

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

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WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2021

1. The House met at 14:15.
2. The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.
3. [14:17] The Speaker made a general announcement regarding the sitting of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament in accordance with Rule 1A of the Standing Rules pertaining to Members in remote attendance by electronic means.
4. [14:21] Mr D America moved without notice: That the House congratulates the newly elected mayors and councillors in the Western Cape, following the recent local government elections in November this year; notes that despite the socially and economically tumultuous year, as well as the technical issues faced by the IEC on the day of the elections, all 25 local municipalities – including the City of Cape Town – have constituted their councils; notes that this means that they are now ready to embark on their programme of service delivery for the next five years; notes that, as of now, given the current climate in our country, the stability of councils and municipalities is of utmost importance; and asks that, no matter what political differences may exist between stakeholders, service delivery is given precedence in order to ensure the jobs, dignity and safety of our residents.

Agreed to.

5. Ms R Windvogel moved without notice: That the House notes with pleasure and admiration the groundbreaking work of the South African scientists who a new coronavirus variant, the Omicron variant, which has the scientific name B.1.1.529, last month identified; while congratulating them for fearlessly informing the country, the world and the scientific community about this new variant, expresses concern that several countries took punitive measures against Southern African countries, including South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe, whose economies are bolstered by tourism, without due consideration of the economic impact of these decisions; calls on the United Kingdom and other countries that have closed their borders to visitors from South Africa and are also stopping their nationals from flying to South Africa to drop these harsh measures immediately; and urges those South Africans who have not been vaccinated against the coronavirus to do so.

Agreed to.

6. Mr G Brinkhuis moved without notice: That the House notes the achievement of Shadia Akter, a 17-year-old Grade 11 learner at the New Orleans Secondary School in New Orleans, Paarl, who won a silver medal at the Buca International Music Science Engineering Energy Fair; further notes that she was one of two South Africans representing South Africa and the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists who showcased their scientific abilities from 15 to 19 November on a virtual global platform; recognises her silver medal and the role that the youth play in the Fourth Industrial Revolution by taking on difficult projects; further recognises that her project was inspired by challenges with internet data faced by communities and included mathematics to research software development; commends her for using the “Honeycode” app builder to develop her COVID-19 screening educational app, after she noticed how challenging it was for schools to screen large numbers of learners efficiently; further commends her for conducting an extensive literature review by watching several tutorials and for attending the Eskom Expo Wednesday Workshops on app building to master Honeycode; commends her for citing internet connectivity and her failure to meet certain goals on time as some of the major setbacks she experienced; and extends congratulation to her.

Agreed to.

7. Mr A P van der Westhuizen moved without notice: That the House congratulates the deciduous fruit farmers on the hard work that they conduct throughout the year and wishes them good fortune in the upcoming harvesting season; notes that Hortgro has predicted that the yield this year is expected to be promising and that both plum and nectarine export levels are predicted to increase by 3% and 10% respectively in comparison with the previous season; notes that agriculture remains an essential sector in both the province and the country, and in Western Cape, we look forward to seeing further growth in the upcoming year as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agreed to.

8. Ms P Z Lekker moved without notice: That the House notes with sadness the passing away of the former spokesperson for the ANC in the legislature, Cobus Grobler; remembers him as a gregarious, caring and helpful person who spent more than a decade working in different communications roles for the ANC in the precinct; and while extending its condolences to our late colleague’s wife, Karin, and their son, also wants to remember those associated with the House who died this year.

Agreed to.

9. Mr R I Allen moved without notice: That the House notes with sadness the passing away of the singer, Theuns Jordaan, after succumbing to cancer; notes that, after working in the industry for 20 years, Jordaan’s contributions to the South African music scene were immeasurable as he inspired and mentored young artists to produce their own music; and extends our sincere condolences to his friends, colleagues and family and commends his dedication to giving back to the arts and culture sector.

Agreed to.

10. Ms N G Bakubaku-Vos moved without notice: That the House notes the United Nation’s campaign, 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, is due to end on 10 December; voices its approval that the South African government has been a consistent supporter of this drive, having named this year’s theme “The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke – 16 Days of Activism – moving from awareness to accountability”, as well as support for this national fight against a cancer that is causing untold misery, suffering

and pain to women and children across the world; also acknowledges that South Africa's 16 Days campaign forms the pivot of government's comprehensive 365 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children; therefore calls on all South Africans to free our country of GBV and notes that South Africans will not be truly free if GBV is not eradicated.

Agreed to.

11. Ms L M Maseko moved without notice: That the House extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Members and officials of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for ensuring that the oversight role of this provincial parliament was not compromised, despite the myriad of challenges this year; extends our gratitude to officials for their work in bringing the parliament closer to residents while also supporting Members in their work of keeping the Western Cape Government accountable; thanks Members for the robust debates and their participation in committees; further appreciates the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for their guidance and support throughout the year in ensuring the smooth running of this legislature.

Agreed to.

12. Mr L L Mvimbi moved without notice: That the House notes that South Africa is heading into what is known as the festive season, but also wants to record that this is a period when thousands of South Africans take to the country's road in vehicles, and notes that these annual road trips are unfortunately accompanied by accidents, many of them fatal; therefore calls on those who will be on our roads, including pedestrians, to be sober, to obey the rules of the road, to be courteous and to ensure that they arrive at their destinations safely; and thanks all volunteers and essential workers who will be on duty during this time.

