

TUESDAY, 29 JUNE 2010

***PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF THE PROVINCE OF THE
EASTERN CAPE***

The House met at 14:15.

Mr Speaker took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

(Announcement)

Mr SPEAKER: Order! This is a special sitting for the election of a Deputy Speaker and I will therefore not allow any notices of motion.

In terms of the Rules for the election of political office bearers promulgated by the Chief Justice for this term of the Legislature, a nomination form must be substantially in the same format as prescribed in the above Rules. The signed nomination form must have been handed to the Returning Officer before 09:00 today, 29 June 2010. Nominations may not be made from the floor.

These requirements and copies of the nomination form were communicated in writing by the Returning Officer to all hon members on 23 June 2010. In now ask the Returning Officer to inform the House of nominations received.

The RETURNING OFFICER: Hon Speaker, I received two nominations: that of hon Zukisa Hlekiswa-Thabaneng and that of hon Bulelwa Tunyiswa-Gqoboka.

Mr SPEAKER: Hon members, the procedure for the election of a Deputy Speaker in terms of the Rules made by the Chief Justice is as follows. The Returning Officer shall call out the names of members eligible to vote from the official members' list. When the name of a member is called, the member, if present, shall be issued with a ballot paper and the name of that member marked off on the list. A member must then record his or her vote on the ballot paper by placing a cross against the name of the candidate for whom a member desires to vote in the space on the ballot paper for recording a vote. The member must fold the ballot paper in such a way that the official mark on the back of the ballot paper is visible to the Returning Officer.

If a member has inadvertently spoiled a paper, the member must call the attention of the Returning Officer, who shall issue another ballot paper, if I am satisfied that the paper has indeed been spoiled.

The Returning Officer shall now call out the names of the members eligible to vote and proceed with the recording of the votes.

The Returning Officer proceeded to read the names of members eligible to vote.

Mr J PIENAAR: Hon Speaker, on a point of order ...

Mr SPREAKER: No, no point of order. We are proceeding.

Mr J PIENAAR: Mr Speaker, I have problem with the procedure happening in front of us.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Sit down.

Mr J PIENAAR: There is no privacy to vote. Your vote is your secret, and there is no secrecy there. There are two officials observing what you are voting.

Mr SPEAKER: Please sit down, hon member.

Mr J PIENAAR: Two officials cannot be observing what vote members are casting there. It is not valid.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, I did not understand the objection. He is the Returning Officer. The person who is voting can vote anywhere. They do not necessarily have to vote here. Please. I am trying to say: let us not create a scene for nothing. You can take the ballot paper, go and vote anywhere, and then bring it to the ballot box.

Mr R S STEVENSON: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: The Secretary to the Legislature can observe how people vote. Now, anyone who wants to vote in a different place – that is not freedom; it is showing that you are maybe not going to vote in a certain way. I do not believe it is right that the Secretary to the Legislature is standing there observing how people vote.

Mr SPEAKER: Hon members, I was trying to make some sense of this. I said one option would be to vote elsewhere; now he is saying ... [Interjections.] Perhaps we should ask the Secretary to move a little bit away. [Interjections.]

Hon members, I am ruling now on this matter, and I hope nobody is going to create any chaos. The Secretary is checking the mark, as I read out earlier on. He is checking whether the mark is outside once you have folded the paper. However, I get the hon member's point that he should not observe as you vote, and make sure that you keep your secrets.

Hon members, the House will now adjourn for the counting of the votes.

Mr J PIENAAR: Hon Speaker, I would like to ask the hon Speaker for the opportunity for scrutineers from the Opposition side to attend the counting. Thank you.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! What we are doing here is guided by a set procedure. As I read out earlier, this is a Returning Officer of the elections. There is no such rule that talks about what the hon member is proposing.

Thank you very much.

Business suspended at 14:48 and resumed at 15:10.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

Mr Speaker took the Chair and announced the results of the ballot, as follows:

Hon Z Hlekiso-Thabaneng: 17
Hon B Tunyiswa-Gqoboka: 30

Mr SPEAKER: I accordingly declare hon B Tunyiswa-Gqoboka the Deputy Speaker of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature. [Applause.]

Ms B Tunyiswa-Gqoboka accordingly elected Deputy Speaker of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I would like to acknowledge that the mother of the hon Tunyiswa-Gqoboka is present here in the House. [Applause.] We also have her sister, Nomfundo, and friends Thembisa Dwanya and Lulama Mtoto. This is part of congratulating hon Tunyiswa-Gqoboka on being elected Deputy Speaker.

I hope all hon members have now exercised their democratic right and by so doing we all now accept that we have a Deputy Speaker. We congratulate her – all of us. I am doing that on your behalf.

The House adjourned at 15:15.