

## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

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TUESDAY, 1 APRIL 2025

1. The Council met at 14:08.
2. The House Chairperson Committees took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.
3. The House Chairperson Committees announced that the hybrid sitting constituted a sitting of the National Council of Provinces.
4. [14:10] Notices of motions.
5. [14:26] Mr M F Mokwele moved without notice: That the Council-
  - (1) notes that today marks the beginning of freedom month, which commemorates the country's first democratic elections and the end of apartheid, with Freedom Day celebrated on April 27<sup>th</sup>
  - (2) further notes that this year South Africa commemorates freedom month under the theme: 30 Years of Democracy, Partnership and Growth, which allows us to reflect on the nation's journey and progress since 1994; and
  - (3) acknowledges the month of April will forever resonate in the history of our nation as the month that saw the first democratic elections in 1994 that gave birth to the freedom of our people and marked the beginning of constitutional democracy in our country.

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

6. [14:27] Mr T M Kaunda moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) debates the report that South Africa has once again been named as the world's most dangerous country in which to drive;
- (2) notes that South Africa emerged at the very bottom of the of the list of 53 countries that were surveyed for road safety; and
- (3) further notes that other African countries were not included in the survey due to a lack of data.

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

7. [14:28] Ms S Boshoff moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes the deplorable and dangerous state of the road leading from the town of Lydenburg to Mashishing township, which has become increasingly hazardous for motorists, public transport, and pedestrians;
- (2) further notes that this road serves as a vital economic and social link between the town and the township, and its current condition is negatively affecting school children, workers, and small businesses who rely on it daily;
- (3) acknowledges the growing frustration and legitimate concerns of the residents of Mashishing, who have raised this issue repeatedly with local authorities; calls on the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality to urgently prioritise the repair and rehabilitation of this road, and to provide a clear and time-bound action plan to the community;
- (4) further calls on the Provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport to support the municipality in ensuring that this critical road infrastructure is restored to a safe and usable state without further delay; and
- (5) urges that regular maintenance plans be implemented to prevent future deterioration of this key access route.

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

8. [14:30] Ms M Makesini moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes the arrests of Mr. Radille Jacob Shuping, former Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Thembelihle Municipality, and two cashiers at Phokwane Municipality namely Thato Morake and Ayanda Ndwanya;
- (2) further notes that Mr Shuping was arrested for allegedly withholding third party payments between February 2021 and July 2023 while he was still the CFO of the Municipality;
- (3) also notes that two cashiers, Morake and Ndwanya, were arrested for fraud, alternative theft and money laundering while employed at the Phokwane Municipality;

- (4) recognises that this act led the municipality into a debt of R6 Million in pension fund contributions for employees;
- (5) further recognises, that corrupt officials in Municipalities, is one of the main reasons why municipalities remain in debt and why the Municipal debt program is dysfunctional, with only 11 out of 71 municipalities able to manage its debts; and
- (6) calls upon the Minister of Justice to ensure that the fraudsters are found guilty and pay back the money that was stolen from the people of South Africa.

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

9. [14:31] Ms S M Mokoena moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with grave concern that several municipalities across the country have failed to spend their allocated Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funding, resulting in the return of these unspent funds to the National Treasury;
- (2) further notes that the failure to utilize these funds deprives communities of critical infrastructure development, including roads, water, sanitation, and other essential services;
- (3) acknowledges that the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) has a constitutional and legislative mandate to support and monitor municipalities to ensure effective service delivery and financial management;
- (4) regrets the continued failure of COGTA to proactively intervene and assist struggling municipalities, leading to poor service delivery and underdevelopment;
- (5) calls on the National Treasury and COGTA to publish a detailed report listing all municipalities that have returned unspent MIG funds, thereby naming and shaming those that have failed in their duty to serve their communities;
- (6) further calls on COGTA to strengthen its oversight and support mechanisms to prevent the recurrence of unspent infrastructure grants and to hold accountable those responsible for financial mismanagement and inefficiency; and
- (7) resolves that this House must take urgent steps to ensure that municipalities maximize the use of allocated funds for the benefit of the people they serve.

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

10. [14:33] Ms S L Sithole moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with a sense of pride that the Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Ernest Rachoene, has welcomed yet another batch of newly recruited men and women who have joined the department as permanent workers on 1 April 2025;

- (2) also notes that this is part of the MEC's commitment to strengthen the internal capacity to deliver services to the people of Limpopo;
- (3) further notes that this further shows action in motion as far as responding to one of the African National Congress Manifesto and 7th Administration priorities, which is job creation and reduction of poverty; and
- (4) calls on other government departments and provinces to intensify efforts to create jobs.

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

11. [14:37] Mr N H Pienaar moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes that Ekandustria in Mpumalanga has been crippled by unreliable water factories and their ability to provide sustainable job opportunities for the surrounding and electricity supply, which has negatively affected the output of communities; and
- (2) calls upon the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and specifically the MEC for Economic Development to urgently intervene in the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) to restore the dilapidated Ekandustria to its former glory.

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

12. [14:38] Ms Z N Ngcobo moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with shock and outrage the heinous crime committed against 7-year-old Cwecwe, who was allegedly drugged and raped at her school in Matatiele on October 14, 2024;
- (2) further notes that the school failed to take adequate action, and the perpetrator remains at large;
- (3) condemns in the strongest possible terms the brutal and senseless crime committed against Cwecwe;
- (4) demands that the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, the Minister of Police and the Minister of Basic Education take immediate and decisive action to ensure that justice is served and that those responsible are held accountable;
- (5) calls on the relevant authorities to provide counselling and support services to Cwecwe and her family;

- (6) urges the national and provincial governments to intensify efforts to address the scourge of violence and abuse against women and children, including the provision of adequate resources and support for victims; and
- (7) requests that this resolution be communicated to the relevant Ministers and authorities, and that a progress report be submitted to the House within 14 days.

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

13. [14:47] Ms M Dhlamini moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with sadness and a sense of loss the untimely passing of Mr Itumeleng William Kotswane, fondly called “Benny Kotswane on the morning of Sunday, 29 March 2024 in his sleep after a long illness;
- (2) also notes that Benny Kotswane is among the former young lions of Oliver Tambo of the 1980s, and among the leading pioneers in the establishment of the community and political structures in Botshabelo township in the Free State;
- (3) further notes that he was also among the first detachment of young activists of the African National Congress to serve in the first provincial government after the 1994 democratic breakthrough, a former Director General of the National Department of Human Settlements, and among the Special Advisors to the Premier of the Free State; and
- (4) calls on this august House to send its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, the Premier of the Free State, the Free State MEC of CoGTA and Human Settlement, where he was assigned a special assignment at the time of his death, and the African National Congress in the Free State.

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

14. [14:50] Mr S A Zulu moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) urgently requests the Minister of Defence to provide an immediate explanation regarding the reported security breach at a key military installation;
- (2) notes that this serious security breach has compromised national security and put lives at risk;

- (3) emphasizes that Parliament has a constitutional duty to hold the Executive accountable for national security matters; and
- (4) urges the Minister to provide an immediate explanation and outline the measures that will be taken to address this breach and prevent future occurrences.

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

15. [14:52] Mr M Feni moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with appreciation the hands-on leadership of the Minister of Higher Education, Honourable Dr Nobuhle Pamela Nkabane for resolving and mitigating the debilitating disruption of various institutions of higher learning across the country due to the crisis of student accommodation in the early weeks of the reopening of institutions of higher learning;
- (2) also notes that the Minister took courageous action by physically visiting each campus where there was a crisis to engage stakeholders to find an amicable solution without disrupting learning;
- (3) further note that we owe the speedy resolution of the crisis of accommodation, although temporary, to her decisive and visionary leadership which has demonstrated her attributes as the real servant of the people; and
- (4) calls upon this august House to salute the Minister and express its undivided appreciation of her leadership when it was needed most.

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

16. [14:55] Ms O D Medupe moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with pride the continuous landmark successes of the South African law enforcement agencies in detecting and identifying concealed drugs in the bodies of some foreign nationals and South African criminal syndicates intended for illegal trafficking into South Africa, and other parts of the world through OR Tambo Port of entry through enhanced digital and technological capabilities;
- (2) also notes that week by week over the recent past, the South African Police Services, the Border Management Authority and other law enforcement agencies, have arrested several South Africans and foreign nationals who attempted to enter our country illegally with drugs concealed in their bodies;

- (3) believes that these groundbreaking successes are mainly due to enhanced coordination and cooperation within our law enforcement agencies, and digital and technological capabilities;
- (4) calls on our criminal justice cluster to build on these successes by investing more in digital technological capabilities, and
- (5) salutes all the heads of our criminal justice for these landmark successes.

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

17. [14:57] Ms A Matshobeni moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with urgency the required intervention of the the government to to stem the violence in Gqeberha;
- (2) condemns in the strongest possible terms the brutal killing of Zolani Lani Manziya, who was shot dead in Gqeberha on 22nd March 2025, and expresses its deepest condolences to his family and loved ones;
- (3) further condemns the escalating violence in Gqeberha, which has resulted in the loss of numerous innocent lives;
- (4) notes with concern that the government has failed to take decisive action to address this crisis;
- (5) also notes that no arrests have been made in connection with these killings;
- (6) urges the government to take immediate and concrete steps to deploy additional security personnel to Gqeberha to maintain law and order; and establish a special task force to investigate these killings and bring perpetrators to justice;
- (7) demands that the government prioritize the safety and security of all citizens, regardless of their social status or political affiliation;
- (8) pays tribute to the life of Zolani Lani Manziya; and

May his soul rest in peace, and may his memory serve as a catalyst for change.

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

18. [14:59] Ms D W Fienies moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes that the highest honour, an honorary Doctorate in Philosophy awarded to one of the best legends of our music industry, Jonathan Butler by the University of Stellenbosch;
- (2) also notes that our artists have and continue to play a critical role in shaping positive narratives about our collective culture, our past, our future, and our present in the language most understood by ordinary people;

- (3) congratulates Dr Jonathan Butler for this achievement, which will serve as an inspiration to many of our people; and
- (4) salutes the academic leadership of Stellenbosch University for their decision to recognise Dr Jonathan Butler for his exemplary leadership and entrepreneurship.

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

19. [15:01] Ms J S Mananiso moved without notice: That the Council-

- (1) notes with concern that, 23 South Africans were rescued from Myanmar as part of 7,000 individuals from various countries in Myanmar;
- (2) also notes that these men and women were lured to the Kingdom of Thailand under false pretences by an employment agency that promised them lucrative jobs that were advertised on various social media platforms;
- (3) further notes that the victims were held captive for more than four months in a cybercrime compound in Myanmar, which borders Thailand;
- (4) applauds the work of various Government Departments, especially DIRCO and Social Development, in the investigation, repatriation and victim support provided to these compatriots; and
- (5) calls on the members of the public to exercise extreme caution when considering employment opportunities abroad.

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

20. ORDER OF THE DAY [15:04]

Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Public Petitions and Executive Undertakings (Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, 28 November 2024, p 54) **Hearing of Khutsong Petition, held on 24 October 2024, as adopted on 19 November 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.

21. [15:14] The Council debated the following subject: Unlocking South Africa's economic potential: **Removing barriers to investment, innovation, economic growth and job creation.**

22. The Council adjourned at 18:46.

*Tuesday, 1 April 2025]*

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Xolile George  
Secretary to Parliament