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**POLITICAL WEEK AHEAD**

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# MPs set to vote on ousting Mkhwebane as public protector

**P**arliament is expected to vote on Monday to remove suspended public protector Busiswe Mkhwebane after the section 194 committee that investigated her fitness to hold office decided she should be removed on the grounds of incompetence and misconduct.

Deputy president Paul Mashatile said last week the ANC has a position on Mkhwebane's removal, and any of its MPs who vote against it will be undermining the party. Individual MPs will be called

on to cast their votes openly in a roll call in a session of the National Assembly in the Cape Town City Hall on Monday.

The ANC, DA and ACDP voted for the recommendation to remove Mkhwebane, providing enough votes to meet the two-thirds majority required to remove the head of a chapter nine institution.

**SECRET BALLOT**  
National Assembly speaker Nosiviso Mapisa-Nqakula has refused requests by the ATM and the UDM for a secret ballot, saying the law empowers her to

determine voting procedure when no specific method is prescribed by the constitution or the rules.

Business Day has reported that acting public protector Kholeka Gcaleka, who was criticised roundly for her report on the Phala Phala issue, is likely to be the next public protector after a parliamentary ad hoc committee nominated her for the role on August 29.

Gcaleka was endorsed by seven members of the 11-member ad hoc committee set up to find the next public protector.

She needs a 60% majority in the National Assembly before her name is referred to President Cyril Ramaphosa for appointment.

**UNAFFORDABLE INCREASE**  
The DA is going to the high court in Pretoria on Monday for an order to interdict the decision by the National Energy Regulator of SA (Nersa) that Eskom is entitled to recover R18bn from its customers in 2023/24 and R352bn the next year.

The DA says the decision would mean an increase of more than 30% in the electricity

tariff over the next two years.

"The DA is taking this unaffordable and offensive national increase on review, because people across SA can no longer afford the out of control price hikes that the ANC national government continues to force onto them across the board."

"The DA case will also seek to have the ANC-created electricity crisis, and load-shedding, declared unconstitutional," the DA said.

DA federal council chair Helen Zille is expected to lead the party's delegation to court

that includes Western Cape premier Alan Winde, DA Gauteng leader Solly Msimanga, and DA federal chair Ivan Meyer.

On Tuesday, the department of public works & infrastructure will update parliament on precinct development to ensure service delivery centres in cities and rural towns, and give an update on progress with one-stop service centres to be built in the rural towns of Howick, Mandeni, Mount Fletcher, Carolina, Kwa-Mhlanga, Secunda, Christina, Matlosana, and Vredenburg.

On Wednesday, the National Assembly's portfolio committee on employment & labour will be briefed by the department on the second and third quarterly performance reports (2022/23) of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac), the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), and the Public Service Commission.

On Thursday, the portfolio committee on transport will hold a virtual meeting with the City of Cape Town and the SA National Taxi Council (Santaco)

on the deadly minibus taxi strike.

**SANTACO**  
The strike action, which left five people dead and cost the Western Cape economy an estimated R5bn and at least R18m in damages in the city alone, was called without notice by Santaco on August 3, citing the impoundment of vehicles as the main issue.

After concessions were made for release of the impounded vehicles, Santaco confirmed on August 10 that the protest had ended.