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STANDING ORDERS OF THE NORTHERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS



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Standing Orders of the Northern House of Chiefs

MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

1. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

1. No Member of the House shall sit or vote therein until he shall have taken and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance, provided that any person authorised by law to make an Affirmation instead of taking an Oath shall be permitted to make a solemn Affirmation in lieu of the Oath of Allegiance.

2. The Oath or Affirmation shall be administered by the Clerk at the time appointed by these Orders.

3. A Member may, in order to enable him to attend and take part in the proceedings of a meeting of a Committee of the House between the time of his becoming a Member of the House and the next sitting of the House thereafter, take and subscribe the said Oath or make the said Affirmation before a Judge of such Court as the Governor may direct, and the taking and subscribing of the Oath or the making of the Affirmation in such a manner shall suffice for all purposes of this Order. In any such case the Judge shall forthwith report to the President that the Member has taken and subscribed the said Oath or has made the said Affirmation before him. Such report shall be conveyed to the House at its next sitting thereafter.

2. LANGUAGE

1. The official languages of the House shall be English and Hausa and the President may make such arrangements for interpretation as he may think fit.

2. A Member may present a petition in any language other than English or Hausa if the petition be accompanied by an English translation certified to be correct by the Member presenting the petition.

3. In the event of a conflict between the English and Hausa text of any document before the House the English text shall prevail.

3. SEATS OF MEMBERS

1. The President shall allocate a seat to each Member and may change the allocation from time to time. Provided that the seats allocated to Members of the Executive Council shall not be allocated to individual Members of the Council.

2. A Member may speak only from the place allocated to him.

4. SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

1. On Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays the House shall meet at 10 a.m. at every sitting or at such other hour as the President may appoint; and, unless previously adjourned, shall sit until 6 p.m., provided that at 1 p.m. the President shall suspend the sitting until 3 p.m. unless before 1 p.m. a substantive motion has been moved by a Member of the Executive Council, "That this House do now adjourn", and, if such a motion be moved and if the question thereon has not previously been determined, at 1 p.m. the President shall adjourn the House without question put.

2. On Fridays and Saturdays the House shall meet at 9 a.m. or at such other hour as the President may appoint and if not previously adjourned shall sit until noon.

3. Fifteen minutes before the time appointed for the termination of a sitting the President shall interrupt the business under discussion and unless the closure is moved its resumption shall be appointed for such day as the President may name, and if the House shall be in Committee at that time the Chairman shall interrupt the business and unless the closure is moved shall leave the Chair forthwith to report progress to the House and ask their leave to sit again on such day as he may name. Any other business, if unopposed, shall then be disposed of but at the time appointed for the termination of the sitting, notwithstanding that there may be business then under discussion, the President shall adjourn the House without question put.

4. On the interruption of business the closure may be moved and if moved or if proceedings under Standing Order 28 "Closure of Debate" be then in progress, the President or Chairman shall not leave the Chair until the questions consequent thereon and on any further motion as provided in Standing Order 28 "Closure of Debate" have been decided even though the divisions on such questions carry on beyond the time appointed for the rising of the House, but in that event immediately such questions have been decided, or if in Committee as soon as the Chairman's report has been received the President shall adjourn the House without question put.

5. Any business which, when called during the time of unopposed business, is objected to by a Member shall not be proceeded with but shall be appointed for such day as the President may name.

6. Until the time appointed for the termination of a sitting is reached, the House shall not adjourn except in pursuance of a resolution, the motion for which must be made by a Member of the Executive Council.

7. At the time appointed for the termination of a sitting, the President shall adjourn the House without question put.

8. A motion may be made by a Member of the Executive Council after notice at the commencement of public business to the effect that the proceedings on any specified business be exempted from the provisions of

Standing Order 4 "Sittings of the House" and if such motion be agreed to the business so specified shall not be interrupted if it is under discussion at 5.45 p.m. and may be entered upon at any hour though opposed.

9. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, proceedings in pursuance of the provisions of any Ordinance or in pursuance of the provisions of the Order may be entered upon or continued after 6 p.m., and on any such day on which such proceedings stand on the Order Paper and have not been disposed of by 1 p.m. the President shall not accept a motion for the adjournment under paragraph 1 of this Order, but shall at 1 p.m. suspend the sitting until 3 p.m. that day.

5 DUTIES OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

1. At the opening of each day's proceedings, the Clerk shall distribute to Members a paper, to be known as the Order Paper, setting forth the business of the day.

2. The Clerk shall keep Minutes of the proceedings of the House and of Committees of the Whole House, and shall circulate a copy of such Minutes, to be known as the Votes and Proceedings, on the day following each sitting of the House or as soon after as possible.

3. Votes and Proceedings shall record all decisions of the House, whether made formally or informally and shall be signed by the President.

4. In the case of divisions of the House or Committee of the Whole House, the Votes and Proceedings shall include the numbers voting for and against the question, the names of Members so voting and if the vote is by roll call the names of the Members present who declined to vote.

5. The Clerk shall receive from day to day, and keep on the Table of the House or in the Library, an Order Book showing all business appointed for any future day, and any Notices of Questions or Motions which have been set down for a future day or an early day if no particular day has been selected. The Order Book shall be open to the inspection of Members at all reasonable hours.

6. The Clerk shall be responsible for the custody of the votes, records, bills and other documents laid before the House, which shall be open to inspection by Members of the House and other persons under such arrangements as may be sanctioned by the President.

7. The Clerk shall notify each Member, in the case of a new session, of the Proclamation made by the Governor pursuant to section 80 of the Order in Council, or in the case of the reassembling of the House after an Adjournment *sine die*, of the day appointed by the President for meeting.

8. (a) Whenever a Bill is passed by this House and sent to the House of Assembly for their agreement, the Clerk shall endorse the Bill "Passed by House of Chiefs (date)" and having signed the endorsement convey the Bill and the Message to the House of Assembly.

(b) Whenever this House has rejected a Bill received from the House of Assembly the Clerk shall endorse the Bill "Rejected by House of Chiefs (date)" and having signed the endorsement shall retain the Bill and convey a Message to the House of Assembly "That this House has rejected the Bill".

(c) Whenever in connection with a Bill this House has amended or rejected the amendments made by the House of Assembly the Clerk shall insert the amendments made by this House in their appropriate place in the Bill in ink of a colour clearly to differentiate them from previous amendments made by either House and shall underline in ink of the same colour amendments disagreed to by this House and shall attach to the Bill a copy of the Reasons assigned by this House for their disagreement which he shall certify to be correct and having endorsed the Bill in the appropriate manner and signed the endorsement he shall convey the Bill and an appropriate Message to the House of Assembly.

(d) Whenever this House has insisted upon amendments which have been disagreed to by the House of Assembly the Clerk shall endorse the Bill "Amendments insisted upon by House of Chiefs (date)" and having signed the endorsement shall convey the Bill to the House of Assembly with a Message "That the House of Chiefs has insisted upon its amendments to the Bill".

