



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

---

PARLIAMENT

The National Assembly

---

**STANDING ORDERS**

As adopted by the National Assembly  
on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 during the Fourth Session of  
the Tenth Parliament

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NAIROBI



The National Assembly



**STANDING ORDERS**



## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING ORDERS

*In Exercise of the powers conferred by Article 124 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kenya, the National Assembly, by resolution passed on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, adopted these Standing Orders and the Houses of Parliament (Joint Sittings) Rules.*



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**PRAYER.**

Almighty God, who in Your wisdom and goodness have appointed the offices of Leaders and Parliaments for the welfare of society and the just government of the people, we beseech You to behold with Your abundant favour, us Your servants, whom You have been pleased to call to the performance of important trusts in this Republic.

Let Your blessings descend upon us here assembled, and grant that we treat and consider all matters that shall come under our deliberation in so just and faithful a manner as to promote Your Honour and Glory, and to advance the peace, prosperity and welfare of our Country and of those whose interests You have committed to our charge.

**AMEN.**

## OMBI

Ewe Mwenyezi Mungu, ambaye kwa hekima na wema wako umeteua nyadhifa za viongozi na mabunge kwa ustawi wa jamii na utawala wa haki wa wanadamu: twakusihi ututazame kwa neema nyingi sisi watumishi wako, ambao umeridhika kutuita ili tutekeleze shughuli muhimu za Jamhuri hii yetu.

Twakuomba ututeremshie baraka zako sisi tuliokutanika hapa, na utujalie tuyatende na kufikiria mambo yote yatakayofikishwa mbele yetu kwa njia ya haki na uaminifu ili utukufu na sifa zako ziendelezwe, na ili kustawisha amani, ufanisi na heri ya nchi hii yetu na wale ambao haja zao umezikabidhi mikononi mwetu.

**AMINA**

## PART I - INTRODUCTORY

### In cases not provided for, the Speaker to decide

1. (1) In all cases where matters are not expressly provided for by these Standing Orders or by other Orders of the House, any procedural question shall be decided by the Speaker.

(2) The decisions made in paragraph (1) shall be based on the Constitution of Kenya, statute law and the usages, forms, precedents, customs, procedures and traditions of the Parliament of Kenya and other jurisdictions to the extent that these are applicable to Kenya.

### Interpretation

2. (1) In these Standing Orders-
  - (a) unless the context otherwise requires-

“Allotted Day” means a day set aside for the consideration in Committee of Supply of proposals in respect of the Annual and Supplementary Estimates, as provided by Part XXIV of these Standing Orders;

“Cabinet Secretary” means a person appointed as a Cabinet Secretary under Article 152(2) of the Constitution;

“Clerk” means the Clerk of the Assembly, or, if the Clerk is absent, or if the office is

vacant, such other person as is for the time being performing the duties of the Clerk;

“Leave of the House” means there being no objection by any Member, either with the sympathy of the Speaker or with the support of at least five other Members;

“Leader of the Majority Party” means the person who is the leader in the National Assembly of the largest party or coalition of parties under Standing Order 19 (*Leader of Majority Party and Deputy Leader of Majority*);

“Leader of the Minority Party” means the person who is the leader in the National Assembly of the second largest party or coalition of parties under Standing Order 20 (*Leader of Minority Party and Deputy Leader of Minority*);

“Majority Party” means the largest party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly;  
“Majority Whip” means the Member designated as the Majority Whip by the Leader of the Majority Party;

“Member” means a member of the National Assembly;

“Minority Party” means the second largest party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly;

“Minority Whip” means the Member designated as the Minority Whip by the Leader of the Minority Party.

“Notice Paper” means the official schedule of business intended to be transacted by the Assembly during a particular week, published and circulated by the Clerk by order of the House Business Committee under Standing Order 38 (*Order Paper to be prepared and circulated*)

“Order paper” means the paper showing the business to be placed before or taken by the House on a particular day, published and circulated by the Clerk under Standing Order 38 (*Order Paper to be prepared and circulated*)

“Paper” means any printed or electronic material laid on the Table of the House or a committee of the House pursuant to any law or these Standing Orders or any other material as the Speaker may determine;

“Parliamentary Party” means a party or a coalition of parties consisting of not less

than five percent of the membership of the National Assembly;

“Party Whip” means a Member designated by a parliamentary party as its party whip for the purposes of the transaction of the business in the House and includes the Majority Whip and the Minority Whip;

“Precincts of Parliament” includes the Chamber of the National Assembly and of the Senate, every part of the buildings in which the Chambers are situated, the offices of Parliament, the galleries and places provided for the use and accommodation of Members of Parliament, members of the public and representatives of the Press and any forecourt, yard, garden, enclosure or open space, appurtenant thereto and used or provided for the purposes of Parliament;

“President” means the President of the Republic of Kenya and includes the Deputy-President when acting as President and any other person who for the time being performs the functions of the President pursuant to Article 146(2) of the Constitution;

“Private Bill” means any Bill, which is intended to affect or benefit some particular person, association or corporate body;

“Public Bill” means a Bill which is intended to affect the public generally, or a section of the public;

“Recess” means a period during which the House stands adjourned to a day other than the next normal sitting day;

“Session” means the sittings of the House commencing when it first meets after a General Election or on a day provided for in Standing Order 27 (*Regular Sessions of the House*) and terminating when the National Assembly adjourns at the end of a calendar year or at the expiry of the term of Parliament.

“Sitting” means a period during which the House is sitting continuously without adjournment and includes any period during which the House is in Committee; but two or more periods of sitting within the normal period of one sitting, or within an equivalent period, shall not rank as more than one sitting;

“Sitting day” means any day on which the Assembly sits;

(b) reference to the Chairperson of Committees includes the Speaker when presiding over a Committee of the whole House or any other Member for the time being so presiding;

(c) reference to the Speaker includes the Deputy Speaker or any other Member when presiding over the Assembly pursuant to Article 107 of the Constitution.

(2) In these Standing Orders, whenever a document is required to be provided or made available to Members, the document shall be considered to have been so provided or made available if placed in the Members pigeons holes or in such other manner as the Speaker may direct.



**PART II - SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS AND ELECTION  
OF SPEAKER**

**Proceedings on assembly of a new House**

3. (1) On the first sitting of a new House pursuant to the President's notification under Article 126(2) of the Constitution, the Clerk shall-
  - (a) read the notification of the President as published in the *Gazette*;
  - (b) lay a list of the names of the persons elected as Members on the Table of the House; and
  - (c) administer the Oath or Affirmation of Office provided for in Third Schedule to the Constitution to all members present in the House in the order set out in paragraph (2).
  
- (2) The Clerk shall administer the Oath or Affirmation of Office to Members in alphabetical order using the following order of precedence-
  - (a) Members with the longest cumulative period of service in the Assembly;
  - (b) Members with the longest cumulative period of service in the National Assembly and the Senate;
  - (c) longest cumulative period of service in the Senate;

- (d) all other Members.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 74 of the Constitution, no person shall assume or perform any functions of the office of a Member before taking and subscribing to the Oath or Affirmation of Office provided for under paragraph (1)
- (4) When the Clerk is administering the Oath or Affirmation of Office to Members and before the Clerk has administered the Oath or Affirmation of Office to the Speaker, any question arising in the House shall be determined by the Clerk who shall, during that period, exercise the powers of the Speaker.
- (5) At any other time, the Oath or Affirmation of Office shall be administered by the Speaker immediately after Prayers.
- (6) When a Member first attends to take his or her seat after the first sitting of the House, the Member shall, before taking his or her seat be escorted to the Table by two Members and be presented by them to the Speaker who shall then administer to the Member the Oath or Affirmation of Office.
- (7) Notwithstanding Standing Order 30(*Hours of Sitting*), on the day when the election of the

Speaker is to be conducted after a general election the sitting of the House shall commence at 9.00 am.

**Vacancy in the Office of Speaker**

4. (1) A Speaker shall be elected when the House first meets after a General Election and before the House proceeds with the dispatch of any other business, except the administration of the Oath or Affirmation of Office to Members present.

(2) If the office of Speaker falls vacant at any time before the expiry of the term of Parliament, no business shall be transacted by the House until the election of a new Speaker.

(3) The Deputy Speaker shall preside over the election under paragraph (2) but if the Deputy Speaker is a candidate, a Member elected by the House in accordance with Article 107 of the Constitution.

**Nomination of candidates**

5. (1) Upon the President notifying the place and date for the first sitting of a new Assembly pursuant to Article 126(2) of the Constitution, the Clerk shall by notice in the Gazette notify that fact and invite interested persons to submit their nomination papers for election to the office of Speaker.

(2) The names of candidates for election to the office of Speaker shall be entered upon nomination papers obtained from the Clerk and handed back to the Clerk, at least forty-eight hours before the time appointed at which the House is to meet to elect a Speaker

(3) The nomination papers of a candidate shall be accompanied by the names and signatures of twenty Members who support the candidate and a declaration by them that the candidate is qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament under Article 99 of the Constitution and is willing to serve as Speaker of the National Assembly.

(4) The Clerk shall maintain a register in which shall be shown the date and time when each candidate's nomination papers were received and shall ascertain that every such candidate for election to the office of Speaker is qualified to be elected as such under Article 106 of the Constitution.

(5) Immediately upon the close of the nomination period provided for in paragraph (2), the Clerk shall-

- (a) publicize and make available to all Members, a list showing all qualified candidates; and

(b) make available to all Members, copies of the curriculum vitae of the qualified candidates.

(6) The Clerk shall, at least two hours before the meeting of the Assembly, prepare ballot papers upon which shall be shown the names of all candidates validly nominated under paragraph (5) of this Standing Order.

**Secret ballot**

6. (1) The election of the Speaker shall be by secret ballot.

(2) The Clerk shall, at the commencement of each ballot, cause the ballot box, empty and unlocked, to be displayed to the House and shall, in the presence of the House, lock the box, which shall thereafter be kept in the full view of the House until the conclusion of the ballot.

(3) The Clerk shall issue not more than one ballot paper to each Member who comes to the Table to obtain it and each Member who wishes to vote shall proceed to a booth or designated area provided by the Clerk for that purpose and located next to and within reasonable distance of the ballot box and shall, while there, mark the ballot paper by placing a mark in the space

opposite the name of the candidate for whom the Member wishes to vote, fold the marked ballot paper before leaving the booth or area and place the folded ballot paper in the ballot box.

(4) A Member who, before the conclusion of a ballot has marked a paper in error may, by returning it to the Clerk, obtain another in its place and the Clerk shall immediately cancel and destroy the paper so returned.

(5) The Clerk shall make such arrangements as may be necessary to enable any Member with disability to vote.

(6) When it appears to the Clerk that all Members who are present and who wish to vote have placed their ballot papers in the ballot box, the Clerk shall unlock the box, examine the ballot papers and, having rejected those unmarked or spoilt, report the result of the ballot; and no Member who has not already recorded his or her vote shall be entitled to do so after the Clerk has unlocked the ballot box.

(7) A ballot paper is spoilt, if in the Clerk's opinion, it does not identify the candidate purported to be selected by the member voting.

#### **Election threshold**

7. (1) A person shall not be elected as Speaker, unless supported in a ballot by the votes of two-thirds of all Members.

(2) If no candidate is supported by the votes of two-thirds of all Members, the candidate or candidates who received the highest number of votes in the ballot referred to in paragraph (1) and the candidate or candidates who in that ballot received the next highest number of votes shall alone stand for election in a further ballot and the candidate who receives the highest number of votes in the further ballot shall be elected Speaker.

#### **Withdrawal of candidate**

8. A candidate may, by written notice to the Clerk, withdraw his or her name before a ballot is started, and in the event of such withdrawal, the Clerk shall cross-out the name of that candidate off any ballot papers issued for that or any subsequent ballot.

#### **Equality of votes**

9. If, in the further ballot referred to in Standing Order 7 (*Election threshold*), more than one candidate receives the highest number of votes, the ballot shall again be taken, and if there is an equality of the highest number of votes a further ballot shall be taken until one

candidate obtains more votes than the other or others.

**Custody of ballot papers**

10. Immediately the results are declared, all the ballot papers used in the election of a Speaker shall be packed and sealed in the presence of the House and kept in the custody of the Clerk for a period of six months and shall thereafter be destroyed.

**Single duly nominated candidate**

11. Despite the provisions of this Part, if there is only one candidate who has been duly nominated for election as Speaker at the expiry of the nomination period, that candidate shall be declared forthwith to have been elected Speaker without any ballot or vote being required.

**Swearing-in of the Speaker**

12. Immediately following the election of the Speaker, the Clerk shall administer the Oath or Affirmation of Office to the Speaker in the presence of the assembled House.



**PART III - DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES**

**Election of Deputy Speaker**

13. (1) As soon as practicable after the election of a Speaker following a General Election, a Deputy Speaker shall be elected.

(2) If the office of Deputy Speaker falls vacant at any time before the end of the term of Parliament, the House shall, as soon as practicable, elect a Member to that office.

(3) The procedure for electing a Deputy Speaker shall, with necessary modifications, be the same as that prescribed for the election of the Speaker.

**Notification of opening of Parliament**

14. (1) Immediately after taking and subscribing to the Oath or Affirmation of Office under Standing Order 12 (*Swearing in of the Speaker*), the Speaker shall notify the Members of the place, date and time of the opening of Parliament.

(2) Following the notification by the Speaker under paragraph (1), the sitting of the House shall stand adjourned until the date and time of the opening of Parliament.

#### **Chairperson of Committees of the whole House**

15. (1) The Deputy Speaker shall be the Chairperson of Committees and shall preside over all Committees of the whole House.

(2) If the Deputy Speaker is absent, or if the Deputy Speaker considers that it is desirable that he or she should take part in any proceedings in Committee otherwise than as the person presiding, the Speaker shall take the Chair.

#### **Chairpersons Panel**

16. (1) There shall be a panel to be known as the Chairpersons Panel which shall comprise four Members to be known, respectively, as the First, Second, Third and Fourth Chairperson of Committees and who shall be entitled to exercise all the powers vested in the Chairperson of Committees.

(2) As soon as practicable, after the election of the Deputy Speaker following a general election, the Speaker shall, in consultation with leaders of parliamentary parties, submit a list of four Members for consideration by the House Business Committee.

(3) The House Business Committee shall, within seven days of receipt of the names of the nominees table the list in the House and give notice of motion for approval.

(4) Whenever a Motion for approval under paragraph (3) is moved in the House, no objection against the proposed membership on the Chairperson's Panel of any particular Member shall be permitted and objections, if any, shall be formulated and considered against the proposed membership as a whole.

(5) In nominating the Members of the Chairpersons Panel, the Speaker and the House Business Committee shall have regard to the relative party majorities in the House and shall ensure, so far as shall be practicable, that at least one member of the Panel is from either gender.

**Discharge of a Member from Chairpersons Panel**

17. (1) The Speaker may, in writing, to the House Business Committee give notice, that a member is to be discharged from the Panel.

(2) Within seven days of receipt by the House Business Committee of a notice under paragraph (1), the House Business Committee shall consider the notice and give Notice of Motion to replace the Member.

(3) The discharge of a Member of the Panel shall not take effect until the House has

approved the Motion for replacement under paragraph (2).

**Presiding in the House**

18. The Speaker shall preside at any sitting of the House but in absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker shall preside and in absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, a member elected by the House for that purpose pursuant to Article 107 of the Constitution shall preside.

**PART IV - THE LEADER OF THE MAJORITY PARTY  
AND THE LEADER OF THE MINORITY PARTY**

**Leader of the Majority Party and Deputy Leader of the Majority Party**

19. (1) The largest party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly shall elect-

- (a) a member of the National Assembly belonging to the party or coalition of parties to be the Leader of the Majority Party;
- (b) a member of the National Assembly belonging to the party or coalition of parties to be the Deputy Leader of the Majority Party.

(2) In electing members under paragraph (1), the largest party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly shall take into account-

(a) any existing coalition agreement entered into pursuant to the Political Parties Act;

(b) the need for gender balance.

(3) A member elected under paragraph (2) may be removed by a majority of votes of all members of the largest party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly

(4) The removal of a member from office under paragraph (3) shall not take effect until a member is elected in the manner provided for under paragraph (1) in his or her place.

(5) The whip of the largest party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly shall forthwith, upon a decision being made under this standing Order, communicate to the Speaker, in writing the decision together with the minutes of the meeting at which the decision was made.

**Leader of the Minority Party and Deputy Leader of the Minority Party**

20. (1) The Minority party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly shall elect-

- (a) a member of the National Assembly belonging to the party or coalition of parties to be the Leader of the Minority Party;
- (b) a member of the National Assembly belonging to the party or coalition of parties to be the Deputy Leader of the Minority Party.

(2) In electing members under paragraph (1), the minority party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly shall take into account-

- (a) any existing coalition agreement entered into pursuant to the Political Parties Act;
- (b) the need for gender balance.

(3) A member elected under paragraph (2) may be removed by a majority of votes of all members of the minority party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly.

(4) The removal of a member from office under paragraph (3) shall not take effect until a

member is elected in the manner provided for under paragraph (1).

(5) The whip of the minority party or coalition of parties in the National Assembly shall forthwith, upon a decision being made under this standing Order, communicate to the Speaker, in writing the decision together with the minutes of the meeting at which the decision was made.

#### **PART V - ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT AND VISITING DIGNITARY**

##### **President's address on opening of new Parliament**

21. (1) The President shall address the opening of each newly elected Parliament.

(2) At the conclusion of the President's address, the sitting shall stand suspended or adjourned as the Speaker may direct until such time or to such day as may be specified by the Speaker.

##### **President's address on special sitting**

22. (1) The President shall address a special sitting of Parliament once every year and may address Parliament at any other time.

(2) The Speaker shall notify the Members of the place, date and time of a sitting under paragraph (1).

(3) Whenever the Speaker has been informed that the President will address a special sitting of Parliament on a specified day and time, then on that day, no Motion for the adjournment of the House shall be made before the time for which the President's arrival has been notified.

**President entering or leaving the Chamber**

23. Members shall be called to order and stand in silence whenever the President enters or leaves the Chamber.

**President's address to Parliament**

24. (1) The President may be accompanied in the Chamber by an *Aide-de-Camp*.

(2) Whenever the President addresses Parliament, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall take the seat on the right of the President and the Speaker of the Senate shall take the seat on the left of the President.

(3) At any sitting held under this standing order, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall preside and shall be assisted by the Speaker of the Senate.

(4) When delivering an address to the House, the President shall be heard in silence and the address shall not be followed by any comment or question.



(5) Whenever the President delivers an Address, a Member may as soon as practicable thereafter, lay the Address on the Table of the House following the reading of such Address.

(6) A Member may give a notice of Motion that *“The Thanks of the House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of the President delivered on....”* ; but debate on the Motion shall not exceed four sitting days.

#### **Visiting dignitary**

25. (1) The Speaker may, in consultation with the Leader of the Majority Party and the Leader of the Minority Party, allow a visiting Head of State or other such visiting dignitary, to address the Assembly, and may, in consultation with the Speaker of the Senate arrange for a joint sitting of Parliament for purposes of an address by such visiting Head of State or such other visiting dignitary.

(2) Standing Order 23 (*President entering or leaving Chamber*) and paragraphs (1), (3) and (4) of Standing Order 24 (*President’s address to Parliament*) shall, with necessary modifications, apply to visiting Heads of State and such other dignitaries.

**PART VI - CALENDAR, SITTINGS AND  
ADJOURNMENTS OF THE HOUSE**

**Location of the first sitting of a new House**

26. Whenever a new House is elected, the President, by notice in the Gazette, shall appoint the place and date for the first sitting of the new House, which shall be not more than thirty days after the election.

**Regular Sessions of the House**

27. (1) Except for the Session commencing immediately after a general election, the regular Sessions of the House shall commence on the second Tuesday of February and terminate on the first Thursday of December.

(2) Despite paragraph (1), the House may, by resolution, alter the dates specified under paragraph (1) in respect of a particular Session.

(3) Subject to paragraph (1), the House shall continue to be in session and may adjourn for such number of days as it may determine in its calendar.

(4) Despite paragraphs (1), (2) and (3), a period of three months shall not intervene between the last sitting of the Assembly in one Session and the first sitting thereof in the next Session.

#### **Calendar of the Assembly**

28. (1) The House Business Committee shall, with approval of the House, determine the calendar of the House.

(2) The calendar of the House once approved shall be published in the *gazette*, parliament website and at least two newspapers of national circulation.

(3) On a day when the Assembly is scheduled to adjourn to a day other than the next normal sitting day in accordance with the parliamentary Calendar, the Leader of the Majority Party or the Leader of the Minority Party or any other member of the House Business Committee shall move a Motion of adjournment which shall be debated for not more than three hours after which the House shall adjourn without question put.

(4) Despite paragraph (2) the Assembly may, by resolution, alter its Calendar or the adjournment date.

#### **Special sittings of the House**

29. (1) Whenever during a Session the House stands adjourned, whether or not a day has been appointed for the next meeting, the Speaker may, on the request of the Leader of the Majority Party or the Leader of the Minority

Party, appoint a day for a special sitting of the House.

(2) The Speaker may allow a request under paragraph (1) if the Speaker is satisfied that the business proposed to be transacted relates to the matters specified under Standing Order 61 (*Special motions*) or other urgent and exceptional business as the Speaker may allow.

