

THURSDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2024

[NO. 14/2024] FIRST SESSION, SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Thursday, 28 November 2024

The Hybrid House met at 09h08.

1. 09h09 Members were given an opportunity for silent prayers or meditation.
2. 09h10 The Speaker made announcements, including the passing away of the following persons:
 - 2.1 Eight-year-old Yamkela from the Ntshongwe area in Mbazwana whose little body was found on the 26th of November. She had been beheaded and is suspected to have been raped too;
 - 2.2 All victims of gender-based violence, femicide and hate crimes;

2.3 Public servants and traditional leaders of this province and the country at large who have passed away; and

2.4 Various victims of road accidents and others who have lost their lives in our province during recent times.

The Hybrid House observed a minute of silence.

3. 09h12 The Speaker made further announcements.

4. 09h15 The Speaker read into the record the tabling of the following documents:

5.1 Standing Committee on Oversight (Stacov):

5.1.1 Consideration of 2024/25 Mid-Year Budget Performance Report.

5.2 Portfolio Committee on Finance:

5.1.1 Report on 2024/25 Mid-Year Budget Performance Hearings.

5. 09h16 Mr LJ de Klerk, IFP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h17:

Stock farmers across KwaZulu-Natal have expressed growing frustration over the persistent challenges they are facing with dipping chemicals and the ongoing shortage of dipping tanks, an issue that has persisted since 2014. These challenges are putting livestock at risk, threatening the livelihoods of farmers and the food security of our province.

The situation requires urgent attention to ensure that the agricultural sector, a vital part of our economy, does not continue to suffer due to neglect. Farmers need adequate

support to protect their livestock from diseases and maintain productivity.

What concrete measures is the department implementing to address these shortages and assist stock farmers who feel abandoned.

6. 09h17 Mr PN Msimango, IFP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h18:

As we approach the end of the year, the matric pupils of 2024 are finishing their final exams. To mark this milestone, many students celebrate with "pens down" parties. However, these celebrations, which often involve heavy drinking and reckless driving, have claimed too many young lives.

Entertainment venues – clubs, taverns and lifestyle centres – are bracing themselves for these events. Sadly, the aftermath is all too predictable: dreams shattered, lives lost, and futures ruined by a few hours of reckless celebration. With the alarming rise in human trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV), these "pens down" events only increase the risk to vulnerable youth. At these events, human traffickers prey on unsuspecting students, and reports of missing learners spike.

It is time for the KZN Department of Education to take a stand. What is being done to stop these dangerous parties, which time and again have proven to be deadly?

7. 09h18 Mr SE Hlomuka, MEC for Education, responded to the Statement by Mr PN Msimango and concluded at 09h19.

8. 09h19 Ms NP Dlamini, IFP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h20:

The role of social workers is invaluable to our society. These dedicated professionals play a critical role in improving lives, from guiding individuals through personal struggles to supporting families in crisis. They are experts in fostering change and ensuring that all

people are treated with dignity and respect. Yet, despite their profound impact, the work of social workers often goes unnoticed and undervalued.

The high unemployment rate in our country is a serious issue, and it is hitting our graduates hard. Many are left to languish in poverty, with limited opportunities to use their skills. In KwaZulu-Natal, this crisis is particularly severe, with 3 153 social workers unemployed – the highest number of any province.

What is the KZN Department of Social Development doing to address this pressing issue and help reduce the unemployment rate among qualified social workers?

9. 09h20 Ms CM Shinga, MEC for Social Development, responded to the Statement by Ms NP Dlamini and concluded at 09h21.

10. 09h21 Mr BM Zuma, ANC, delivered a Member’s Statement as follows and concluded at 09h22:

It is President Nelson Mandela of the African National Congress (ANC) who said: “Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farmworkers can become the president of a great nation.”

In line with this profound sentiment, the ANC places the utmost importance on education, as evidenced by numerous implemented progressive policies that prioritise education.

Therefore, the ANC wishes the Class of 2024 good luck as they approach the conclusion of their matriculation examinations today. Equally, we commend the Department of Education, under the able leadership of hon Hlomuka, for implementing comprehensive support

programmes that have assisted learners during this trying period, resulting in a stress-free examination process.

11. 09h22 Mr SE Hlomuka, MEC for Education, responded to the Statement by Mr BM Zuma and concluded at 09h23.
12. 09h23 Ms BN Sithole-Moloi, ANC, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h24:

The African National Congress fully supports the 16 Days Activism Campaign against GBV and Discrimination against Women and Children, and we fully declare war against this ugly scourge.

