FREE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Tuesday 23 June 2026

Time: 10:00 [Morning]

Place: Interim Chamber, 6th Floor, Southern Life Plaza, Bloemfontein

[Presiding: Speaker, hon M A Dukwana]

1. ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

1. Prayers/Meditation

The Speaker took to the Chair and requested everybody present to observe a moment of silence for prayers/meditation. He welcomed all guests.

He expressed his dissatisfaction with the poor attendance of hon Members at that day's proceedings. He said that it was the first sitting of the House in a long while and that notice thereof was communicated well in advance. He asked the Chief Whip to explain why there was such a small number of Members in attendance and said that he wanted the House to make a ruling on the matter that day.

Hon M D Khoabane rose and informed the House that he did receive apologies from some of the Members, but there were other Members whose absence he only noticed upon consulting the attendance register. He suggested a refinement of the system of the Office of the Chief Whip.

The Speaker requested him to inform the House which Members had tendered apologies and which Members were granted leave of absences. He said that there was a significant difference. If Members did not receive approval for their absence, steps would be taken against them, because they were then absent without approval. At that moment a few Members entered the chamber and he said that the same would apply to Members that arrived late for proceedings.

Hon M D Khoabane informed the House that the Premier requested permission to arrive a little late as well as leave earlier due to other pressing matters. The Speaker ruled that the Premier would be exempted from any disciplinary steps.

The Speaker requested hon M D Khoabane for a list of those Members who had not submitted apologies and to whom leave of absences had not been granted. He said the matter would be dealt with accordingly and that money would be deducted from their salaries because they were absent without the necessary permission.

2. Statements

Before the House proceeded with Statements by Members of the Executive Council and Members of the Legislature, the Speaker reminded the House of Rule 41 of the Standing Rules and Orders. Accordingly, 20 minutes were allocated for the whole duration of Statements by Members of the Executive Council to raise matters pertaining to their portfolios which needed to be brought to the attention of the Legislature. A statement from a Member of the Executive Council should not exceed 5 minutes. Following Statements by Members of the Executive Council, a Member or Members of each of the parties were permitted to comment on a statement by a Member of the Executive Council for not more than three minutes per party, commencing with the Official Opposition, followed by other parties in the order of their size of membership in the House.
At the conclusion of comments by Members of each of the parties on Statements by Members of the Executive Council, the Member of the Executive Council would be given an opportunity to reply on matters pertaining to his or her portfolio for not more than 3 minutes.

The Speaker asked whether there were any Statements.

2.1 Statements by Members of the Executive Council

2.1.1 Hon N B Sifuba
Continued support for Bafana Bafana and congratulations to the Cheetahs

Mr W Pretorius commented on hon N B Sifuba's statement. He concurred with hon N B Sifuba's statement and also wished Bafana Bafana and the Cheetahs the best of luck.

2.2. Statements by Members

Before the House proceeded to Statements by Members, the Speaker reminded the House of the provisions of Rule 42, in terms of which the Whips Committee had determined in principle that the standard time allocation for Statements by Members, other than Members of the Executive Council, would not exceed 36 minutes, with each Member making a statement for 3 minutes.
It was noted that the ANC had 12 minutes of statements by four Members; the DA had 9 minutes of statements by three Members; the EFF had 6 minutes of statements by two Members; and the FF+, MKP, and ACT each had 3 minutes of statements by their Members.
Statements by Members would not exceed 3 minutes per Member, and matters raised had to be of public importance.
At the conclusion of Statements by Members, a Member of the Executive Council present would be given an opportunity to respond, for not more than three minutes, to any statement directed to that Member of the Executive Council or made in respect of that Member's portfolio.

The Speaker enquired if there were any Statements.

2.2.1 Hon Z L Sigwebela
Upgrade of Free State Stadium to Category B
2.2.2 Hon M J Mokoena
Withholding of funding from schools
2.2.3 Hon M D Khoabane
Social unrest – illegal immigrants
2.2.4 Hon D E Janse van Vuuren
Importance of Sport for the Free State; Performance of Crinums (Free State Provincial Netball team) in Telkom National Netball League
2.2.5 Hon N J Garekoe
Xhariep District Community not benefiting from funding
2.2.6 Hon R Jankielsohn
Skills and educational systems as well as infrastructure and investment growth for a new world

The Speaker remarked that the hon Members who entered the Chamber late on that day were very active. He said that he would appreciate it if going forward, they would be on time for the proceedings.

2.3 Replies by MECs

2.3.1 Hon M J Maboya replied to statements by Members as pertained to her portfolio.

3. Reports by Committees

The House thereupon continued to Reports by Committees.

