



EFF STATEMENT ON THE WEEKLY PROGRAMME OF PARLIAMENT

25 August 2024

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) welcomes the resumption of Parliament during the week of the 19th to the 23rd of August 2024, following the recess period. During this time, EFF Members of Parliament (MPs) attended committee inductions organised to introduce members to ministries, departments, their mandates, annual performance plans, and strategic objectives, and plan the work of committees.

During these induction workshops, EFF MPs drew on their ten years of political and legislative experience from the 5th and 6th Parliaments to make substantial contributions, propose new methods of accountability, and strengthen the overall work of Parliament.

Our members engaged actively in committees such as the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA), portfolio committees on Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Mineral Resources, among others, to ensure that Parliament is not reduced to a mere rubber stamp, but instead holds the executive accountable and promotes service delivery.

Additionally, the EFF participated in the Chief Whips Forum and the National Assembly Programming Committee, where we received reports from the executive of Parliament to ensure the smooth operation of upcoming work and the programming of the 2nd term.

A key resolution from the Chief Whips Forum was the decision to resume hybrid sittings and meetings. The EFF objected to this decision, arguing that hybrid sittings weaken parliamentary oversight. The return to virtual sessions highlights the ongoing failure of Parliament, particularly the Secretary to Parliament, to secure alternative venues while rebuilding Parliament. It has been more than three years since the need for alternative arrangements arose, yet no practical plan is in place.

The EFF also demanded that the executive implement measures to provide translation services for all official languages, not just English and Afrikaans, ensuring that citizens who follow Parliament's deliberations can do so in their preferred language. This is essential to making Parliament a true people's Parliament.

Furthermore, we called on the Standing Committee on Finance to finalise a detailed programme for the EFF's private member bill, introduced by the President and Commander-in-Chief, to nationalise the South African Reserve Bank through the South African Reserve Bank Amendment Bill. We also emphasised the importance of building the necessary legal drafting and research capacity to support members with the development of private members' bills.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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