Agreed to.

13. Ms M M Wenger moved without notice: That the House commends the Honourable James Selfe, MP, and wishes him well in his retirement; notes that after an illustrious 43-year career in politics, guided by the principles of progressive and compassionate liberalism, James has been a true champion in shaping South African politics for the better; notes with deep appreciation his invaluable contributions at the Constitutional Assembly and to the creation of South Africa's progressive and liberal Constitution; notes his role as a fierce advocate for the humane treatment and rehabilitation of offenders in his portfolio on Correctional Services; notes his tireless efforts as a fighter for justice, launching several successful and precedent-setting legal battles to ensure the integrity of the National Prosecuting Authority to ensure that leaders are accountable; notes that James is a deeply compassionate and kind person, who has always taken time to mentor young people; notes that his wonderful sense of humour has lifted countless spirits and his generosity will always be remembered; and wishes our dear friend and Chief DAWC (DA Walking Club) everything of the best on his retirement.

Agreed to.

14. Mr G Bosman moved without notice: That the House commends the efforts of the Western Cape Department of Social Development and non-profit organisations who work towards the eradication of gender-based violence in the province; notes that, during the current International 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Children period, the interventions put in place by the provincial Department, such as funding GBV NPOs, establishing the Victim Empowerment Programme and rolling out the Gender-Based Violence Implementation Plan; and notes that GBV remains prevalent in our society and it is imperative that it be addressed for the protection of women, children, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Agreed to.

15. Mr G Bosman moved without notice: That the House notes with sadness the murder of Shumeez Ismail on 27 November 2021 at the age of 21; condemns the current state of gender-based violence in this province and South Africa as a whole, which results in the tragic losses of innocent lives in our communities; notes that all women deserve protection so that they may live freely and pursue opportunities for a prosperous life; notes that our hearts go out to her mother and younger brother during this time; notes that we appreciate the work of local authorities to bring the perpetrator to justice and hopes that it is delivered swiftly to provide her loved ones with peace of mind; and notes that Ms Ismail will be remembered fondly for her infectious laugh and happy attitude.

Agreed to.

16. Mr R I Allen moved without notice: That the House congratulates Mr Xolisa Kwinana on winning a Crown Gospel Award in the category of Best Worship Song, representing the Western Cape at a recently held recording ceremony of the SABC; recognises the importance of community upliftment through gospel and the immense achievement of this award; commends Mr Kwinana on combining his passions of music and worship for the benefit of the people in this province; and wishes him luck in his future endeavours and encourage him to continue in this vein.

Agreed to.

17. [14:27] FIRST ORDER

Consideration of principle of Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2021] (Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities).

Debate concluded.

The Presiding Officer announced that there were currently 36 Hon Members present who were entitled to vote and the House was therefore quorate.

Question put: That the Principle of the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2021] be approved.

Question agreed to (ANC dissenting).

Principle of Bill approved.

18. [16:50] SECOND ORDER

Consideration and Finalisation of the Western Cape Biodiversity Bill [B 2B–2021] (Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning).

Debate concluded.

The Presiding Officer announced that there were currently 36 Hon Members present who were entitled to vote and the House was therefore quorate.

Question put: That the Consideration and Finalisation of the Western Cape Biodiversity Bill [B 2B–2021] be approved.

Question agreed to (ANC dissenting).

The Consideration and Finalisation of the Bill accordingly approved.

19. [17:34] THIRD ORDER

Consideration of Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government on the Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill [B 2D–2019] (NCOP), dated 7 September 2021 (see Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, No 99, dated 9 September 2021, p 414). (Ratification of final mandate.)

Declarations of vote made on behalf of the ANC, EFF, Al Jama-ah and DA.

Question put: That the Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government on the Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill [B 2D–2019] (NCOP) be adopted.

Question agreed to.

The Report accordingly adopted.

20. [17:43] FOURTH ORDER

Consideration of report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the National Forests Amendment Bill [B 11D–2016] (NCOP), dated 4 November 2021 (see Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, No 125, dated 8 November 2021, p 467) (Ratification of final mandate.)

Declarations of vote made on behalf of the ANC, EFF, Al Jama-ah and DA.

Abstain: Christians, F C (ACDP) and Marais, P J (FF Plus).

Question put: That the Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the National Forests Amendment Bill [B 11D–2016] (NCOP) be adopted.

Question agreed to (ANC and EFF dissenting).

The Report accordingly adopted.

21. [17:52] FIFTH ORDER

Consideration of report of the Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Opportunities and Tourism on the recommendations for the appointment of candidates to the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board, dated 8 September 2021 (see Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, No 99, dated 9 September 2021, p 414).

Declarations of vote made on behalf of the ANC and DA.

Abstain: ACDP, EFF, Al Jama-ah and FF Plus.

Question put: That the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Opportunities and Tourism on the recommendations for the appointment of candidates to the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board be adopted.

Question agreed to.

The Report accordingly adopted.

22. The House adjourned at 18:00.