4.1 **Reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts, and Culture to the Free State Legislature**

1. Report Of the Portfolio Committees on Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture with regard to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in The Free State Province and stakeholder engagement on Foot-And-Mouth Disease (FMD) in Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, (Qwaqwa).
2. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts, and Culture to the Free State Legislature with regard to the Third Quarterly Non-Financial Reports for the 2025/2026 financial year of the Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development & Environmental Affairs, Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Economic Development, Tourism, Environmental Affairs & Small Business and Entities.
3. Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts, and Culture to the Free State Legislature with regard to the Second Quarterly Non-Financial Reports of the Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development & Environmental Affairs, Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Economic Development, Tourism & Small Business and Entities for the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Speaker requested hon Z L Sigwebela to table the reports jointly. The Speaker ordered the table assistant to ensure that it was in fact the reports being tabled because

of past experience, where Members would pretend to table a report by tabling another document. He said that if it was applicable to these reports, he would be charged.
Hon Z L Sigwebela thereupon tabled the reports jointly and addressed the House on each report separately. He proposed that the reports be adopted by the House. It was approved.

Hon T P Meeko exited the House. The Speaker addressed him and said that they had waited for him to enter after the commencement of that day's proceedings and would therefore also wait for him to exit the House.

The reports of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture, to the Free State Legislature, as tabled, were thereupon adopted by the House.

4.2 **Reports of the Joint Portfolio Committees on Cooperative Governance and office of the Premier and Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture and Public Accounts and Finance**

1. Report of the Joint Portfolio Committees on Cooperative Governance and Office of the Premier and Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture and Public Accounts and Finance with regard to the oversight visits at Sasolburg, Natref Operations & the Metsimaholo Landfill site.
2. Report of the Joint Portfolio Committees on Cooperative Governance and Office of the Premier and Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture and Public Accounts and Finance with regard to the oversight visits conducted in Fezile Dabi and Lejweleputswa Districts.

The Speaker called on the nominated co-Chairperson, hon Z L Sigwebela, to table the reports jointly and address the House on the individual reports. The acting Chairperson of the Joint Portfolio Committees on Cooperative Governance and the Office of the Premier and Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture and Public Accounts and Finance, hon Z L Sigwebela thereupon tabled the reports jointly and addressed the House on each report separately. He proposed that the reports be adopted by the House. It was approved.

The reports of the Joint Portfolio Committees on Cooperative Governance and Office of the Premier and Agriculture, Rural Economic Development, Small Business, Sport, Arts and Culture and Public Accounts and Finance, as tabled, were thereupon adopted by the House.

4.3 Report of the Joint Portfolio Committees on Public Accounts & Finance, and Cooperative Governance & Office of the Premier with regards to municipalities' financial recovery intervention plans.

Hon M D Khoabane requested permission to table the report. He requested that the Report be considered then. It was approved. Hon M D Khoabane thereupon addressed the House on the Report.

The Speaker ordered hon T P Meeko and K D Mance to be reminded that they should return to the House and that lunch would be served at a later stage.

Hon M D Khoabane proposed that the Report be adopted by the House. It was approved.

The Report of the Joint Portfolio Committees on Public Accounts & Finance, and Cooperative Governance & Office of the Premier with regards to municipalities' financial recovery intervention plans, as tabled, was thereupon adopted by the House.

4. Interpellation (Rule 45 – 48)

The Speaker informed the House that the procedure was in line with Rule 45 – 48 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Free State Legislature.

The Speaker informed the House that the Interpellation had been circulated and that Rule 46 specifically applied regarding the time allocations.

Hon J N I Mbalula interjected and in doing so interrupted the Speaker. The Speaker offered hon J N I Mbalula the platform to preside as he thought that he might be able to explain the process better. Hon J N I Mbalula declined explaining the process.

The Speaker afforded the MEC, hon J N I Mbalula, the opportunity to address the House on the Interpellation.

The following hon Members debated the Interpellation:

1. Hon D E Janse van Vuuren
2. Hon D Leech
3. Hon T P Meeko
4. Hon R Jankielsohn

The MEC, hon J N I Mbalula, replied to the Debate on the Interpellation.

5. Questions for Oral Reply

The House thereupon proceeded to Questions for Oral Reply.

The Speaker informed the House that Questions for Oral Reply were initially submitted for written response, but that they were converted to oral responses in line with Rule 56 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Free State Legislature.

He ruled that disciplinary action would be taken against all MECs that were not present to respond or that were not prepared adequately to respond to the questions.

The following questions were asked on 25 February 2026 and were due on 13 March 2026:

Question 878

Hon R Jankielsohn (DA) asked the Hon Premier, Ms M J Letsoha-Mathae a question.
The Premier indicated that she had already responded to all the questions which were submitted to her Office. She said that she was unsure of what happened to Question 878, but that she responded to all questions. According to her knowledge, the question was withdrawn. The Speaker responded that up until the commencement of that day's proceedings, he had not received any confirmation of that. He said that he would like to understand exactly what was happening. The Speaker consulted with the acting Secretary and informed the House that he was just advised that this question was not responded to in writing. It was therefore included in the Question Paper for oral reply and that he would like the Premier to reply to the question

then. The Premier indicated that she did not have Question 878 included in her documents. The Speaker ruled that the House would come back to that specific question.

Question 889

Hon D E Janse van Vuuren (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Finance, Economic Development, Tourism and Small Businesses (DESTEA), Mr M K Makume a question.
The MEC responded to the question and also indicated that the largest part of the question did not fall within the mandate of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Hon D E Janse van Vuuren commented on the MEC's response.

Question 878

The Speaker returned to Question 878 and the hon Premier concurred that there had been an omission from the side of her Office. She undertook to respond to it by the end of business on that day. She apologised.
Hon Dr R Jankielsohn rose and said that they were not fond of omissions in the Legislature, because it was a question that was directed to the Office of the Premier a long time ago. He said that it would be acceptable for them if the Premier responded by the end of business that day, but that any punitive measures resided with the presiding officer. The Speaker moved to the next question.

The Speaker enquired whether the Chief Whip had received any notice from the hon MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements (COGTA), Mr T Z Mokoena. The Chief Whip indicated that he had not received anything and did not grant him permission to not be in attendance. The Speaker ruled that the matter would be referred to the relevant committee.

The following questions were asked on 4 March 2026 and were due on 20 March 2026:

Question 905

There was some confusion regarding which MEC the Question was directed to. Hon W Pretorius confirmed that it was not directed to hon T Z Mokoena, but to the hon K D Mance. The Speaker said that according to the Legislature it was directed to hon T Z Mokoena

Hon W Pretorius (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms K D Mance a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon W Pretorius commented on the MEC's response.

Question 909

Hon T P Maseou (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Health, Mr M V Mahlatsi a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon T P Maseou commented on the MEC's response.

The following questions were asked on 11 March 2026 and were due on 27 March 2026.

Question 924

Hon D Leech (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Finance, Mr M K Makume a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon D Leech commented on the MEC's response.

Question 932

Hon D E Janse van Vuuren (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Finance, Mr M K Makume a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon D E Janse van Vuuren commented on the MEC's response and sought clarity. The MEC responded to his comment. It was noted.

Question 933, 934 and 938 were all questions that had been directed to Mr T Z Mokoena who was absent. The Speaker ruled that it would be referred to the Ethics Committee. Hon D E Janse van Vuuren rose on a Point of Order. He said that hon MEC T Z Mokoena had responded to around 50 questions between February and then, responding with the same answer to each question, that he had referred it to the relevant municipality and was awaiting an answer. The Speaker replied that the Ethics Committee would deal with the matter and that the House would be informed of their subsequent findings.

The following questions were asked on 18 March 2026 and were due on 03 April 2026.

Question 947

Hon Dr R Jankielsohn (DA) asked the Hon Premier, Ms M J Letsoha-Mathae a question.
The Premier did not respond to the question then due to a partial omission and requested to also respond to it before the end of business that day. Hon Dr R Jankielsohn accepted the undertaking by the Premier.

The following questions were asked on 22 April 2026 and were due on 19 May 2026.

Question 42

Hon D Leech (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms K D Mance a question.
The MEC responded to the question and said that the list had been submitted as part of a spreadsheet which was submitted to the Legislature. Hon D Leech requested clarity on which office it had been sent to, because they did not receive a response.

The Speaker reiterated that the questions were submitted for written reply and the timeframe was not adhered to and therefore changed to questions for oral reply according to Rule 56 of the Standing Rules and Orders. He ordered the MEC to reply orally to the question.
She explained that it was a very detailed answer in the form of a spreadsheet and requested to resend it directly after that day's proceedings.
The Speaker ordered her to ascertain immediately to exactly whose office the reply was sent to initially. She acceded to his order.

Question 45

Hon W Pretorius (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Finance, Mr M K Makume a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon W Pretorius commented on the MEC's response.

Question 46

Hon W Pretorius (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Finance, Mr M K Makume a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon W Pretorius commented on the MEC's response.

Question 54

Hon D M C McKay (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms K D Mance a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon D M C McKay commented on the MEC's response. He said that the question should actually have been directed to the MEC of Community Safety, Roads and Transport. The MEC indicated that, although he was in attendance, he was not in the position to respond to that question then.
The Speaker ruled that the two departments should liaise to ensure that the relevant Department provided the House and the hon Member with a satisfactory reply to the question.

Question 57

Hon R Jankielsohn (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Economic Development, Tourism and Small Businesses (DESTEA): Mr M K Makume a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon R Jankielsohn commented on the MEC's response. He also asked a follow-up question. The MEC responded.

