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## REPORT ON THE CALENDAR CHANGES REGARDING SCHOOL FUNCTIONALITY PROGRAMME

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**TO** : Hon NN Boyce – The Speaker  
The Programme Committee

**FROM** : Nerusha Naidoo - Secretary: KZN Legislature

**DATE** : 27 January 2023

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### 1. PURPOSE

To provide an update on the matters of the Legislature Calendar and update on programme requiring further considerations.

### 2. BACKGROUND

The Secretary of the Legislature met with the Administration at the beginning of 2023 to plan for the programmes and to track progress regarding execution of those that were taking place in the early weeks of January 2023. The updates provided reflected a need for some decisions to be taken by the political leadership as some programmes needed to be reviewed in respect of the time by which they could be held.

The basis of the consultation was the 2023 calendar as had been approved by the Programme Committee in October 2022. This approval was subject to accommodation of any changes that may be occasioned by necessary activities of the National Parliament, Provincial Executive or any other eventuality.

### 3. UPDATE GIVEN TO THE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND PROGRAMME COMMITTEE ON 13 JANUARY

#### 3.1 School Functionality Monitoring Programme

One of the key activities for the beginning of the year is the Schools Functionality Monitoring Programme. This programme was scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Some of the Aims and Objectives of the Programme are as follows:

- To ensure that the provincial schooling system is ready to start 2023 academic year.
- To address functionality challenges facing our schooling system.

- To monitor implementation of policy issues e.g. movement of Early Childhood Development from Social Development to Education Department
- To ensure that independent schools comply to norms and standards as prescribed by the Department of basic Education.
- To address challenges facing poorly performing schools

An update had been received indicating the following:

- National Announcement of outcome of Grade 12 examinations was to be on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Provincial Announcement of Grade 12 results was going to be on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

#### **Impact of dates of release of results on the Programme as currently programmed (18 – 20 January)**

With the announcement of results being targeted for the second and third days of the functionality programme, the following was going to be the possible impact:

- i) The Department would not have been available on second day and all district directors, and most circuit managers would not have been available on day 3 which also comprises the debriefing sessions.
- ii) The information on poorly performed schools would still be pending at the beginning of the functionality programme.
- iii) The Legislature would not be able to identify and focus on poorly performing schools during the visits, thereby missing on a key element of the visits which is to identify and track turnaround regarding the poor performing schools.
- iv) Attendance by the MEC, some Senior Officials and some principals on the 19<sup>th</sup> would not have been guaranteed as they would have had to attend the National Announcement of results.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION MADE**

Based on the above the Programme Committee resolved to amend the Calendar for the School Functionality Programme to be held as follows:

*That the Schools Functionality Monitoring Programme be shifted to 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2023*

## 5. IMPACT OF THE DECISION

The following activities and events were in the calendar for the identified dates:

### 5.1 **25 January 2023**

08:00 Programme Committee

10:00 Chairpersons Committee

14:00 Whips Forum

- *The Programme Committee was held on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January virtually to consider the requested changes in the Calendar.*
- *The Chairpersons' Committee Workshop was moved to 01 February 2023.*
- *The Whips Forum would be held when there is a need for a meeting.*

### 5.2 **26 January 2023 (Committees Stakeholder Sessions)**

PPP Committee

Quality of Life Committee

***These activities were moved to 19 January 2023***

### 5.3 **27 January 2023 (Committees Stakeholders Sessions)**

COGTA Portfolio Committee

Transport Portfolio Committee

Health Portfolio Committee

***These activities were be moved to 20 January 2023***

## UPDATE AS OF 23 JANUARY 2023

As the Legislature administration was engaging with the department during the pre-visits by the Researchers, there were unconfirmed indications that a National Lekgotla had been convened by the National Minister of Education and it required attendance by most of the Senior Officials including District Directors of the department.

Correspondence was issued to the department on Friday, 20 January requesting that they give an official response to this matter and further requesting that provisions be made to provide District Situational Analysis Reports in advance and to identify other officials that would have to be part of the functionality programme.

On Monday, 23 January engagements were held at political leadership level leading to conclusion and a decision that the programme needed to be postponed.

## **Municipal By-Elections**

The dates for the by-elections were received from the IEC and have been factored in the calendar for :

- 15 February 2023
- 22 March 2023
- 05 April 2023

The 15<sup>th</sup> February by-elections have an impact on the Strategic Leadership Engagements as well as the Quality of Life Committee.

*The Quality of Life Committee is therefore proposed to be accommodated on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023.*

## **PROPOSAL ON SCHOOLS FUNCTIONALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME**

The calendar has been reviewed to try and identify possible dates for the programme to proceed.

The following dates which are not far from the month of January are being proposed for consideration: -

- *Wednesday, 01 to Friday, 03 February 2023.*

The proposed dates will also coincide with the National Committee on Education which will be visiting the province and has also targeted some schools in Zululand, King Cetshwayo and Harry Gwala Districts. To avoid having many delegations in a particular district, there will be consultation between the Chairperson of the Legislature Portfolio Committee and the Chairperson of the National Committee to consolidate the programmes. At an administrative level, the programmes will then be consolidated to ensure there is one delegation per district.

The following activities will be impacted upon:

### 01 February 2023

Whips Forum meeting

Chairpersons' Workshop

### 02 February 2023 – Committee meetings

COGTA

Transport

Health

### 03 February 2023 – Committee Meetings

Premier

Economic Development and Tourism

Education

- The Whips Forum can be accommodated in the morning on 14 February 2023. An additional slot can be made available on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- The other activities can be re-allocated slots in the calendar for 01 to 03 March 2023 to be held as follows:

### 01 March 2023

Retain STACOV on 01 March

Chairpersons' Workshop after STACOV

### 02 March 2023 – Committee meetings

COGTA

Transport

Health

### 03 March 2023 – Committee Meetings

Premier

Economic Development and Tourism

Education

The only activity to be impacted on by this decision would be the Sitting that is provided for on the date of 02 March 2023. This sitting can be accommodated on Friday, 10 March as per the request of Provincial Treasury. The Budget Sitting on 10 March, will still be within the set PFMA time frames for presentation of the budget after the National Budget Day.

Consequential sifting of budget hearings has been factored into the calendar.

### 15 March 2023

Whips Forum after the meeting of the Committee of Chairpersons.

## **6. ENGAGEMENTS BY THE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP**

The Strategic Leadership intended holding a session in December 2022. This session had to be postponed due to other commitments of the Sector. It was requested and agreed that the session be scheduled for 15th ,16th and 17th February 2023.

### ***Update***

Noting that by-elections have been scheduled for 15 February 2023 thus impacting on the Strategic Leadership Session, it is proposed that this session be held over two instead of three days i.e., 16 and 17 February.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that: -

- a) The School Functionality Monitoring Programme be held on Wednesday, 01 February to Friday, 03 February 2023.
- b) The Budget Sitting be held on 10 March 2023 and be followed by the Budget hearings.



**NERUSHA NAIDOO**

**SECRETARY: KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE**