



Process for the Portfolio Committee on Police hearing on Petitions, 28 February 2017

1. Introduction

The Portfolio Committee on Police has had five Petitions referred to it by the Speaker (ATC No 51-2016) on 17 November 2016.

The process for the Committee to process the petitions are regulated in Chapter 14 of the Rules of the National Assembly (14th edition). Rule 337 (d) makes provision for the Speaker to table written instruments including special petitions and other petitions of a general nature.

Part 3 of the Rules makes provision for following:

Rule 344 makes provision for the form of the petition to be prescribed by the Speaker in accordance with the guidelines determined by the Rules Committee.

Rule 345 states that the petition must be in one of the official languages. All the petitions must be signed by the petitioners themselves according to Rule 346 (1).

According to Rule 347(1), a petition must be lodged by a member with the Secretary for approval and tabling by the Speaker, the Secretary Lodging of the petition and must be signed at the beginning thereof by the member. Rule 347(2) provides that a member may not lodge a petition on his or her own behalf, but such a petition may be lodged by another member.

Rule 348 makes provision for the each petition to be deposited for at least one day with the Secretary who must submit it to the Speaker for approval before it is tabled in the Assembly. If the Speaker finds that the petition complies with the guidelines determined by the Rules Committee, the Speaker must approve it and table it in the Assembly without delay in terms of Rule 349.

After tabling, a petition is then referred in terms of Rule 350 (1) if it is a special petition to the committee on public finance and in terms of Rule 320 (2), to a relevant Portfolio Committee if it is a petition of a general nature.

2. Petitions

The petitions have been received from the following petitioners:

1. Petition from wards 65, 66 and 67 of the Ekurhuleni Metro, calling on the Assembly to investigate the spiralling crime rate in Etwatwa, ensure more visible policing and to investigate the alleged complicity between the South African Police Service and crime syndicates (Mr M Waters) –(Portfolio Committee on Police– National Assembly).

2. Petition from residents of Soshanguve South calling for establishment of a satellite police station (Mr D Bergman) – (Portfolio Committee on Police – National Assembly).

3. Petition from the Unity Fellowship Church in Chiawelo, Soweto, calling for relief after the withdrawal of its operating licence by the City of Johannesburg and harassment of worshippers by the Johannesburg City Metro Police during church services (Mr R W T Chance) – (Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Portfolio Committee on Police – National Assembly).

4. Petition from residents of Edenvale, Gauteng, calling on the Assembly to follow-up a Carte Blanche exposé – prompted by Case No 331/05/2015 – on police brutality, bribery and corruption at the Edenvale Police Station (Mr M Waters) – (Portfolio Committee on Police – National Assembly).

5. Petition from residents of Birch Acres, Kempton Park, calling for increased resources to be provided to the Norkem Park Police Station in order to ensure effective and visible policing (Mr M Waters) – (Portfolio Committee on Police – National Assembly).

3. Committee considerations

A committee of Parliament should call the petitioner to brief the Committee on the key issues raised by the petitioners. Secondly, it is advisable to call all the relevant departments that are relevant to the petition in order to address the desired outcomes requested by the petitioners. The Committee must also check if the petitioners have tried to access other remedies prior to coming to Parliament, such as dealing with a ward counsellor, police station commander for example.

The Committee should also try and make sure that the petitioners have a proposal for resolving the issue that had given rise to their petition in the first place.

The Committee can then choose to hear the submissions of the petitioners at its meeting, alternatively the Committee can decide to have an inspection in-loco in the area note by the petitioners. The Committee can also decide to have a meeting in the area where the report arose and invite interested parties.

The Committee can then, after the hearings, make recommendations and refer the Report to the House for consideration.

4. Status of Petitions

The status of petitions referred to the Committee is summarised in the following table:

No.	Petitioner	Issue	Status
1.	Mike Waters	Petition from wards 65, 66 and 67 of the Ekurhuleni Metro, calling on the Assembly to	To be processed

		investigate the spiralling crime rate in Etwatwa, ensure more visible policing and to investigate the alleged complicity between the South African Police Service and crime syndicates	
2.	Darryl Bergman	Petition from residents of Soshanguve South calling for establishment of a satellite police station	Meeting held with Mr Bergman and matter referred to the SAPS. A response has been received
3.	R W T Chance	Petition from the Unity Fellowship Church in Chiawelo, Soweto, calling for relief after the withdrawal of its operating licence by the City of Johannesburg and harassment of worshippers by the Johannesburg City Metro Police during church services	Matter dealt with by the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
4.	Mike Waters	Petition from residents of Edenvale, Gauteng, calling on the Assembly to follow-up a Carte Blanche exposé – prompted by Case No 331/05/2015 – on police brutality, bribery and corruption at the Edenvale Police Station	To be processed
5.	Mike Waters	Petition from residents of Birch Acres, Kempton Park, calling for increased resources to be provided to the Norkem Park Police Station in order to ensure effective and visible policing	To be processed

5. Proposed processing

It is proposed that the Committee schedule the hearings on the petitions for the second term and bring the petitioner(s) together with the relevant departments with a view of resolving the matters raised in the petition.

A report can be developed after the Committee has heard the responses of the relevant departments and the petitioner(s).

The Committee must schedule the petitions for processing in the Second Term.

