

Thursday, 31 October 2024]

No 22 – 2024] SIXTH SESSION, SIXTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2024

1. The Council met at 14:03.
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. [14:04] Notices of motion.
5. [14:12] Mr K M Mmoiemang moved without notice: That the Council –
 - (1) notes that today, 31 October marks World Cities Day, which is intended to promote the international community's interest in global urbanisation, promote cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and address the challenges of urbanisation to contribute to sustainable urban development around the world;
 - (2) further notes that this year's theme is "Youth climate change-makers: Catalysing local action for urban sustainability" which is intended to showcase the crucial role of local governments and young people in addressing urban climate challenges;
 - (3) further notes that this year's World Cities Day coincides with the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly known as the Conference of the Parties or COP29, which will be the 29th United Nations Climate Change conference that will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11 to 22 November 2024 and will focus on the growing threat of climate change and organisation; and

- (4) takes this opportunity to call on the Department of Cooperative Government Traditional Affairs and the various provinces and municipalities to create cities that are not only sustainable and climate resilient but also reflective of all the diverse voices and needs of their inhabitants.

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

6. [14:14] Ms J S Mananiso moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with apprehension that an attorney, Carel Benjamin Schoeman, appeared today in the Gauteng High Court sitting in Palm Ridge, accused of buying a 13-year-old girl from her mother and repeatedly raping her;
- (2) also notes that Schoeman was charged with 26 counts, including four counts of rape, exploitation of children, human trafficking, child abuse and using the services of victims of trafficking;
- (3) further notes, that the mother who advertised the sexual services of her daughter on adult websites was also charged with more than 20 counts and appeared together with Schoeman; and
- (4) therefore, calls on the SAPS and the NPA to do everything in their power to defend children like this 13-year-old, by ensuring that the perpetrators are punished by the law.

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

7. [14:15] Ms H S Boshoff moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with concern that the Onderstepoort Biological Projects (OBP) is not fulfilling its mandate of timeously providing animal vaccines to the South African market;
- (2) further notes that this failure of the OBP to execute its mandate has put the South African farming community and farm animals in general at risk, due to a large number of animals not receiving much-needed vaccinations;
- (3) furthermore, that OBP has two production freeze drier machines, of which one broke down in 2016 and the other one in 2021;
- (4) also notes that in 2010, the manufacturer of these freeze drier machines warned OBP that these machines have a lifespan of six years remaining and, notwithstanding this warning, the OBP did not procure new freeze drier machines;
- (5) further notes that, as predicted, the first of the two freeze driers broke down in 2016, and even after this incident, the OBP still did not start the process of procuring additional freeze drier machines;
- (6) also notes that even after the second of the two production freeze drier machines broke down in 2021, the OBP still did not start any procurement processes for a new freeze drier machine, leaving the institution to rely on one small freeze drier, that was mainly used for research purposes to assist in the production of all of the institution's vaccine responsibilities;

- (7) expresses our disappointment in the OBP's flagrant disregard for the huge responsibility they have, with regard to the manufacturing and supply of much needed animal vaccines;
- (8) commends the Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen for assisting OBP in speeding up the process for the procurement of a new freeze drier machine;
- (9) calls upon the OBP to urgently take all the required steps to take delivery of, install and calibrate a newly-procured freeze drier without any further delay.

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

8. [14:17] Ms N P Mcinga moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes the urgent need to integrate indigenous knowledge and indigenous medicinal plants, such as mpesu into formal healthcare systems;
- (2) further notes, that indigenous knowledge and traditional remedies are an integral part of the cultural heritage of many South Africans which have been used for centuries to support health and wellbeing, with about 80% of the African continent's population using these medicines for healthcare;
- (3) recognises that there is a growing recognition of traditional medicine as the wisdom of indigenous knowledge systems;
- (4) further recognises, that formal integration of indigenous knowledge into conventional healthcare systems has the potential to promote universal well-being, promote healthcare transformation, cultural preservation and local economic empowerment;
- (5) acknowledges that conventional South African healthcare facilities struggle to cope with the large volume of patients and often fail to meet the basic standards of healthcare, posing a risk to our people;
- (6) calls on the Minister of Health to establish a dedicated section within the pharmaceutical industry to recognise and scientifically validate indigenous plants for medicinal use; and
- (7) further calls on academic institutions to incorporate the study of these plants, including traditional practices such as ukuphalaza and ukucima, into medical curricula in universities to enhance the availability of culturally sensitive healthcare.

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

9. [14:20] Mr M F Mokwele moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with concern that a hailstorm which caused severe damage in parts of Limpopo and Mpumalanga on Monday, left four people dead, three hospitalised and thousands displaced;
- (2) also notes that the Limpopo Education Department was compiling a report on the number of schools that were impacted by the storm and the extent of the damage though they did not receive reports on matric exam disruptions;

- (3) further notes that the MEC for COGHSTA in Limpopo confirmed that all five districts in the province had sustained damage, which included houses, schools, critical infrastructure, electricity lines and livestock;
- (4) also notes that in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, the powerful storm claimed four lives and injured 40 people, leaving residents in distress; and
- (5) sends our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wishes a speedy recovery to the injured.

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

10. [14:22] Mr M G Modise moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes that South Africa has filed its Memorial to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 28 October 2024, in its case on the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip;
- (2) also notes that, in accordance with the Rules of Court, the Memorial may not be made public;
- (3) further notes that the Memorial is the name for the document recording the main case of South Africa against Israel, which contains evidence that shows how the government of Israel has violated the Genocide Convention by promoting the destruction of Palestinians living in Gaza by physically killing them with an assortment of destructive weapons, depriving them access to humanitarian assistance and other amenities;
- (4) expresses appreciation and gratitude to the Government for supporting the Palestinian struggle against imperialism, Israeli Apartheid and settler colonialism; and
- (5) thanks the legal team for their dedication, skill and commitment.

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

11. [14:23] Mr O J Mokae moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes the untimely and sudden passing of DA Hantam local municipality councillor in Calvinia, Aubrey Claassen;
- (2) sympathises with his wife, children and the broader family and remembers Councillor Claassen for being loyal to the cause and dedicated to serving the greater Calvinia community, where he was loved by all who knew him;
- (3) observes a moment of silence for the life and legacy of Councillor Claassen; and
- (4) offers its condolences to the family, friends, colleagues and the broader Calvinia community.

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

12. [14:24] Ms K R Molokomme moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes that on 25 - 27 October, government held a three-day meeting with Their Majesties, that is the Kings, Queens and Principal Traditional Leaders, from across South Africa, which was addressed by Deputy President Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile;
- (2) also notes that this follows a meet and greet session with Their Majesties, which was undertaken by Minister Hlabisa and his Deputy Ministers, Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe and Dr Namane Dickson Masemola on 30th August 2024;
- (3) further notes that Government recognises and supports the critical role of traditional leadership institutions in South Africa's constitutional democracy; and
- (4) calls on Their Majesties to continue to play the critical role in nation building and social cohesion through the promotion of peace, stability and unity within the traditional communities falling under their jurisdiction

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

13. [14:26] Mr H J Van den Berg moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes that Pieter Coetze has won multiple gold medals during the first two legs of the 2024 World Aquatics Swimming World Cup;
- (2) further notes that after the second stop in Incheon, South Korea, Coetze had already contributed seven medals to South Africa's count of thirteen medals;
- (3) congratulates Coetze on winning five gold medals;
- (4) recognises his teammates Rebecca Meder and Chad Le Clos for their respective medals; and
- (5) wishes Team South Africa the best of luck during the final leg in Singapore.

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

14. [14:27] Ms M B Nodada-Ndlangisa moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes that on 16 October 2024, the world celebrated World Food Day;
- (2) also notes that World Food Day is an annual reminder that food insecurity and malnourishment remain widespread and may worsen due to a range of ongoing threats, including climate change, inflation, geopolitical conflicts; and
- (3) calls on the South African Government to be part of global efforts to find solutions to the root causes of the food insecurity and domestically start a process to increase the number of zero-rated food items to alleviate the burden on the poorest of the poor.

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

15. [14:29] Dr I Scheurkogel moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) extends its warm wishes to the members of the Hindu community as they celebrate the joyous festival of Diwali, also known as Deepavali;
- (2) recognises that this vibrant festival of lights symbolises the triumph of light over darkness, reminding us of the importance of peace, prosperity and unity in our rich diversity;
- (3) expresses its hope that the illuminating spirit of Diwali guide us toward a brighter future; and
- (4) hopes that this occasion serves as a time of renewal and hope for all, bringing joy and blessings to all those who celebrate and their loved ones.