Zolo lokhu kutholakale ingane, inqunyiwe eNtshongweni *[Just recently the dismembered body of a child was found in Shongweni]*. Three weeks ago in Port Shepstone, owesifazane wanquma ingane ikhanda wayifaka ebhakedeni *[a woman chopped off a child's head and threw it into a bucket]*. A week ago, a woman in Ladysmith was shot and she died on the spot. Again, last week we buried a mother and her grandchild who were brutally murdered at home. Sekwanele! *[Enough is enough!]* We call on law enforcement officials to show no mercy for such perpetrators.

In the same breath, we note the excellent work done by umnyango weZempilo oholwa imbokodo uMagutshwa ngokuqikelela ukuthi abantu besimame kanye nabantwana bathola lonke uhlobo losizo lalo mnyango futhi siyaqhubeka nokubona izibhedlela zifika qathatha kubantu. *[the Department of Health, under the leadership of MEC Simelane for ensuring that women and children receive all the necessary services from this department, and hospital services are being taken to the people.]*

It is worth appreciating the innovative method of communication used by the department for campaigns, such as billboards, social media, radio station slots, as well as departmental awareness campaigns on GBV.

13. 09h24 Mr SA Duma, MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, responded to the Statement by Ms BN Sithole-Moloi and concluded at 09h26.
14. 09h26 Mr S Mngadi, DA, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h27:

The Democratic Alliance extends its congratulations to the matriculants of KwaZulu-Natal who have now concluded their 2024 National Senior Certificate examinations. This milestone marks the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance and dedication, not only by learners, but also by teachers, parents and school communities across the province.

We are encouraged by reports of a largely incident-free examination period, reflecting the commitment of key stakeholders, including the Department of Education, the MEC for Education and law enforcement officials, to ensure the integrity of this critical process.

However, we cannot ignore the findings contained in the *State of Readiness Report* that we have compiled, which highlight several challenges at chronically under-performing schools in the province, including infrastructure deficiencies, resource shortages, and an overall lack of academic support.

These issues raise serious concerns about whether all learners were equally equipped to excel in their final exams. We also urge the department to strengthen its evaluation and oversight mechanisms to ensure that every school in KwaZulu-Natal receives the necessary resources and support to create an enabling environment for quality education.

As we await the 2024 matric results, let us commit ourselves to addressing these systemic inequalities to give every child in KwaZulu-Natal a fair chance at success.

15. 09h27 Mr SE Hlomuka, MEC for Education, responded to the Statement by Mr S Mngadi and concluded at 09h28.

16. 09h28 Ms HS Lidgett, DA, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h29:

Ezemvelo's 2nd Quarter Performance Report reveals a projected underspend of R28.679 million due to delays in filling 140 critical funded posts. This is alarming, given Ezemvelo's consistent claims of financial constraints and the severe impact on their ability to protect our reserves, especially in view of the recent butchering of 20 dehorned rhino.

Underspending in the face of pressing operational needs undermines conservation efforts and raises questions about prioritisation. What is the urgent plan to fill these critical vacancies and ensure that Ezemvelo's resources are fully utilised for the protection of our natural heritage?

17. 09h29 Rev MK Zondi, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, responded to the Statement by Ms HS Lidgett and concluded at 09h31.

18. 09h31 Ms CM Shinga, NFP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h32:

As we approach the festive season and schools prepare to close for the holidays, it is crucial that the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal priorities the preservation of school infrastructure during this period. Our schools are more than just buildings; they are safe spaces for learning and development, particularly in underprivileged communities where education is a beacon of hope.

However, the closure of schools often leaves them vulnerable to vandalism, theft, and general neglect. This not only disrupts the start of the next academic year, but also places an unnecessary financial burden on the

department to repair damaged property. The National Freedom Party urges the Department of Education to implement proactive measures, such as increasing security patrols, engaging local community structures, and raising awareness about the importance of safeguarding these facilities.

Let us protect these vital resources so that our learners can return to a conducive learning environment in the new year.

19. 09h32 Mr SE Hlomuka, MEC for Education, responded to the Statement by Ms CM Shinga and concluded at 09h33.
20. 09h33 Mr BC Mngadi, MKP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h34:

As Umkhonto weSizwe Party, siphakama nokukhathazeka okukhulu ngodaba lwezinduna zamakhosi ezinganyelwe nguMyango wakwa-Cogta KwaZulu-Natal.