(3) The Speaker shall, by notice in the Gazette, notify the Members of the place, date and time appointed for the special sitting of the House.

(4) Despite paragraph (1), where the proposed business to be transacted by the House requires the action of the Senate, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall, in writing, notify the Speaker of the Senate of the date appointed for the special sitting.

(5) Whenever the House meets for a special sitting under paragraph (1), the Speaker shall specify the business to be transacted on the day or days appointed and the business so specified shall be the only business before the House during the special sitting, following which the House shall stand adjourned until the day appointed in the parliamentary calendar.

### Hours of meeting

30. (1) Unless the Speaker, for the convenience of the House otherwise directs, the House shall meet at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday and at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, but more than one sitting may be directed during the same day.

(2) Unless for the convenience of the House the Speaker or the Chairperson (as the case may be) directs earlier or later interruption of business, at 6.30 p.m. or (if it is an Allotted Day) at 7.00 p.m., on the occasion of an afternoon sitting and at 12.30 p.m. on the occasion of a morning sitting, the Speaker or the Chairperson of Committees shall interrupt the business then under consideration and if the House is in Committee the Chairperson shall leave the Chair and report progress and ask leave to sit again.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), the House may resolve-

- (a) to extend its sitting time, or
- (b) to meet at any other time on a sitting day; or
- (c) to meet on any other day, in order to transact business.

(4) A Motion under paragraph (3)(a) shall be moved at least thirty minutes before the time appointed for adjournment.

(5) If at the time appointed for the interruption of business, a division is in progress, or a question is being put from the Chair and a division results immediately thereon, such interruption shall be deferred until after the declaration of the numbers and the result of the division.

(6) Upon the conclusion of all proceedings under paragraphs (2), (3) or (4) of this standing order, or upon the earlier completion or deferment of all business standing upon the Order Paper for the sitting, the Speaker shall adjourn the House without question put.

#### **Adjournment of the House**

31. (1) A Member may at any time, for reasons stated, seek leave to move "That, this House do now adjourn."

(2) If the Speaker is of the opinion that such Motion for adjournment of the House is frivolous, vexatious, or an abuse of the proceedings of the House, the Speaker may forthwith put the question thereon or decline to propose it.

(3) The debate on a Motion under this Standing Order shall be confined to the matter of the Motion.

**Resumption of interrupted business**

32. Any debate interrupted under this Part shall on coming again before the House or the Committee, be resumed at the point where it was interrupted and any Member whose speech was so interrupted shall have the right to speak on such resumption for the remainder of the time available to him or her but if such Member does not avail himself or herself of this right, his or her speech shall be deemed to have been concluded.

**Adjournment on definite matter of urgent national importance**

33. (1) Any Member may at any time rise in his or her place and seek leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent national importance.

(2) A Member who wishes to seek leave to move the adjournment of the House shall, at least two hours before the commencement of the sitting, hand to the Speaker a written notification of the matter but the Speaker shall refuse to allow the claim, unless the Speaker is satisfied that the matter is definite, urgent and of national

importance and may properly be raised on a Motion for adjournment of the House.

(3) If the Speaker is satisfied in terms of paragraph (2) and not less than twenty other Members rise in their places in support, the Speaker shall nominate a time on the same day at which such Motion may be moved.

(4) No Member speaking on a matter under this Standing Order shall speak for more than five minutes without the leave of the House, except that the Mover may speak for ten minutes.

#### **PART VII - QUORUM OF THE HOUSE**

##### **Quorum at commencement of the House**

34. (1) A quorum of the House or of a Committee of the whole House shall be fifty Members.

(2) If there is not a quorum present when the Chair is taken, at the time appointed for a meeting of the House, immediately after the saying of the prayer, the Speaker shall order the bell to be rung for ten minutes, and if no quorum is present at the expiration of the ten minutes, the Speaker may direct that the bell be rung for a further five minutes and if there is still no quorum present, the Speaker shall adjourn the House forthwith to the next sitting.



**Quorum during the proceeding of the House**

35. (1) If at any time after the Chair is taken, or when the House is in Committee, a Member objects that there is not a quorum present, the Speaker or the Chairperson shall count the House or the Committee as the case may be.

(2) If on the count under paragraph (1) a quorum does not appear to be present, the Speaker or the Chairperson shall cause the division bell to be rung as on a division, and if no quorum is present at the expiration of the ten minutes-

(a) if the Speaker is in the Chair, the Speaker shall adjourn the House until the next sitting without question put;

(b) if the House is in Committee, the Chairperson shall leave the Chair and report the fact to the Speaker, who shall adjourn the House until the next sitting without question put.

(3) Whenever the Speaker or the Chairperson, as the case may be, is engaged in counting the House or the Committee respectively, the doors shall remain unlocked but no Member shall be allowed to leave the Chamber, except a party whip who may be permitted to leave the

Chamber to seek the Members required to raise a quorum.

**Quorum during voting or division**

36. If, from the number of Members taking part in an electronic voting or roll call division, it appears that the Members do not themselves constitute a quorum, the vote or division shall be invalid and the business then under consideration shall stand over until the next sitting and the Speaker shall proceed as if his or her attention had been drawn to the absence of a quorum, but if after so proceeding a quorum is then present, the next business shall be entered upon.

**Decorum when quorum not present**

37. When the Quorum bell is ringing members shall maintain order in the House.

**PART VIII - ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Order Paper to be prepared and circulated**

38. (1) The Order Paper shall be prepared by the Clerk, showing the business to be placed before or taken by the House and the order in which it is to be taken, including a notice paper showing the business for each sitting day of the week, together with such other information as the Speaker may from time to time direct.

(2) The Order Paper shall be published in the parliamentary website and shall be made

available to members, at least twelve hours before the House meets, but a supplementary Order Paper shall be made available at least one hour before the House meets.

**Weekly programmes of the business of the National Assembly**

39. The Clerk shall prepare and publish on the parliamentary website, weekly programmes showing the business of the House and the schedule of sittings of the various committees and shall circulate such programmes to Members, State Departments, and the media not later than the Friday of the week preceding such business.

**Sequence of proceedings**

40. (1) Each day after Prayers have been said and the House has been called to order, the Business of the House shall be proceeded with in the following sequence-

- (i) Administration of Oath;
- (ii) Communication from the Chair;
- (iii) Messages;
- (iv) Petitions;
- (v) Papers;
- (vi) Notices of Motion;
- (vii) Statements;
- (viii) Motions and Bills

(2) Business shall be disposed of in the sequence in which it appears in the Order Paper or in such other sequence as the Speaker may, for the convenience of the House, direct.

(3) On Wednesday morning, a Bill or a motion not sponsored by the Majority or Minority Party or a member belonging to the Majority or Minority Party or by a Committee, shall have precedence over all other business in such order as the House Business Committee shall ballot.

(4) The Speaker shall direct the Clerk to read the Orders of the Day without question put.

#### **PART IX - MESSAGES**

##### **Messages to and from the Senate**

41. (1) A message from the Assembly to the Senate shall be in writing and shall be signed by the Speaker.

(2) The Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit a message from the House to the Clerk of the Senate and shall receive messages from the Senate.

(3) The Clerk shall deliver to the Speaker a message received from the Senate under paragraph (2) at the first available opportunity after receipt and in any event not later than the

next day not being a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

(4) If a message is received from the Senate, at a time when the House is in session, the Speaker shall report the message to the House at the first convenient opportunity after its receipt and in any event not later than the next sitting day.

(5) If a message is received from the Senate, at a time when the House is not in session, the Speaker shall forthwith cause the message to be transmitted to every Member and shall report the message to the House on the day the House next sits.

(6) When the Speaker reports a message from the Senate under paragraph (4) or (5), the message shall be deemed to have been laid before the House and the Speaker may either-

- (a) direct that the message be dealt with forthwith, or
- (b) appoint a day for the consideration of the message; or
- (c) refer the message to the relevant Committee of the House for consideration.

#### Messages from the President

42. (1) The Speaker shall read to the House any message from the President delivered to the Speaker for communication to the House.

(2) If a message is received from the President, at a time when the House is not in session, the Speaker shall forthwith cause the message to be transmitted to every Member and shall report the message to the House on the day the House next sits.

(3) When a message from the President is read, the message shall be deemed to have been laid before the House and the Speaker may either-

- (a) direct that the message be dealt with forthwith, or
- (b) appoint a day for the consideration of the message; or
- (c) refer the message to the relevant Committee of the House for consideration.

#### PART X - STATEMENTS

##### Members' general statements

43. (1) Notwithstanding Standing Order 30 (*Hours of Meeting*), the Speaker shall interrupt the business of the House every Tuesday at 6.00 pm

to facilitate members to make general statements of topical concern.

(2) A member who wishes to seek leave to raise a matter under this standing order shall, before 3.00 pm on the day the statement is to be made, hand to the Speaker a written notification of the matter, but the Speaker shall refuse to allow the request unless satisfied that the matter may properly be discussed in the House.

(3) No member making a statement under this standing order shall speak for more than three minutes, unless with permission of the Speaker.

#### **Statement Hour**

44. (1) Notwithstanding Standing Order 40 (*Sequence of Proceedings*), there shall be time, to be designated Statements Hour, every Thursday, commencing not later than 3.00 pm.

(2) During the Statements Hour-

(a) a member of the House Business Committee designated by the Committee for that purpose shall, every Thursday or on the last sitting day, for not more than ten minutes, present and lay on the Table, a statement informing the House of the business coming before the House in the following week;

- (b) the Leader of the Majority Party, or the Leader of the Minority Party as the case may be, or their designees may make a statement relating to their responsibilities in the House or the activities of a Committee;
- (c) A member may request for a statement from the Committee chairperson relating to matters under the mandate of the Committee and the Speaker may either appoint a day for the statement or direct that the statement be issued on the same day.

#### **PART XI - APPROVAL OF PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS**

##### **Committal to committees**

45. (1) Upon receipt of a notification of nomination for appointment to a State Office or such other office as is under the Constitution or under any other legislation required to be approved by the House, the nomination shall stand committed to the relevant Departmental Committee of the House for consideration.
- (2) Despite paragraph (1), appointments under Article 152(2) of the Constitution shall stand committed to the Committee on Appointments.
- (3) Before holding an approval hearing, a Committee to which proposed appointments



have been referred shall notify the candidate and the public of the time and place for the holding of the approval hearing at least seven days prior to the hearing.

(4) The Committee shall conduct a hearing on the proposed appointment and shall, unless otherwise provided in law, table its report in the House within fourteen days of the date on which the notification was received under paragraph (1).

#### **PART XII - MOTIONS**

##### **Application**

46. This Part shall apply to all Motions, including special Motions.

##### **Notices of Motions**

47. (1) Except as otherwise provided by these Standing Orders, notice shall be given by a Member of any Motion which the Member proposes to move.

(2) Before giving notice of Motion, the Member shall deliver to the Clerk a copy of the proposed Motion in writing and signed by the Member, and the Clerk shall submit the proposed Motion to the Speaker.

(3) If the Speaker is of the opinion that any proposed Motion -

- (a) is one which infringes, or the debate on which is likely to infringe, any of these Standing Orders;
- (b) is contrary to the Constitution or an Act of Parliament, without expressly proposing appropriate amendment to the Constitution or the Act of Parliament;
- (c) is too long;
- (d) is framed in terms which are inconsistent with the dignity of the House;
  
- (e) contains or implies allegations which the Speaker is not satisfied that the Mover can substantiate; or
- (f) calls for the commitment of public funds for which no provision is made in the Annual Estimates as adopted by the National Assembly,

the Speaker may direct either that, the Motion is inadmissible, or that notice of it cannot be given without such alteration as the Speaker may approve or that the motion be referred to the relevant committee of the Assembly, pursuant to article 114(2) of the Constitution.

(4) A Member giving notice of a Motion approved by the Speaker shall state its terms to the House and whether the original copy received by the Clerk has been certified by a party leader or

party whip for sponsorship by the Member's party.

(5) Unless the House resolves otherwise—

- (a) a Motion sponsored by a party shall have precedence over all other Motions on such day as the House Business Committee, in consultation with the Speaker, may determine, but where a party has sponsored two or more motions, the Motion shall be considered in such order as sponsoring party may determine;
- (b) notice of an approved Motion other than those under paragraph (a) may be given to Members by means of a list to be published in such manner as the Speaker may from time to time direct and the Member giving such notice shall state its terms to the House when the Motion has acquired precedence in accordance with Standing Order 50 (*Time for moving Motions*), but at least one day before the Motion appears on the Order Paper.

#### **Amendment of Notice of Motion**

48. The Speaker may permit a Member to move in amended form a Motion of which notice has been given if in the opinion of the Speaker the amendment does not materially alter any

principle embodied in the Motion of which notice has been given.

**Certain Motions not to be moved**

49. (1) No Motion may be moved which is the same in substance as any question which has been resolved (either in the affirmative or in the negative) during the preceding six months in the same Session.

(2) Despite paragraph (1)-

(a) a Motion to rescind the decision on such a question may be moved with the permission of the Speaker;

(b) a Motion to rescind the decision on a question on a Special Motion shall not be allowed.

**Time for moving Motions**

50. (1) The House Business Committee shall allot the time and sequence of the publication in the Order Paper of every Motion approved by the Speaker.

(2) Save for a Special Motion, a Member who has a Motion standing in his or her name may authorize, in writing, another Member to move that Motion in the Member's stead.

(3) Where no Member moves a Motion at the time specified by or under these Standing

Orders, such Motion shall not again be published in the Order Paper during the same Session except with the leave of the Speaker.

**Motion withdrawn may be moved again**

51. (1) A notice of Motion may be withdrawn by the Member who gave the notice, but notice of the same Motion may be given again either by the same or by any other Member.

(2) Despite paragraph (1), notice of a Special Motion may not be withdrawn, except with leave of the House.

**Motions which may be moved without Notice**

52. The following Motions may be moved without notice-

- (a) Motion by way of amendment to a question already proposed from the Chair;
- (b) Motion for the adjournment of the House or of a debate;
- (c) Motion that the House do dissolve itself into a Committee of the whole House;
- (d) Motion moved when the House is in Committee;
- (e) Motion for the suspension of a Member;
- (f) Motion made in accordance with the Standing Orders governing the procedure as to Bills;

- (g) Motion for the agreement of the House with a Committee of the whole House in a resolution reported, or for the re-committal thereof or for the postponement of the further consideration thereof;
- (h) Motion raising a question of privilege;
- (i) Motion for the orders of the House under these Standing Orders;
- (j) Motion made under Standing Order 256 (*Exemption of business from Standing Orders*);
- (k) Motion made for the limitation of a debate under Standing Order 98 (*Limitation of debate*);
- (l) Motion made for the postponement or discharge of, or giving precedence to an order of the day; and
- (m) Motion for the extension of sitting time of the House.

#### **Manner of debating Motions**

53. (1) When a Motion has been moved and if necessary seconded, the Speaker shall propose the question thereon in the same terms as the Motion, and debate may then take place upon that question.

(2) At the conclusion of the debate, the Speaker shall put the question.

(3) Despite paragraph (2), the Speaker may, on the request of a member, defer the putting of the question to the following day in which case the Speaker shall thereupon nominate a time at which the question shall be put.

#### **Amendments to Motions**

54. (1) Unless otherwise provided in these Standing Orders, any amendment to a Motion which a Member wishes to propose in accordance with these Standing Orders may be moved and, if necessary seconded at any time after the question upon the Motion has been proposed and before it has been put.

(2) When every amendment under paragraph (1) has been disposed of, the Speaker shall either again propose the question upon the Motion or propose the question upon the Motion as amended as the case may require, and after any further debate which may arise thereon, shall put the question.

(3) Upon any amendment to leave out any of the words of the Motion, the question to be proposed shall be "That, the words proposed to be left out be left out".

(4) Upon any amendment to insert words in, or add words at the end of a Motion, the question

to be proposed shall be "That, the words [of the amendment] be inserted" (or "added").

(5) Upon any amendment to leave out words and insert or add other words instead, a question shall first be proposed "That, the words proposed to be left out be left out of the question", and if that question is agreed to, the question shall then be proposed, "That, the words [of the amendment] be therein inserted" (or "added"), but if the first question is negated, no further amendment may be proposed to the words which it has been decided shall not be left out.

(6) When two or more amendments are proposed to be moved to the same Motion, the Speaker shall call upon the movers in the order in which their amendments relate to the text of the Motion, or in cases of doubt, in such order as the Speaker shall decide.

(7) An amendment to leave out words and replace those words with other words shall take precedence before any amendment to leave out words without proposing to replace those words with other words.

(8) No amendment may be moved which relates to any words which it has been decided shall not be left out of a Motion.



(9) An amendment to an amendment may be moved and if necessary seconded at any time after the question upon the original amendment has been proposed and before it has been put.

(10) Paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) of this Standing Order shall apply to the debate of amendments to amendments with the substitution whenever appropriate of the words "original amendment" for the word "question".

(11) When every amendment to an amendment has been disposed of, the Speaker shall, either again propose the question upon the original amendment or propose the question upon the original amendment, as amended as the case may require.

**Amendments to be in writing**

55. (1) The proposer of an amendment to a Motion shall, before moving it, hand the proposed amendments in writing, signed by the proposer, to the Clerk at least two hours before the order is read.

(2) Despite paragraph (1), the Speaker may, in exceptional circumstances, allow a Member to move an amendment to a Motion before the Assembly at any time during consideration of that Motion.

**Amendments to be relevant to Motion**

56. (1) Every amendment shall be relevant to the Motion which it seeks to amend and shall not raise any question which, in the opinion of the Speaker, should be raised by a substantive Motion after notice given.

(2) No amendment shall be permitted if in the opinion of the Speaker, it represents a direct negative of the question proposed.

**Question proposed after Motion made**

57. (1) The question on any Motion shall not be proposed unless it shall have been seconded and any Motion that is not seconded shall be deemed to have been withdrawn, and shall not be moved again in the same Session.

(2) Despite paragraph (1), a Motion made in Committee of the whole House shall not require to be seconded.

**Motion in possession of the House**

58. After the question has been proposed on a Motion, the Motion shall be deemed to be in the possession of the House, and such Motion shall not be withdrawn without the leave of the House.

**Question as amended put**

59. When a question has been amended it shall, when put, be put as amended.

**When amendment proposed but not made**

60. When any amendment has been proposed but no amendment has been made, the question when put shall be put as originally proposed.

**PART XIII - SPECIAL MOTIONS**

**Definition of Special Motion**

61. For purposes of this Part, a Special Motion is one-

- (a) that seeks a resolution of the House to approve an appointment or re-appointment in accordance with Part XI (*Approval of Public Appointments*); or
- (b) moved pursuant to any of the following Articles of the Constitution-
  - (i) Article 58 (*extension of state of emergency*)
  - (ii) Article 102 (*extension of the term of Parliament when Kenya is at war*)
  - (iii) Article 111 (*amending or veto of a special Bill passed by the Senate*)
  - (iv) Article 132 (*declaration of war*)
  - (v) Article 144 (*removal of President on Grounds of incapacity*)
  - (vi) Article 145 (*impeachment of the President*)

- (vii) Article 149 (*vacancy in the office of the deputy president*)
- (viii) Article 150 (*removal of Deputy President*)
- (ix) Article 152 (*dismissal of a cabinet secretary*)
- (x) Article 188 (*alteration of the boundaries of a county*)
- (xi) Article 211 (*borrowing by national government*)
- (xii) Article 217 (*division of revenue*)
- (xiii) Article 225 (*approval of decision to stop the transfer of funds to a State organ or any other public entity*)
- (xiv) Article 240 (*deployment of National forces outside Kenya and foreign forces in Kenya*)
- (xv) Article 241 (*deployment of Defence Forces inside Kenya*)
- (xvi) Article 251 (*petition for removal of a Member of a Commission or a holder of an independent office*)
- (xvii) Article 261 (*enactment of consequential legislation*)

(2) Unless the Constitution, any written law or these Standing Orders specify a lesser or further period, a Special Motion shall be-

- (a) disposed of by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 53 (*Manner of*

- debating motions*) within seven days of receipt of notice by a member under paragraph (2); and,
- (b) disposed of by the House within fourteen calendar days upon the notice under Standing Order 47, (*Notice of Motions*) and if not, such motion shall be deemed to have been withdrawn and shall not be moved again in the same Session, except with the consent of the Speaker.

**Instances where the Constitution requires a fixed majority**

62. (1) In every instance where the Constitution lays down that a fixed number of members is necessary to support the moving of, or to decide any question on a motion, any amendment motion to such motion shall not be passed unless supported by the fixed number of members required to pass the original motion.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), whenever a Bill or a special Motion the passage of which requires a special majority in the Assembly fails to obtain the required majority and the vote results in a majority of the "Ayes" but the "Noes" have not numbered at least one third of all the Members of the Assembly, the Speaker may, direct that a further vote be taken on the particular question, and the further vote shall

be taken within five sitting days from the day the first vote was taken.

(3) If the Speaker does not so direct any further vote, or if on such further vote the fixed majority is not obtained, the Speaker shall declare that the Motion is negatived.