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

16. [14:30] Ms S L Sithole moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with sadness the passing of former Minister of Labour and also former High Commissioner to Canada, Membathisi Shepherd Mdladlana on 18 October 2024;
- (2) also notes that Mr Mdladlana was accorded a Special Official Funeral Category 2, as declared by Deputy President Paul Mashatile, who was the Acting President;
- (3) further notes that Mr Mdladlana became a member of South Africa's first democratic Parliament in 1994 and four years later, he was appointed the Minister of Labour by President Nelson Mandela and was thereafter retained in this role by Presidents Mbeki, Motlanthe and Zuma;
- (4) offers our deep condolences to the family, friends and comrades of Mr Mdladlana.

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

17. [14:31] Mr M Feni moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with sadness and disgust the killing of Eastern Cape traditional leader Nkosikazi Thenjiwe Eunice "Nogcinile" Mtirara, the rape and robbery of five matric pupils in Mqhekezweni Village outside Mthatha, in the Eastern Cape;
- (2) calls on the South African Police Service to work tirelessly, with the community, to find these callous criminals and the justice system to deal with them harshly;
- (3) offers our deep condolences to Nkosikazi Mtirara's AmaDlomo Royal clan and the AbaThembu Kingdom more broadly; and
- (4) our deep sympathies to the learners who experienced gender-based violence at a critical phase of their young lives and educational journey.

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

18. [14:33] Mr M G Modise moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with concern that the Israeli Parliament passed a law that bans the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) from operating in its territory;
- (2) also notes that UNRWA is the primary supplier of food and other humanitarian aid in Gaza and the ban would have a massive impact on its ability to operate;
- (3) further notes that the ban by Israel drew swift and sharp criticism from the global community including Germany, America and the UK who are staunch allies of Israel; and
- (4) therefore, calls on the United Nations and the global world to do everything in their power to defend and save the lives of the Palestinian people.

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

19. [14:36] Mr J H P Britz moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes that the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro in the Eastern Cape Province suffered severe rainfall last week, resulting in a devastating flood within the region;
- (2) notes that four people tragically lost their lives due to the flood, which left a further 3000 people homeless and destitute;
- (3) notes that severe damage was caused to numerous businesses and businesses owners;
- (4) further notes that these severe loss and damages could have been mitigated if the stormwater drainage system in the Metropolitan area was properly maintained by the Metro; and
- (5) calls upon the House to express its condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of the deceased;
- (6) expresses its sympathy with the victims of the flood and condemn the lack of maintenance by the Metro to properly maintain its stormwater drainage systems.

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

20. [14:39] Ms Z N Ngcobo moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) notes with concern the recent reports of inadequate healthcare services in Gauteng provincial hospitals, particularly the shortage of medical supplies and staff;
- (2) further notes that these recent reports of inadequate healthcare services in the Gauteng Provincial hospitals are alarming and unacceptable;
- (3) acknowledges that the people of Gauteng deserve better quality healthcare, and that immediate action is necessary to address this crisis;
- (4) calls upon the Gauteng Provincial Government to provide a comprehensive plan to address the crisis;

- (5) further calls upon the Gauteng Provincial Government to allocate sufficient funding to improve health care infrastructure;
- (6) also calls on the Gauteng Provincial Government to ensure accountability and consequences for officials responsible for the state of the healthcare services; and
- (7) requests an urgent debate on the matter in the House, given the severity of the issue,

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

21. [14:40] Ms N S Du Plessis moved without notice: That the Council –

- (1) expresses its condolences to the community of Ennerdale in Johannesburg, who lost two political stalwarts during the 2024 Election Campaign, Ms Ouma Doris Deysel and Mr Raymond Arends;
- (2) further expresses its gratitude for their lifelong dedication to the fight for liberation since the 1980s;
- (3) recognises them both as examples of leaders who tirelessly fought for their community without the need for titles or accolades; and
- (4) thanks their families for lending them to the community where they changed countless lives for the better.

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

22. [14:42] The Council debated the following subject: Taking decisive measures to deal with construction mafias and systemic extortion in the construction industry in South Africa.

Debate concluded.

23. The Council adjourned at 17:52.

X GEORGE
Secretary to Parliament