per municipality;
 - (ii) table before Parliament a fully costed intervention plan, including clear timelines, aimed at restoring all critical water systems to be compliant by 31 March 2027, together with regular progress reports to Parliament.

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

17. [14:35] Mr B S Mabebo moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with concern the proliferation of violent attacks against law enforcement officers;
- (2) further notes that criminals are reported to use high-calibre automatic rifles in most of these attacks;
- (3) believes that these attacks not only undermine the rule of law, but also erode the confidence of the people in the legitimate authority and capacity of the state to protect them; and
- (4) takes this opportunity to condemn these heinous crimes and call on our law enforcement agencies to leave no stone unturned by hunting and bringing these criminal syndicates to book.

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

18. [14:36] Ms J S Mananiso moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with pride how community partnership across political and religious divides in Vosloorus has culminated in the safe return of Mr Mazwi Kubheka, a shop owner who was reported to have been kidnapped by the criminal syndicates;
- (2) further notes that Mr Kubheka's kidnappers released him after massive and united community protests demanding his safe return, working side by side with the law enforcement agencies;
- (3) acknowledges that this has demonstrated the power of police-community collaboration in the fight against crime; and
- (4) textends its profound appreciation to the community leaders in Vosloorus and the management of the SAPS for this courageous and inspiring effort.

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

19. FIRST ORDER [14:38]

Consideration of **Consolidated Report on NCOP Provincial Week: 18 – 21 November 2025: “Building viable municipalities for enhanced delivery of basic services to communities”** (Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, 27 March 2026, p 7).

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

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

Report accordingly adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

Debate concluded.

20. The Council adjourned at 18:10.

Xolile George
Secretary to Parliament