#### PART XIV- PROCEDURE FOR REMOVAL FROM STATE OFFICE

##### Procedure for removal of President on grounds of incapacity

63. (1) Before giving notice of Motion under Article 144(1) of the Constitution, the Member shall deliver to the Clerk a copy of the proposed Motion in writing-

- (a) stating the grounds and particulars upon which the proposed Motion is made;
- (b) signed by the Member; and
- (c) signed in support by at least a quarter of all the Members

(2) A Motion under paragraph (1) shall be disposed of -

- (a) by the Speaker within three days of receipt of notice by a member under paragraph (1); and
- (b) by the House within seven days of a member giving notice under Standing Order 47, (*Notice of Motions*), and if not,

such motion shall be deemed to have been withdrawn and shall not be moved again in the same session, except with the leave of the Speaker.

(3) If the National Assembly is not then sitting, the Speaker shall summon the Assembly for a special sitting to dispose of the Motion.

(4) An Order Paper on which the Motion under paragraph (1) is listed shall set out-

- (a) the grounds and particulars upon which the proposal is made;
- (b) the name of the Member sponsoring the Motion; and
- (c) the names of the Members in support of the Motion.

(5) Any signature appended to the list as provided under paragraph (4) shall not be withdrawn.

(6) When the Motion has been passed by a majority of all members of the National Assembly, the Speaker shall inform the Chief Justice of that resolution within two days.

(7) Upon receipt of the report of the tribunal pursuant to Article 144(6) of the Constitution,

the Speaker shall cause the report to be tabled before the National Assembly within seven days after receiving it and-

- (a) If the tribunal reports that the President is capable of performing the functions of the office, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall so announce in the National Assembly and no further proceedings shall be taken on the matter;
- (b) If the tribunal reports that the President is incapable of performing the functions of the office, the National Assembly shall, upon a motion by the member who moved the motion for investigation of the President, vote on whether to ratify the report and if a majority of all the members of the National Assembly vote in favour of ratifying the report, the President shall cease to hold office.

#### **Procedure for removal of President by impeachment**

64. (1) Before giving notice of Motion under Article 145 (1) of the Constitution, the Member shall deliver to the Clerk a copy of the proposed Motion in writing-
- (a) stating the grounds and particulars in terms of Article 145(1) of the Constitution upon which the proposed Motion is made;



- (b) signed by the Member; and
- (c) signed in support by at least a third of all the Members.

(2) A Motion under paragraph (1) shall be disposed of-

- (a) by the Speaker in accordance Standing Order 47, (*Notices of Motions*), within three days of receipt of notice by a Member under paragraph (1); and,
- (b) by the Assembly within seven days of a Member giving notice under Standing Order 47, (*Notices of Motions*), and if not, such Motion shall be deemed to have been withdrawn and shall not be moved again in the same Session, except with the leave of the Speaker.

(3) If the National Assembly is not then sitting, the Speaker shall summon the Assembly for a special sitting to dispose of the Motion.

(4) An Order Paper on which the Motion under paragraph (1) is listed shall set out-

- (a) the grounds and particulars upon which the proposal is made;
- (b) the name of the Member sponsoring the Motion; and
- (c) the names of the Members in support of the Motion.

(5) Any signature appended to the list as provided under paragraph (4) shall not be withdrawn.

(6) When the Motion has been passed by two-thirds of all members of the National Assembly, the Speaker shall inform the Speaker of the Senate of that resolution within two days in terms of Article 145(2)(a) of the Constitution.

**Procedure for removal of Deputy President**

65. (1) Where a Member proposes the removal of the Deputy President on the ground of physical or mental incapacity in terms of Article 150(1)(a) of the Constitution, Standing Order 63 (*Procedure for removal of president on grounds of incapacity*) shall, with necessary modifications, apply.

(2) Where a Member proposes to impeach the Deputy President in terms of Article 150(1)(b) of the Constitution, Standing Order 64 (*Procedure for removal of president by impeachment*) shall, with necessary modifications, apply.

**Procedure for removal of cabinet secretary**

66. (1) Before giving notice of Motion under Article 152(6) of the Constitution, the Member shall deliver to the Clerk a copy of the proposed Motion in writing-

- (a) stating the grounds and particulars in terms of Article 152(6) of the Constitution upon which the proposed Motion is made;
- (b) signed by the Member; and
- (c) signed in support by at least one-quarter of all the Members of the Assembly

(2) A Motion under paragraph (1) shall be disposed of in accordance with Standing Order 56(2).

(3) An Order Paper on which the Motion under paragraph (1) is listed shall set out-

- (a) the grounds and particulars upon which the proposed Motion is made;
- (b) the name of the Member sponsoring the Motion; and
- (c) the names of the Members in support of the Motion.

(4) Any signature appended to the list as provided under paragraph (3) shall not be withdrawn.

(5) If the Motion is supported by at least one-third of the members of the National Assembly-

- (a) the Assembly shall, within seven days, appoint a select committee comprising

eleven of its members to investigate the matter; and

- (b) the select committee shall, within ten days, report to the Assembly whether it finds the allegations against the Cabinet Secretary to be substantiated.

(6) The Cabinet Secretary has the right to appear and be represented before the select committee during its investigations.

(7) If the select committee reports that it finds the allegations-

- (a) unsubstantiated, no further proceedings shall be taken; or
- (b) substantiated, the National Assembly shall-
  - (i) avail the Cabinet Secretary with the report of the select Committee, together with any other evidence adduced and such note or papers presented to the Committee at least three days before the day scheduled for his or her appearance before the Assembly;
  - (ii) afford the Cabinet Secretary an opportunity to be; and
  - (iii) consider the Report of the select committee and vote whether to approve the resolution requiring

the Cabinet Secretary to be dismissed.

(8) If a resolution requiring the President to dismiss a Cabinet Secretary is supported by a majority of the members of the National Assembly the Speaker shall promptly deliver the resolution to the President.

**Right to be heard**

67. Whenever the Constitution, any written law or these Standing Orders -

- (a) requires the National Assembly to consider a petition or a proposal for the removal of a person from office, the person shall be entitled to appear before the relevant Committee of the Assembly considering the matter and shall be entitled to legal representation;
- (b) requires the National Assembly to hear a person on grounds of removal from office, or in such similar circumstances, the Assembly shall hear the person-
  - (i) at the date and time to be determined by the Speaker;
  - (ii) for a duration of not more two hours or such further time as the Speaker may, in each case determine; and

- (iii) in such other manner and order as the Speaker shall, in each case, determine.

**Priority of Motion**

68. A Motion for the removal of a person from office under this Part shall take precedence over all other business on the Order Paper for the day.

**PART XV - VOTING AND DIVISIONS**

**Voting in the House**

69. (1) Unless otherwise provided under the Constitution, a question arising in the House shall be decided by a majority of the members in the House, present and voting.

(2) In ascertaining the results on a question under paragraph (1), the Speaker shall, in the first instance, collect the voices of the "Ayes" and the "Noes" and shall declare the results accordingly.

(3) On a question proposed for a decision in the House, the Speaker has no vote.

(4) In determining the number of Members of the House for the purpose of voting, the Speaker shall not be counted as a Member.

#### Electronic voting

70. (1) Unless the Speaker, for the convenience of the House otherwise directs, voting on a division in the House shall be by electronic voting.

(2) When the Speaker directs that an electronic voting to be taken, the Division Bell shall be rung for not more than ten minutes and the House shall proceed to a vote at the expiry of the ten minutes, or such further time as the Speaker may, for the convenience of the House, direct.

(3) During electronic voting, Members shall cast their votes by pressing either the "Yes", "No" or "Abstain" button.

(4) At the expiry of five minutes or as soon as the result of the voting appears on the indicator board, the Speaker or the Chairperson, as the case may be, shall announce the results of the division forthwith.

(5) A Member who is not able to cast his or her vote due to any reason considered sufficient by the Speaker, may before the result of the division is announced and after obtaining the permission of the Speaker, have his or her vote recorded verbally by stating whether he or she is in favour of or against the Question.

(6) Where the presiding officer has an original vote, the presiding officer shall cast his or her vote from the Chair.

(7) Any Member present in the House but who shall not have voted at the expiry of five minutes or after the announcing of the results, whichever is earlier, shall forfeit the right to vote and shall be deemed to have abstained from voting.

**Technical failure, confusion or error occurring**

71. In the event of a technical failure, confusion or error occurring in the course of voting which in the opinion of the Speaker cannot otherwise be corrected, the Speaker may direct the House to another round of electronic voting or proceed to a roll call voting.

**Roll call Division claimed**

72. (1) The Speaker shall direct a roll call vote to be taken if a Member claims a division and-

- (a) the Speaker considers that there is a reasonable doubt as to the outcome of the vote in question; or
- (b) if, on a question other than a question of procedure, thirty or more Members rise in their places to support the Member claiming the roll call division.



(2) The Speaker shall direct a division to be taken in every instance where the Constitution lays down that a fixed majority is necessary to decide any question.

**Roll call voting**

73. (1) When the Speaker directs a roll call voting to be taken, the Division Bell shall be rung for ten minutes.

(2) The names of one teller for the "Ayes" and one teller for the "Noes" shall be submitted to the Speaker and the Speaker shall direct the tellers to take seats at a designated place.

(3) At the end of ten minutes, the Speaker shall direct the doors to be locked and the Bar drawn and no Member shall thereafter enter or leave the House until after the roll call vote has been taken.

(4) When the doors have been locked and the Bar drawn and the names of the tellers have been announced, the Speaker shall put the question again and direct the Clerk to call out the names of Members in alphabetical order in the presence of the tellers.

(5) When called out, each Member shall, thereupon rise in his or her place and declare assent or dissent to the question in the following

manner; "I vote Yes"; or, "I vote No"; or, "I Abstain", or use appropriate Kenyan sign language.

(6) After the Clerk has read the last name in the Division list, the tellers shall present the result of the roll call vote to the Speaker who shall thereupon announce the result of the vote to the House.

**In case of confusion or error**

74. In case of confusion or error occurring in the course of a roll call voting concerning the numbers or names recorded, which cannot otherwise be corrected, the Speaker shall direct the House to proceed to another roll call vote.

**Errors corrected**

75. If, after a roll call vote has been made, it is discovered that the number has been inaccurately reported or that an error has occurred in the names on the division lists, the fact shall be reported to the House and the Speaker shall direct that the necessary corrections be made.

**Decorum during division**

76. (1) No Member shall be obliged to vote in a division, but those present and not voting shall either-

- (a) in the case of electronic voting , press the “**Abstain**” button ; or
- (b) in the case of roll call voting , record their abstention with the Clerk.

(2) It shall be disorderly conduct for a Member to fail to record his or her abstention in a division.

(3) A member shall not vote on any question in which the member has a pecuniary interest.

(4) During division, members shall maintain order in the House and shall be in their designated seats and must remain seated until the result is announced.

#### **PART XVI - RULES OF DEBATE**

##### **Proceedings to be in Kiswahili, English or Kenyan Sign Language**

77. (1) All proceedings of the House shall be conducted in Kiswahili, English or in Kenyan Sign Language.

(2) A Member who begins a speech in any of the languages provided for under paragraph (1) shall continue in the same language until the conclusion of the Member’s speech.

**Members to address the Speaker**

78. Every Member desiring to speak shall address a request to the Speaker.

**Two or more Members requesting to speak**

79. If two or more Members request to speak at the same time, the Member called upon by the Speaker shall be entitled to speak.

**Speeches may not be read**

80. (1) No Member shall read a speech but a Member may read short extracts from written and printed papers in support of an argument and may refresh memory by reference to notes.

(2) The Speaker may allow a Member to read a speech in particular cases where the Speaker is satisfied that this is necessary for precision in statement of facts.

**No Member to speak after Question put**

81. No Member shall speak to any question after the same has been put by the Speaker.

**Speaking twice to a Question**

82. (1) No Member shall speak more than once to a question except in Committee of the whole House.

(2) Despite paragraph (1)-

- (a) a Member who has spoken on a question may again be heard to offer explanation of some material part of the Member's speech which has been misunderstood but must not introduce new matter;
- (b) a reply shall be allowed to a Member who has moved a substantive Motion but not to a Member who has moved an amendment.

(3) The mover of a substantive Motion may surrender all or part of his or her right to reply to another Member or Members nominated by him or her who has not already spoken to such Motion.

#### **Points of Order**

83. (1) Any Member may raise a point of order at any time during the speech of another Member stating that the Member rises on a point of order and that member shall be required to indicate the Standing Order upon which the point of order is based.

(2) When a Member raises a point of order during the speech of another Member, the Member who was speaking shall thereupon resume his or her seat and the Member raising the point of order shall do likewise when he or she has concluded his or her submission, but no

other Member may, except by leave of the Speaker, speak on the point of order.

(3) The Speaker shall either give a decision on the point of order forthwith or announce that the decision is deferred for consideration after which the Member who was speaking at the time the point of order was raised may continue to speak.

(4) The Speaker or the Chairperson shall order any Member who unnecessarily and persistently interrupts proceedings or consults loudly and disruptively to withdraw from the Chamber and Standing Order 107 (*Grossly disorderly conduct*) shall apply to any such Member.

#### **Personal Statements**

84. By the indulgence of the House, a Member may explain matters of a personal nature although there is no question before the House, but such matter may not be debated.

#### **Anticipating debate**

85. (1) It shall be out of order to anticipate the debate of a Bill which has been published as such in the *Gazette* by discussion upon a substantive Motion or an amendment, or by raising the subject matter of the Bill upon a Motion for the adjournment of the House.

(2) It shall be out of order to anticipate the debate of a Motion of which notice has been given by discussion upon a substantive Motion or an amendment, or by raising the same subject matter upon a Motion of the adjournment of the House.

(3) In determining whether a debate is out of order on the grounds of anticipation, regard shall be had to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time.

**Proceedings of Select Committees not to be referred to**

86. No Member shall refer to the substance of the proceedings of a Select Committee before the Committee has made its report to the House.

**Contents of speeches**

87. (1) Neither the personal conduct of the President, nor the conduct of the Speaker or of any judge, nor the judicial conduct of any other person performing judicial functions, nor any conduct of the Head of State or Government or the representative in Kenya of any friendly country or the conduct of the holder of an office whose removal from such office is dependent upon a decision of the House shall be referred to adversely, except upon a specific substantive

Motion of which at least three days' notice has been given.

(2) It shall be out of order to introduce an argument on any specific question upon which the House has taken a decision during the same Session, except upon a Motion to rescind that decision made with the permission of the Speaker.

(3) It shall be out of order to use offensive or insulting language whether in respect of Members of the House or other persons.

(4) No Member shall impute improper motive to any other Member or to a Senator except upon a specific substantive Motion of which at least three days' notice has been given, calling in question the conduct of that Member or Senator.

(5) It shall be out of order for a Member to criticize or call to question, the proceedings in the Senate or the Speaker's Ruling in the Senate but any debate may be allowed on the structures and roles of the Senate or Parliament.

#### **Retraction and Apologies**

88. A Member who has used exceptionable words and declines to explain and retract the words or



to offer apologies for the use of the words to the satisfaction of the Speaker shall be deemed to be disorderly and shall be dealt with in accordance with the rules pertaining to disorderly conduct.

**Matters *sub judice* or secret**

89. (1) Subject to paragraph (5), no Member shall refer to any particular matter which is *sub judice* or which, by the operation of any written law, is secret.

(2) A matter shall be considered to be *sub judice* when it refers to active criminal or civil proceedings and the discussion of such matter is likely to prejudice its fair determination.

(3) In determining whether a criminal or civil proceeding is active, the following shall apply-

- (a) criminal proceedings shall be deemed to be active when a charge has been made or a summons to appear has been issued;
- (b) criminal proceedings shall be deemed to have ceased to be active when they are concluded by verdict and sentence or discontinuance;
- (c) civil proceedings shall be deemed to be active when arrangements for hearing, such as setting down a case for trial, have been made, until the proceedings

are ended by judgment or discontinuance;

- (d) appellate proceedings whether criminal or civil shall be deemed to be active from the time when they are commenced by application for leave to appeal or by notice of appeal until the proceedings are ended by judgment or discontinuance.

(4) A Member alleging that a matter is *sub judice* shall provide evidence to show that paragraphs (2) and (3) are applicable.

(5) Notwithstanding this Standing Order, the Speaker may allow reference to any matter before the House or a Committee.

#### **Declaration of interest**

90. (1) A Member who wishes to speak on any matter in which the Member has a personal interest shall first declare that interest.

(2) Personal interests include pecuniary interest, proprietary interest, personal relationships and business relationships.

#### **Responsibility for statement of fact**

91. (1) A Member shall be responsible for the accuracy of any facts which the Member alleges

to be true and may be required to substantiate any such facts instantly.

(2) If a Member has sufficient reason to convince the Speaker that the Member is unable to substantiate the allegations instantly, the Speaker shall require that such Member substantiates the allegations not later than the next sitting day, failure to which the Member shall be deemed to be disorderly within the meaning of Standing Order 107 (*Grossly Disorderly conduct*) unless the Member withdraws the allegations and gives a suitable apology, if the Speaker so requires.

**Member who has spoken to question may speak to amendment**

92. Where an amendment has been moved, and if necessary seconded, any Member who has already spoken to the main question may speak to the amendment, and any Member who has not spoken to the main question but speaks to the amendment does not thereby forfeit the right to speak to the main question.

**Debate on amendment confined to amendment**

93. (1) Where an amendment has been moved, and if necessary seconded, debate shall be confined to the amendment.

(2) Despite paragraph (1), the Speaker may direct that the debate on the amendment may include debate on the matter of the Motion where, in the Speaker's opinion, the matter of the amendment is not conveniently severable from the matter of the Motion.

(3) Where the Speaker issues directions under paragraph (2), a Member who speaks to the amendment shall not be entitled, after the amendment has been disposed of, to speak to the Motion, and any Member who has already spoken to the Motion may in speaking to the amendment, speak only to any new matter raised thereby.

#### **Reserving rights of speech**

94. Upon a Motion, other than a Motion by way of amendment to a question proposed by the Speaker, a Member may second by rising in his or her place and signifying acquiescence by bowing the head, without speaking, and such Member shall thereby reserve the same rights of speech as the Member would have had if some other Member had seconded such Motion.

#### **Closure of debate**

95. (1) After the question on a Motion the Mover of which has a right of reply has been proposed, a Member rising in his or her place may claim to move "That, the Mover be now called upon to

reply", and, unless the Speaker is of the opinion that such Motion is an abuse of the proceedings of the House, or an infringement of the rights of Members, the question "That, the Mover be now called upon to reply", shall be put forthwith, and decided without amendment or debate and if that question is agreed to, the Mover may, immediately reply to the debate, and as soon as the Mover has concluded or, if the Mover does not wish to reply, immediately, the Speaker shall put the question, subject to paragraph 3 of Standing Order 53 (*Manner of debating motions*).

(2) After the question on a Motion the Mover of which has no right of reply has been proposed, a Member rising in his or her place may claim to move "That, the question be now put", and, unless the Speaker is of the opinion that such a Motion is an abuse of the proceedings of the House, or an infringement of the rights of Members, the question "That, the question be now put", shall be put forthwith, and decided without amendment or debate and if that question is agreed to, the Speaker shall immediately put the question accordingly, subject to paragraph 3 of Standing Order 53 (*Manner of debating motions*).

#### **Adjournment of debate**

96. (1) A Member who wishes to postpone to some future occasion the further discussion of a question which has been proposed from the Chair may claim to move "That, the debate be now adjourned", or, in Committee of the whole House "That, the Chairperson do report progress".

(2) The debate on a dilatory Motion shall be confined to the matter of the Motion.

(3) If the Speaker is of the opinion that a dilatory Motion is an abuse of the proceedings of the House, the Speaker may forthwith put the question thereon or decline to propose it.

(4) A Member who has moved or seconded a dilatory Motion which has been negatived may not subsequently move or second another such Motion during the same debate, whether in the House or in Committee of the whole House.

#### **PART XVII - LIMITATION OF DEBATE**

##### **Limitation of debate**

97. (1) The House may, on a Motion made by any Member in accordance with this Standing Order, impose a limit in respect of debate on any particular Motion or Bill by allotting a limited period of time for such debate or by limiting the

time during which Members may speak in such debate or by imposing such limitations.

(2) A Motion for limitation of debate under this Standing Order may be made without notice.

(3) A Motion under paragraph (2) shall not be made in the course of the debate to which it refers unless it is moved after the adjournment of such debate and before the debate is resumed.

(4) No Member may speak in a debate on Bills, Sessional Papers, Motions or Reports of Committees for more than twenty minutes without the leave of the Speaker but the Leader of Majority party and the Leader of Minority party may each speak for a maximum of 60 minutes.

**PART XVIII - ORDER IN THE HOUSE AND IN  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**

**Maintenance of order**

98. Order shall be maintained in the House by the Speaker and in a Committee of the whole House by the Chairperson of such Committee but disorder in Committee may be censured only by the House on receiving a report thereof.

**Security checks**

99. A Member shall be subjected to a security check or screening before entering the Chamber.

**Firearms and other offensive weapons**

100. No Member shall bring a firearm or any offensive weapon into the Chamber and any such weapon must be deposited with the Serjeant-at-Arms for safe custody before entering the Chamber, and collected at the time of leaving the Chamber.

**Lady Members' handbags**

101. A lady Member may be allowed into the Chamber with a handbag of reasonable size.

**When the Speaker rises Members to be silent**

102. Whenever the Speaker or the Chairperson of Committees rises, any Member then speaking,



or offering to speak, shall resume his or her seat and the House or the Committee shall be silent, so that the Speaker or the Chairperson of Committees may be heard without interruption.

