



**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE  
JOINT RULES COMMITTEE ON 22 MARCH 2006**

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**A. PROGRESS REPORT BY WHIPPERY ON DRAFT LEAVE POLICY FOR  
MEMBERS**

- (1) At the JRC meeting on 24 August 2005, the committee agreed that:
  - (a) the draft leave policy be referred to the Chief Whips' Forum of the National Assembly and the NCOP whipper for consideration of leave and attendance in the context of the discussions in the JRC, including any constitutional imperatives that may exist;
  - (b) these two components then interact to avoid inconsistencies;
  - (c) the revised proposals be presented to the Joint Rules Committee, feedback to be received by 16 September 2005.
- (2) Feedback on this issue is still outstanding.

**B. PROGRESS REPORT BY TASK TEAM ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

- (1) The Focus Group on Budget Processes was previously mandated to research and develop draft policy for the procedure for the amendment of money bills before Parliament and to draft the proposed legislation referred to in section 77(3) of the Constitution.
- (2) At the meeting of 24 August 2005 it was reported that two options of the draft bill had been developed for consideration by the Task Team on Oversight and Accountability.
- (3) The Joint Rules Committee agreed:
  - (a) that the different versions of the draft bill on the procedure for the amendment of money bills be submitted to the Task Team for consideration, thereafter recommendations should be presented to the Joint Rules Committee;
  - (b) that the Task Team should make progress, and if necessary political parties should consider their membership of and participation in the Task Team and Focus Groups, and effect any changes which were necessary to ensure that the Task Team received the required support.

- (4) The different versions of the draft bill were submitted to the Task Team. In addition the Focus Group (with a view to ensuring progress on the matter) submitted a single version of the draft bill to the Steering Committee of the Task Team in January 2006.
- (5) It was also reported at the Joint Rules Committee meeting of 24 August 2005 that the Task Team had distributed a draft document on a definition statement on oversight and accountability, and had not yet received input from parties.

**C. FEEDBACK FROM PARTIES ON INTERIM REPORT ON SCRUTINY OF DELEGATED LEGISLATION**

- (1) At a Special Joint Rules Committee meeting on 25 May 2005, the co-chairperson of the Joint Subcommittee on Delegated Legislation presented the interim report on scrutiny of delegated legislation, in which recommendations were made. (The interim report had been submitted to the JRC in 2002)
- (2) After discussions, the Committee agreed at that same meeting that parties would go through the recommendations made by the Joint Subcommittee, and come back with specific responses.
- (3) A reminder was sent to parties on 27 February, recommending that feedback be forwarded to the Presiding Officers.

**D. PARLIAMENT'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY**

- (1) At the JRC meeting on 26 October 2005, the Task Team on Parliament's International Relations Policy presented a progress report.
- (2) It was agreed that the Task Team would present its report at the first meeting of the JRC in 2006.
- (3) The Task Team has now finalised its report and is scheduled to report to the Joint Rules Committee.

**E. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF RULES**

• **Rules giving effect to the Powers and Privileges Act**

- (1) At the JRC meeting of 3 June 2005 the proposals of the Subcommittee relating to the establishment of a committee as required in terms of section 12 of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2004 were agreed to.
- (2) The Subcommittee then proceeded to develop Rules in accordance with that policy directive.

**F. CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RULES FORMULATED BY THE PRESIDING OFFICERS FOR JOINT SITTING**

- (1) A Joint Sitting of the two Houses was held on 14 February 2006, to debate on the Report from the Parliamentary Process on the African Peer Review Mechanism. Since there are no comprehensive Rules governing debates at Joint Sittings, the Presiding Officers, acting jointly, and in terms of Joint Rule 2, made Rules in respect of that Joint sitting.
  - (2) In terms of Joint Rule 2(2), the Rules made by the Presiding Officers remain in force until a meeting of the Joint Rules Committee has decided on them.
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