REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

TUESDAY, 18 MAY 2021

1. The Council met at 10:01.

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 virtual sitting constituted a Sitting of the National Council of Provinces.

4. [10:04] Motions.

5. [10:13] Ms H S Boshoff moved without notice: That the Council -

    1. notes with concern the continuous complaints from residents in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality regarding the dysfunctional waste- water treatment plant in Lydenburg;

    2. also notes that this plant has been non-operational for the past four to five years, resulting in the water reserves and the land being severely polluted, this is further impacted by the fact that both sewerage pumps in Graskop have been dysfunctional for the past two weeks;

    3. further notes that the residents in Graskop were informed that they have to wait until next week to have the pump fixed;

    4. notes that all the flows are heavy and chemicals will not help the problem or rectify the damage done to the fresh water resources and in accordance with the National Water Act, this is an offence but yet the pollution continues unabated on a daily basis;

5. also notes with concern that the municipality has been aware of these leaks since 2018 when the DA brought it to the attention of the MEC and the National Minister but yet it has reached this extent; and

6. takes this opportunity to call on the Minister of CoGTA to consult with her counterpart in the province to determine whether the province is able to assist this failing municipality to ensure that the residents are provided with a clean and healthy environment.

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

6. [10:15] Ms C Visser moved without notice: That the Council -

1. notes the increased security risk for all citizens traveling on the N14 through Vryburg in the North West province (NW) who are being attacked in their vehicles and robbed of whatever is visible or accessible;

2. further notes with concern that a Botswana Citizen from Maun, Mr Smith, was attacked on Sunday, 16 May and stabbed in the arm and neck whilst travelling through Vryburg. Mr Smith succeeded in his escape from an attempt to hi-jack his vehicle;

3. further notes that crime and criminal activity in Vryburg are out of control and that the South African Police Services (SAPS) are under- resourced and under-staffed and unable to curb this scourge of attacks on citizens, of which some are seriously injured;

4. also notes with concern that attackers are now grabbing small children from vehicles which stops at traffic lights where they obtain access to the vehicles;

5. notes that the MEC for Safety and Security in the NW and the SAPS in the NW has received many complaints over the past 4 years about the safety and security of citizens in the streets of Vryburg however the situation has still deteriorated;

6. notes with concern that tourist companies in South Africa and abroad now warn tourists of the criminality in Vryburg, and request that tourists avoid traveling through Vryburg which negatively impact on the economy of this country town in terms of restaurants and accommodation facilities as well as the security of job creation and employment; and

7. implores the Minister of Police to intervene in Vryburg urgently to restore the mandate of the SAPS to protect citizens and their properties as the attacks on innocent people in Vryburg and the inability of the SAPS to comply with their constitutional obligations deserves the Ministers urgent attention.

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

7. [10:20] Ms M L Mamaregane moved without notice: That the Council -

    1. notes that a 50-year-old teacher from Mbilwi Secondary School in Thohoyandou was in the dock for allegedly raping a 17-year-old pupil on multiple occasions;

    2. also notes that the man appeared in the Thohoyandou Magistrates Court on Monday on three counts of rape and the case was postponed to next Monday for them to get legal representation and file a formal bail application;

    3. further notes that in one of the incidents he reportedly offered to assist her with extra lessons but instead took her a to a lodge where he allegedly raped her; and

    4. commends the police for arresting him and implore the actors in the justice system to make sure that the perpetrator is found guilty and sentenced accordingly.

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

8. [10:24] Mr A Arnolds moved without notice: That the Council -

    1. notes that as a Chapter 9 Institution, the Office of the Public Protector, is one of six independent state institutions set up by the country's Constitution to support and defend democracy;

    2. notes with concern the current R28.7 million budget cut of the Office of the Public Protector that will have a devastating impact on rooting out corruption;

    3. further notes that in the 20/21 financial year R16.1 million was cut from the Office of the Public Protector;

    4. acknowledges that the Office of the Public Protector will be rendered ineffective and the budget cuts will derail the task of fighting corruption, which are threatening the resources of poor South Africans;

    5. further acknowledges that the budget cut will hamper the speed of investigations against corruption and state capture; and

    6. therefore calls on the government to protect the poor and the marginalised against corruption by strengthening the Office of the Public Protector.

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

9. [10:26] FIRST ORDER

Policy debate on Budget Vote No 3: Cooperative Governance and Policy debate on Budget Vote No 15: Traditional Affairs, **Appropriation Bill** [B 4 – 2021] (National Assembly – sec 77).

Debate concluded.

THE HOUSE SUSPENDED AT 12:47 AND RESUMED AT 13:15.

10. [13:17] SECOND ORDER

Policy debate on Budget Vote No 29: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, **Appropriation Bill** [B 4 – 2021] (National Assembly – sec 77).

Debate concluded.

11. The Council adjourned at 15:32.

P TYAWA
Acting Secretary to Parliament