**Members and the Chair**

103. (1) Every Member shall bow to the Chair in passing to or from his or her seat or across the Floor of the House but, a Member may show respect in any other manner consistent with the Member's faith and with the dignity of the House.

(2) No Member shall pass between the Chair and any Member who is speaking or between the Chair and the Table except in so far as it is necessary for the purpose of the administration of Oath or affirmation of Allegiance.

**Members to be seated**

104. Except when passing to and from his or her seat or when speaking, every Member when in the Chamber shall be seated, and shall not at any time stand in any of the passages and gangways.

**Members to remain in their places until the Speaker has left the Chamber**

105. When the House adjourns, Members shall stand in their places until the Speaker has left the Chamber.

**Irrelevance or repetition**

106. The Speaker or the Chairperson of Committees, after having called attention to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition either of the Member's own arguments or the arguments used by other Members in debate, may, after having first warned him or her direct that the Member discontinue his or her speech.

**Grossly disorderly conduct**

107. (1) Conduct is grossly disorderly if the Member concerned-

- (a) creates actual disorder;
- (b) knowingly raises a false point of order;
- (c) uses or threatens violence against a Member or other person;
- (d) persists in making serious allegations without, in the Speaker's opinion, adequate substantiation;
- (e) otherwise abuses his or her privileges;
- (f) deliberately gives false information to the House;

- (g) votes more than once in breach of these Standing Orders;
- (h) commits any serious breach of these Standing Orders; or
- (i) acts in any other way to the serious detriment of the dignity or orderly procedure of the House.

(2) The Speaker or the Chairperson of Committees shall order any Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the precincts of the Assembly-

- (a) on the first occasion, for the remainder of that day's sitting;
- (b) on the second or subsequent occasion during the same session, for a maximum of three sitting days including the day of suspension,

(3) If on any occasion the Speaker or the Chairperson deems that his or her powers under this Standing Order are inadequate, the Speaker or the Chairperson may name such Member or Members, in which event the procedure specified in Standing Order 108 (*Member may be suspended after being named*) shall be followed.

**Member may be suspended after being named**

**108.** (1) Any Member may at any time, on a point of order, invite the Speaker or the Chairperson of Committees to name another Member for grossly disorderly conduct, but the decision whether or not to do so shall remain with the Speaker or Chairperson.

(2) Whenever a Member shall have been named by the Speaker or by the Chairperson, then -

- (a) if the breach has been committed by such Member in the House, a Motion shall be made by any other Member present "That, such Member (naming the Member) be suspended from the service of the House", and the Speaker shall forthwith put the question thereon, no amendment, adjournment, or debate being allowed;
- (b) if the breach has been committed in a Committee of the whole House, the Chairperson shall forthwith leave the Chair and report the circumstances to the House; and the Speaker shall on a Motion as aforesaid being made, forthwith put the question, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, as if the offence had been committed in the House itself.

**Member suspended to withdraw from precincts of Parliament**

109. (1) Whenever a member has been named in accordance with Standing Order 107 (*Member may be suspended after being named*), the Speaker shall order the Member to withdraw from the Chamber and the precincts of the Assembly.

(2) Any Member who is ordered to withdraw under Standing Order 108 (*Grossly disorderly conduct*) or who is suspended from the service of the House under Standing Order 108 (*Member may be suspended after being named*) shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of Parliament and shall during the period of such withdrawal or suspension (except during a recess) forfeit the right of access thereto and shall forfeit all allowances payable during the period of such suspension.

(3) Any Member who demonstrates or makes disruptive utterances against the suspension of a named Member shall be deemed to be disorderly in accordance with Standing Order 107 (*Grossly disorderly conduct*).

**Duration of suspension of a Member**

110. (1) If any Member is suspended under Standing Order 108 (*Member may be suspended after*

*being named*) the suspension on the first occasion shall be for four sitting days including the day of suspension; on the second occasion during the same Session for eight sitting days, including the day of suspension; and on the third or any subsequent occasion during the same Session for twenty-eight sitting days, including the day of suspension.

(2) A Member who is ordered to withdraw under Standing Order 107 (*Grossly disorderly conduct*) or who is suspended from the service of the Assembly under Standing Order 108 (*Member may be suspended after being named*) shall forfeit all allowances payable during the period of such suspension.

**Action to be taken on refusal to withdraw**

111. If any Member shall refuse to withdraw when required to do so, by or under these Standing Orders, the Speaker or the Chairperson of Committee as the case may be, having called the attention of the House or Committee to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel such Member to withdraw, shall order such Member to be removed and such Member shall thereupon without question put be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the Session and shall during such suspension, forfeit the right of access to the precincts of Parliament and the

Serjeant-at-arms shall take necessary action to enforce the order.

**Grave disorder in the Assembly**

112. (1) In the event of grave disorder arising in the House, the Speaker may, adjourn the House forthwith or suspend any sitting for a period to be determined by him or her.

(2) In the event of grave disorder arising in the Committee of the whole House, the Speaker shall resume the Chair forthwith.

**PART XIX - PUBLIC BILLS**

**Application and limitation**

113. The provisions of this Part shall apply in respect of all public Bills.

**Introduction of Bills**

114. (1) A legislative proposal for which a Member or a Committee is in charge shall, together with a memorandum setting out its objectives and matters specified in Standing Order 117 (*Memorandum of objectives and reasons*), be submitted to the Speaker.

(2) The Speaker shall refer the legislative proposal and the memorandum to the Clerk who shall consider the legislative proposal,

draft it in proper form where necessary and submit it to the speaker with comments on-

- (a) whether the legislative proposal affects or does not affect counties and if it is, whether it is a special or ordinary Bill;
- (b) whether the legislative proposal is a draft money Bill in terms of Article 114 of the Constitution; and
- (c) whether the legislative proposal conforms to the Constitution and the law and is in order as to format and style in accordance with the Standing Orders.

(3) Upon receipt of the legislative proposal from the Clerk under paragraph (2), the Speaker shall-

- (a) where the Speaker is of the opinion that a legislative proposal is a draft money Bill in terms of Article 114 of the Constitution, direct that the legislative proposal be referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee and shall be proceeded with only in accordance with the recommendations of the Budget and Appropriations Committee after taking into account the views of the Cabinet Secretary responsible for finance and examining the manner in which the legislative proposal affects the current and future budgets;



(b) in respect of a legislative proposal for which no Committee is in charge, refer the legislative proposal to the relevant Committee for pre-publication scrutiny and comments and the Committee shall submit its comments on the legislative proposal to the Speaker within fourteen days of receipt of the legislative proposal.

(4) Upon receipt of the recommendations of the Budget and Appropriations Committee or the comments of the relevant Committee under paragraph (3), the Speaker shall direct either that the legislative proposal be not proceeded with or that it be accepted, and if the Speaker certifies that the legislative proposal is accepted the proposal shall be published as a Bill.

#### **Printing of amending provisions**

115. Where a Bill seeks to amend any provision of an existing Act, the text of the relevant part of such provision shall be printed and supplied as part of the Bill which is availed to Members, unless in the opinion of the Speaker, the amendment is formal, minor or self explanatory.

#### **Enacting formula**

116. Every Bill shall contain, as the enacting formula, the words "Enacted by the Parliament of Kenya".

#### **Memorandum of Objects and Reasons**

117. Every Bill shall be accompanied by a memorandum containing:

- (a) a statement of the objects and reasons of the Bill,
- (b) a statement of delegation of legislative powers and limitation of fundamental rights and freedom, if any,
- (c) an indication whether it concerns county governments, and
- (d) a statement of its financial implication and if the expenditure of public moneys will be involved should the Bill be enacted, an estimate, where possible, of such expenditure.

#### **Provisions on delegated powers**

118. Every Bill that confers on any State organ, State officer or person the authority to make provision having the force of law in Kenya in terms of Article 94(6) of the Constitution shall contain a separate and distinct part of the Bill under the title "Provisions on Delegated Powers" in which shall be expressly specified -

- (a) the purpose and objectives for which that authority is conferred;

- (b) the limits of the authority;
- (c) the nature and scope of the law which may be made; and
- (d) the principles and standards applicable to the law made under the authority.

**Limitation of fundamental rights and freedom**

119. Every Bill that contains a provision limiting a right or fundamental freedom in terms of Article 24(2) of the Constitution shall contain separate and distinct provisions-

- (a) clearly expressing the specific right or fundamental freedom to be limited; and
- (b) the nature and extent of that limitation.

**Publication**

120. No Bill shall be introduced unless such Bill together with the memorandum referred to in Standing Order 117 (*Memorandum of objects and reasons*), has been published in the *Gazette* (as a Bill to be originated in the Assembly), and unless, in the case of a Consolidated Fund Bill, an Appropriation Bill or a Supplementary Appropriation Bill, a period of seven days, and in the case of any other Bill a period of fourteen days, beginning in each case from the day of such publication, or such

shorter period as the House may resolve with respect to the Bill, has ended.

**Bills concerning county government**

121. A Bill concerning county governments is-

- (a) a special Bill, which shall be considered under Article 111 of the Constitution if it-
  - (i) relates to the election of members of a county assembly or a county executive; or
  - (ii) is the annual County Allocation of Revenue Bill referred to in Article 218 of the Constitution; or
- (b) an ordinary Bill, which shall be considered as provided under Article 112 of the Constitution, in any other case.

**Procedure upon Publication**

122. (1) Upon publication of a Bill, and before the First Reading, the Speaker shall determine whether-

- (a) it is a Bill concerning county governments and, if it is, whether it is a special or an ordinary Bill, or
- (b) it is not a Bill concerning county governments.

(2) The Speaker shall communicate the determination under paragraph (1) to the Speaker of the Senate for concurrence.

(3) Where the Speaker of the Senate does not concur with the determination of the Speaker under paragraph (1), the Speaker shall, jointly with the Speaker of the Senate resolve any question whether it is a Bill concerning counties and, if it is, whether it is a special or an ordinary Bill.

(4) Where, upon the expiry of seven days from the day of the communication under paragraph (2) or such further time as the Speaker in any particular case determine, no communication has been received from the Speaker of the Senate as to either concur or differ with the determination of the Speaker, the Speaker shall direct that the Bill may be Read a First time in accordance with these Standing Orders.

(5) Upon publication of a Bill in the *Gazette*, the Clerk shall obtain sufficient copies of the Bill and avail a copy of the Bill to every Member.

(6) A Bill shall be signed by the Member in charge of it and shall be introduced by way of First Reading in accordance with Standing Order 126 (*First Reading of Bills*).

(7) A Bill for whom a Committee is in charge shall be introduced by the Chairperson of the Committee or a Member of the Committee designated by the committee for that purpose.

(8) There shall be indicated in the Order Paper in respect of each Bill, whether or not it is a Bill concerning county governments under Article 110 of the Constitution.

**Concurrence on determination on bills concerning counties**

123. Whenever the Speaker receives a communication from the Speaker of the Senate seeking concurrence that a Bill concerns counties, including concurrence that the Bill is a special or ordinary Bill in terms of Article 110(3) of the Constitution, the Speaker shall convey his or her decision to the Speaker of the Senate within seven days of receipt of the communication.

**Not more than one stage of a Bill to be taken at the same sitting**

124. (1) Except with the leave of the House, not more than one stage of a Bill may be taken at any one sitting.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to or in respect of an Appropriation Bill or a Consolidated Fund Bill.

#### **Reading of Bills**

125. A Bill is read by the reading by the Clerk to the assembled House of the title of the Bill.

#### **First Reading**

126. Every Bill shall be read a First Time without Motion made or question put.

#### **Committal of Bills to Committees and public participation**

127. (1) A Bill having been read a First Time shall stand committed to the relevant Departmental Committee without question put.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Assembly may resolve to commit a Bill to a select committee established for that purpose.

(3) The Departmental Committee to which a Bill is committed shall facilitate public participation and shall take into account the views and recommendations of the public when the committee makes its report to the House.

(4) Subject to Standing Order 129 (*Second Reading of a bill to amend the Constitution*) the Chairperson of the Departmental

Committee to which a Bill is committed or a Member designated for that purpose by the Committee shall present the Committee's report to the House within twenty calendar days of such committal and upon such presentation, or if the Committee's report is not presented when it becomes due, the Bill shall be ordered to be read a Second Time on such day as the House Business Committee shall, in consultation with the Member or the Committee in charge of the Bill, appoint.

(5) If for any reason, at the commencement of the Second Reading the report of the Committee has not been presented, the Committee concerned shall report progress to the House and the failure to present the report shall be noted by the Liaison Committee for necessary action.

(6) Despite paragraph (1) -

(a) the Speaker may direct that a particular Bill be committed to such committee as the Speaker may determine.

(b) a Consolidated Fund Bill, an Appropriation Bill, a Supplementary Appropriation Bill or a Finance Bill shall be committed to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.



### **Second Reading**

**128.** (1) On the Order of the Day being read for the Second Reading of a Bill, a Motion shall be made, "That, the .....Bill be now read a Second Time,".

(2) No amendment may be moved to the question "That, the .....Bill be now read a Second Time", other than an amendment to leave out the word "now" and to add, at the end of the question, the words "upon this day..... (state the period)".

### **Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Constitution**

**129.** A Bill to amend the Constitution shall not be called for the Second Reading in the National Assembly, within ninety days after the First Reading of the Bill in the National Assembly.

### **Committal of Bills to Committee of the whole House**

**130.** (1) A Bill having been read a Second Time shall stand committed to a Committee of the whole House.

(2) On the Order of the Day for Committee on a Bill being read, the Speaker shall leave the Chair without question put.

**Referral of proposed amendments to Committees**

131. Where after a Bill has been Read a Second Time and before commencement of Committee of the Whole, more than ten amendments have been proposed to it, which in the opinion of the Speaker require harmonization, the Speaker may direct any Member proposing an amendment to the Bill to appear before the relevant Departmental Committee dealing with the subject matter of the Bill to present his or her proposed amendments and the Committee shall submit a report to the House on the result of the exercise before the Committee of the Whole House is taken.

**Sequence to be observed on a Bill in Committee**

132. In considering a Bill in Committee, the various parts thereof shall be considered in the following sequence -

- (a) clauses as printed, excluding the clauses providing for the citation of the Bill, the commencement, if any, and the interpretation;
- (b) new clauses;
- (c) schedules;
- (d) new schedules;
- (e) interpretation;
- (f) preamble, if any;
- (g) long title;
- (h) the clauses providing for the citation of the Bill and the commencement.

**Procedure in Committee of the whole House on a Bill**

133. (1) The Clerk shall call severally each part of the Bill in the sequence specified in Standing Order 132 (*sequence to be observed on a Bill in committee*) and if no amendment is proposed or when all proposed amendments have been disposed of, the Chairperson shall propose the question "That, .... (as amended) stand part of the Bill" and, when Members who wish to speak have spoken, the Chairperson shall put that question to the Committee for decision.

(2) No amendment shall be moved to any part of a Bill by any Member, other than the Member in charge of the Bill, unless written notification of the amendment shall have been given to the Clerk twenty-four hours before the commencement of the sitting at which that part of the Bill is considered in Committee.

(3) Despite paragraph (2), where an amendment has been moved to any part of a Bill in accordance with this paragraph, any Member may move an amendment to that amendment on delivering to the Chairperson the terms of his or her amendment in writing.

(4)A member moving an amendment or a further amendment to any part of the Bill

under paragraphs (2) and (3) shall explain the meaning, purpose and effect of the proposed amendment or further amendment.

(5) No amendment shall be permitted to be moved if the amendment deals with a different subject or proposes to unreasonably or unduly expand the subject of the Bill, or is not appropriate or is not in logical sequence to the subject matter of the bill

(6) No amendment shall be moved which is inconsistent with any part of the Bill already agreed to or any decision already made by the Committee, and the Chairperson may at any time during the debate of a proposed amendment, withdraw it from the consideration of the Committee if in the opinion of the Chairperson, the debate has shown that the amendment contravenes this paragraph.

(7) In the case of a Consolidated Fund Bill, an Equalization Bill or an Appropriation Bill, no amendment shall be moved whose effect would be to impose a charge or increase expenditure above that already resolved by the House or in the Committee of Supply unless the House first resolves to allow such a motion.

(8) The Chairperson may refuse to propose the question upon any amendment which in the opinion of the Chairperson is frivolous or would make the clause or schedule which it proposes to amend unintelligible or ungrammatical.

(9) Paragraph (4) of Standing Order 53 (*Manner of debating Motions*) shall apply, with necessary modifications, to the proceedings for amendment of a Bill in Committee.

(10) The consideration of any part or a clause of a Bill may be postponed until such later stage of the proceedings in Committee on such Bill as the Committee may determine.

(11) On any Motion being made for the addition of a new clause, the clause shall be deemed to have been read a First Time and the question shall then be proposed "That, the new clause be read a Second Time" and if this is agreed, amendments may then be proposed to the new clause and the final question to be proposed shall be "That, the clause (as amended) be added to the Bill".

(12) New schedules shall be disposed of in the same way as new clauses.

(13) The question to be put on the preamble (if any) shall be "That, the preamble (as amended) be the preamble of the Bill."

(14) The question to be put on the long title of the Bill shall be "That, the long title (as amended) be the title of the Bill".

(15) No question shall be put on the enacting formula.

(16) At the conclusion of the proceedings in Committee on a Bill, or, if more than one, on all such Bills the Member in charge shall move "That, the Bill(s) (as amended) be reported to the House", and the question thereon shall be decided without amendment or debate.

#### **Report of Progress**

134. If any Member before the conclusion of proceedings on a Bill in a Committee of the whole House moves to report progress and such Motion is carried, the Chairperson shall leave the Chair and the Chairperson, or, if the Chairperson has taken the Speaker's Chair, the Member in charge of the Bill, shall report progress to the House and shall seek leave to sit again, and a day for the resumption of the proceedings shall be determined by the House Business Committee in consultation with the Member in charge of the Bill.

**Bill to be reported**

135. When a Committee of the whole House has agreed that a Bill or a number of Bills be reported, the Chairperson, shall forthwith leave the Chair of the Committee and the House shall resume, and the Chairperson or if the Chairperson has taken the Speaker's Chair, the Member in charge of the Bill shall report the Bill to the House, and each Bill, if more than one, shall be so reported separately.

**Procedure on Bills reported from Committee of the whole House**

136. (1) When a Bill has been reported from a Committee of the whole House, the House shall consider the Bill as reported upon a Motion "That the House do agree with the Committee in the said report".

(2) The question on any Motion moved under paragraph (1) shall be put forthwith, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, unless any Member desires to delete or amend any provision contained in a Bill, or to introduce a new provision in the Bill.

(3) A Member who desires to delete or amend any provision contained in a Bill, or to introduce a new provision in the Bill under paragraph (2) may propose any amendment to

add, at the end of a Motion under paragraph (1), the words "subject to the re-committal of the Bill (in respect of some specified part or of some proposed new clause or new schedule) to a Committee of the whole House", and if that Motion is agreed to with such an amendment, the Bill shall stand so re-committed and the House shall either forthwith or upon a day named by the House Business Committee in consultation with the Member in charge of the Bill dissolve itself into a Committee to consider the matters so re-committed.

#### **Procedure on Bills reported from Select Committees**

137. (1) The report of a Select Committee on a Bill shall be laid on the Table of the House by the Chairperson or vice chairperson of the Select Committee or by some other Member authorized by the Committee in that behalf.

(2) The House shall consider the Bill as reported from the Select Committee upon a Motion "That the report of the Select Committee on the.....Bill be approved".

(3) Standing Order 136 (*Procedure on Bills reported from Committee of the whole House*) shall apply to any motion to approve the report of a Select Committee on a Bill.



#### **Procedure upon the re-committal of a Bill**

138. (1) When a Bill has been re-committed to a Committee of the whole House, the Committee shall consider only the matters so re-committed and any matter directly consequential thereon.

(2) Except as is provided by paragraph (1), the procedure in Committee on a Bill on first committal shall apply with the necessary modifications to a Bill on re-committal.

(3) When a Bill has been reported from a Committee of the whole House after re-committal Standing Order 136 (*Procedure on Bills reported from Committee of the whole House*) shall apply.

#### **Third Reading**

139. (1) On the adoption of a report on a Bill, the Third Reading may, with the leave of the Speaker, be taken forthwith and if not so taken forthwith, shall be ordered to be taken on a day named by the House Business Committee in consultation with the Member in charge of the Bill.

(2) On the Third Reading of a Bill, a Motion shall be made "That, the ... Bill be now read a Third Time" and amendments may be proposed similar to those on Second Reading

#### **Withdrawal of Bills**

140. (1) Either before the commencement of business or on the Order of the Day for any stage of the Bill being read, the Member in charge of a Bill may, without notice, claim to withdraw a Bill;

(2) If the Speaker is of the opinion that the claim is not an abuse of the proceedings of the House, the Speaker shall direct that the Bill shall be withdrawn.

(3) A Bill that has been withdrawn may subject to Standing Order 114 (*Introduction of Bills*) and re-publication be introduced again.

(4) If a Member in charge of a Bill desires to withdraw a Bill before it is introduced in the House, the Member shall, in writing specifying the reasons for the withdrawal, notify the Speaker of the withdrawal and paragraph (3) shall apply to such Bill.

#### **Re-introduction of Bills**

141. (1) A Bill, the Second Reading or Third Reading of which has been rejected may be introduced again in the next Session, or after the lapse of six months in the same Session but subject to fresh publication as provided in Standing Order 114 (*Introduction of Bills*).

(2) A Bill in respect of which the Second Reading has been concluded at the end of a Session shall resume in the next Session of the same Parliament at the stage where it was interrupted at the end of the Session.

(3) A Bill in respect of which the Second Reading has not been concluded at the end of a Session shall lapse at the end of the session in which it was published but may be re-published in the same or a different form in accordance with Standing Order 114 (*Introduction of Bills*).

(4) A Bill the consideration of which has not been concluded at the end of the term of a Parliament shall lapse.

#### **Concurrence of the other House**

142. When a Bill, other than a Bill which in terms of Article 109(3) of the Constitution is considered only in the National Assembly has been passed, a certified copy of the Bill, signed by the Clerk and endorsed by the Speaker, shall be forwarded to the Clerk of the Senate, together with a message requesting the concurrence of the Senate.

**Consideration of Bills originating from the Senate**

143. A Bill which originates in the Senate shall be proceeded with by the National Assembly in the same manner as a Bill introduced in the National Assembly by way of First Reading in accordance with Standing Order 126 (*First Reading of Bills*).

**Procedure on Senate Bills after Third Reading in the House**

144. When a Bill which originated in the Senate has been read a Third Time in the National Assembly, the Clerk shall either-

- (i) return the Bill with a message to the Senate "That the National Assembly has agreed to the ..... Bill without amendment";
- (ii) return the Bill with a message to the Senate "That the National Assembly has rejected the ..... Bill and the Bill has been referred to a mediation committee; or
- (iii) cause any amendment or amendments that may have been made to the Bill in the National Assembly to be entered in the Bill received from the Senate, and an amended copy of the Bill, signed by the Clerk and endorsed by the Speaker, shall then be returned to the Senate with a message desiring the concurrence of the Senate to the

amendment or amendments made by the National Assembly.

**Senate amendments to Bills originating in the National Assembly**

145. Senate amendments to a Bill originating in the National Assembly shall be circulated to Members within seven days of receipt of the amendments from the Senate and shall be put down for consideration in a Committee of the Whole House on such day as the House Business Committee shall appoint.

**Consideration of Senate amendments to Bills originating in the National Assembly**

146. Upon a Motion being made "That the Senate amendments to the ..... Bill be now considered", no amendment may be moved to the question other than an amendment to leave out the words "now" and to add at end of the question "upon this day .....(state period)", and, in the event of such amendment being carried, the Clerk shall send a message to the Senate "That the Assembly has deferred consideration of the Senate amendments to the ..... Bill .....(state period)".

**Procedure on Senate Amendments to Bills originating in the National Assembly**

147. Where the National Assembly has resolved that the Senate amendments to a Bill be

considered, each amendment shall be read by the Clerk and may be agreed to or rejected in accordance with Article 112(2) of the Constitution.

**Conclusion of Consideration of Senate Amendments to Bills originating in the National Assembly**

148. When the House has concluded the consideration of Senate amendments to a Bill originating in the National Assembly and the House-

- (a) passes the Bill as amended, the Speaker shall refer the Bill to the President within seven days for assent; or
- (b) rejects the Bill as amended, the Speaker shall refer the Bill to a mediation committee under Article 113 of the Constitution.

**Mediation Committee**

149. (1) A Bill shall be referred to the mediation committee whenever the Assembly-

- (i) does not agree to all or any of the amendments made by the Senate to a Bill concerning County governments which originated in the Assembly;

(ii) rejects a Motion that a Bill which originated in the Senate be read a Second or Third Time.

(2) The Speakers of both Houses shall appoint a mediation committee consisting of equal numbers of members of each House, to attempt to develop a version of the Bill that both Houses will pass.

(3) The quorum of Members of the Assembly who shall be present to take part in a sitting of a Mediation Committee shall be a third of those Members; and no sitting of the Committee shall be validly constituted unless there is also present a like quorum of Members of the Senate.

(4) The Chairperson and vice Chairperson of the Mediation Committee shall be appointed by the majority of the members present at the first meeting thereof.

(5) The Chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the Mediation committee shall not be members of the same House.

(6) If, within thirty days of referral, the Mediation Committee fails to agree on a version of the Bill to be presented to both Houses for approval, the Bill will be deemed to have been negatived.

**Consideration of report of Mediation Committee**

150. (1) The report of a Mediation Committee on a Bill prepared in terms of Article 113 of the Constitution shall be laid on the Table of the House by a Member of the mediation committee authorized by the committee in that behalf.

(2) Where the report of the mediation committee is to the effect that the committee has failed to agree on a version of the Bill or where the Mediation Committee fails to agree on a version of the Bill within thirty days from the date the Bill was referred to it, the Bill shall stand defeated in terms of Article 113(4) of the Constitution.

(3) Where the report of the mediation committee includes an agreed version of the Bill in terms of Article 113(2) of the Constitution, the House shall consider the report of the mediation committee upon a Motion "That the report of the mediation committee be approved" and the House shall vote to approve or reject the motion.

(4) If the Motion under paragraph (3) is-

- (a) disagreed to, the Clerk shall send a message to the Senate signifying such disagreement, and the Bill shall be deemed to be defeated; or



- (b) agreed to, the Clerk shall send a message to the Senate signifying such agreement, and on receipt by the Clerk of a similar message from the Senate, the Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form agreed to by the Mediation Committee and the Speaker of the National Assembly shall refer the Bill to the President for assent within seven days in terms of Article 113(3) of the Constitution.

**Special Bill concerning a county government**

151. (1) The National Assembly may amend or veto a special Bill that has been passed by the Senate only by a resolution supported by at least two-thirds of the members of the Assembly.

(2) If a resolution in the National Assembly to amend or veto a special Bill fails to pass, the Speaker of the Assembly shall, within seven days, refer the Bill, in the form adopted by the Senate, to the President for assent.

(3) Upon referring the Bill to the President, the Speaker of the Assembly shall notify the fact to the Speaker of the Senate.

#### **Custody of Bills**

152. (1) Every Bill not requiring the concurrence of the Senate and which has been passed by the National Assembly, including a Bill that has been subjected to a Mediation Committee shall be certified by the Clerk and shall remain in the custody of the Clerk.

(2) Every Bill that originates in the National Assembly that requires the concurrence of the Senate and which has been passed by both Houses shall remain in the custody of the Clerk of the National Assembly and shall be certified by the Clerk of the National Assembly and the Clerk of the Senate.

(3) At any time before the certification of the Bill, the Speaker may correct formal errors or oversights therein without changing the substance of the Bill and thereafter submit the Bill to the President for assent.

(4) This standing order shall apply to a special Bill considered under Article 111(3) of the Constitution and a Bill approved in terms of Article 113(3) of the Constitution.

#### **Presentation of Bills for assent**

153. The Speaker shall sign a Bill certified under Standing Orders 148 *(Conclusion of Consideration of Senate Amendments to Bills*

*originating in the National Assembly) and 150 (Consideration of report of Mediation Committee) and shall refer the Bill to the President for assent within seven days of its passage by the National Assembly.*

**Referral of Bills by President**

154. Whenever the National Assembly receives the President's reservations on a Bill pursuant to Article 115 of the Constitution, the passage of which the Senate did not consider, the Assembly shall consider the President's reservations within twenty one days of the date when the House next meets.

**Referral of President's reservations to joint committee**

155. (1) Whenever the National Assembly receives the President's reservations on a Bill pursuant to Article 115 of the Constitution, the passage of which the Senate considered, the National Assembly shall within seven days of the receipt, refer the President's reservations to a joint Committee appointed for that purpose and Standing Order 213 (*Appointment of Joint committees*) shall apply with necessary modifications.

(2) Within fourteen days of referral under a paragraph (1), the report of a Joint Committee shall be laid on the Table of the House by a

member of the Committee authorized by the Committee in that behalf.

(3) Where the report of the Joint Committee includes an agreed version of the President's reservations, the House shall consider the report of the committee upon a Motion "**That the report of the Joint Committee on the President's Reservations on the ... ( *title of the Bill* ) be approved**" and the House shall vote on the Motion.

- (4) If the Motion under paragraph (3) is-
- (a) rejected, the Clerk shall send a message to the Senate conveying the resolution of the National Assembly and paragraph (5) shall apply; or
  - (b) agreed to, the Clerk shall send a message to the Senate conveying the resolution of the National Assembly, and if the Senate has similarly agreed to the Motion, and the Bill originated from the National Assembly, the Speaker shall, within seven days of the resolution of the National Assembly, resubmit the Bill to the President for assent.
- (5) If the Joint committee fails to submit a report under paragraph (2) or the

report of the Committee is to the effect that the Committee has failed to agree to the President's reservations or where the Committee fails to agree on a version of proposed amendments to the President's reservations, the President's reservations shall be taken to have been approved by Parliament upon the laying of the report on the Table of House under paragraph (2).

#### **PART XX - PRIVATE BILLS**

##### **Application of public Bill procedure**

156. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, the Standing Orders relating to public Bills shall apply in respect of private Bills.

##### **Saving clause**

157. Every private Bill shall contain a clause saving the rights of the President, the national and county governments, of all bodies politic or corporate, and of all others, except such as are mentioned in the Bill and those claiming by, from or under them.

##### **Private Bill affecting private rights**

158. (1) No private Bill which directly affects the private rights or property of any persons, shall originate in the House unless the provisions of this Standing Order as to notice have been complied with.

(2) A notice shall be published in not less than three separate issues of the *Gazette*, specifying the general nature and objects of the Bill; the last of such publications being not less than fourteen days before the presentation of the Petition referred to in Standing Order 159 (*Petition for Leave*).

**Petition for leave**

159. (1) No private Bill shall be introduced unless a Petition for the same, headed by the short title of the Bill, and signed by the parties, being promoters of the Bill, or some of them, has been previously presented to the House with a copy of the Bill annexed.

(2) The Clerk shall scrutinize petitions presented to the House and where, after such scrutiny, the Clerk is not satisfied that the provisions of this Part have been complied with, the Clerk shall so report to the Speaker.

(3) The promoters shall deposit with the Clerk a sufficient number of copies of the Petition with the Bill annexed, for distribution to Members and on receipt of such copies, the Clerk shall forthwith avail a copy to every Member.

(4) The Petition shall be read at the first sitting of the House after it is so deposited and thereupon the question "That, the promoters be granted leave to proceed" shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

**Security for cost of printing**

160. (1) Where leave to proceed is granted, the Clerk shall provide an estimate of the cost of printing the Bill and the promoters of the Bill shall meet such cost.

(2) The promoters shall deposit at least twenty five percent of the estimated total cost of printing the Bill as security with the Clerk.

**Bills authorizing the construction of work**

161. (1) In the case of a private Bill authorizing the construction works, before such Bill is read a First Time, the promoters shall-

- (a) deposit with the Clerk an estimate of the expense of the undertaking, signed by the person making such estimate and approved by the Clerk; and
- (b) deposit with the Clerk a sum not less than four percent of the amount of the estimate under paragraph (1).

(2) In every such Bill, there shall be inserted a clause to the effect that, if the works authorized to be constructed are not completed before the expiry of a time to be set out by the Bill for such completion, the sum deposited with the Clerk shall be forfeited to the Consolidated Fund.

**First Reading**

162. When the provisions of this part have been complied with, the Clerk shall cause the Bill to be printed, distributed to Members and published in the *Gazette* and at the first sitting of the House held not less than fourteen days after such publication, the Bill shall be read a First Time.

**Right of audience before Committee on opposed Bill**

163. (1) Subject to these Standing Orders all petitions against a private Bill containing a prayer that the petitioners be heard by themselves, or by their advocates, shall stand referred to a Select Committee which shall hear any such petitioners or advocates.

(2) The promoters of an opposed private Bill shall be entitled to be heard before the Select Committee on the Bill by themselves, or by their advocates, in favour of the Bill and against any petitions against the Bill.



**How Bills may be opposed**

164. No person, other than a Member, shall be heard, whether in person or by advocate, in opposition to a private Bill unless such person has previously lodged a Petition with the Clerk, showing the nature of the person's objections to the Bill and whether the person's objections extend to the whole or some part of the Bill and praying that he or she may be heard in person or by advocate, as the case may be.

**Printing expenses**

165. As soon as practicably possible, after a private Bill is passed, rejected or abandoned, the Clerk shall make out an account showing the expenses of printing and shall, if the amount of the account is less than the security deposited, refund the balance, and if it is excess, cause the promoter to pay the balance.

**PART XXI - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**

**Limits on consideration of matters by Committee**

166. A Committee shall not consider any matter other than a matter which has been referred to it or which it is required by these Standing Orders to consider.

**Committee of the whole House may not adjourn**

**167.** A Committee may not adjourn its own sitting or the consideration of any matter to a future sitting, but the Chairperson may by Motion be directed notwithstanding that all matters referred to the Committee have not yet been considered, to report progress to the House and ask leave to sit again.

**Report**

**168.** When all the matters referred to a Committee of the whole House have been considered, the Chairperson shall be directed by Motion to report to the House.

**No debate on Motion for Report**

**169.** (1) When a Motion is made in Committee to report or to report progress and ask leave to sit again, the question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate and if the question is agreed to the Chairperson shall forthwith leave the chair.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by these Standing Orders, every report under paragraph (1) shall be made without question put, and may, by Motion, be agreed to or negatived by the House or re-committed to the Committee, or postponed for further consideration.

**General application of rules in Committee**

170. Except as otherwise provided in these Standing Orders, the same rules of order and of debate for the conduct of business shall be observed in Committee as in the House.

**PART XXII - SELECT COMMITTEES**

**House Business Committee**

171. (1) There shall be a select committee, to be designated the House Business Committee, consisting of-

- (a) the Speaker who shall be the chairperson;
- (b) the Leader of the Majority Party;
- (c) the Leader of the Minority Party; and
- (d) not less than twenty one and not more than twenty-nine members, who shall be nominated by parliamentary parties and approved by the House at the commencement of every Session, reflecting the relative majorities of the seats held by each of the parliamentary parties in the National Assembly and taking into consideration the interests of Independents.

(2) The House Business Committee shall be appointed within seven days on assembly of a new House.

(3) In nominating the Members to the House Business Committee, each parliamentary party shall include its Whip into the membership.

(4) In the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker shall attend and Chair the meetings of the House Business Committee.

- (5) The House Business Committee shall -
- (a) prepare and , if necessary, from time to time adjust the Parliamentary Calendar with the approval of the House;
  - (b) monitor and oversee the implementation of the House Business and programmes.
  - (c) implement the Standing Orders respecting the scheduling or programming of the business of the House and the functioning of the Committees of the House;
  - (d) determine the order in which the reports of Committees shall be debated in the House;
  - (e) may take decisions and issue directives and guidelines to prioritize or postpone any business of the House acting with the concurrence of the Leader of the Majority Party or the Leader of the Minority Party, as the case may be.

(f) consider such matters as may from time to time arise in connection with the business of the House and shall have and perform such powers and functions as are conferred on and ascribed to it by these Standing Orders or from time to time by the House.

(6) The Chairperson and at least one third of the other members of the House Business Committee shall form a quorum.

(7) If, for any reason, a member of the House Business Committee is unable to attend, the Leader in the House of the party which nominated that Member may appoint another Member in that Member's place for the period for which the Member is unable to attend.

#### **Committee on Selection**

172. (1) There shall be a select committee, to be designated Committee on Selection, consisting the Leader of the Majority party who shall be the chairperson, the Leader of the Minority party and not less than eleven and not more than nineteen members, who shall be nominated by parliamentary parties and approved by the House.

(2) The Committee on Selection shall nominate members to serve in Committees, save for the

membership of the House Business Committee and Committee on Appointments.

(3) The Committee on Selection shall be appointed within ten days on assembly of a new House.

### **General Provisions**

#### **Nomination of members of select committees**

173. (1) Unless otherwise provided by any written law or these Standing Orders, the Committee on Selection shall, in consultation with parliamentary parties, nominate Members who shall serve on a select committee.

(2) The Committee on Selection shall give consideration to the need for gender balance and shall, so far as may be practicable, ensure that no more than two-thirds of members of a committee of the Assembly, including a committee established through a resolution of the House, shall be of the same gender.

(3) A vacancy occasioned by resignation or removal of a Member from a select committee shall be filled within fourteen days of the vacancy.

(4) A Member against whom an adverse recommendation has been made in a report of

a select committee that has been adopted by a House of Parliament shall be ineligible for nomination as member of that committee.

**Criteria for nomination**

174. (1) In nominating Members to serve on a select committee, the Selection Committee shall ensure that the membership of each committee reflects the relative majorities of the seats held by each of the parliamentary parties in the National Assembly.

(2) Despite paragraph (1), a member belonging to a party other than a parliamentary party or independent Member may be nominated to serve in select committee and the allocation of membership of select committees shall be as nearly as practicable proportional to the number of members belonging to such parties and independent Members.

(3) Except as the House may otherwise resolve, on the recommendation of the Committee on Selection for reasons to be stated, no member shall be appointed to serve in more than two Departmental Committees.

**Approval of nomination**

175. (1) The Selection Committee shall, within seven days upon nomination of members to

serve in any committee of the House, present the list to the House for approval.

(2) Whenever a Motion for approval of a list under paragraph (1) is moved in the House, no objection against the proposed membership of a Member in a select committee shall be permitted and objections, if any, shall be formulated against the proposed membership as a whole.

(3) A Member shall not be a member of a committee of the House, unless the nomination of such Member into the committee is approved by the House.

#### **Discharge of a member from a committee**

176. (1) The parliamentary party that nominated a member to a select committee, may give notice, in writing, to the Speaker that the member is to be discharged from a select committee.

(2) The discharge of a member shall take effect upon receipt by the Speaker of a notice under paragraph (1).

#### **Composition of select committees**

177. Subject to any written law, these Standing Orders or a resolution of the House, a select committee shall consist of an odd number of



members, being, not less than eleven and not more than nineteen.

**Chairing of select committees and quorum**

178. (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of Standing Order 173 (*Nomination of Members of select committees*), unless otherwise provided under any written law, these Standing Orders or by resolution of the House-

- (a) a select committee shall, upon appointment, elect its chairperson and vice-chairperson from amongst its members;
- (b) any five members of a select committee shall constitute a quorum.

**Conduct of election**

179. (1) The Clerk shall appoint a place, date and time for the first meeting of a Committee within seven days of its constitution by the House, or such further period as the Speaker may approve, and as soon as a majority of the Committee is present, the Clerk shall, by a secret ballot, conduct the election of the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Committee.

(2) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Chairperson or Vice-chairperson of a select committee, the Clerk shall, within seven days of the vacancy arising, appoint a place and

time for the meeting of the committee to elect the Chairperson or Vice-chairperson.

**Duties of Committee Chairperson**

**180.** Subject to the provisions of these Standing Orders and the directions of the committee, a chairperson of a committee shall-

- (a) preside at meetings of the committee;
- (b) perform the functions and exercise the powers assigned to office of the Chairperson by the committee, resolutions of the Assembly or legislation;
- (c) be the spokesperson of the committee.

**Notice of meetings**

**181.** (1) A notice of a meeting of a select committee shall be given by the Clerk to all Members of the committee showing the date, time, venue and agenda of the meeting.

(2) A notice under paragraph (1) shall be deemed to have been given upon circulation through the official email addresses of a Member, the parliamentary website, by delivery of the notice in the office of a Member or posting of the notice in the precincts of Parliament.

#### **Sittings of select committees**

**182.** A sitting of a committee shall be held at such place, date and time as shall be determined by the Chairperson or on a petition made by at least seven members of that committee but no meeting of a Committee may be held outside the precincts of Parliament without the approval of the Speaker.

#### **Sub-committees of select committees**

**183.** A select committee may establish such sub-committees as it may consider necessary for the proper discharge of its functions

#### **Member adversely mentioned not to sit**

**184.** A Member who is adversely mentioned in a matter under deliberation by a Committee shall not be present at any meeting at which the Committee is deliberating on the matter, but the Member may appear to adduce evidence as a witness before the Committee.

#### **Adjournment for lack of quorum**

**185.** Unless quorum is achieved within thirty minutes of the appointed time, a meeting of a committee of the House shall stand adjourned to such further time or day as the chairperson of the committee may appoint.

#### **Frequency of meetings**

**186.** (1) Unless the House otherwise resolves, every select committee shall meet at least once in two months.

(2) Except for the House Business Committee, a select committee shall not meet during a sitting of the House without the written permission of the Speaker.

(3) Despite paragraph (2), a sitting of a committee shall stand suspended when a division or quorum bell is rung.

(4) The proceedings of a meeting of a committee held contrary to paragraph (2) shall be void.

#### **Failure to attend meetings**

**187.** (1) If a member fails to attend four consecutive sittings of a Committee without the written permission of the chairperson of the Committee, or the permission of the Speaker if the member is the chairperson, the chairperson or the Speaker, as the case may be shall notify the Committee of the failure.

(2) The Committee having noted the notification under paragraph (1) may resolve that the member or the chairperson as the case may be, be suspended from the membership of

the committee and that the matter be reported to the Committee on Selection.

(3) Upon receipt of a report under paragraph (2), the Committee on Selection shall consider the matter and shall propose a replacement of the member for approval by the House.

**Absence of chairperson and vice-chairperson**

188. In the absence of the chairperson and vice-chairperson at any meeting, a Member designated by the chairperson shall take the Chair, and in the absence of such designated Member, the Members present shall elect one of them to take the Chair.

**List of attendance**

189. The names of Members present at each sitting of a select committee shall be entered in the minutes of that sitting.

**Minutes of select committees**

190. The minutes of the proceedings of a select committee shall be laid on the Table of the House with the report of the committee and may, subject to Standing Order 247 (*Custody of Journals and Records*), be published.

**Powers and privileges of committees**

191. Committees shall enjoy and exercise all the powers and privileges bestowed on Parliament

by the Constitution and statute, including the power to summon witnesses, receive evidence and to request for and receive papers and documents from the Government and the public.

**Temporary absence of a member of a select committee**

192. (1) Unless otherwise provided for in these Standing Orders, in the event that any member of a Committee is absent or otherwise unable to attend the sittings of the committee, the party whip of that Member's party may, with permission of the Speaker, appoint another Member to act in that Member's place during the period of such absence or inability.

(2) A member shall be considered absent or otherwise unable to attend a sitting in terms of paragraph (1) if the Member is out of the country on official parliamentary business or is indisposed.

**Vote of no confidence in the chairperson or vice-chairperson**

193. (1) A Committee may, by a resolution supported by a majority of its members, resolve that it has no confidence in the chairperson or vice-chairperson and a member designated by the committee for that purpose shall thereupon report the resolution to the

Liaison Committee which shall, as soon as it is practicable, direct the Clerk to conduct a election for the chairperson or vice-chairperson, as the case may be, in accordance with Standing Order 179 (*Conduct of election*).

(2) The members desiring to make a resolution under paragraph (1) shall serve the chairperson or vice-chairperson with a written notice of the intended vote of no confidence and may, if they constitute a majority, request the Clerk to call for a meeting at the expiry of three days after the giving of such notice.

(3) A notice by Members, under paragraph (2) shall be deemed to have been given upon delivery to the chairperson's or vice-chairperson's official email address and by delivery of the notice to the office of the chairperson or vice-chairperson, as the case may be.

(4) A notice by the Clerk for a meeting under paragraph (2) shall be deemed to have been given upon circulation of the notice in the offices of Members and posting on notice boards in the precincts of Parliament.

**Original vote**

194. (1) The Chairperson of a select committee other than the House Business Committee shall have an original vote but not a casting vote.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the chairperson of the House Business Committee, who shall have neither an original nor a casting vote.

**Attendance by non-members of select committee**

195. A Member may attend and participate in a meeting of any committee of the House of which he or she is not a member, but such member shall not be entitled to vote on any matter before the committee.

**Procedure in select committees**

196. (1) Except as and to the extent to which the chairperson may otherwise direct for the purpose of facilitating full consideration and discussion of a matter referred to a Committee, the procedure in a select committee shall be as nearly as possible, the same as that in Committee of the whole House.

(2) Any question arising in a select committee shall be decided by vote and the resolution on any such vote shall constitute the decision of the select committee on that question.



(3) The minutes of a select committee shall be kept in the same form as the Votes and Proceedings of a Committee of the whole House and in such other form as may be prescribed in the Committee Manual.

(4) Where a vote on a question is not unanimous, the names of the members voting for and against the question and those abstaining from voting, respectively, shall be recorded in the minutes.

(5) Except as the Speaker may otherwise direct, a committee may sit notwithstanding the adjournment of the House.

#### **Limitation of mandate**

197. (1) The deliberations of a select committee shall be confined to the mandate of the committee and any extension or limitation of that mandate as may be directed by the Assembly and, in the case of a select committee on a Bill, to the Bill committed to it and relevant amendments.

(2) In the exercise of its functions, a select committee may not consider any matter that is not contemplated within the mandate of the National Assembly under the Constitution.

#### **Public access to meetings of select committees**

198. (1) All committee proceedings shall be open to the public unless in exceptional circumstances the Speaker has determined that there are justifiable reasons for the exclusion of the public.

(2) The Committee may adjourn to seek leave of the Speaker to exclude the public.

#### **Reports of select committees**

199. (1) The report of a select committee shall be prepared and kept in the same form as the Votes and Proceedings of a Committee of the whole House and in such other form as may be prescribed in the Committee Manual.

(2) The report of a select committee having been adopted by a majority of the members, shall be signed by the chairperson on behalf of the Committee.

(3) If the chairperson is absent or is not readily available, the vice-chairperson shall sign the report under paragraph (1), and in the absence of both the chairperson and the vice-chairperson, the committee shall nominate another member to sign the report.

(4) A select committee shall adopt its report in a meeting attended by a majority of its members.

(5) A report having been adopted by a majority of members, a minority or dissenting report may be appended to the report by any member(s) of the Committee.

(6) A report of a select committee including any minority report, together with the minutes of the proceedings of the committee, and with such note or record of any evidence by the committee as the committee may deem fit, shall be laid on the Table of the House by the chairperson of the select committee, or the vice-chairperson or by a member authorized by the committee on its behalf within fourteen days of the conclusion of its proceedings.

(7) Within forty eight hours after the report has been laid on the Table of the House, the Clerk shall publish the report in the parliamentary website and circulate copies to members.

#### **Progress reports**

200. (1) Unless a more regular interval is prescribed under any written law or these Standing Orders, each select committee shall submit half yearly progress reports to the Liaison Committee.

(2) The Liaison Committee shall, within twenty one days, compile the reports under paragraph (1) and submit a report to the House.

#### **Reports on House Resolutions**

201. Within sixty days of a resolution of the House or adoption of a report of a select committee, the relevant Cabinet Secretary under whose portfolio the implementation of the resolution falls shall provide a report to the relevant committee of the House in accordance with Article 153(4)(b) of the Constitution.

#### **Joint sitting of committees of the Assembly**

202. (1) Two committees of the Assembly considering similar matters may, with the approval of the Speaker, hold joint sittings.

(2) A joint sitting of the committees shall be chaired by one of the chairpersons of the respective committees, and the chairperson shall be determined based on the ranking order set out under paragraph (2) of Standing Order 3 (*Proceedings on assembly of a new House*) and the second ranking member of the other committee shall deputise.

(3) The quorum of a joint sitting of two or more committees shall be the number obtained

by adding the respective quorum of each committee, excluding the Chairpersons.

(4) The report of a joint sitting of two or more committees shall not be adopted unless supported by a resolution of a majority of the total membership of the committees.

#### **Engagement of experts**

203. A Committee may, with the approval of the Speaker, engage such experts as it may consider necessary in furtherance of its mandate.

#### **Committee on Appointments**

204. (1) There shall be a select committee to be designated the Committee on Appointments to be appointed by the House, consisting of the Speaker as a Chairperson, the Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Majority Party, the Leader of the Minority party, the Deputy Leader of the Majority Party, the Deputy Leader of the Minority party and not more than twenty two other Members nominated by the House Business Committee, on the basis of proportional Party Membership in the House taking into consideration the numerical strength of the Parties and interests of Independent Members.

(2) The Committee on Appointments shall be appointed within seven days on assembly of a new House and shall serve for period of three years and that appointed thereafter shall serve for the remainder of the term of the Assembly.

(3) In the absence of the Speaker, the Committee shall elect a member, from amongst its members to chair the meeting.

(4) The Committee on Appointments shall consider, for approval by the House, appointments under Articles 152(2) of the Constitution (*Cabinet secretaries*).

(5) The quorum of the Committee on Appointments shall be one half of the Members of the Committee, but the Speaker shall not be counted for the purposes of quorum and shall not vote.

**Public Accounts Committee**

205. (1) There shall be a select committee to be designated the Public Accounts Committee.

(2) The Public Accounts Committee shall be responsible for the examination of the accounts showing the appropriations of the sum voted by the House to meet the public expenditure and of such other accounts laid

before the House as the Committee may think fit.

(3) The Public Accounts Committee shall consist of a chairperson and not more than sixteen other Members.

(4) The Public Accounts Committee constituted immediately following the general election shall serve for a period of three calendar years and that constituted thereafter shall serve for the remainder of the parliamentary term.

(5) The Public Accounts Committee shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from amongst its members.

#### **Public Investments Committee**

206. (1) There shall be a select committee to be designated the Public Investments Committee.

(2) The Public Investments Committee shall be responsible for the examination of the working of the public investments.

(3) The Public Investments Committee shall consist of a chairperson and not more than sixteen other Members.

(4) The Public Investments Committee shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from amongst its members.

(5) The Public Investments Committee constituted immediately following the general elections shall serve for a period of three calendar years and that constituted thereafter shall serve for the remainder of the parliamentary term.

(6) The functions of the Public Investments Committee shall be to-

- (a) examine the reports and accounts of the public investments;
- (b) examine the reports, if any, of the Auditor General on the public investments; and
- (c) examine, in the context of the autonomy and efficiency of the public investments, whether the affairs of the public investments, are being managed in accordance with sound financial or business principles and prudent commercial practices.

(7) Despite paragraph (6), the Public Investments Committee shall not examine any of the following-

- (a) matters of major Government policy as distinct from business or



- commercial functions of the public investments;
- (b) matters of day-to-day administration; and,
- (c) matters for the consideration of which machinery is established by any special statute under which a particular public investment is established.

**Budget and Appropriations Committee**

207. (1) There shall be a select Committee to be known as the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

(2) The Committee shall consist of a chairperson, and not more than fifty other Members.

- (3) The functions of the Committee shall be to-
- (a) investigate, inquire into and report on all matters related to coordination, control and monitoring of the national budget,
  - (b) discuss and review the estimates and make recommendations to the House;
  - (c) examine the Budget Policy Statement presented to the House;
  - (d) examine Bills related to the national budget, including Appropriations Bills; and

(e) evaluate tax estimates, economic and budgetary policies and programmes with direct budget outlays.

(4) The Budget and Appropriations Committee constituted by the House immediately following the general election shall serve for a period of three calendar years and that constituted thereafter shall serve for the remainder of the parliamentary term.

(5) Seventeen members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(6) The Committee shall invite chairpersons of all Departmental Committees to make presentations during the consideration of the budget.

#### **Procedure and House Rules Committee**

208. (1) There shall be a select committee to be known as the Procedure and House Rules Committee.

(2) The committee shall comprise the Speaker as chairperson, the Deputy Speaker, members of the Chairpersons Panel and not more than fifteen other Members.

(3) The Procedure and House Rules Committee shall consider and report on all matters relating to these Standing Orders.

(4) The Procedure and House Rules Committee may propose amendments to these Standing Orders and any such amendments shall upon approval by the House, take effect at the time appointed by the House.

(5) The Procedure and House Rules Committee may propose rules for the orderly and effective conduct of committee business and any such rules, shall upon approval by the House, continue in force until amended or repealed by the House.

(6) Any rules approved under paragraph (5) shall be annexed to the Standing Orders and shall be binding upon Committees to the same extent as these Standing Orders.

#### **Committee on Implementation**

209. (1) There shall be a select committee to be known as the Committee on Implementation.

(2) The Committee shall scrutinize the resolutions of the House (including adopted committee reports), petitions and the undertakings given by the National Executive and examine -

- (a) whether or not such decisions and undertakings have been implemented and where implemented, the extent to which they have been implemented; and whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary; and
- (b) whether or not legislation passed by the House has been operationalised and where operationalised, the extent to which such operationalisation has taken place within the minimum time necessary.

(3) The Committee may propose to the House, sanctions against any Cabinet Secretary who fails to report to the relevant select Committee on implementation status without justifiable reasons.

#### **Committee on Delegated Legislation**

210. (1) There shall be a select committee to be known as the Committee on Delegated Legislation.

(2) Whenever a statutory instrument is submitted to the Assembly pursuant to the Constitution, any law or these Standing Orders, the statutory instrument shall, unless a contrary intention appears in the relevant legislation, be laid before the Assembly by the

Chair of the relevant Departmental Committee, or any other member and shall thereafter stand referred to the Committee on Delegated Legislation.

(3) The Committee shall consider in respect of any statutory instrument whether it-

- (a) is in accord with the provisions of the Constitution, the Act pursuant to which it is made or other relevant written law;
- (b) infringes on fundamental rights and freedoms of the public;
- (c) contains a matter which in the opinion of the Committee should more properly be dealt with in an Act of Parliament;
- (d) contains imposition of taxation;
- (e) directly or indirectly bars the jurisdiction of the Courts;
- (f) gives retrospective effect to any of the provisions in respect of which the Constitution or the Act does not expressly give any such power;
- (g) involves expenditure from the Consolidated Fund or other public revenues;
- (h) is defective in its drafting or for any reason the form or purport of the statutory instrument calls for any elucidation;

- (i) appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the Constitution or the Act pursuant to which it is made;
- (j) appears to have had unjustifiable delay in its publication or laying before Parliament;
- (k) makes rights , liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon non-reviewable decisions;
- (l) makes rights , liberties or obligations unduly dependent insufficiently defined administrative powers;
- (m) inappropriately delegates legislative powers;
- (n) imposes a fine, imprisonment or other penalty without express authority having been provided for in the enabling legislation;
- (o) appears for any reason to infringe on the rule of law;
- (p) inadequately subjects the exercise of legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny; and,
- (q) accords to any other reason that the Committee considers fit to examine.

(4) If the Committee-

- (a) resolves that the statutory instrument, be acceded to, the Clerk shall convey

that resolution to the relevant state department or the authority that published the statutory instrument.

(b) does not accede to the statutory instrument, the Committee may recommend to the House that the Assembly resolves that all or any part of the statutory instrument be annulled and if the instrument -

(i) is not made under a legislation concerning counties and a resolution is passed by the Assembly within twenty days on which it next sits after the instrument laid before it under paragraph (2), that all or part of the statutory instrument be annulled, the instrument or part thereof shall henceforth stand annulled and ;

(ii) is made under a legislation concerning counties, the Clerk shall, within seven days of the resolution transmit a message to the Senate.

(5) The Clerk shall submit the resolution under paragraph (4)(b)(i) to the relevant state

department or the authority that published the statutory instrument.

(6) In this standing order, "statutory instrument" means any rule, order, regulation, direction, form, tariff of costs or fees, letter patent, commission, warrant, proclamation, by-law, resolution, guideline or other instrument issued, made or established in the execution of a power conferred by or under an act of Parliament under which that statutory instrument or subsidiary legislation is expressly authorised to be issued.

#### **Concurrence of Senate's Resolution on Statutory Instruments**

211. (1) Whenever the Assembly receives a message from the Senate seeking concurrence to a resolution of the Senate, that a statutory instrument or part of a statutory instrument be annulled, the Senate resolution shall stand referred to the Committee on Delegated Legislation which shall consider the resolution, together with the statutory instrument and report to the Assembly within twenty one days of the referral.

(2) Paragraph (3) of Standing Order 210 (*Committee on Delegated Legislation*) shall, with necessary modifications, apply to the



consideration of the resolution under paragraph (1).

(3) If the Assembly-

(a) agrees with the resolution of the Senate, the Clerk shall, by way of a message, inform the Clerk of the Senate and the relevant state department or the authority that published the statutory instrument, that Parliament has annulled the statutory instrument or part thereof and the instrument or part thereof shall, henceforth be void, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done there under, or the making of any new delegated legislation.

(b) fails to agree with the Senate resolution, the resolution shall be referred to a Joint Committee of parliament and Standing Order 213 (*Appointment of Joint Committees*) shall, with necessary modifications, apply.

#### **Committee on Regional Integration**

212. (1) There shall be a select committee to be designated as the Committee on Regional Integration.

- (2) Committee on Regional Integration shall-
- (a) enhance the role and involvement of the House in intensification and development of the integration process in the East African Community and the greater African region;
  - (b) examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the meetings of the East African Legislative Assembly;
  - (c) examine the Bills introduced in the East African Legislative Assembly and Acts of the East African Community;
  - (d) examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the meetings of the Pan African Parliament, the African, Caribbean and Pacific-European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly and other regional integration bodies;
  - (e) inquire into and examine any other matter relating to regional integration generally requiring action by the House;

## Joint Committees of Parliament

### Appointment of Joint Committees

213. (1) The select committees to which this Standing Order refers shall be designated Joint Committees of Parliament.

(2) The Joint Committees of Parliament shall be as set out in the Fourth Schedule and shall comprise of a number of Members equal to the number of Senators appointed or to be appointed by the Senate to the Committee.

(3) The Members to serve on a Joint Committee shall be nominated by the Committee on Selection in consultation with parliamentary parties at the commencement of a Parliament.

(4) The Joint Committees to which this Standing Order refers shall be-

- (a) The Joint Committee on National Cohesion and Equal opportunity.
- (b) The Joint Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library.
- (c) A joint committee established by a resolution of the Houses of Parliament.

(5) A Member appointed to serve on a joint committee at the commencement of a Parliament or at any other time during the term of a Parliament shall, unless the House otherwise resolves, serve for the term of that Parliament, subject to Standing Order 176 (*Discharge of a Member from a Committee*).

(6) Unless a decision is reached by consensus, any vote to be taken in a joint committee shall be by separate Houses.

**Joint Committee on National Cohesion and Equal opportunity**

214. (1) The Joint Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity shall-

- (a) monitor and promote measures relating to policy and program initiatives in pursuit of peace and national cohesion
- (b) investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to inter-community cohesion;
- (c) monitor and promote measures designed to enhance the equalisation of opportunities and improvement in the quality of life and status of all persons, including persons who are marginalised on the basis of gender, age, disability, health status, ethnic, racial, cultural or religious background or affiliation or any other such ground;

- (d) investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to discrimination or marginalisation of persons referred to under sub-sub-paragraph (c);
- (e) make proposals to Parliament including legislative proposals for the protection, equalisation of opportunities and promotion of the welfare of the groups referred to under sub-paragraph (c); and
- (f) examine the activities and administration of all state departments and statutory bodies in so far as they relate to the rights and welfare of the persons referred to under sub-paragraph (c).

**Joint Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library**

215. (1) The Joint Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library shall -

- (a) consider and report on all matters relating to joint broadcasting of Parliamentary proceedings;
- (b) advise the Houses of parliament on matters related to public participation in parliament;
- (c) make reports and recommendations to the Houses of parliament, including proposed legislation on matters relating to broadcasting of parliamentary

proceedings and matters related thereof;

- (d) recommend to and advise the Houses of parliament on matters related to provision of library, publications and research services in parliament, including improvement of the library and research services; and
- (e) assist members of parliament in utilizing the facilities provided by the joint library and research services, including use of information and communication technology.

(2) The Joint Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library shall not deal with matters related to procurement of items or services of the broadcast, the library or research services, or any matter falling within a function of the Parliamentary Service Commission.

#### **Departmental Committees**

##### **Appointment of Departmental Committees**

216. (1) There shall be select committees to be known as Departmental Committees the members of which shall be nominated by the Committee on Selection in consultation with parliamentary parties at the commencement of every Parliament.

(2) A member appointed to a Departmental Committee at the commencement of a Parliament or at any other time during the term of a Parliament shall, unless the House otherwise resolves, serve for the term of that Parliament, subject to Standing Order 176 (*Discharge of a Member from a Committee*).

(3) Unless the House otherwise directs, the Departmental Committees and the subject matter respectively assigned to them shall be as set out in the Second Schedule.

(4) The mandate of Departmental Committees in respect of the subject matter assigned under the Second Schedule of these Standing Orders shall only be exercised within the limits contemplated under Part 1 of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution.

(5) The functions of a Departmental Committee shall be to-

- (a) investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned Ministries and departments;
- (b) study the programme and policy objectives of Ministries and departments

- and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- (c) study and review all legislation referred to it;
  - (d) study, assess and analyze the relative success of the Ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
  - (e) investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned Ministries and departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the House;
  - (f) to vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 204 (*Committee on Appointments*); and
  - (g) make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

#### **Liaison Committee**

217. (1) There shall be a select committee to be known as the Liaison Committee which shall consist of the Deputy Speaker as chairperson, a member of the Chairpersons Panel who also is the First Chairperson of Committees who shall



be the Vice-chairperson and the chairpersons of all committees of the House.

(2) The Liaison Committee shall-

- (a) guide and co-ordinate the operations, policies and mandates of all Committees;
- (b) deliberate on and apportion the annual operating budget among the Committees;
- (c) consider the programmes of all Committees, including their need to travel and sit away from the precincts of Parliament;
- (d) ensure that Committees submit reports as required by these Standing Orders;
- (f) determine, whenever necessary, the committee or committees to deliberate on any matter; and
- (g) give such advice relating to the work and mandate of select committees as it may consider necessary;

(3) The Liaison Committee shall consider reports of Committee that have not been deliberated by the House and shall report to the House on the consideration of such reports.

**Committee to be limited to mandate**

218. (1) Except as expressly provided for in these Standing Orders, no matter shall be referred to a select committee except on a Motion approved after notice given.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Speaker may, in exceptional circumstances, on a request by a Member, refer a matter to a committee.

**PART XXIII - PUBLIC PETITIONS**

**Meaning of Petition**

219. For purposes of this Part other than Standing Order 230 (*Petitions for Removal of a member of a Constitutional Commission*), a petition means a written prayer to the House under Article 37 or 119 of the Constitution by a member of the public requesting the House to consider any matter within its authority, as contemplated in Articles 94 and 95 of the Constitution, including enacting, amending or repealing any legislation.

**Submission of a Petition**

220. (1) A petition to the House shall be-

- (a) submitted to the Clerk by the petitioner and reported to the House by the Speaker; or

(b) presented by a Member on behalf of a petitioner, with the consent of the Speaker.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(b), a Member shall not be eligible to present a petition on his own behalf.

