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PARLIAMENT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**ANNOUNCEMENTS,
 TABLINGS AND
 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

TUESDAY, 2 JUNE 2020

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

The Speaker and the Chairperson

1. Bills passed by Houses – to be submitted to President for assent

- (1) Bill passed by National Council of Provinces on 2 June 2020:
 - (a) **Division of Revenue Bill** [B 3 – 2020] (National Assembly – sec 76).

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Organisational Structure for Public Protector South Africa, 2020

- (1) A letter has been received from the Public Protector, submitting the Organizational Structure for Public Protector South Africa, 2020, in terms of section 11 of the Public Protector Act, 1994 (Act No 23 of 1994).

Referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services** for consideration and report.

National Council of Provinces

The Chairperson

1. Invitation to nominate Candidates to serve on Land Bank Board

- (1) A letter, dated 23 May 2020, has been received from the Minister of Finance, inviting the relevant parliamentary committees in terms of section 4(2) of the Land and Agricultural Development Bank Act (No 15 of 2002) (the Act), to nominate candidates with a strong background in agricultural sector industry, economics, banking, financial management (chartered accountant), financial markets, auditing, legal, information technology, digital, human resource management, development finance and governance, for appointment to the board of the Land Bank.

Referred to the **Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy** for consideration and report.

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services

- (a) Report dated 25 May 2020, on the confirmation of suspension/removal from office of Ms L B Freeman, a Senior Magistrate, Mossel Bay, in terms of section 13(4)(b) of the Magistrates Act, 1993 (No 90 of 1993).
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. FIRST REPORT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RULES COMMITTEE, 2020 (VIRTUAL MEETINGS)

A. INTRODUCTION

The National Assembly Rules Committee (Rules Committee) held a special meeting on 19 May 2020 to deliberate on a Rule framed by the Speaker for virtual sittings, in terms of National Assembly Rule 6 (unforeseen eventualities), amongst other matters.

Rule 6 provides that the Speaker may give a ruling or frame a rule in respect of any eventuality for which the rules and orders of the House do not provide, having due regard to the procedures, precedents, practices and conventions developed by the House and on the basis of constitutional values and principles underpinning an open and democratic society. A rule framed by the Speaker remains in force until the House, based on a recommendation of the Rules Committee, has decided thereon.

The Speaker announced the Rule on virtual meetings in the *Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports* document of 15 April 2020, on page 1.

The Rules Committee recommends that the following Rule on Virtual meetings in terms of National Assembly Rule 6, be approved.

B. RULE ON VIRTUAL MEETINGS IN TERMS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RULE 6 (UNFORESEEN EVENTUALITIES)

Part A – Purpose

The purpose of this rule is to enable the National Assembly and its committees to hold compliant virtual meetings using technological platforms.

Rule 6 of the National Assembly Rules provides that the Speaker may give a ruling or frame a rule in respect of any eventuality for which the rules or orders of the House do not provide, having due regard to the procedures, precedents, practices and conventions developed by the House and on the basis of constitutional values and principles underpinning an open, accountable and democratic society. A rule framed by the Speaker remains in force until the House, based on a recommendation of the Rules Committee, has decided thereon.

The Rules of the National Assembly remain in operation and are supplemented by this rule in order to provide for virtual meetings.

Part B - Application of rule

This rule applies to –

- (a) sittings of the National Assembly in the event a physical sitting is not possible, as determined by the Speaker;
- (b) meetings of committees in the event a physical meeting is not possible, as determined by the chairperson.

Part C - Notice and venue of meeting

In terms of this rule –

- (a) the Speaker or chairperson of a committee shall issue a notice and agenda for a virtual meeting, which must include the date and time of the meeting;
- (b) all documents of the meeting shall be distributed by electronic means to which Members have access; and
- (c) the venue of a virtual meeting shall be deemed to be Cape Town as the seat of Parliament.

Part D - Privilege and order in meetings

In a virtual meeting –

- (a) members shall have the same powers, privileges and immunities which they ordinarily enjoy in parliamentary proceedings; and
- (b) where relevant, current rules on order in public meetings and order in debate shall apply.

Part E - Presiding Officers

In a virtual meeting the Presiding Officer or Chairperson of a committee shall have all the powers as provided for in the current Rules.

Part F - Quorum

In a virtual meeting –

- (a) the quorum requirements shall be those as determined by the Constitution and the Rules; and

- (b) members who have accessed the meeting via the secure link sent to their email address shall be deemed present for the purposes of establishing a quorum, taking a decision or voting on a matter.

Part G - Voting

In a virtual meeting –

- (a) members shall be entitled to cast their votes either electronically, by voice or by having their vote recorded by their respective whips;
- (b) the procedure to be followed is predetermined by the Speaker and directives are announced in the meeting by the Presiding Officer or Chairperson of a committee;
- (c) only members who are present when a vote is called shall be permitted to vote;
- (d) the results of a vote are announced and, where possible, the names of members and how they voted are recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings; and
- (e) members must ensure that their votes are correctly recorded.

Part H– Public involvement

Access to proceedings must be facilitated in a manner consistent with participatory and representative democracy and wherever possible a virtual meeting must be livestreamed.

Addendum: Process Guidelines

1. The Secretary to Parliament together with authorized officials and technical teams are responsible for technical support to facilitate virtual meetings.
2. The Secretariat must be given at least 3 days' notice of a meeting.
3. Pre-conference testing must take place at least a day before the meeting.
4. Technical support must be available during a virtual meeting.
5. The Secretariat must maintain the minutes and records of the proceedings.
6. The Secretariat must maintain a system that is capable of verifying the votes cast either electronically or manually.
7. Political parties must provide a signed copy of the votes cast for or against a question by their members, to the Secretariat within an agreed timeframe to ensure verification of results. This record may be submitted electronically.

Report to be considered.