Question 60

Hon D Leech (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms K D Mance a question.
The MEC responded to the question. She requested that the same approach be followed as with Question 42. She explained that it was also a very detailed answer. She requested to submit it by the end of that day's proceedings. It was being printed at that moment.

The Speaker reiterated that questions for oral reply stemmed from questions that were initially submitted for written reply, but that the timeframe was not adhered to and therefore they were now to be replied to orally. He demanded an explanation on why this question was not addressed properly when it was initially submitted to the MEC's Department. The MEC sincerely apologised but explained that she was not aware that the response did not reach the Legislature and the office of hon D Leech.

Hon D Leech commented on the MEC's response.

The following questions were asked on 13 May 2026 and were due on 29 May 2026.

Question 99

Hon W Pretorius (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms K D Mance a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon W Pretorius commented on the MEC's response.

The Speaker ruled that the relevant departments would look into the issues so that they can get to the bottom of it and ensure that there are proper responses from the relevant departments.

The Speaker further ruled that to ensure that all matters are addressed, a meeting should be held between the relevant Portfolio Committee, the relevant MEC as well as the Office of the Presiding Officers and all Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees in order to resolve these matters so the problem can be identified and resolved. He said that the following departments should be in attendance:

i) The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure;
ii) The Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport
iii) The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation

He added that that Chief Whip as well as the Leader of Government Business should be in attendance. He said the meeting would take place the following Tuesday at 10:00 in the Speaker's boardroom. He expressed his hope that he was clear on the matter and that no further invitations would be extended because it was communicated formally in the House.
Hon D Leech raised her concern regarding some Members that were writing examinations as well as have other obligations. The Speaker noted her concern but said that the matter was not open for discussion.
The Speaker called hon T P Meeko to order.
The Speaker said that other dates would be considered and communicated to the relevant Members.

Question 108

Hon D M C McKay (DA) could not ask the hon MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements, Mr T Z Mokoena a question, because he was not in attendance. He also referred to previous questions that were not replied to within seven days, as was undertaken by hon T Z Mokoena. The Speaker undertook to look into the issue and if it was not done, action would be taken accordingly.

The following questions were asked on 20 May 2026 and were due on 05 June 2026.

Question 123

Hon T P Maseou (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Health, Mr M V Mahlatsi a question. The MEC responded to the question. Hon W Pretorius responded on behalf on hon T P Maseou, who was not able to re-enter the House at that moment, due to mobility challenges.

Question 128

Hon M J Mokoena (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms K D Mance a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon M J Mokoena commented on the MEC's response. The MEC responded again.

The Speaker warned MECs that hon Members were suffering in the House due to the lengthy Question Paper.

The following questions were asked on 27 May 2026 and were due on 12 June 2026.

Question 136, 137 and 138

Hon D Leech (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Public Works and Infrastructure, Ms K D Mance three questions.
The MEC responded to all three questions. Hon D Leech commented on the MEC's responses to the questions. She requested the Speaker to also make the MEC for Health part of the meeting he mentioned earlier.
The Speaker stated that the MEC for Health as well as the MEC for Finance and Education should be part of the meeting. He said that MEC for Finance would be attending as the MEC as well as the Leader of Government Business.

Question 139

Hon W Pretorius (DA) asked the hon MEC responsible for Finance, Mr M K Makume a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon M K Makume indicated that the same question was initially asked as Question 46 and was responded to in full. Hon W Pretorius concurred and mentioned that it was one of the questions which was not responded to initially and was placed on the Question Paper again.

The following was a question which was submitted directly for Oral Reply.

Question 1

Hon S L Mkhabela asked the hon MEC responsible for Public Works and Infrastructure: Hon K D Mance a question.
The MEC responded to the question. Hon Mkhabela commented on the MEC's response.

The Speaker welcomed the Deputy Speaker back after her long absence. He recorded his appreciation for her return.

The Deputy Speaker took to the Chair

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6. Speaker's orders: Debate on Youth Month

The House thereupon proceeded to Speaker's Orders. She informed hon Members, that the 16th of June was Youth Day. It marked the day on which the students in Soweto protested against the Bantu Education System. This system was designed to enforce Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in schools. The system was also designed to provide inferior education to Black South Africans, limiting their opportunities and reinforcing apartheid machinery. This day has since been declared Youth Day by the democratic government, hence today the Free State Legislature had decided to honour the day by allowing hon Members to take part in the Debate on Youth Month.

6.1 Hon K D Mance;
6.2 Hon S L Mkhabela;
6.3 Hon D M C McKay;
6.4 Hon W Pretorius; and
6.5 Hon Z L Sigwebela.

2. ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker thereupon adjourned the House until further notice.

The House adjourned at 13:27.