(3) The Clerk shall, within seven days of the date of receipt of the petition, review the petition to ascertain whether the petition meets the requirements of these Standing orders and of the law.

(4) Where the Clerk considers that a petition does not comply with paragraph (3), the Clerk may give such directions as are necessary to ensure that the petition is amended to comply with that paragraph.

(5) The Clerk shall, if satisfied that the petition meets the requirements under paragraph (3), forward the petition to the Speaker for tabling in the House.

(6) Where a petition is addressed to the Assembly in respect of a matter which is within the mandate of the Senate, the Clerk shall refer the petition to the Clerk of the Senate.

#### **Petition on Private Bill**

221. A Petition on a private Bill shall be dealt with in accordance with Part XX (*Private Bills*) of these Standing Orders.

#### **Notice of intention to present Petition**

222. A Member shall give to the Clerk two sitting days' notice of intention to present a Petition and the Clerk shall examine such Petition and ensure that the Petition is presented in the manner, form and content required by these Standing Orders.

#### **Form of Petition**

223. A petition shall be in the form set out in the Third Schedule and shall-

- (a) be handwritten, printed or typed;
- (b) be in English or Kiswahili and be written in respectful, decorous and temperate language;
- (c) be free of alterations and interlineations in its text;
- (d) be addressed to the House;
- (e) have its subject-matter indicated on every sheet if it consists of more than one sheet;
- (f) indicate whether any efforts have been made to have the matter addressed by a relevant body and whether there has been any response from that body or

whether the response has been unsatisfactory;

- (g) indicate whether the issues in respect of which the petition is made are pending before any court of law or other constitutional or legal body;
- (h) conclude with a clear, proper and respectful prayer, reciting the definite object of the petitioner or petitioners in regard to the matter to which it relates;
- (i) subject to paragraph (m), contain the names, addresses, identification numbers, signature or a thumb impression of the petitioner or of every petitioner, where there is more than one petitioner;
- (j) contain only signatures or thumb impressions, as the case may be, and addresses and identification numbers written directly onto the petition and not pasted thereon or otherwise transferred to it;
- (k) not have any letters, affidavits or other documents annexed to it;
- (l) in the case of a petition presented by a Member on behalf of a petitioner, be countersigned by the Member presenting it; and
- (m) be signed by the petitioner or if the petitioner is unable to sign, by a witness

in whose presence the petitioner shall make his or her mark on the petition.

**Time for Petitions**

224. The total time on the Order "Petitions" shall not exceed thirty minutes.

**Presentation of Petitions**

225. (1) A schedule of Petitions to be presented or reported to the House on a sitting day may be appended to the Order Paper of the Day in the order that they shall be presented or reported.

(2) When the Order "Petitions" is read, the Speaker shall-

- (a) in case of a petition presented by a Member, direct that the Member to present the Petition to the House or;
- (b) in case of a Petition presented through the Clerk, report the Petition to the House;

(3) The Member presenting the Petition shall read such Petition but shall confine himself or herself to the subject of the prayer, the material allegations therein and the number of signatures attached.

(4) A Member having presented a Petition shall, without question put, lay the Petition on the Table of the House;

(5) A Member presenting a Petition shall not speak for more than five minutes, unless with permission of the Speaker.

#### **Comments on petitions**

226. The Speaker may allow comments, observations or clarifications in relation to a Petition presented or reported and such total time shall not exceed thirty minutes.

#### **Committal of Petitions**

227. (1) Every Petition presented or reported pursuant to this Part, shall stand committed to the relevant Departmental Committee.

(2) Whenever a Petition is committed to a Departmental Committee, the Committee shall, in not more than sixty calendar days from the time of reading the prayer, respond to the petitioner by way of a report addressed to the petitioner or petitioners and laid on the Table of the House and no debate on or in relation to the report shall be allowed, but the Speaker may, in exceptional circumstances, allow comments or observations in relation to the Petitions for not more than twenty Minutes.

(3) The Clerk shall, within fifteen days of the decision of the House, in writing, notify the petitioner of the decision of the House on the petition.

**Copies of responses**

228. The Clerk shall forward copies of responses received under Standing Order 227 (*Committal of Petitions*) to the petitioner or petitioners.

**Register of Petitions**

229. (1) The Clerk shall keep and maintain a register in which shall be recorded all petitions and supporting documents, and the decisions of the House.

(2) The register of petitions under subsection (1) shall be accessible to the public during working hours.

**Petitions for Removal of a member of a Constitutional Commission**

230. (1) In addition to complying with the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (h), (i), (j), (l) and (m) of Standing Order 223 (*Form of Petition*), a petition to the House for removal of a member of a Commission under Article 251 of the Constitution -



- (a) shall indicate the grounds under Article 251(1) of the Constitution which the member of the commission is in breach;
- (b) may contain affidavits or other documents annexed to it;

(2) The paragraphs (1),(3), (4) and (5) of Standing Order 220 (*Submission of a petition*), Standing Order 222 (*Notice of Intention to Present Petition*), Standing Order 225 (*Presentation of Petitions*), and Standing Order 226 (*Comments on petitions*), shall apply to a petition to the House for removal of a member of a Commission under Article 251 of the Constitution

(3) Every Petition presented or reported pursuant to this Standing Order shall stand committed to the relevant Departmental Committee.

(4) Upon receipt of a petition under paragraph (3), the relevant Departmental Committee shall investigate the matter and shall, within fourteen days, report to the House whether the petition discloses ground for removal under Article 251(a) of the Constitution.

(5)The House shall, within ten days of the tabling of the report of the committee under paragraph (4) resolve whether or not the

petition discloses a ground for removal under Article 251(a) of the Constitution.

(6) Where the House resolves that a petition discloses a ground for removal, the Speaker shall, within seven days of the resolution, transmit the resolution and the petition to the President.

#### PART XXIV - FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

##### General

##### Restrictions with regard to certain financial measures

231. (1) If, in the opinion of the Speaker, a motion makes provision for a matter listed in the definition of "a money Bill" in terms of Article 114 of the Constitution, the Assembly may proceed only with the recommendation of the Budget and Appropriations Committee after taking into account, the views of the Cabinet Secretary responsible for finance.

(2) "A money Bill", as provided for in Article 114 of the Constitution means a Bill, other than a Division of Revenue Bill or a County Allocation of Revenue Bill both provided for in Article 218 of the Constitution, that contains provisions dealing with-

- (a) taxes;

- (b) the imposition of charges on a public fund or the variation or repeal of any of those charges;
- (c) the appropriation, receipt, custody, investment or issue of public money;
- (d) the raising or guaranteeing of any loan or its repayment; or
- (e) matters incidental to any of those matters.

(3) In paragraph (2), "tax", "public money", and "loan" do not include any tax, public money or loan raised by a county.

#### **Presentation of Budget Policy Statement**

232. (1) Every year not later than 15<sup>th</sup> February the Cabinet Secretary responsible for Finance shall submit to the House a Budget Policy Statement and shall be deemed to have been laid.

- (2) The Budget Policy Statement shall include-
- (a) an assessment of the current state of the economy and the financial outlook over the medium term, including macro-economic forecasts;
  - (b) the financial outlook with respect to Government revenues, expenditures and borrowing for the next financial year and over the medium term;

- (c) the proposed expenditure limits for the national government, including those of Parliament and the Judiciary and indicative transfers to county governments; and
- (d) the fiscal responsibility principles and financial objectives over the medium term including limits on total annual debt.
- (e) the total resources to be allocated to individual programmes and projects within a sector, Ministry or department for the period identified under subparagraph (a) indicating the outputs expected from each such programme or project during the period

(3) The Budget Policy Statement shall detail the criteria used to allocate or apportion the available public resources among the various programmes and projects.

(4) Upon being laid before the House, the Budget Policy Statement shall be deemed to have been committed to each Departmental Committee without question put, for each such committee to deliberate upon according to their respective mandates and make recommendations to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

(5) In considering the Budget Policy Statement, the Budget and Appropriations Committee shall consult each Departmental Committee and Table a report, containing its recommendation on the Statement to the House for consideration

(6) The report prepared by the Budget and Appropriations Committee pursuant to paragraph (5) shall include a schedule of ceiling of resources recommended for the National Government, the Judiciary and Parliament taking into account the provisions of Article 218 of the Constitution.

(7) The approval by the House of the motion on the report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Budget Policy Statement shall constitute the House Resolution setting forth the total overall projected revenue, the ceilings recommended for the National Government, the Judiciary and Parliament and where necessary, the total sums for each Vote and the allocations to individual programmes for the fiscal year in question.

(8) The Cabinet Secretary shall take into account resolutions passed by Parliament in finalising the budget for the relevant financial year.

### Consideration of Division of Revenue Bill

233. (1) Every year, not later than 10th March, there shall be introduced in National Assembly a Division of Revenue Bill, which shall divide revenue raised by the national government among the national and county levels of government in accordance with the Constitution.

(2) A Bill required by paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by a memorandum setting out-

- (i) an explanation of revenue allocation as proposed by the Bill;
- (ii) an evaluation of the Bill in relation to the criteria mentioned in Article 203 (1) of the Constitution; and
- (iii) a summary of any significant deviation from the Commission on Revenue Allocation's recommendations, with an explanation for each such deviation.

(3) The National Assembly shall proceed upon and conclude its consideration of a Division of Revenue Bill not later than ten days after the Bill has been introduced with a view to approving it, with or without amendments.

(4) The Division of Revenue Bill, having been passed by the National Assembly shall stand referred to the Senate in accordance with

Standing Order 142 (*Concurrence of the other House*)

**Consideration of County Allocation of Revenue Bill**

234. Whenever the County Allocation of Revenue Bill is referred to the House by the Senate, the House shall consider the Bill within ten days and the provisions of Article 111 of the Constitution shall apply.

**Presentation of Budget Estimates and committal to Committees**

235. (1) The Cabinet Secretary responsible for Finance, the Accounting Officer of the Parliamentary Service Commission and the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary shall, not later than 30<sup>th</sup> April, respectively submit to the National Assembly Budget Estimates and related documents specified in law for the National Government, the Judiciary and Parliament.

(2) The Estimates and related documents submitted under Paragraph (1) will be tabled in the National Assembly within three days of submission.

(3) Upon being laid before the House, the Estimates shall be deemed to have been committed to each Departmental Committee without question put, for each such committee

to deliberate upon according to their respective mandates.

(4) Each Departmental Committee shall consider, discuss and review the Estimates according to its mandate and submit its report and recommendations to the Budget and Appropriations Committee within twenty-one days, after being laid before the House.

(5) The Budget and Appropriations Committee shall discuss and review the Estimates and make recommendations to the National Assembly, taking into account the recommendations of the Departmental Committees, the views of the Cabinet Secretary and the public.

(6) The House shall, on a motion, that *“This House adopts the Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Budget Estimates for the National Government, the Judiciary and Parliament tabled in the House on ....”*, consider the Report and adopt it with or without amendments.

(7) Upon the House resolution on the Report-  
(a) the recommendation for increase or reduction on any particular Vote as resolved by the House will serve as notice of intention by the



Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee to move the particular amendments on the concerned Vote in the Committee of Supply.

- (b) the Speaker may require that an appropriate Addendum be made to the Estimates as tabled to reflect the amendments made by the House on the Estimates or respective Votes.

**Committee of Supply**

236. The Committee of Supply shall be a Committee of the whole House.

**Definition of day**

237. For the purposes of this Part, a day shall be deemed to consist of any period of not more than three hours prior to 1.00 p.m. or of not more than three hours between 2.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. or of not more than three hours after 7.00 p.m.

**Order of Votes**

238. (1) The House Business Committee after consultation with the Liaison Committee shall determine the order in which the House shall consider the Votes of the various Ministries and Departments.

(2) In the consideration of Votes under paragraph (1), the Votes earmarked for increase or reduction pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 244 (*Consideration of Supply Resolutions*) relating to the House Resolutions on the Budget and Appropriations Committee report on the Annual Estimates shall be prioritized.

**Moving into Committee of Supply**

239. (1) On an Order of the Day for Committee of Supply being read, the Chairperson of the relevant Departmental Committee or a Member designated by the Committee shall move the motion "*That the Sum of Kshs..... be issued from the Consolidated Fund to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 20— in respect of Vote... Ministry/Department/Commission...*"

**Procedure in Committee of Supply**

240. (1) A maximum of seven days shall be allotted for the consideration in Committee of Supply of proposals in respect of the Annual Estimates.

(2) Not more than three hours shall be spent on any debate for approval of a Vote, and any Vote which has not been granted within the period provided for under paragraph (1) shall be left for disposal under paragraph (13) of this Standing Order.

- (3) The Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole House shall put severally the questions with respect to the Votes of the Annual Estimates namely, that, the several amounts of such Votes be granted.
- (4) The National Assembly may amend the budget estimates of the national government only in accordance with the Division of Revenue Act and the resolutions adopted with regard to the Budget Policy Statement ensuring that-
  - (a) an increase in expenditure in a proposed appropriation is balanced by a reduction in expenditure in another proposed appropriation; or
  - (b) a proposed reduction in expenditure is used to reduce the deficit.
- (5) An amendment to any Vote to increase the sum allotted thereto whether in respect of any item or subhead or of the Vote itself may only be moved in accordance with the resolution made by the House during the consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Annual Estimates.
- (6) An amendment in the Committee of Supply may be in the form of a motion "*That Vote..... be increased/reduced by Kshs..... ( in respect*

*of sub-head.....item .....) ( sub-head.....)"* or in such other form as the Speaker may approve.

(7) An amendment to leave out a Vote shall not be in order, and shall not be placed on the Order Paper, and a Member desiring to do so should instead oppose the approval of the Vote.

(8) In the case of each Vote, amendments in respect of items or sub-heads under that Vote shall be placed upon the Order Paper, and considered in the order in which the items or sub-heads, to which they refer, stand under the Vote in the Estimates.

(9) When notice has been given of two or more amendments to reduce the same item, sub-head, or the Vote itself, they shall be placed in the Order Paper and considered in the order of the magnitude of the reductions proposed, the amendment proposing the largest reduction being placed first in each case. The reduced amount in respect of a Vote may be transferred to another Vote provided that other Vote has not been disposed of.

(10) Debate on every amendment shall be confined to the item, sub-head or the Vote to which the amendment refers, and after an amendment to an item or sub-head has been

disposed of, no amendment or debate on a previous item or sub-head of that Vote shall be permitted.

(11) When all amendments in respect of any particular Vote have been disposed of, the Chairman shall again propose the question "*That the Sum of Kshs..... be issued from the Consolidated Fund to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 20— in respect of Vote... Ministry/Department/ Commission...*" or shall propose the amended question "*That the (increase) (reduced) Sum of Kshs..... be issued from the Consolidated Fund to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 20— in respect of Vote... Ministry/Department/ Commission...*"

(12) Paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) shall, with necessary modifications, apply in consideration of Budget Estimates by Departmental Committees.

(13) On the last of the allotted days, being a day before 20<sup>th</sup> of June, the Chairperson shall, one hour before the time for the interruption of business, forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the debate for approval of the Vote then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put severally the questions

necessary to dispose of every Vote not yet granted; and if at that time the House is not in Committee, the House shall forthwith move into committee without question put, for that purpose.

(14) On any day upon which the Chairperson is under this order directed to put forthwith any question, the consideration of the business of Supply shall not be anticipated by a Motion for the adjournment of the House, and no dilatory Motion shall be moved in relation to that business, and the business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

(15) On the last of the allotted days, no business other than the business of Supply shall be taken until the business of Supply has been completed.

(16) Upon approval of the budget estimates by the National Assembly, the Budget and Appropriations Committee shall introduce the Appropriation Bill.

**Pronouncement of the Budget highlights and Revenue raising measures before the Budget and Appropriations Committee**

241. (1) The Cabinet Secretary responsible for Finance shall appear before the Budget and Appropriations Committee for the purpose of

making a public pronouncement of the budget policy highlights and revenue raising measures for the national government.

(2) On the same date that the budget policy highlights and revenue raising measures are pronounced, the Cabinet Secretary shall submit to the National Assembly a legislative proposal, setting out the revenue raising measures for the national government, together with a policy statement expounding on those measures.

(3) a member of either House may attend and participate in the sittings of the Committee during the occasion

**Vote on Account**

242. (1) Following approval of the Budget Estimates, and before the Appropriation Act is assented to, the National Assembly may authorise withdrawals in accordance with Article 222 of the Constitution, and such authority shall be communicated to the Cabinet Secretary responsible for finance by the Speaker of the National Assembly within seven days of that authority being granted by the National Assembly.

(2) A motion seeking the authorization of withdrawals under paragraph (1) shall be

known as a Vote on Account and shall be put down on a day before 26<sup>th</sup> June.

(3) If on the last allotted day before 26<sup>th</sup> June the question with respect to a motion under paragraph (2) shall not have been put, the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole House shall, half an hour before the time for the interruption of business, forthwith put the question.

#### **Procedure on Supplementary Estimates**

243. (1) The national government shall submit to Parliament for approval, a supplementary budget in support of money spent under Article 223 of the Constitution.

(2) The supplementary budget shall include a statement showing how the additional expenditure relates to the fiscal responsibility principles and financial objectives.

(3) Paragraphs (3) and (4), of Standing Order 240 (*Procedure in Committee of Supply*) shall with the necessary modifications, apply to Supplementary Estimates.

(4) On any day on which an Order of the Day for Committee of Supply has been set down under this Standing Order, the business of such order shall commence not later than three



hours before the time for interruption of business.

(5) Unless the House orders that the business under paragraph (4) shall continue for more than one day, the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole House shall, half an hour before the time for interruption of business forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the Motion then under consideration and shall then forthwith put severally the questions necessary to dispose of the business of Supply under the same Order of the Day.

(6) On any day upon which the Chairperson is under this order directed to put forthwith any questions, the consideration of the business of Supply shall not be anticipated by a Motion for the adjournment of the House, and no dilatory Motion shall be moved in relation to the business, and the business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

(7) After Parliament has approved spending under subsection (1), an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced for the appropriation of the money spent.

#### **Consideration of Supply Resolutions**

244. (1) The report or any resolution of the Committee of Supply shall be considered by the

House forthwith, unless the House otherwise orders, upon a Motion, "That, the House do agree with the Committee in the said resolution".

(2) The question on any Motion moved under paragraph (1) of this Standing Order shall be put forthwith, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, unless a member desires to amend or to add to the resolution in which case the member may propose an amendment to add, at the end of the Motion, the words "subject to the re-committal of the resolution (in respect of some specific amendment, or addition) to the Committee of Supply".

(3) If the Motion is agreed to with the member's amendment, the resolution shall stand re-committed to the Committee of Supply and the House shall either forthwith or upon a day determined by the member dissolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the resolution so re-committed.

(4) When any resolution of the Committee of Supply has been re-committed to the Committee, the Committee shall consider only the matters in respect of which it was so re-committed and any matter directly consequential thereon.

(5) Except as provided by paragraph (4) of this Standing Order, paragraphs (2) and (3) of the provisions of this Standing Order shall apply in respect of a resolution so re-committed.

#### Consideration of Finance Bill

245. (1) Following the submission of the legislative proposal by the Cabinet Secretary under Standing Order 241 (*Pronouncement of the Budget highlights and Revenue raising measures*), the Finance Committee shall introduce, to the National Assembly, the Finance Bill in the form in which the bill was submitted as a legislative proposal by the Cabinet Secretary, together with any the report of the committee on the Bill.

(2) Any of the recommendations made by the Committee or adopted by the National Assembly on revenue matters shall -

- (a) ensure that the total amount of revenue raised is consistent with the approved fiscal framework and the Division of Revenue Act;
- (b) take into account the principles of equity, certainty and ease of collection;
- (c) consider the impact of the proposed changes on the composition of the tax revenue with reference to the direct and indirect taxes;

- (d) consider domestic, regional and international tax trends;
- (e) consider the impact on development, investment, employment and economic growth;
- (f) take into account the recommendations of the Cabinet Secretary as provided under Article 114 of the Constitution; and
- (g) take into account the taxation and other tariff agreements and obligations that Kenya has ratified, including taxation and tariff agreements under the East African Community Treaty.

(3) The recommendation of the Cabinet Secretary in paragraph (2)(f) shall be included in the report and tabled in the National Assembly

(4) Not later than ninety days after passing the Appropriation Bill, the National Assembly shall consider and approve the Finance Bill with or without amendments.

**PART XXV - JOURNALS, RECORDS AND BROADCAST  
OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Journals of the House**

246. All votes and proceedings of the House shall be noted by the Clerk and shall constitute the Journals of the House.

**Custody of Journals and Records**

247. (1) The custody of the Journals and Records, whether audio, electronic or any other form, including all papers and accounts howsoever presented to or belonging to the House, shall be vested in the Clerk, who shall unless otherwise prohibited by any law, allow their access by the public.

(2) The Clerk shall publish the Votes and Proceedings of the House within forty eight hours of any sitting.

(3) The Speaker may make rules to regulate the access by the public to Journals and Records under paragraph (1).

**Hansard reports**

248. (1) There shall be published within forty eight hours, a verbatim report of all proceedings of the House, unless the Speaker is satisfied that this is rendered impossible by some emergency.

(2) Every Member shall have an opportunity to correct the draft verbatim report of his or her contribution, but not so as to alter the substance of what the Member actually said.

(3) Where there is doubt as to the content of the verbatim record of the House, the Speaker shall make a determination.