Kuze yube yimanje udaba lwazo lwemihlomulo luyinzukazikeyi eMnyangweni kaNgqongqoshe uMhlonishwa Buthelezi.

Lokho kukhombisa ukuthi ubuholi bukaNgqongqoshe wakwa-Cogta awubuhloniphi ubukhosi baKwaZulu nemikhandlu yobukhosi.

[As Umkhonto weSizwe Party, we rise to speak with deep concern about the issue of izinduna who are being administered by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

The issue of their benefits continues to be a conundrum under MEC's Buthelezi's Department of Cogta.

This is a clear indication that the MEC's leadership does not respect traditional leadership and traditional councils in general.]

21. 09h34 Rev MK Zondi, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, responded to the Statement by Mr BC Mngadi and concluded at 09h35.

22. 09h35 Mr TA Nene, MKP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h36:

The MKP would like to remind this House that the government has a constitutional obligation to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights contained in the Bill of Rights, in particular the right of access to sufficient [food and] water, as stated in section 27(1)(b).

Water is an essential ingredient to life; it is used every day throughout our daily lives.

The people of Charlestown in Ward 1 of the Newcastle Local Municipality and the people of Silonjane north of Nquthu have been battling to get clean tap water for more than a year now.

23. 09h37 Ms ZG Ngcobo, MKP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h38:

I want to address a very touching and heart-breaking matter. Due to various social ills in our communities, we find ourselves experiencing a sad problem where some families are headed by children.

We saw this problem escalating even more during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. As uMkhonto weSizwe, we do not believe this matter should be left solely in the hands of the Department of Social Department. It is a societal matter that requires all of us to do something in times of needs. Yet, the department should be playing a leading role since this is one of its mandates and competencies, and we expect them to give us the assurance that, as we move towards the holidays, these child-headed families will be taken care of, and not only with grants that are given out to these children.

The MEC for Social Development can count on our support in this regard.

24. 09h38 Mr CM Shinga, MEC for Social Development, responded to the Statement by Ms ZG Ngcobo and concluded at 09h39.

25. 09h39 Mr L Maxegwana, MKP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h40:

It concerns the MKP that in this country, and particularly in this province, not much attention is paid to the development of co-operatives (*imifelandawonye*) as a form of business. Most of the time the government regards co-operatives as mere community projects, hence the high failure rate of co-operatives in this country.

Even the national Department of Small Businesses Development has really done nothing to empower co-operatives as a form of business that helps to alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment. We understand the challenges facing this type of business, starting from the skills and capacity of its members, as well as underfunding. However, this is where the government must intervene, capacitate the members of co-operatives, open doors for markets where they can sell their products, as well as teach them financial management skills.

In the Mondragon region of Spain, this kind of business is called a "social economy". By its very nature, this type of business opens up economic participation of even the poorest of the poor in the community. It is our plea as uMkhonto weSizwe that each department develops a clear plan on how to uplift and develop co-operatives whose businesses are in line with the mandates of that particular department, as it is possible to have co-operatives under each department.

In our province, co-operatives can be a useful vehicle to quickly develop the rural economy.

26. 09h40 Rev MK Zondi, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, responded to the Statement by Ms L Maxegwana and concluded at 09h42.

27. 09h42 Mr SD Mabaso, MKP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h43:

Somlomo ngaphambi kuka-1994 isikhungo sezimali esilekelele abantu bakithi abahlala emalokishini ngokuthenga izindlu esibizwa nge iThala development Corporation elaziwa kakhulu nge iThala Bank.

Abantu abanengi emalokishini njengakoNdengezi, Lamontville, Clermont babethola imali yokuthenga imizi.

Siyalincoma kakhulu iThala Bank ngokuba usizo ukunceda abantu bakithi ngezikhathi ezinzima zobandlululo.

Somlomo, inkinga ekhona uma abantu beqeda ukukhokhela lezi zindlu kube nzima ukuthi bathole amatayitela okuyisimo esingasihle kubanini bale mizi, ikakhulukazi laba asebethathe umhlalaphansi.

Siyakuncoma kakhulu ukungenelela kuka President Jacob Zuma our Commander ngokuthi ngesikhathi sakhe esewuNgqongqoshe wakwa-Economic Development kulesi sifundazwe ihhovisi lakhe lakwazi ukuxhumana ne-Thala Bank ukuze kudedelwe amatayiyela. Lokhu kwaqhubeka kahle ngaleso sikhathi kwaze kwaba nezinkinga esingazazi. Kuze kube yimanje kunabantu abangakawatholi amatayitela abo njengako-Clermont nakoNdengezi. Abanye sebeze badlula emhlabeni bashiya izinkinga nezingane.

