

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2026

1. The Council met at 14:02.
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. [14:05] Notices of motions.
5. [14:08] Mr K M Mmoiemang moved without notice: That the Council-
 - (1) notes and welcomes the registration of Postbank as a licensed Financial Services Provider with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority;
 - (2) further notes that the corporatisation of Postbank, its legal separation from the South African Post Office, the transfer of shareholding to the government, and the establishment of a Bank Controlling Company are deliberate steps aimed at deepening financial inclusion and transforming the banking sector in South Africa during a year when the ANC declared it the Year of Decisive Action to Transform the Economy, which translated into institutional progress; and
 - (3) acknowledges that this milestone provides practical effect to the 55th National Conference resolution to accelerate the establishment of a fully-fledged state bank and to deepen economic transformation in our country.

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

6. [14:10] Ms D W Fienies moved without notice: That the Council-
- (1) notes that today, 24 March 2026, is World Tuberculosis Day;
 - (2) further notes that World TB Day, observed annually on March 24, raises awareness about the devastating health, social, and economic impact of tuberculosis (TB);
 - (3) acknowledges that this date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease; and
 - (4) finally, recognises that this year's official country theme for World TB Day is "Yes! You and I Can End TB", a clarion call for leaders to champion TB efforts in their respective constituencies, as well as to encourage individual action from all South Africans to contribute to the national effort against TB.

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

7. [14:12] Mr P A Phala moved without notice: That the Council-
- (1) notes with a sense of disgust and outrage at the vandalism of the gravesite of the late freedom fighter Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe in the town formerly known as Graaff-Reinet;
 - (2) further notes that this act of barbarism occurred in the wake of the historic renaming of the town to Robert Sobukwe Town;
 - (3) acknowledges that this act must not merely be viewed as vandalism, but a deliberate attempt to undermine South Africa's transformation and reconciliation efforts; and
 - (4) calls on the police to work closely with the community to bring the perpetrators to book.

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

8. [14:14] Mr T M Kaunda moved without notice: That the Council-
- (1) notes that, on 20 March 2026, President Cyril Ramaphosa presided over the presentation of Title Deeds to claimant groups previously dispossessed of their land rights;
 - (2) further notes that the handover ceremony, which represented the reinstatement of the affected communities rights in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, took place at uMzimkhulu in the Harry Gwala District Municipality of KwaZulu-Natal;
 - (3) acknowledges that the handover marked a significant milestone in the government's ongoing efforts to redress historical land dispossession and restore land rights to rightful beneficiaries; and

- (4) finally, recognises that the event was also an acknowledgement of the progress made in resolving land claims and transferring land ownership to beneficiary communities.

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

9. [14:15] Mr M P Sibande moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with appreciation the bold, courageous and innovative initiative by the University of South Africa to acquire 20-hectare space of land for the construction of an airport;
- (2) further notes that, according to the University of South Africa, this airport marks a shift towards practical, skills-based education in Africa's fast-evolving aviation and engineering economy to provide practical training and skills in aviation, drone technology and advanced digital systems, which are critical for Africa's growth in the evolving global knowledge economy;
- (3) acknowledges that this will be the first digital technological hub of its kind in Africa, with huge potential for accelerating Africa's economic growth;
- (4) calls upon this august House to express its appreciation to the leadership of the University of South Africa for this innovative initiative; and
- (5) further calls upon the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation to explore innovative partnerships with UNISA to sustain and make this initiative a success.

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

10. [14:16] Mr P Noe moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with concern the persistence of vandalism and theft of the critical public infrastructure in the areas of electricity, water and sanitation, and public roads;
- (2) further notes that whilst noting the successful efforts by the law enforcement agencies in combating this scourge, the poor resources of the SAPS and other critical security sector departments in effectively dealing with this organised crime continue to be a concern; and
- (3) takes this opportunity to call on the Ministers in the security cluster to urgently develop and adopt an integrated digital security master plan as a response to this crime and other related crimes.

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

11. [14:18] Mr M Feni moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with concern the persistence of vandalism and theft of the critical public infrastructure, which continue to rob our communities of basic services;
- (2) acknowledges that this is driven by the existence of lucrative markets internally and globally, on the one hand, and the existence of organised criminal syndicates, on the other hand;
- (3) further acknowledges that the effective disruption and destruction of the illicit markets for stolen critical infrastructure components can go a long way towards defeating this crime; and
- (4) takes his opportunity to call upon the Security cluster to conduct an integrated national diagnosis of the illicit markets for stolen critical infrastructure as a basis for an integrated national strategy.

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

12. [14:20] Ms S Ndhlovu moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with concern, the preliminary report by the Portfolio Committee of Higher Education of the National Assembly about the significant number of foreign nationals in the higher institutions of learning in South Africa;
- (2) further notes that some of these foreign nationals are employed in positions where readily available skills are abundant in South Africa;
- (3) acknowledges that South Africans should be prioritised in terms of employment, and foreign nationals can only be appointed to fill critical scarce skills; and
- (4) takes this opportunity to call upon this august House to call on the Minister of Labour and Employment to initiate a process of comprehensive review of the national policy on critical scarce skills.

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

13. [14:22] Ms M Makesini moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes condolences on the passing on of Mme Martha Malema and we call on strength to the President of the EFF and the family.