#### **Secret or personal matters**

249. The Speaker may direct any matter which, in the Speaker's opinion, is secret or purely personal to be excluded from the Journals of the House and from the verbatim report of the proceedings of the House, and to be the subject of a separate verbatim report, which shall be kept in the custody of the Clerk and made available only to Members.

#### **Broadcast of House Proceedings**

250. (1) The proceedings of the House may be broadcast.

(2) The broadcasting of the proceedings of the House shall comply with the Rules set out in the First Schedule of these Standing Orders.

**PART XXVI - PROCEDURE ON REPORTS OF THE  
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND  
THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT**

**Procedure for presentation of reports**

251. (1) the Committee on Regional Integration may, receive a report or consult with a committee or a Member of the East African Legislative Assembly or the Pan-African, Parliament may present a report to or consult with the Committee for the time being responsible for matters relating to regional integration or any other committee of the House on any matter relating to the work of the East African Legislative Assembly or the Pan-African Parliament, respectively.

(2) Whenever the Clerk of the National Assembly receives copies of the records of relevant debates of the meetings of the East African Legislative Assembly, or copies of Bills introduced into the East African Legislative Assembly and Acts of the East African Community, the Clerk shall forward the records of debates, Bills or Acts of the Community to the relevant committee.

(3) The Committee shall consider a report under paragraph (1) or the records of debates, Bills or Acts of the Community, and submit its

report to the House with its recommendations, if any, within twenty-one days.

(4) The National Assembly shall, within twenty-one days, consider the report of the Committee under paragraph (3) and the Clerk shall, within seven days, forward to the Clerk of the East Africa Legislative Assembly the resolution of the National Assembly on the report together with copies of the records of the debate.

#### **PART XXVII - PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE HOUSE AND ITS COMMITTEES**

##### **General provisions on access to the House**

252. (1) Except as may be expressly provided to the contrary, every person has access to the House and its committees.

(2) The House or a committee may not exclude any person, or any media, from a sitting of the House or of a committee unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Speaker has determined that there are justifiable reasons for the exclusion.

(3) The Speaker may, from time to time, issue rules governing public access to the House and its committees.



#### **Restriction of access to the Chamber**

253. (1) No person other than a Member shall be admitted into any part of the Chamber appropriated to the exclusive use of Members of the House while the House or the Committee of the whole House is sitting.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to the Clerk or other officers Parliament when discharging their duties in the service of the House.

#### **Exclusion from the House or committees**

254. (1) A Member may, at any time, rise to claim that the public or any particular person be, for reasons stated, excluded from the House or from a committee, and if the Speaker is of the opinion that there are justifiable reasons for the exclusion, he or she may order that the public or such person withdraw from the House or the committee.

(2) Whenever the Speaker has determined that any person be excluded from a sitting of the House or of a committee, the Speaker shall inform the House or Committee the reasons for the exclusion.

(3) A determination by the Speaker under paragraph (2) shall not be the subject of comment or debate.

(4) The Clerk shall ensure that an order for the withdrawal of the public or a person is complied with.

**Press representatives infringing Standing Orders or the Speaker's Rules**

255. Any media institution whose representative infringes these Standing Orders or any rules made by the Speaker for the regulation of the admittance of the public to the House or to committees or persistently misreports the proceedings of the House, or neglects or refuses on request from the Speaker to correct any wrong report in respect of the proceedings of the House to the satisfaction of the Speaker, may be excluded from representation in the Press gallery for such period as the Speaker shall direct.

**PART XXVIII - GENERAL**

**Exemption of business from Standing Orders**

256. (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a Motion may, with the approval of the Speaker, be moved by any Member, either with or without notice that the proceedings on any specified business be exempted from the provisions of Part VI (*Sitting and Adjournments of the House*), Part VIII (*Order of Business*), Part XVII (*Limitation of Debate*), Part XIX (*Public Bills*), Part XX (*Private Bills*), Part XXI (*Committee of*

*the whole House*) Part XXIV (*Committee of Supply*), Part XXII (*Select Committees*), Part XXIII (*Public Petitions*) and Part XXVIII (*Public Access to the House and its Committees*) of these Standing Orders:

(2) No Motion for the exemption of business from the Standing Orders shall be made to exempt any business from Part VIII (*Special Motions*), Part (XIV) (*Procedure for Removal from State Office*), Standing Order 120 (*Publication*), Standing Order 124 (*Not more than one stage of a Bill to be taken at the same sitting*) or Standing Order 231 (*Restrictions with regard to certain financial measures*).

(3) Not more than one Motion for the exemption of business from the Standing Orders may be moved at any one sitting, except with the leave of the House.

(4) A Motion under this Standing Order shall state the object of or reason for the proposed exemption and-

- (a) may be moved at any time and any other business then in progress may thereupon be interrupted;
- (b) may not be amended without the consent of the mover.

#### **Attendance before the Senate**

257. (1) A request by the Senate that a Member, the Clerk, or an officer of the National Assembly appears before the Senate to be examined or appears before any committee of the Senate shall be by message from the Senate requesting that the National Assembly grant leave to such Member, Clerk or other officer to attend.

(2) If the National Assembly grants leave under paragraph (1)-

(a) the Clerk or officer shall attend before the Senate or the committee of the Senate;

(b) the Member may, if the Member considers it fit to do so, attend before the Senate or the committee of the Senate.

(3) Except upon leave granted under paragraph (2), a Member, the Clerk or an officer may not, whether in person or by counsel, attend or appear before the Senate or a Committee of the Senate in response to a summons or invitation, or send an answer in writing to such summons or invitation.

#### **Failure to attend sittings**

258. (1) If, during any Session, a Member is absent from eight sittings of the National Assembly without permission, in writing from the

Speaker, the Speaker shall report the matter to the National Assembly and the matter shall stand referred to the Committee of Privileges for hearing and determination.

(2) The Committee of Privileges shall inquire into a matter referred to it under paragraph (1) within fourteen days from the date the matter is referred to it and shall thereupon submit a report to the House.

(3) If the report of the Committee finds that the Member has offered a satisfactory explanation for the Member's absence from eight sittings of the National Assembly without the permission in writing from the Speaker, there shall be no further proceedings in the House in respect of the matter.

(4) If the report of the Committee finds that the Member has not offered a satisfactory explanation for the Member's absence from eight sittings of the National Assembly under paragraph (1), the Chairperson of the Committee or a Member of the Committee designated by the Committee for that purpose shall, upon submitting the report, give a three days' notice of a Motion that, "This House notes the Report of the Committee of Privileges laid on the Table of the House on ...

regarding.....” with other necessary modification.

(5) A Motion under paragraph (4) shall be debated in the usual manner of debating Motions, except that-

- (a) no amendment shall be permitted to the Motion;
- (b) the debate of the Motion shall not be anticipated by a Motion for the adjournment of the House, and no dilatory Motion shall be moved in relation to the business, and the business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

(6) At the conclusion of the debate on a motion under paragraph (4), the Speaker shall not put a question but shall declare that, pursuant to Article 103 (1) (b) of the Constitution, the office of the Member concerned has become vacant.

#### **Seating in the Chamber**

259. (1) There shall be reserved seats in the Chamber of the House for the exclusive use of each of the following-

- (a) the Deputy Speaker;
- (b) the Leader of the Majority Party;
- (c) Leader of the Minority Party;
- (d) Members with disabilities.

(2) All other seats in the Chamber shall be available for the use of any Member.

(3) Subject to this Standing Order and any other order of the House, any question relating to the occupation of seats in the Chamber shall be determined by the Speaker.

**Members travelling outside Kenya**

260. (1) A Member intending to travel outside Kenya whether in an official or a private capacity, shall give to the Speaker a written notice to that effect, indicating: -

- (a) the destination intended to be visited;
- (b) the dates of the intended travel and period of absence from Kenya; and
- (c) the email, telephone contact, postal or physical address of the Member during the period of absence from Kenya.

(2) All information submitted under this Standing Order shall be kept in a register which the Clerk shall maintain for that purpose and shall not be disclosed to any person without the permission of the Speaker.

**Expenses of witnesses**

261. There may be paid or tendered to any person summoned to give evidence or to produce documents before the House or a Committee,

such reasonable sum in respect of the person's expenses, including travelling expenses, as the Clerk may from time to time determine, either generally or specifically.

#### **PART XXIX -AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS**

##### **Proposals for amendment by the Procedure and House Rules Committee**

262. The Procedure and House Rules Committee may at any time propose amendments to these Standing Orders.

##### **Amendment on the initiative of a Member**

263. (1) A Member may, with the support of at least fifty other Members, request the Procedure and House Rules Committee to consider an amendment to the Standing Orders.

(2) A request under paragraph (1) shall be in writing and shall-

- (a) contain the text of the proposed amendment and the justification for the proposal;
- (b) contain the names and signatures of the Members supporting the request;
- (c) be lodged with the Speaker.

(3) The Speaker shall, if satisfied that the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) have



been met, forward the request to the Procedure and House Rules Committee.

(4) The Procedure and House Rules Committee shall, within twenty-one days of the receipt of a request under paragraph (3), consider the request and table a report in the House containing the amendments proposed in the request and the recommendations of the Committee on each such proposal.

(5) The House shall consider the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders as reported from the Procedure and House Rules Committee on a Motion that "The report of the Procedure and House Rules Committee be approved".

(6) Standing Order 136 (*Procedure on Bills reported from Committee of the whole House*) shall apply to a Motion to approve the report of the Procedure and House Rules Committee on the amendments proposed to the Standing Orders.

#### **Periodic review of Standing Orders**

264. At least once in every term of Parliament, not later than six months to the end of the term, the Procedure and House Rules Committee shall review the Standing Orders and make a

report to the House recommending the Standing Orders, if any, to be amended.

**Consideration of reports of Procedure and House Rules Committee**

265. (1) Upon the tabling of a report of the Procedure and House Rules Committee under Standing Orders 263 (*Amendment on Initiative of a Member*) and 264 (*periodic review of Standing Orders*), the procedure set out under paragraphs (5) and (6) of Standing Order 263 (*Amendment on Initiative of a Member*) shall apply with the necessary modifications.

(2) Amendments to the Standing Orders proposed under this Part shall, upon approval by the House, take effect at the time appointed by the House.

**PART XXX -TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

**National Assembly's Resolution on Standing Orders**

266. In Exercise of the powers conferred by Article 124 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kenya, the National Assembly, by resolution passed on 9th January, 2013, adopted these Standing Orders and the Houses of Parliament (Joint Sittings) Rules.

**Revocation of previous Standing Orders**

267. The Standing Orders adopted by the National Assembly on December 10, 2008 during the Second Session of the Tenth Parliament are hereby revoked.

**FIRST SCHEDULE  
BROADCASTING RULES  
(Standing Order 250)**

**Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit**

1. (1) There is established the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit, which shall oversee the broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings.

(2) Unless the House otherwise directs, the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit may broadcast the proceedings of parliament and provide access to parliamentary information.

**Parliamentary privilege**

2. Audio and visual digital footage of parliamentary proceedings shall be covered by the laws relating to parliamentary privilege and shall be kept as part of the records of the House, under the custody of the Clerk of the National Assembly.

**Television broadcasting**

3. When broadcasting the proceedings of the House on television, the following guidelines shall apply-

(a) the camera shall focus on the Member recognized by the Chair until the Member has finished speaking;

(b) group shots and cut-aways may be taken for purposes of showing the reaction of a

group of Members to an issue raised on the Floor;

- (c) wide-angle shots of the Chamber shall be used during voting and Division and no shot shall be taken so as to show the manner in which a Member has voted in any secret ballot.
- (d) officers of the House taking an active role in the proceedings may be shown;
- (e) the occupant of the Chair shall be shown when taking and leaving the Chair and whenever he or she rises;
- (f) press and public galleries shall not be shown except as part of the wide angle shots and during important functions as may be determined by the Parliamentary Broadcasting Committee;
- (g) no close-up shots of Members' papers or reference materials may be shown.

#### **Radio broadcasting**

- 4. When broadcasting the proceedings of the House on radio, the following guidelines shall apply-
  - (a) audio recording shall be restricted to proceedings of the House and the Committees;
  - (b) commentaries during a live broadcast shall be limited to the introduction of a matter under debate and of the Member on the floor.

#### **Protection of the dignity of the House**

5. (1) Officers of the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit shall conduct themselves in a professional and impartial manner, giving a balanced, fair and accurate account of proceedings.
- (2) Shots designed to embarrass unsuspecting Members of Parliament shall not be shown.
- (3) Recordings of Parliamentary proceedings may not be used for purposes of political party advertising, ridicule, commercial sponsorship or any form of adverse publicity.

#### **External media houses**

6. (1) In these Rules, "external media house" refers to any media house other than the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit.
- (2) No external media house or other person may broadcast any proceedings of the House except as received from the broadcast feed provided by the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit or with the permission of the Speaker.
- (3) A media house that receives a broadcast feed from the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit shall broadcast it without any manipulation or distortion.

(4) No camera or other recording or broadcasting equipment shall be allowed in the House without authorization.

(5) Accredited journalists shall be allowed access to designated areas for purposes of following the proceedings and taking notes and any journalist so allowed shall observe the Standing Orders and these Rules.

#### **Breach of broadcasting Rules**

7. (1) Any person who fails to comply with these Rules shall be liable to such penalty as the House may on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Broadcasting Committee may consider appropriate.

(2) The Parliamentary Broadcasting Committee shall develop procedures for the enforcement of these Rules.

#### **Application**

8. These Rules shall apply for the broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings in the House, in Committees and, with necessary modifications, in other parliamentary proceedings and events.

**SECOND SCHEDULE  
DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES  
[Standing Order 216]**

Committee	Subjects
<p><b>A</b> <b>Administration and National Security</b></p>	<p>National security, police services, home affairs, Public Administration, Public Service, Prisons, Immigration and the management of natural disasters, community service orders</p>
<p><b>B</b> <b>Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives</b></p>	<p>Agriculture, livestock, irrigation, fisheries development, co-operatives development, production and marketing.</p>
<p><b>C</b> <b>Defence and Foreign Relations</b></p>	<p>Defence, intelligence, foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, international boundaries, international relations, agreements, treaties and conventions.</p>
<p><b>D</b> <b>Education, Research and Technology</b></p>	<p>Education, training, research and technological advancement.</p>



<p><b>E</b>  <b>Energy,</b>  <b>Communication and</b>  <b>Information</b></p>	<p>Fossil fuels exploration, Development, production, maintenance and regulation of energy, communication, information, broadcasting and Information Communications Technology (ICT) development and management.</p>
<p><b>F</b>  <b>Environment and</b>  <b>Natural Resources</b></p>	<p>Matters relating to climate change, environment management and conservation, forestry, water resource management, wildlife, mining and natural resources, pollution and waste management.</p>
<p><b>G</b>  <b>Finance, Planning and</b>  <b>Trade</b></p>	<p>Public finance, monetary policies, public debt, financial institutions, investment and divestiture policies, pricing policies, banking, insurance, population, revenue policies, planning, national development, trade, tourism promotion and management, commerce and industry.</p>
<p><b>H</b>  <b>Health</b></p>	<p>Matters related to health, medical care and health insurance.</p>

<p>I Justice and Legal Affairs</p>	<p>Constitutional affairs, the administration of law and justice, including the Judiciary, public prosecutions, elections, ethics, integrity and anti-corruption and human rights.</p>
<p>J Labour and Social Welfare</p>	<p>Labour, trade union relations, manpower or human resource planning, gender, culture and social welfare, youth, National Youth Service, children's welfare, national heritage, betting, lotteries and sports.</p>
<p>K Lands</p>	<p>Matters related to lands and settlement</p>
<p>L Transport, Public Works and Housing</p>	<p>Transport, roads, public works, construction and maintenance of roads, rails and buildings, air, seaports and housing.</p>

THIRD SCHEDULE  
GENERAL FORM OF A PUBLIC PETITION  
[Standing Order 223]

I/We, the undersigned,

*(Here, identify in general terms, who the petitioner or petitioners are, for example, citizens of Kenya, residents of province or region, workers of industry, etc.)*

**DRAW** the attention of the House to the following:

*(Here, briefly state the reasons underlying the request for the intervention of the House by outlining the grievances or problems by summarizing the facts which the petitioner or petitioners wish the House to consider.)*

**THAT,**

*[Here confirm that efforts have been made to have the matter addressed by the relevant body, and it failed to give satisfactory response.]*

**THAT,**

*[Here confirm that the issues in respect of which the petition is made are not pending before any court of law, or constitutional or legal body.]*

HEREFORE your humble petitioner(s) Pray that Parliament—

*(Here, set out the prayer by stating in summary what action the petitioners wish Parliament to take or refrain from.)*

Name of petitioner	Full Address	National ID./ Passport No.	Signature/Thumb impression
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

(Here, repeat the summary in first page)

Name of petitioner	Signature/Thumb impression
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

(Subsequent Pages)

\* This form may contain such variations as the circumstances of each case may require.

## FOURTH SCHEDULE

### JOINT RULES

#### THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT (JOINT SITTINGS) RULES [Standing Orders 24 (3) and 213]

##### **Citation.**

1. These Rules may be called the Houses of Parliament (Joint Sittings) Rules.

##### **Interpretation**

2. In these Rules unless the context otherwise requires,—

“Houses” means the National Assembly and the Senate;

“Joint Sitting” means a joint sitting of the Houses;

“Member” means a member of the National Assembly or of the Senate;

“the Clerks” means the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the National Assembly and includes any person for the time being performing the duties of the Clerk of the Senate or of the National Assembly;

## **JOINT SITTINGS OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT**

### **Summons to members**

3. Whenever the Houses of Parliament are to hold a joint sitting, the Clerks shall issue a summons to each member specifying the time and place for a joint sitting.

### **Time of sittings**

4. The hour upon which a joint sitting shall adjourn and the day and hour or the part of the same day to which it shall be adjourned shall be determined by the Speakers of the Houses of Parliament.

### **Presiding in joint sittings**

5. (1) At a joint sitting of the Houses of Parliament, the Speaker of the National Assembly shall preside, assisted by the Speaker of the Senate.

(2) If one of the Speakers is not present, the substantive Speaker present shall preside, assisted by the Deputy Speaker of the other House.

### **Quorum**

6. The quorum to constitute a joint sitting shall be fifteen Senators and Fifty members of the National Assembly

#### **Procedure at joint sittings**

7. At any joint sitting, the procedure of the National Assembly shall apply with such modifications and variations as the Speaker of the National Assembly or the person presiding may consider necessary or appropriate.

#### **Report of proceedings of joint sittings**

8. The Clerks shall cause to be prepared a full report of the proceedings of every joint sitting, and shall, as soon as practicable, publish it in such form and manner as the Speakers of the Houses may, from time to time, jointly direct.

#### **Joint Committees of Parliament**

9. (1) The Joint Committees of Parliament shall be:
  - (a) the Joint Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity;
  - (b) the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library; and
  - (c) any other joint committee as may be established by a resolution of the Houses of Parliament or by or under any law.

(2) Every resolution by a House of Parliament for the establishment of a joint committee not provided for in the Standing Orders shall be by a

message to the other House, which shall state the object of such committee and the number of members to be appointed to the committee.

(3) A joint committee established under these Rules shall consist of at least five members of each House.

(4) Prior to the commencement of any other business, every joint committee shall elect one of its members to be the chairperson of the committee and one of its members to be the vice-chairperson of the committee.

(5) If the chairperson and the vice-chairperson are absent at a meeting of the committee, the members present shall appoint one of the members present to chair that meeting.

(6) Unless a decision is reached by consensus, any vote to be taken in a Joint Committee shall be by separate Houses.

(7) The report of a joint committee shall be tabled in each House for consideration.

(8) Without limiting the effect of anything contained in these Rules, the Standing Orders of the Senate and the Assembly relating to select committees shall be applied, but the Speakers of both Houses may jointly give directions in



instances where the Orders of the two Houses are at variance.

**Clerks of A Joint Sitting**

**10.** The Clerk of the Assembly and the Clerk of the Senate will act as joint clerks of a joint sitting and either of them may exercise a function expressed to be exercised by the Clerk.

**Amendments to Joint Rules**

**11.** (1) An amendment may be proposed to these Rules by a joint committee.

(2) The report of the joint committee under paragraph (1) proposing amendments to these Rules shall be tabled in each House.

**Amendment to Standing Orders affecting both Houses**

**12.** (1) Whenever the Speaker of a House of Parliament is of the opinion that an amendment to the Standing Orders of one House is likely to substantially alter the orderly conduct of the business or affairs between the Houses of Parliament, the Speaker shall, jointly with the Speaker of the other House, cause the respective committees dealing with the matters related to Standing Orders to jointly consider the amendments and to propose a version of the

amendments that is agreeable to both Houses and report to the respective Houses.

(2) Whenever the Speaker of a House of Parliament is of the opinion that an amendment to the Standing Orders of one House is likely to substantially alter the orderly conduct of the business or affairs between the Houses of Parliament, the Speaker shall jointly with the Speaker of the other House, cause the respective committees dealing with the matters related to standing orders to jointly consider the amendments and propose a version of the amendments that is agreeable to both Houses and report to the respective Houses.

(3) Paragraph (6) of Rule 9 (*Joint Committees of Parliament*) to these Orders will apply to voting in joint meetings of the Committee.

(4) The Committees under paragraph (3) shall submit a report to respective Houses of Parliament.

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(National Assembly)



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