Siyacela umnyango Wezokuhlaliswa Kwabantu ungenelele ukuthi ulubuke lolu daba. NjengoMkhonto sizimisele ukunikezela ngemininingwane yalaba bantu abanalezi zinkinga.

[Madam Speaker, we note that a financial institution that was created to finance development projects, Ithala Development Finance Corporation, otherwise known as Ithala Bank, was established prior to 1994. This institution loaned money to township residents to buy houses.

Many residents in townships such as KwaNdengezi, Lamontville and Clermont received funding to buy houses.

We commend Ithala Bank for being there to assist people during the difficult times of apartheid.

The biggest problem is that when people finish servicing their loans, it is extremely difficult for them to get the title deeds to their properties, a situation that does not sit well with homeowners, especially those who have retired.

We commend the intervention of former President Jacob Zuma, our commander, when he was still MEC for Economic Development, in that his office engaged Ithala Bank to release title deeds. During his tenure this process went smoothly, but unbeknownst to us, some problems started cropping up later. To this day, there are residents in townships such as KwaNdengezi and Clermont who have not received their title deeds. Some of these residents have since passed on, leaving behind their children who have now inherited these problems.

We call on the Department of Human Settlements to intervene in this matter. As the MKP, we are prepared to provide details of these affected residents.]

28. 09h43

Rev MK Zondi, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, responded to the Statement by Mr SD Mabaso and concluded at 09h45.

29. 09h45 Mr WN Mkhize, MKP, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h46:

It is with great pride that I extend an open invitation to the entire House to join us on Friday, the 15th of December, at the iconic Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban as we celebrate the one-year anniversary of Umkhonto weSizwe. This milestone is a celebration of unity, resilience, and the shared vision we all strive for – a better future for all South Africans.

I believe all hon members are MKP members at heart. Perhaps they have not yet realised it, but the values of justice, equality, and a people-first approach reside in each of us. Let this occasion be a moment where we come together in solidarity, not as political rivals, but as servants of the people.

We look forward to seeing you there!

30. 09h46 Ms T Nkosi, EFF, delivered a Member's Statement as follows and concluded at 09h47:

The festive season is here, but are we ready for the influx of holiday makers and tourists to KZN?

We are happy that there were fewer road fatalities in 2023, even though there was heavy rain.

We pray that the 2024 festive season will be without any fatalities. We send love and condolences to all families who have lost loved ones in road accidents.

We must provide high-quality roads to ensure safe travels for all road users. Many sections of roads are not safe to drive on, especially at night and in rain.

Road markings are faded, there are big potholes, broken streetlights, road construction sites are badly lit at night, and traffic lights break down when it rains. These

conditions make our roads dangerous. Add to that alcohol and speed, and it becomes even more dangerous.

The Department of Transport must alert road users of these dangers with warnings on their website, and adverts in public spaces, such as billboards, social media, radio, etc.

It is an insult to human life to have a minute of silence for those whom we have lost to these bad road conditions. We must be proactive and make sure that people indeed “Arrive Alive.”

31. 09h47 Mr SA Duma, MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, responded to the Statement by Ms T Nkosi and concluded at 09h49.
32. 09h55 Debate and Voting on the Mid-Term Budget Performance Reviews Reports, 2024/25, commenced, and was concluded at 12h10.

Question put:

That the Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Finance and the Standing Committee on Oversight be adopted.

Question agreed to.

Results of the vote were as follows:

In favour = 73 Against = 0 Abstentions = 0

33. 12h11 The Speaker made remarks.
34. 12h12 Debate and Voting on the 2024 Women’s Parliament held in uThukela District commenced and was concluded at 13h42.

Question put:

That the Report on the 2024 Women's Parliament be adopted.

Question agreed to.

Results of the vote were as follows:

In favour = 69 Against = 0 Abstentions = 0

34. 13h44 The business of the House was suspended and resumed at 14h30.

35. 14h31 Debate and Voting on Audit Findings and SCOPA Resolutions commenced and was concluded at 16h03.

Question put:

That the Report on the Audit Findings and SCOPA Resolutions be adopted.

Question agreed to.

Results of the vote were as follows:

In favour = 68 Against = 0 Abstentions = 0

35. 16h04 The Speaker made announcements.

36. 17h40 The House was adjourned until Friday, 29 November 2024 at 09h00.