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

14. [14:25] Ms H S Boshoff moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with outrage the ongoing collapse of water provision in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, where the residents of Lydenburg, Sabie, and the Northern Villages in particular, many of whom are paying customers in good standing, are being left high and dry, often for days, even weeks on end;

- (2) further notes that this is not a crisis of scarcity, but a crisis of governance. Infrastructure is failing, maintenance is neglected, and basic operational management has all but collapsed. Pumps either stand idle or burst repeatedly, and residents are met with silence from a municipality that seems incapable of performing even its most fundamental duty;
- (3) recognises that these are the very residents who continue to carry the financial burden of the municipality, paying for services they simply do not receive, while their homes, businesses, schools, clinics and vulnerable communities are pushed to the brink;
- (4) further notes that without water, there is no dignity, no economic activity, no healthcare, and no functioning community. Businesses are forced onto costly alternatives, households face ongoing damage to appliances, and the most vulnerable are left exposed;
- (5) recognises the unacceptable failure of the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality to deliver a basic constitutional service, and demands immediate intervention by the Departments of COGTA and of Water and Sanitation to stabilise supply and assess infrastructure failures, require the municipality to table an urgent, time-bound recovery plan with clear accountability measures, and to affirm that residents who pay for services must receive them, because governance without delivery is nothing more than abandonment; and
- (6) finally notes that the people of Thaba Chweu are not asking for favours, they are demanding what they already pay for.

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

15. [14:27] Mr N Gotsell moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with grave concern that in the latest reporting period, over only 5 days and in the jurisdiction of only 15 police stations, 40 murders and 52 attempted murders were recorded in the Western Cape, with the majority occurring in known gang hotspots on the Cape Flats;
- (2) further notes that this follows the previous week, between 9 and 15 March 2026, during which at least 83 gang-related murders were recorded in the province, underscoring the sustained and escalating crisis of gang violence;
- (3) notes that while the Acting Minister of Police has called on the South African National Defence Force to support the South African Police Service in response to this crisis, he continues to ignore the expansion of policing powers to capable governments as a credible long-term solution to restore safety;
- (4) acknowledges that the SANDF deployment was announced more than six weeks ago as an urgent intervention, yet communities on the Cape Flats are still waiting while lives continue to be lost;

- (5) emphasises that there can be no further failures in planning, preparation or reporting to Parliament, and that proper coordination and readiness must be ensured before and during deployment; and
- (6) resolves that the SANDF be urgently and effectively deployed in full cooperation with SAPS to stabilise gang-affected communities in the Cape Flats and prevent further loss of life.

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

16. [14:31] Dr I Scheurkogel moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes that the R59 is a critical economic artery linking the Free State, North West, Northern Cape and Gauteng, facilitating the movement of people, goods and services across key provincial economies;
- (2) further notes that this corridor supports agricultural production areas responsible for approximately 66.8 percent of South Africa's maize output, while also enabling tourism to key destinations such as Parys, the Vredefort Dome and NAMPO;
- (3) acknowledges with serious concern that the R59 has deteriorated to a dangerous state, with extensive potholes, poor road markings, inadequate lighting, and unsafe town entrances, posing a direct threat to the lives of motorists and undermining economic activity;
- (4) recognises that the continued degradation of the R59 is forcing farmers, businesses and travellers to avoid the route, resulting in lost economic opportunities, increased transport costs and further strain on provinces already facing high unemployment;
- (5) calls on the Free State Provincial Government to:
 - (a) urgently engage National Government to transfer the R59 to SANRAL for proper rehabilitation, upgrading and long-term maintenance;
 - (b) implement immediate emergency repairs, including pothole patching, repainting of road markings and restoration of lighting infrastructure ahead of peak travel periods;
 - (c) work with municipalities to improve safety at town entrances to enabling the installation of speed calming measures, signage and adequate lighting; and
 - (d) ensure coordinated intergovernmental action between the Departments of Transport, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Agriculture to protect rural economies and secure this vital transport corridor; and
- (6) affirms that the R59 must serve as a lifeline for economic growth and connectivity and not continue as a death trap that endangers lives and undermines development.

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

17. FIRST ORDER [14:34]

Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Finance on the **Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals** (Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, 19 March 2026).

Debate concluded.

Declarations of votes made on behalf of the North West, Free State and Western Cape.

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.

18. SECOND ORDER [14:55]

Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Mineral Resources on **Subordinate Legislation relating to the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) regulations and the Draft Notice prohibiting certain activities involving African Lions, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No, 10 of 2004), read with Section 146(6) of the Constitution which requires that all subordinate legislation issued under the Act, which affects provinces** (Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, 17 February 2026, p 3).

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.

19. THIRD ORDER [15:03]

Consideration of **South African National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency SOC Limited Amendment Bill [B 13 – 2025]** (National Assembly – section 75) and Report of Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration thereon (Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, 18 March 2026, p 19).

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Bill be agreed to.

Bill agreed to in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution.

20. [15:12] The Council debated the following subject: Good governance as the foundation of local government: **“The role of ethical leadership in restoring public trust”**.

Debate concluded.

21. The Council adjourned at 18:10.

Xolile George
Secretary to Parliament