



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

Friday, 17 April 2020 (10:30), Virtual: Microsoft Teams

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Allen, R
America, D
Bartman, D
Bosman, G
Mitchell, D
MacKenzie, R (Alternate)
Philander, W
Van der Westhuizen, A
Wenger, M

African National Congress

Dugmore, C
Sayed, K (Alternate)
Smith, D (Alternate)

Economic Freedom Fighters

Xego, M

African Christian Democratic Party

Christians, F

Freedom Front Plus

Marais, P

GOOD

Herron, B

1. Welcome

In accordance with Standing Rule 85 of the Standing Rules of Western Cape Provincial Parliament, the Secretary, Mr R Adams, convened the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 (the Committee) within five working days after the names of the members appointed to serve on the committee were published in the ATC.

The Secretary welcomed the Members and informed the Committee that the purpose of the meeting was to elect a Chairperson for the Committee as per Standing Rule 82(1) of the Standing Rules of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Member C Dugmore (ANC) proposed that the Chairperson of the Committee should be selected from one of the opposition parties, similar to the stance taken for the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Member M Wenger (DA) proposed that the Committee continue with the agenda to elect the Chairperson, and political parties may nominate their candidates for Chairperson of the Committee.

The Secretary reiterated that his role was to facilitate the election of the Chairperson for the Committee, as stated in the parliamentary programme and the Standing Rules of Western Cape Provincial Parliament, and requested that Members move forward with the agenda for the day.

2. Election of the Chairperson

The Committee proceeded to the election of the Chairperson in terms of Standing Rule 82(1), which states that "A committee must elect a chairperson from its membership".

Member Dugmore nominated Member B Herron (GOOD) as the Chairperson of the Committee. This nomination was seconded by Member P Marais (FFP).

Member D Mitchell (DA) nominated Member Wenger as the Chairperson of the Committee. This nomination was seconded by Member W Philander (DA).

The Secretary noted that there were no further nominations and called for a vote in terms of Standing Rule 93(1), which says that decisions are taken by majority vote.

Member Dugmore requested that Members be allowed to give a short motivation in respect of the reason Members made their specific nominations.

Member Mitchell requested that the Committee continue with the agenda at hand as the voting process was already underway, and therefore, the Secretary should not allow any further debate on the matter.

The Secretary stated that he had been advised that as the convener of the meeting he did not have the authority to allow for debates, and therefore he proposed that the Committee continue with the voting process in accordance with Standing Rules 82(1) and

85. The Secretary stated that he would call the names of each Member per Political Party, to indicate their votes in respect of the nominees.

The Secretary asked if there was support for Member Herron as the Chairperson of the Committee.

Member Dugmore voted in favour of Member Herron. Member D Smith (ANC)(Alternate), standing in for Member R Windvogel (ANC), voted in favour of Member Herron. Member K Sayed (ANC)(Alternate), standing in for Member P Lekker (ANC), voted in favour of Member Herron.

Member Herron voted in favour of himself as Chairperson of the Committee.

Member F Christians (ACDP) voted in favour of Member Herron.

Member Marais (FFP) voted in favour of Member Herron.

Member M Xego (EFF) did not express his vote.

The Secretary asked if there was support for Member Wenger as Chairperson of the Committee.

Member Mitchell voted in favour of Member Wenger.

Member D Baartman (DA) voted in favour of Member Wenger.

Member D America (DA) voted in favour of Member Wenger.

Member A van der Westhuizen (DA) voted in favour of Member Wenger.

Member G Bosman (DA) voted in favour of Member Wenger.

Member R Allen (DA) voted in favour of Member Wenger.

Member Wenger voted in favour of herself as Chairperson of the Committee.

Member R MacKenzie (DA), standing in for Member Philander, who was experiencing technical difficulties and therefore could not participate further in the meeting, voted in favour of Member Wenger.

At the conclusion of the voting stage, the Secretary called on the Procedural Officer to confirm the number of votes received by each nominee. Member Herron received six votes in favour, while Member Wenger received eight votes in favour of her as Chairperson of the Committee.

The Secretary announced that Member Wenger was duly elected as the Chairperson of the Committee, in accordance with Standing Rule 82(1).

3. Consideration and Adoption of Themes in respect of Committee Discussions around COVID-19

The Chairperson proposed that the first matter to be discussed should be a consideration and adoption of main themes around which matters pertaining to COVID-19 would be considered. Members would be invited to submit proposals in this respect. Members should also decide on the frequency in which the Committee would meet and when the next meeting would take place.

Member Dugmore requested that the Committee consider the food security crisis and the distribution of food, as matters of urgency. He requested that the Provincial Minister of Social Development, Ms S Fernandez, be requested to address the Committee.

The Chairperson stated that there were a number of urgent matters that would have to be addressed; however, the Committee should agree on the themes first. Members agreed to move forward with the consideration of the themes.

Member Baartman requested that the theme of "Economic Recovery and Support" be added to the proposed list of themes.

The Chairperson proposed the following themes for Members to consider:

1. Health department responses and preparations
2. Policing, security and police brutality
3. Food security
4. Protection of the vulnerable
5. Disaster management and local government oversight
6. Economic recovery and support
7. Transport
8. Schooling and education
9. Human settlements
10. Citizen surveillance

Member Herron proposed that the theme "Economic Recovery and Support" should be amended to include "Livelihoods", which would cover informal food trading.

The Committee agreed that the theme would be amended to "Economic Recovery, Support and Livelihoods".

Member Dugmore proposed that the Committee include a theme of "Intergovernmental Relations and Cooperative Governance". He also asked that the Committee add Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as a theme.

The Chairperson stated that GBV and care for the homeless would be included under the theme "Protection of the Vulnerable" (Theme number 4). In terms of the request for the additional theme, the Committee would include it as "Intergovernmental Relations and Community Cooperation".

Member Christians asked the Committee to consider the Strandfontein COVID-19 homeless shelter as a matter of urgency. The Chairperson stated that this matter would be considered under the theme "protection of the vulnerable".

Member N Nkondlo (ANC) proposed that the themes include matters of finance and budgets.

The Committee agreed and the themes were amended to include "Government Finance and Budgets".

The Chairperson submitted the following 12 themes for consideration and adoption:

1. Health Department Responses and Preparations
2. Policing, Security and Police Brutality
3. Food Security
4. Protection of the Vulnerable
5. Disaster Management and Local Government Oversight
6. Economic Recovery, Support and Livelihoods
7. Transport
8. Schooling and Education
9. Human Settlements
10. Citizen Surveillance
11. Intergovernmental Relations and Community Cooperation
12. Government Finance and Budgets

The Committee considered and adopted the 12 themes as discussed.

Member Marais noted that people using the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) grants and the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) were on the government's radar, however, he wondered what was to happen with people who were not known to government or those that lived in rural areas who suffered most from poverty.

The Chairperson stated that these were matters that could be considered under the "Protection of the Vulnerable" theme.

4. Discussion on the Way Forward and Frequency of Meetings

The Chairperson proposed that the next meeting of the Committee should be a situational report from the Premier, the provincial Director-General, the Provincial Minister for Health and the Head of the Department of Health. Member Mitchell and Member America supported this proposal.

Member Christians stated that food security was a matter of urgency as shops were being looted, people were being robbed for food, and others were going hungry. This was a matter that fell under social development.

Member Herron asked that the Minister for Social Development should be included in the meeting.

Member Philander stated that although all the matters raised were of equal importance, a meeting with the Premier would give the Committee an overall idea of the situation in the Province.

Member Bosman asked that SASSA be included in meetings where there were discussions on social welfare and livelihoods.

Member Baartman agreed with Member Bosman, adding that national departments and entities as well as provincial entities should be included in meetings where needed. She also proposed that Members email their proposals to the Chairperson and Procedural Officers.

Member Herron proposed that the next meeting of the Committee should include the Provincial Ministers for Social Development and Health, as Members needed an understanding of the health conditions across the Province.

Member Nkondlo asked the Chairperson to provide a timeline or deadline to indicate when Members should submit their proposals for future meetings. The submissions should give the Premier an idea of what the Members needed him to speak to. She also stated that priority should be given to informal traders, Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs), and the types of essential trading activities, under “Economic Recovery, Support and Livelihoods”.

The Chairperson noted that there were many issues that need to be considered, however, these needed to be dealt with in a more organised manner. The Chairperson asked that Members submit their proposals for the meeting with the Premier by Monday, 20 April 2020 at 12h00. All other proposals pertaining to the themes should be submitted by close of business on Monday, 20 April 2020.

The Chairperson informed Members that the next meeting of the Committee would be a situational report on the Province in respect of COVID-19, which would take place on Wednesday, 22 April 2020. Following this, there would be another, separate meeting on Friday, 24 April 2020, which will focus on food security and issues that fall under social development.

Member Dugmore supported the instruction that Members should submit their proposals by Monday, 20 April 2020. However, he asked that food security issues also be dealt with in the first meeting on Wednesday, 22 April 2020.

The Chairperson explained that it would not be feasible to have the discussion on food security and social development issues at the same time as the situational analysis, as each meeting would require three hours. The Chairperson proposed that two separate meetings take place on Wednesday, 22 April 2020, instead, depending on Members’ availability.

Member Baartman reminded the Committee that the Budget Committee had been invited by the National Council of Provinces to attend a virtual meeting on the Division of Revenue Bill that was also scheduled for Wednesday, 22 April 2020, which the Budget Committee wanted to attend.

The Chairperson, therefore, proposed that the first meeting with the Premier, Director-General, Provincial Minister of Health, and the Head of the Department of Health would take place on Wednesday afternoon, 22 April 2020. The meeting on food security would take place on Friday morning, 24 April 2020.

The Committee agreed with the Chairperson’s proposal.

5. Resolutions/Actions

The Committee RESOLVED the following:

- 5.1 The next meeting of the Committee will be a situational report back from the Premier, the provincial Director-General, the Provincial Minister of Health, and the Head of the Department of Health, on Wednesday, 22 April 2020;
- 5.2 Members should submit proposals, questions and presentations for the situational report back by 12h00 on Monday, 20 April 2020;
- 5.3 There will be another meeting on food security, which will take place on Friday, 24 April 2020;
- 5.4 Members should submit proposals, questions and presentations on the food security meeting by 12h00 on Monday, 20 April 2020;
- 5.5 All other proposals for consideration under the other themes, should be submitted by close of business on Monday, 20 April 2020;
- 5.6 Meetings of the Committee will take place bi-weekly; and
- 5.7 All meetings should be open to the public and media.

The meeting adjourned at 12:28.

MS M WENGER, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19
DATE: