



MINUTES OF THE PREMIER MONTHLY PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON THE 22ND MAY 2020 AT 09H00

ATTENDANCE

HON MEMBERS

: Madlopha CQ
Mthembu RT
Zungu MPP
Ntshangase BN
Mthembu NR
Chiliza MA
Hlabisa VF
Gwala MB
Mncwango ZM
Mlotshwa VR

DEPARTMENT (OTP)

: Zikalala S (Premier)
Ndlovu F (DDG)
Pillay D
Kubheka K
Buthelezi S
Mbambo LT
Mthethwa PZ
Mtshali N
Mabaso L
Emslie S
Govender R

Khuzwayo S
Ntuli S
Mkhize NP
Sewrathan S

LEGISLATURE STAFF : Ntuli NE
Mshengu NP
Padi T
Ziqubu TP
Madide N
Magwaza NA

APOLOGIES : Director-General (OTP)
Khuzwayo D
Nxumalo S

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chairperson, Hon CQ Madlopha greeted and welcomed everyone present and declared the meeting open at 09h15

The Chairperson expressed a special greeting and welcome to the Hon Premier and thanked him for availing himself to attend the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chairperson noted apologies from the Director-General, Dr NO Mkhize who was indisposed, Committee support staff, Ms DN Khuzwayo and Mr SW Nxumalo.

3. CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING

The meeting was properly constituted and met the required quorum.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Hon MPP Zungu moved for the adoption of the agenda. Hon RT Mthembu in seconding the adoption, further proposed that the meeting continues until item 8 (matters arising) and not deal with new matters since the documents were sent very late the previous night by the Office of the Premier. The Committee supported the proposal and further expressed discontentment with the tardy approach by the Office of the Premier in sending reports or documents which are key to preparations for a meeting. The Committee felt pity that the DG was not in the meeting otherwise she would recall that this tendency of late submission of documents has been happening since last term.

The Chairperson on behalf of the Committee appealed to the Office of the Premier to send documents at least a week before a meeting takes place unless the meeting is of special nature.

5. REMARKS BY THE HON PREMIER

The Hon Premier greeted the meeting and thanked the Chairperson for the opportunity. He reminded the Committee that the meeting was taking place two months after the lockdown was declared by the President. He reported that the Executive Council was working hard to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. He also reminded the meeting that the country would move to level three of the lockdown from 1 June 2020.

The Hon Premier also noted that the country continued to witness an increase in COVID-19 case numbers, albeit steadily. He expressed belief that lockdown had averted the danger posed by the pandemic.

He invited Members of the Legislature to join the Executive Council in ensuring that schools are ready by the time teaching and learning is announced to resume.

He reiterated that COVID-19 had introduced a new way of living; a new normal.

The Hon Premier noted the unhappiness expressed by the Portfolio Committee regarding late submission of reports and documents for the meeting. He assured the Committee that he would engage with EXCO to find out what had happened. He unreservedly apologized and reiterated the commitment of his office to work effectively with the Portfolio Committee.

6. UPDATE ON COVID-19

The Committee appreciated that the Premier met with political leaders on this subject. The Committee felt that the Provincial Command Team had done a sterling job in prioritizing the lives of the people. The Committee admitted that there were still challenges.

The Committee resolved that the Premier gives a summary in the next meeting regarding what is expected of people once level three of lockdown has started.

7. MINUTES OF 20 MARCH 2020

Hon Hlabisa moved for adoption of the minutes, with one amendment that the name of the late iNkosi Shembe be written in full *Inkosi Vela "Misebeyelanga" Shembe*. Hon B Ntshangase seconded the adoption.

8. MATTERS ARISING

The Committee sought clarity on the figure for the support in the funeral of the late Inkosi Vela "Misebeyelanga" Shembe. The minutes indicated R3,5m and the breakdown from the Office of the Premier indicates R3,9m.

The Committee Members expressed unhappiness with the indicated figures as they felt they were not the true reflection.

The proposal to call on the Premier to investigate was not supported by the Portfolio Committee. Instead, the Office of the Premier was requested to provide a clearer explanation.

The Committee also sought clarity on the R4m transfer from COGTA and requested clearer details on who instructed it and for what reasons.

The Office of the Premier requested to go back and reconcile the figures regarding the funeral support.

The DDG, Dr Ndlovu apologized on behalf of the OTP for the late submission of the reports and documents.

9. CLOSURE

The Hon Premier assured the Portfolio Committee that all issues raised were noted and clear reports would be submitted in due course.

The Chairperson thanked the Premier and declared the meeting closed at 10h25.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

DATE