9. When this House has passed a Bill originating in the House of Assembly without making any amendment thereto, the Clerk shall convey a Message to that House "That the House of Chiefs has agreed to the Bill without amendment" and shall endorse the Bill "Agreed to by House of Chiefs without amendment (date)" and shall sign the endorsement and having satisfied himself that the Bill is correct shall return it to the Clerk of the House of Assembly.

10. When this House has not insisted upon its amendments to which the House of Assembly has disagreed or has agreed to amendments made by that House without amendment, the Clerk shall convey the appropriate Message to the House of Assembly, shall make and sign the appropriate endorsement to the Bill and having satisfied himself that the Bill is correct shall return it to the Clerk of the House of Assembly.

6. QUORUM

1. The quorum of the House shall be 15.

2. If any Member draws the attention of the President to the fact that a quorum of the House is not present, or if, from the number of Members taking part in a Division, including those Members who declined to vote, it appears that a quorum is not present, the President shall count the House and, if a quorum is not then present, shall adjourn the House forthwith.

3. In Committee of the Whole House the Chairman shall leave the Chair, and the House shall be resumed ; whereupon the President shall count the House. If a quorum is then present, the House shall again resolve itself into Committee, but if a quorum is not present the President shall adjourn the House forthwith.

ARRANGEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

7. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Unless the House otherwise directs, the business before the House on each sitting day shall be transacted as follows :—

- (1) Formal Entry of President
- (2) Prayers
- (3) Oath of Allegiance of new Members
- (4) Messages from the Governor
- (5) Other announcements by President
- (6) Petitions
- (7) Papers
- (8) Reports from Select and Standing Committees
- (9) Questions to Members
- (10) Elections of Representatives on a Joint Sitting
- (11) Motions for adjournment on matters of urgent Public importance
- (12) Ministerial statements and obituary speeches
- (13) Personal Explanations
- (14) Presentation of Public Bills
- (15) "Business" motions moved by the Government
- (16) Motions for bringing in Bills or nominating Select Committees
- (17) Public Business

8. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

1. The President shall immediately after Prayers or as soon as any Members have taken the Oath of Allegiance, read to the House any Message addressed to the House by the Governor.

2. A Message from the Governor, if presented to the House by a Member of the Executive Council may be brought up at any time before the commencement or at the close of public business, and shall be considered forthwith or ordered to be considered upon a future day as the President may appoint.

9. MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

A Message from the House of Assembly shall be received by the Clerk from the Clerk of that House and shall forthwith be conveyed to the President. The President shall direct the Clerk to communicate the said Message to the House at the earliest convenient moment.

10. PETITIONS

1. A Petition may only be presented to the House by a Member who shall affix his name at the beginning thereof.

2. A Member presenting a Petition shall confine himself to a brief statement of the parties from whom it comes, the number of signatures attached to it and the material allegations contained in it, and to reading the prayer of such Petition.

3. All Petitions shall be ordered without question put to lie upon the Table and such Petitions shall stand referred to the Public Petitions Committee.

4. No Member may present to the House a Petition signed by himself, except as representative of a publicly incorporated body.

5. No Petition shall be presented to the House unless it shall have been endorsed by the Clerk as being in accordance with the following rules:—

(i) Every Petition must be properly addressed to the House, respectful, decorous and temperate in its language, and must conclude with a prayer setting forth the general object of the Petitioner.

(ii) Every Petition shall be signed by at least one person on the sheet on which the Petition is written.

(iii) If signatures are affixed to sheets other than that containing the Petition itself, such sheets shall carry at their heads the prayer of the Petition which may be reproduced in print or by other mechanical process.

(iv) Signatures, or marks which must be duly witnessed, shall be in their own handwriting, and must be followed by the addresses of the persons signing, or they will not be counted. Such signatures must be written upon, and not pasted or otherwise attached to, the sheet on which the Petition itself is written. A Corporation should sign a Petition with its common seal, if it has one.

(v) Every Petition shall be in the English language, or be accompanied by an English translation certified to be correct by the Member who presents it.

(vi) No letters or other documents may be attached to a Petition, nor may any erasures or interlineations be made therein.

6. The House will not receive any Petition which asks for a grant of public money from funds of the Federal Government of Nigeria or of any Region or the release of a debt to funds of the Federal Government of Nigeria or any Region.

7. The House will not receive any Petition on any matter:—

(i) for which there is a judicial remedy for which no application has been made, or

(ii) for which provision is made in Chapter VII of the Order.

11. PAPERS

1. All papers shall be presented by a Member of the Executive Council and their presentation shall be entered upon the Votes and Proceedings.
2. A Member presenting a paper may make a short explanatory statement of its contents.
3. All papers shall be ordered to lie upon the Table without question put.

12. QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS

1. Questions may be put to Members of the Executive Council relevant to public affairs for which they are officially responsible.
2. Questions may also be put to Members, relating to a Bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the House for which such Members are responsible.
3. A question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets or controversial ironical or offensive expressions; nor shall a question be based upon hypothetical cases; nor shall a question refer to debates or answers to questions in the current session.
4. Not more than one subject shall be referred to in any one question and a question shall not be of excessive length.
5. A question shall not include the names of persons or statements not strictly necessary to render the question intelligible, nor contain charges which the Member who asks the question is not prepared to substantiate.
6. A question must not be asked for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion, the solution of an abstract legal case, or the answer to a hypothetical proposition.
7. A question may not be asked which makes or implies charges of a personal character or which reflects upon the character or conduct except of persons in their official or public capacity.
8. References may not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending in such a way as may prejudice the interests of parties thereto.
9. A Member must make himself responsible for any facts stated in his question. It is out of order to base a question on a newspaper report.
10. A question the answer to which is readily available in official publications shall not be asked.
11. The President shall have the right to refuse any question which, in his opinion, infringes any of these Standing Orders, or one which in his opinion cannot be published without detriment to the public interest.
12. A question must not be made the pretext for a debate, nor can a question fully answered be asked again during the same session.

13. A Member may ask a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which any answer has been given ; but a supplementary question must not be used to introduce matter not relating to the original question. No oral reply will be given but the President will obtain a written reply as soon as may be, which he will cause to be published in the Votes and Proceedings.

13. NOTICE OF, AND ANSWERS TO, QUESTIONS

1. Notices of Questions shall be given by Members in writing to the Clerk and shall not be read *viva voce* in the House.

2. When called by the President a Member shall ask his oral question by rising and begging leave to ask Question No.....

3. Questions shall be taken on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays provided that except as provided in paragraph 4 of this Order no question shall be taken after 10.40 o'clock.

4. Questions which have not appeared in the Order Book, but which are in the opinion of the President, of an urgent character, and relate either to matters of public importance or to the arrangement of business may, with his permission, be asked at the conclusion of Question time. A Member shall submit the terms of any such question in duplicate to the President and shall at the same time send a copy to the Member of whom he proposes to ask the question and when called upon he shall rise in his place and read the question aloud in the terms agreed to by the President.

5. Except with the permission of the President, questions must be delivered to the office of the Clerk at least ten clear days before the meeting at which they are to be asked. A Member who desires an oral answer to his question shall mark it with an asterisk. When the Member of the Executive Council who is to answer the question notifies the Clerk that the answer is ready, the Clerk shall cause the question concerned to be printed in the Order Paper for the next day on which oral questions are to be taken. Provided that no Member may have more than three questions for oral answer on the same day.

6. If a Member does not mark his question with an asterisk, the Clerk shall cause an answer to be circulated in a supplement to the Votes and Proceedings on the morning following the day on which the answer was received, or as soon after as possible.

7. If a Member is not present to ask his question or if the question is not reached before 10.40 a.m. the answer shall be circulated in a supplement to the Votes and Proceedings as if it was the answer to an unasterisked question unless the Member shall have signified his wish to postpone his question before it was called or before 10.40 a.m. as the case may be.

14. ADJOURNMENT—DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

1. A substantive motion for the adjournment of the House shall not be made on a Friday or a Saturday or at any sitting on any other day of the week before the conclusion of Questions, and no such motion shall be made except by a Member of the Executive Council, unless a Member rise in his place at that time and ask for leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.

2. The matter for discussion shall, if possible, be referred to the President before the commencement of the day's sitting, and the President shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite and urgent.

3. If the claim is allowed by the President and the leave of the House is given, or, if not given, at least fifteen Members of the House rise in their places to support the request, the motion shall stand over until 3 p.m. on the same day and at that hour any proceeding on which the House is engaged shall be postponed until either the motion for the adjournment is disposed of or the moment of interruption is reached, whichever is the earlier. At the moment of interruption the motion for the adjournment, if not previously disposed of, shall lapse and the proceedings which have been postponed shall be resumed and either dealt with if unopposed or if opposed deferred to such day as the President may appoint.

15. PERSONAL EXPLANATION

By the indulgence of the House, and the leave of the President, a Member may make a personal explanation although there be no question before the House ; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the explanation. The text of the proposed statement shall be submitted to the President when his leave to make it is sought.

16. PUBLIC BUSINESS

The arrangement of Public Business shall be as follows :—

- (a) On Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, Government business shall have precedence of the business of Private Members, and on such days the Government may arrange their business, whether Orders of the Day or Notices of Motions, in such order as they think fit but having arranged them must take them in the order in which they stand upon the Order Paper.
- (b) On Tuesdays the business of Private Members shall have precedence of Government business and on such days Private Members' Notices of Motions shall have precedence of Orders of the Day and shall be taken in the order in which they stand upon the Order Paper.

17. ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. An Order of the Day is a Bill or other matter, which the President has ordered to be taken into consideration on a particular day. An earlier day cannot be substituted for the day so appointed.

2. Orders of the Day not reached before the end of a sitting shall at the discretion of the President be set down for the next sitting of the House. Notices of Motions not so reached shall be removed from the notice paper unless the President at the request of the Member who has given notice of the motion shall direct the Clerk to put it down for a future day and the provisions of paragraph 3 of Standing Order 20 "Manner of Giving Notices" shall not apply to Notices of Motions which have been postponed.

3. If the proceedings upon an Order of the Day be interrupted by the adjournment of the House the same may be continued on such other day as the President may in his discretion appoint, and such Order shall not merely by reason of the adjournment of the House become a dropped Order.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

18. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Unless the Standing Orders otherwise direct, notice shall be given of any motion or amendment which it is proposed to move with the exception of the following :—

- (1) A motion or amendment made or offered in Committee of the Whole House.
- (2) A motion for the adjournment of the House or of any debate.
- (3) A motion that the Report of a Standing Committee or of a Select Committee be referred to a Committee of the Whole House.
- (4) A motion for the withdrawal of strangers.
- (5) A motion for the suspension of a Member.
- (6) A motion arising out of the business of the day made immediately after that business is disposed of and before any fresh matter is entered upon.

19. MANNER OF GIVING NOTICE

1. Where under any Standing Order (or the practice of the House) notice is required, such notice shall be given on a day on which the House is sitting, by being handed in at the Table ; or by being received at the office of the Clerk when the House is not sitting.

2. All such notices must be signed.

3. No Motions or amendment of which notice has been given shall be appointed for hearing less than seven clear days after such notice shall have been received ; provided that if the notice is in the name of a Member of the Executive Council one day's notice shall be sufficient.

4. Notices may be received during adjournment (or recess) and all such Notices shall be printed and made available to Members.

5. The Clerk shall indicate the day upon which a notice was handed in, unless it be a notice for the next meeting of the House or an amendment to a Bill.

6. Any such notice shall be printed in the form in which it is handed in or with such alterations as the President shall direct.

7. Motions or amendments sent to the Clerk shall be printed and circulated by him, even if they be matters for which notice is not required, and in the case of amendments to Bills shall be arranged so far as may be in the order in which they will be proposed.

8. No notice other than that of the intention to raise a matter on the Adjournment shall be given orally in the House.

20. RELEVANCY OF AMENDMENTS

1. When a Motion or Bill is under consideration in the House or a Committee thereof, an amendment may be proposed to such Motion or Bill if it be relevant to the question or matter then under discussion.

2. An amendment may be proposed to any amendment proposed from the Chair if it be relevant to that amendment.

21. SECONDING OF MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

The question on any Motion or Amendment shall not be proposed from the Chair in the House unless it shall have been seconded, but in Committee a seconder shall not be required.

22. WITHDRAWAL OF MOTIONS OR AMENDMENTS

1. A Motion or an amendment may be withdrawn, at the request of the mover, by leave of the House or Committee, after the question thereon has been proposed but before it has been fully put, provided that there is no dissentient voice. A Motion or an amendment so withdrawn may be made again but in the case of a motion notice is required.

2. If an amendment has been proposed to a question, the original Motion cannot be withdrawn until the amendment has been disposed of.

3. If an interval of three calendar months shall elapse after notice of a Motion is given without further action being taken on such Motion, such Motion shall be deemed to be withdrawn unless the President otherwise orders.

23. DISPENSING WITH NOTICE

Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a Motion or in respect of any other proceeding for which notice is required except with the consent of the President.

RULES OF DEBATE

24. RULES OF DEBATE

1. A Member shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.

2. A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.

3. Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending, in such a way as might in the President's opinion prejudice the interests of parties thereto.

4. It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a Substantive Motion for rescission.

5. It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.

6. No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member.

7. Her Majesty's, the Governor-General's or the Governor's name shall not be used to influence the House.

8. The conduct of Her Majesty, Members of the Royal Family, the Governor-General, the Governors of any of the three Regions of Nigeria, Members of this House or of the Northern House of Assembly, Judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a Substantive Motion; and in any amendment, question to a Member or remarks in a debate on a Motion dealing with any other subject, any reference to the conduct of the persons aforesaid shall be out of order.

9. A Member desiring to speak shall rise in his place and if called upon shall address his observations to the President or Chairman.

10. If two or more Members rise at the same time, the President or Chairman shall call on the Member who first catches his eye.

Except when the House be in Committee no Member shall speak more than once on any proposition before the House, except in explanation of a material part of his speech which has been misunderstood (if the Member then addressing the House chooses to give way and the President permit) or to a point of order or, in the case of the mover of a Substantive Motion, in reply, but any Member may second a motion or amendment without prejudice to his right to speak at a later period of the debate if he formally by saying "I beg to second".

12. A Member who has spoken may speak again when a new question has been proposed from the Chair such as a proposed amendment or a Dilatory Motion for the Adjournment of the debate or of the House.

13. Members may refer to each other by name, but *ex-officio* Members of the Executive Council and Regional Ministers with Portfolio shall be referred to by the designation of their office or Portfolio.

25. RAISING POINT OF ORDER

1. Any Member deviating from the provisions of these Orders may be immediately called to order by the President or Chairman, or by a Member rising to a point of order. A Member rising to a point of order shall simply direct attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the President or Chairman for decision.

2. When the question of order has been stated, the Member who raises it shall resume his seat, and no other Member, except with the leave of the President or Chairman, shall rise until the President or Chairman has decided the question, after which the Member who was addressing the House or Committee at the time the question was raised shall be entitled to proceed with his speech giving effect to the ruling from the Chair.

26. BEHAVIOUR OF MEMBERS NOT SPEAKING

1. During a sitting all Members shall enter or leave the House with decorum.

2. Members shall not cross the floor of the House unnecessarily nor sit in a place allotted to any other Member.

3. During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones.

4. Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

27. RELEVANCY IN DEBATE

1. Debate upon any motion, bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, bill or amendment, except in the case of a substantive motion for the adjournment of the House.

2. When a motion is made for the adjournment of a debate or of the House during any debate, or that the Chairman report progress or do leave the Chair, the debate upon such a motion shall be confined to the matter of such motion; and a Member who has made or seconded such a motion shall not be entitled to move or second any similar motion during the same debate.

3. Where an amendment proposes to leave out words and insert other words instead of them, debate upon the first question proposed on the amendment may include both the words proposed to be left out and those proposed to be inserted.

4. On an amendment proposing to leave out words or to insert words debate shall be confined to the omission or insertion of such words respectively.

28. CLOSURE OF DEBATE

1. After a question has been proposed a Member rising in his place may claim to move, "That the question be now put", and, unless it shall appear to the Chair that such motion is an abuse of the rules of the House, or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question, "That the question be now put", shall be put forthwith, and decided without amendment or debate notwithstanding that the mover has had no opportunity to make his reply.

2. When the motion, "That the question be now put" has been carried, and the question consequent thereon has been decided, any further motion may be made (if the assent of the Chair has not been withheld) which may be requisite to bring to a decision any question already proposed from the Chair.

3. Such questions shall be put forthwith, and decided without amendment or debate.

4. This Order shall be put in force only when in the House the President or, in Committee, the Chairman is in the Chair.

29. TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES

1. Subject to paragraph 2 of this Order, no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the Whole House for more than twenty minutes on any subject.

2. The mover of an original motion shall be entitled to thirty minutes for his opening speech, but the House or a Committee of the Whole House may at any time by motion made and carried without amendment or debate, extend this time.

3. The time allowed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Order is for the making by a Member of his speech in one language and does not include time taken in translation.

4. The President's or the Chairman's ruling, as the case may be, as to the time taken by any Member, shall be final.

30. ANTICIPATION

1. It shall be out of order to make a motion or move an amendment dealing with the subject matter of a Bill or other Order of the Day appointed for consideration.

2. An Order of the Day, Notice of Motion or amendment of which notice has been given shall not be anticipated in a debate upon a motion for the adjournment of the House or in any other debate.

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

ORDER

31. PRESIDENT TO BE HEARD IN SILENCE

Whenever the President, or the Chairman, rises during a debate, any Member then speaking, or offering to speak, must sit down, and the House or Committee is to be silent so that the President, or the Chairman may be heard without interruption.

32. DECISION OF CHAIR FINAL

The President in the House and the Chairman in any Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the House and Committee respectively and their decision upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a Substantive Motion made after notice.

33. ORDER IN THE HOUSE OR COMMITTEE

1. The President or the Chairman, after having called the attention of the House, or of the Committee, to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance, or tedious repetition either of his own arguments, or of the arguments used by other Members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech.

2. The President or the Chairman shall order Members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's sitting, and if they shall fail to do so the President or Chairman shall take steps to have them removed. But if, on any occasion, the President or the Chairman deems that his powers under the previous provisions of this Order are inadequate, he may name such Member or Members in which event the same procedure shall be followed as is prescribed by paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this Order.

3. Whenever a Member shall have been named by the President, or by the Chairman, immediately after the commission of the offence of disregarding the authority of the Chair, or of persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the House by abusing the rules of the House, or otherwise, then, if the offence has been committed by such Member in the House, the President shall forthwith put the question, on a motion being made, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, "That such Member be suspended from the service of the House", and, if the offence has been committed in a Committee of the Whole House, the Chairman shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee and report the circumstances to the House; and the President shall on a motion being made forthwith put the same question, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, as if the offence had been committed in the House itself.

4. Not more than one Member shall be named at the same time, unless two or more Members, present together, have jointly disregarded the authority of the Chair.

5. If a Member be suspended under the provisions of this Order, he shall be directed by the President to withdraw. His suspension shall last until determined by the House.

6. If a Member, or two or more Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this Order from the service of the House, shall refuse to obey the direction of the President to withdraw, when severally summoned under the direction, the President shall call the attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction. When the Member or Members named by him as having refused to obey his direction have been removed from the House they shall thereupon without any further question being put be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the session.

7. Members who are ordered to withdraw under paragraph 2 of this Order or who are suspended from the service of the House under paragraphs 3 and 6 of this Order, shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the House and shall be excluded therefrom for the remainder of the sitting or for the period of their suspension as the case may be.

8. In the case of grave disorder arising in the House the President may, if he thinks it necessary to do so, adjourn the House without putting any question, or suspend the sitting for a time to be fixed by him.

9. Nothing in this Order shall be taken to deprive the House of the power of proceeding against any Member according to any resolution of the House.

VOTING

34. ROLL CALL

1. No Member may speak to any question after the same has been fully put by the President or Chairman.

2. A question is fully put, when the President or Chairman has put the question to the House.

3. When the question has been put by the President at the conclusion of debate the votes shall be taken by voices AYE and NO, provided that a Division is not claimed by ten or more Members rising in their places in support, the result shall be declared by the President. A Division shall be taken by the Clerk asking each Member separately how he desires to vote and recording the votes accordingly.

4. When a Division is claimed either in the House or in Committee of the Whole House or in a Select Committee every Member present shall, unless he expressly state that he declines to vote, record his vote either for the AYES or NOES. The Clerk shall enter on the Votes and Proceedings the record of each Member's vote and shall add a statement of the names of Members who declined to vote. A Member must vote according to his voice.

5. As soon as the Clerk has collected the votes the President, or in Committee or a Select Committee, the Chairman, shall state the numbers voting for the AYES and the NOES respectively and shall then declare the result of the Division or in the event of an equality of votes he may give his casting vote. If no casting vote is given the question shall pass in the negative.

6. If a Member states that he voted in error or that his vote has been counted wrongly, he may claim to have his vote altered, provided that such request is made as soon as the President or in Committee the Chairman has announced the numbers and before he shall have declared the result of the Division.

7. A Member shall not vote on any subject in which he has a direct personal pecuniary interest, but a motion to disallow a Member's vote on this ground shall be made only as soon as the numbers of the Members voting on the question shall have been declared. If the motion for the disallowance of a Member's vote shall be agreed to, the President, or in Committee the Chairman, shall direct the Clerk to correct the numbers voting in the Division accordingly. In deciding whether a motion for the disallowance of a Member's vote shall be proposed from the Chair, the President, or in Committee the Chairman, shall have regard to the character of the question upon which the Division was taken and to the consideration whether the interest therein of the Member whose vote is challenged is direct and pecuniary and not an interest in common with the rest of Her Majesty's subjects or whether his vote was given on a matter of state policy.

PROCEDURE ON BILLS

35. NOTICES REGARDING BILLS

1. At least one day's notice shall be given of the presentation of a Government Bill : provided that such notice shall be deemed to have been given if the provisions proposed to be embodied in the Bill have been published in an issue of the Gazette of the Region, a copy of which shall have been sent to every Member and notice of such publication has been inserted in two subsequent issues of such Gazette.

2. Any Member other than a member of the Executive Council who wishes to move for leave to bring in a Bill shall give at least ten clear days notice of such Motion ; provided that such notice shall be deemed to have been given if the provisions proposed to be embodied in the Bill have been published in three successive issues of the Gazette of the Region, a copy of the first of which shall have been sent to every Member.

36. PRESENTATION

1. Any Member may move for leave to present a Bill of which he has given notice, but a Bill may be presented to the House on behalf of the Government after notice without such leave.

2. On presentation a Bill shall be handed to the Clerk at the Table by the Member who gave notice of the Bill.

37. FIRST READING

Upon the short title of the Bill being read aloud by the Clerk, the Bill shall be deemed to have been read the first time.

38. APPOINTMENT OF DAYS FOR STAGES OF BILLS

After the conclusion of the proceedings on the first reading or on any subsequent stage of a Bill, a day shall be appointed by the President for the next stage : provided that the day named for second reading of a Bill introduced by a Private Member shall not be less than seven days after that on which the Bill has been read the first time.

39. CIRCULATION OF BILLS

1. The Clerk shall be responsible for circulating a copy of every Bill to each Member as soon as he shall have received the appropriate number of copies from the Member in charge of the Bill.

2. He shall also circulate to every Member as soon as possible after he has received it a memorandum signed by any member of the Executive Council or the Member in charge of a Bill in the case of a Government Bill and by the Member who presented it in the case of any other Bill stating concisely the objects of the Bill and if any expenditure is involved an estimate of the probable cost.

40. SECOND READING OF BILLS

1. On the order for the second reading of a Bill being read, a motion may be made that the Bill be now read a second time and a debate may arise covering the general merits and principles of the Bill.

2. On the second reading of a Bill an amendment may be proposed to the question, "That the Bill be now read a second time" to the effect that the Bill be read a second time at some future date ; or an amendment may be moved to leave out all the words after the word "That" in order to add other words stating the object and motive on which the opposition to the Bill is based, but such words must be strictly relevant to the principle of the Bill and not deal with its details.

41. COMMITMENT OF BILLS

When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to a Committee of the Whole House, unless the House on motion commit it to a Standing Committee or a Select Committee. Such motion shall not require notice, but must be made immediately after the Bill is read a second time and must be proposed by the member in charge. Bills committed to Standing Committees shall be allocated to a particular Standing Committee by the President whose discretion in this matter is final.

42. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

1. On the order being read for the House to resolve itself into Committee on a Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House, the President shall leave the Chair without question put.

2. Subject to the provisions of Standing Order 64 (4), the President, or in his absence such Member as he may appoint, shall be Chairman of every Committee of the Whole House.

3. If the proceedings in a Committee of the Whole House have not been finished at the conclusion of a day's sitting the Chairman shall leave the Chair and report progress to the House. The proceedings of the Committee may be continued on a day to be appointed by the President.

43. SCOPE OF AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE

Any Committee to which a Bill is committed shall have power to make such amendments therein as they shall think fit, provided that the amendments be relevant to the subject matter of the Bill; but if any such amendments shall not be within the title of the Bill, they shall amend the title accordingly, and shall report the same specially to the House.

44. PROCEDURE IN COMMITTEE ON BILLS

1. The principle of a Bill shall not be discussed in Committee but only its details.

2. The Chairman of the Committee shall call the number of each Clause, or the numbers of a group of Clauses, in succession and if an amendment be offered thereto or when all proposed amendments shall have been disposed of shall proceed to put the question, "That the Clause or Clauses (or the Clause as amended) stand part of the Bill".

3. Any amendments proposed to the Bill either in Committee of the Whole House or in a Standing or Select Committee of which notice has not been given shall be handed to the Chairman in writing.

4. No amendment shall be moved which is inconsistent with any Clause already agreed upon or any decision already come to by the Committee and the Chairman may at any time during the discussion of a proposed amendment withdraw it from the consideration of the Committee if in his opinion the discussion shall have shown that the amendment violates the provisions of this Order.

5. A Clause may be postponed, unless upon an amendment thereto a question shall have been fully put from the Chair.

6. Postponed Clauses shall be considered after the remaining Clauses of the Bill have been considered and before new Clauses are brought up.

7. New Clauses may be offered before the Schedules of the Bill are considered. When the Member offering the Clause has concluded his speech the title of the Clause shall be read by the Clerk and the Clause shall then be deemed to have been read a first time. The question shall then forthwith be proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time", and, if this is agreed to amendments may then be proposed to the new Clause. The final question which must be proposed is, "That the Clause (or the Clause as amended) be added to the Bill".

8. Schedules shall be disposed of in the same way as Clauses and new Schedules may be offered after the Schedules to the Bill have been disposed of, and shall be treated in the same manner as new Clauses.

9. New Clauses and new Schedules must be relevant to the subject matter of the Bill.

10. When every Clause and Schedule and proposed new Clause or Schedule has been dealt with, the Preamble, if there be one, shall be considered and a question put, "That this Preamble (as amended) be the Preamble to the Bill", provided that no amendment to the Preamble shall be considered which is not made necessary by a previous amendment to the Bill.

11. If any amendment be necessary to the title of the Bill it shall be made at the conclusion of the proceedings detailed above; but no question shall be put that the title or that the title as amended stand part of the Bill.

12. At the conclusion of the proceedings the Chairman shall put the question, "That I do report the Bill (or the Bill as amended) to the House", which question shall be decided without amendment or debate.

45. RECOMMITTAL AND THIRD READING

1. When a Bill has been reported from a Committee of the Whole House it shall be ordered to be read a third time forthwith or on such future day as the President shall appoint. Provided that if a Member gives notice of his intention to move the recommitment of the Bill in accordance with the next following paragraph of this Order a Bill may not be read the third time forthwith but shall stand for such future day as the President shall appoint.

2. When a Bill has been ordered for third reading any Member who wishes to amend or delete any provisions contained in the Bill or to introduce any fresh provision may give notice of his intention on the order for third reading being read to move, "That the Bill be recommitted". If such motion be agreed to, the House shall resolve itself into Committee immediately or upon such day as the President shall appoint. When the Bill has been reported, the House shall then proceed with the third reading of the Bill unless the Member in charge of the Bill signify his desire to postpone this stage. When a Bill has been the subject of a special report from a Standing

Committee the Member in charge of the Bill may, on notice given, move, "That the Bill be recommitted to the Standing Committee". On this question being proposed the House may debate the special report from the Standing Committee.

3. On the third reading of a Bill similar amendments may be proposed to the question, "That the Bill be now read a third time and passed" as may be proposed on second reading.

4. Amendments for the correction of error or oversight may, with the President's permission, be made before the question for the third reading of the Bill is put from the Chair but no amendments of a material character shall be proposed, and on this point the President's decision shall be final.

5. When a Bill initiated in this House has been read the third time and passed, the Clerk shall endorse the Bill "Passed by House of Chiefs (date)" and the Bill together with a fair printed copy certified correct by the Clerk shall as soon as possible be conveyed to the House of Assembly together with a Message, "That this House has agreed to the said Bill (as amended)".

46. BILLS RECEIVED FROM THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

1. When a Bill has been received from the House of Assembly with a Message asking for the agreement of this House, and the said Message has been read a Member may forthwith move, "That the Bill be now read the first time" which question shall be put without amendment or debate and if agreed to, the Bill shall stand for second reading upon such future day as the President shall appoint.

2. When a Bill originating in the House of Assembly has been read the third time without any amendment being made therein, the Clerk is directed to convey a Message to the House of Assembly, "That this House has agreed to the said Bill without amendment" and the Clerk as soon as may be thereafter shall make the appropriate endorsement to the Bill, and having signed the endorsement and satisfied himself that the Bill is correct shall return it to the Clerk of the House of Assembly.

47. AMENDMENTS TO BILLS MADE BY HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

1. When a Bill has been returned from the House of Assembly with a Message that they have agreed to the said Bill with amendments and the said Message has been read the President may appoint a day for consideration of the said amendments.

2. On the day appointed the Member in charge of the Bill shall move, "That the amendments made by the House of Assembly to the Bill be now considered", upon which the President shall put the question, "That the amendments made by the House of Assembly to the Bill be now considered", upon which question a debate on the general expediency of considering the said amendments may take place but the merits of a particular amendment may not be debated.

3. When that question has been resolved in the affirmative the amendments shall be considered *seriatim* and the Clerk shall read aloud each amendment in turn and debate and amendment must be relevant to the amendment made by the House of Assembly then under discussion, and once the question has been proposed, "That this House agrees with the House of Assembly in the said amendment" no amendment to that amendment made by the House of Assembly shall then be received.

4. If one or more of the amendments made by the House of Assembly have been disagreed to, the President shall at the conclusion of the proceedings on the consideration of the amendments made by the House of Assembly, nominate two Members to form with him a Committee of which he shall be the Chairman, to draw up Reasons for the rejection of the said amendments and when the Committee have agreed thereon, their report shall be entered in the Votes and Proceedings and he shall direct the Clerk to read the same to the House as soon as possible after the Committee have agreed thereon.

5. When a Bill is returned by the House of Assembly with a Message agreeing to the last amendments made by this House with amendments and the said Message has been read the procedure to be followed shall be the same as that set out in the preceding paragraphs of this Order.

6. When a Bill is returned by the House of Assembly with a Message disagreeing to certain amendments to that Bill made by this House and assigning a Reason for such disagreement and the said Message has been read the procedure to be followed shall be the same as that set out in the preceding paragraph of this Order save that on the day appointed the question to be proposed shall be, "That the Reason assigned by the House of Assembly for disagreeing to amendments made by this House to the Bill be now considered and that this House do not insist" (or "insists" as the Member in charge of the Bill may desire) "upon its amendments to the Bill to which the House of Assembly has disagreed".

7. Nothing in this Order shall prevent the House considering a Message from the House of Assembly embodying all or any of the proceedings referred to in the preceding paragraphs of this Order and the proceedings thereon shall be, *mutatis mutandis*, those set out in the appropriate paragraph or paragraphs but in no case shall the Bill itself be brought into discussion and no amendment thereto shall be entertained unless the President is satisfied that it arises strictly from the acceptance of one of the amendments made by the House of Assembly, in which case it may be moved, the President's consent thereon having first been obtained, without other notice, immediately after the amendment made by the House of Assembly from which it arises.

8. Whenever a Message has been received from the Governor of his intention to summon a joint sitting of representatives of both Houses for deliberating and voting on a specified Bill then no further proceedings shall be taken in relation to that Bill, and any order relating thereto shall be entered upon the Votes and Proceedings as discharged and shall be removed from the Order Paper or the Order Book as the case may be.

48. WITHDRAWAL OF BILLS

The Member in charge of a Bill may make a motion without notice for its withdrawal either before the commencement of public business or on the Order of the Day for any stage of the Bill being read.

49. BILLS ON THE SAME SUBJECT MATTER

More than one Bill on the same subject matter may be introduced but, when the second reading of a Bill has been agreed to or negatived, the question shall not be proposed for the second reading of another Bill of the same subject matter during the same session. On the Order of the Day relating to such a Bill being read the President shall direct that the Bill be withdrawn.

50. BILLS AFFECTING PRIVATE RIGHTS

If it appears to the President from the notice of the terms proposed to be embodied in a Bill not being a Government measure that the proposals are intended to affect or benefit some particular person, association or corporate body then :

1. Before allowing such a Bill to be read the first time the President shall satisfy himself that in addition to the notices already presented under Standing Order 35 "Notices regarding Bills" additional notice of the Bill shall be given by advertising a statement of its general nature and objects in the official Gazette of the Region and in one newspaper circulating in the Region.

2. When any such Bill has been read a second time it shall stand referred to a Joint Select Committee without question put. Any party whose interests are in the President's opinion prejudicially affected by the proposed provisions of the Bill may be heard before the Committee either in person or by Counsel.

3. Every Joint Select Committee on such a Bill shall require proof of the facts and other allegations set forth in the Bill as showing that it is expedient that the Bill should be passed, and may take such oral or other evidence as it may think requisite, and thereafter if the Committee find that the said facts and allegations are not proved it shall report accordingly ; but if the Committee find that the said facts and allegations have been proved, the Committee shall consider the several Clauses of the Bill, and may strike out Clauses, add new Clauses, and make any other amendments which it shall deem necessary, and in respect of all amendments which it makes shall describe their purport in a Special Report to each House. No new Clause shall be allowed in such a Bill which is outside the terms of the notice in the official Gazette of the Region.

4. When it is intended to examine any witnesses, the Petitioner or Member of the House requiring such witnesses shall deliver to the Clerk of the Joint Select Committee, in sufficient time before the day appointed for their examination to allow of their attendance, a list containing the name, residence and occupation of every witness.

5. The evidence of every witness shall be taken down and when printed sent in proof to the witness. The witness shall be at liberty to suggest corrections due to inaccurate reporting and the evidence shall be printed with such of the corrections as may be approved by the Chairman.

6. The Committee may at its discretion refuse to hear any irrelevant or recalcitrant witness.

7. After the report of the Joint Select Committee has been presented to the House, the President shall if such report be adopted propose the question that the Bill be read the third time.

8. This Standing Order shall be read in conjunction with Standing Order 65 "Joint Select Committees".

51. BILLS COVERED BY CERTIFICATE OF URGENCY

Notwithstanding the provisions of any Standing Order, when a certificate of urgency signed by the Governor in respect of a proposed Bill has been laid upon the Table by a member of the Executive Council, the Bill to which such certificate relates may be introduced forthwith and proceeded with throughout all its stages and the House shall not be counted out or adjourned (except upon a motion made by a member of the Executive Council) until such Bill has been read the third time.

52. ELECTION—JOINT SITTING

1. When a message has been received from, or a proclamation made by the Governor giving notice of his intention to summon a Joint Sitting of Representatives of both Houses for the purpose of deliberating and voting on a particular Bill and requiring this House to elect Representatives on the said Joint Sitting, the President, having read the message to the House shall give notice of the date and time of the election.

2. The Clerk shall cause a list to be printed, hereinafter called a ballot paper, showing the names of all Members (other than those Members of the Executive Council who are Members of the House of Assembly). Upon this ballot paper each Member wishing to vote shall indicate the twenty Members whom he wishes to elect.

3. If a Member requires assistance in the recording of his vote he shall inform the President of the fact and of the candidates for whom he desires to vote, and the President shall give the Member such explanation and assistance as shall be necessary, and if so required by the Member shall there and then in presence of the Member register the requisite vote on the ballot paper.

4. On the direction of the President, the Clerk shall proceed to call the roll of Members as if for a Division but instead of declaring his vote each Member shall on his name being called come to the Table and put his ballot paper into a box to be provided for that purpose.

5. When every Member's name has been called the President shall suspend the sitting and the votes shall be counted under the supervision of the President.

6. On the resumption of the sitting, the President shall read out the names of the twenty Members with the most votes and shall declare those Members elected.

7. In the event of an equality of votes being found to exist between any candidates and the addition of one vote would entitle any of those candidates to be declared elected the President shall forthwith decide between those candidates by lot in such manner as he may decide.

8. Whenever the Governor shall appoint a time and place for a Joint Sitting he shall so inform the House and an order to the representatives of this House to attend shall be entered on the minutes.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

53. COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

1. There shall be a Committee to be known as the Committee of Selection appointed at the commencement of every session to perform the functions allotted to it by these Standing Orders, and for such other matters as the House may from time to time refer to it.

2. The Committee of Selection shall consist of the President as Chairman, three members of the Executive Council, of whom one shall be an *ex-officio* member, to be nominated by that Council, and two Members not being members of the Executive Council to be elected by the House. The Committee may sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House and shall inform the House of its decisions from time to time.

3. The quorum of the Committee shall be the Chairman and three Members.

4. The Chairman shall have an original vote, and if the votes be equal, a casting vote.

54. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

1. There shall be a Committee to be known as the Standing Orders Committee consisting of the President as Chairman, the Attorney-General, and three unofficial Members not being members of the Executive Council, to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.

2. If a notice of motion before the House involves any proposal for the amendment of Standing Orders the notice shall be accompanied by a draft of the proposed amendments and the motion when proposed and seconded shall stand referred without any question being proposed thereon to the Standing Orders Committee and no further proceedings shall be taken on any such motion until the Standing Orders Committee has reported on the desirability of such proposals and has recommended that they be considered by the House.

55. PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

1. There shall be a Committee to be known as the Public Petitions Committee, consisting of the President as Chairman, the Attorney-General, and six Members not being members of the Executive Council to be nominated by the Committee of Selection as soon as may be after the commencement of each session.

2. The Committee shall consider the subject matter of all Petitions referred to them under the provisions of Standing Order 10 "Petitions" and shall report from time to time to the House their opinions and recommendations as to the action to be taken thereon, together with such other observations on the Petitions and the signatures attached thereto as the Committee may think fit.

56. HOUSE COMMITTEE

(1) There shall be a Committee to be known as the House Committee to consider and advise the President upon all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of Members of the House; including matters concerning the Library. The Committee shall have powers to report from time to time its minutes of proceedings to the House.

(2) The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, the Financial Secretary, and six other Members, not being Members of the Executive Council, to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(3) The quorum of the House Committee shall be the Chairman and three Members.

57. TEMPORARY CHAIRMANSHIP OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

If the President is at any time unable to be present at a meeting of a Special Committee of which he is Chairman he may nominate a member of the Committee to be temporary Chairman of that Committee and, failing any such nomination, the Committee shall elect one of their number to be their temporary Chairman.

58. SITTING OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

No Special Committee shall sit during a sitting of the House and no Special Committee shall sit during a recess of the House unless the President has given his consent thereto. The President shall report to the House at its next sitting the occasions upon which he has given Special Committees leave to sit during an adjournment of the House.

STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES

59. STANDING COMMITTEES

1. At the beginning of every session the Committee of Selection shall appoint two Standing Committees, to be known as Standing Committees A and B, for the consideration of public Bills.

2. Each Standing Committee shall consist as nearly as may be of one-half of the Members of the House, other than those who are members of the Executive Council, and the Committee of Selection shall have regard to the composition of the House in their nomination of members of Standing Committees.

3. A Bill shall not be committed to a Standing Committee unless, the Bill having been read a second time, the Member in charge moves "That the Bill be committed to a Standing Committee", and the question thereupon shall be decided forthwith, without amendment or debate, notwithstanding that the moment for the interruption of business shall then have been reached.

4. When a Bill has been so committed, and the President has allocated it to a Standing Committee, the Committee of Selection may add in respect of that Bill six members including members of the Executive Council whom they think best fitted to assist the Standing Committee in their consideration of that Bill, provided that the Member in charge of the Bill, if not already a member of that Standing Committee, shall be one of the members so added.

5. When a Standing Committee has reported a Bill to the House, members added to that Committee in respect of that Bill shall thereupon be deemed to have been discharged and shall cease to be members of that Committee: provided that if that Bill be recommitted to the former Committee, the said members shall without further appointment again become members of that Committee until the reconsideration of that Bill is finished.

6. The President shall appoint a Chairman for a Standing Committee, in respect of each Bill committed to that Committee, who shall exercise the same powers as the Chairman in Committee of the Whole House regarding the closure of debate, acceptance of a dilatory motion and discretion in permitting strangers to be present. The Chairman of a Standing Committee shall not have an original vote but if the votes are equally divided he shall have a casting vote.

7. The first meeting of a Standing Committee for the consideration of any Bill committed to it shall be held at such time and place as the Chairman shall appoint. Subsequent meetings for the consideration of the same Bill shall be held at such times and places as the Committee may determine provided that if the Committee fails to do so the Chairman shall, in consultation with the Clerk of the House, appoint such times and places provided also that no Standing Committee shall meet outside the precincts of the House unless power so to do has been specifically given to that Committee by the President.

8. The procedure in Standing Committees shall be as nearly as possible the same as that in Committees of the Whole House and the minutes of Standing Committees shall be kept in the same form as those of a Committee of the Whole House.

9. The quorum of a Standing Committee shall be ten.

10. Except as provided in the next succeeding paragraph a Bill which has been reported from a Standing Committee shall be proceeded with as it had been reported from a Committee of the Whole House.

11. A Standing Committee having met to consider a Bill must proceed with its consideration, except that at any stage during the proceedings on a Bill any Member may move a motion "That the Committee do not proceed further with the Bill". Acceptance of such a motion is entirely within the discretion of the Chair, but if accepted and carried, the Committee must then report the Bill to the House so far as amended or without amendment as the case may be, and make a Special Report explaining their proceedings on the Bill. A Bill so reported may be recommitted to the same Committee or to a Committee of the Whole House after consideration of the Special Report by the House.

50. SELECT COMMITTEES

1. A Select Committee shall be appointed after notice given on motion made and question put, and shall consist of a Chairman and such members as may be nominated by the Committee of Selection and one-third of such members shall constitute a quorum.

2. The Chairman shall have an original vote and, if the votes be equal, a casting vote.

3. A Select Committee shall have power to take evidence and examine documents and shall report its opinions and observations, in one or more reports together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before it, to the House.

4. The deliberations of a Select Committee shall be confined to the matter referred to it by the House and any extension or limitation thereof made by the House, and in the case of a Select Committee on a Bill to the Bill committed to it and relevant amendments.

5. Except by leave of the President no Select Committee shall sit while the House is sitting.

6. A Select Committee may continue its investigations although the House may be adjourned; and the President may in the case of the death or unavoidable absence of a Member appoint another Member of the House to take the place of such Member on the Committee. Every appointment under this Order shall be announced to the House at its next meeting.

7. Select Committees shall have a right to the services of a Clerk and a shorthand writer.

8. The evidence of every witness shall be taken down and when printed sent in proof to the witness. The witness shall be at liberty to suggest corrections due to inaccurate reporting and the evidence shall be printed with such of the corrections as may be approved by the Chairman.

9. The first meeting of a Select Committee shall be held at such time and place as the President shall appoint. Subsequent meetings shall be held at such times and places as the Committee may determine : provided that if the Committee fails to do so the Chairman shall, in consultation with the Clerk of the House, appoint times and places : provided also that a Select Committee shall meet outside the precincts of the House unless power so to do has been specifically given to that Committee by the President.

61. JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES

1. In any case where it shall appear expedient a Select Committee of this House may be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Assembly to consider any matter or Bill and the body thus formed shall be called a Joint Select Committee.

2. The establishment of a Joint Select Committee shall be initiated by this House passing a resolution affirming the expediency of this course, nominating Members of this House to serve on the Joint Select Committee and fixing a quorum of such Members, and this House shall thereupon send a Message to the House of Assembly informing that House of the Resolution and nominations and inviting its concurrence.

3. Whenever a Message is received from the House of Assembly indicating its concurrence with a proposed course the Message shall be read to the House in accordance with Standing Order 9 "Messages from the House of Assembly" or if this House be not sitting the Message shall be received by the Clerk of this House, and in either of such cases the Clerk shall forthwith inform the Members of this House appointed to that Committee of the time and place of meeting.

4. Whenever this House shall receive a Message from the House of Assembly requesting the concurrence of this House in the establishment of a Joint Select Committee this House shall, if it agrees to the proposed course, pass a Resolution nominating a number of Members of this House equal to the number of Members which have been nominated by the House of Assembly, to serve on the Joint Select Committee, fixing a like quorum to that fixed by the House of Assembly and appointing a time and place for the first meeting of the Committee and shall thereupon send a Message to the House of Assembly informing it of such Resolution.

5. The Joint Select Committee shall elect a Chairman from amongst its members at the first meeting of the Committee.

6. A Joint Select Committee shall not transact any business unless a quorum of the membership appointed by each House is present.

7. The powers of a Joint Select Committee shall be only such as have been conferred upon it by the two Houses concurrently.

8. The procedure of a Joint Select Committee shall be the same as that of a Select Committee of this House but if there shall be any conflict between the provisions of this Order and of Standing Order 60 "Select Committees" the provisions of this Order shall prevail.

9. The Report of a Joint Select Committee shall be presented to this House and to the House of Assembly. If the Chairman of the Joint Select Committee shall be a Member of this House the Report shall be presented to this House by him ; otherwise it shall be presented to this House by a member of the Committee who is a Member of this House and who has been selected for the purpose by the Committee.

10. When the consideration of a Bill by a Joint Select Committee has been concluded the Bill shall be reported to the House in which it originated and, in addition, a Report shall be made upon the Bill by the Committee to this House and to the House of Assembly.

62. PUBLICATION OF EVIDENCE

The evidence taken before any Committee of the House and any documents presented to such Committee which have not been reported to the House shall not be published by any Member of such Committee or by any other person.

63. REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

1. A Select Committee may make a special report on any matters which are relevant to their terms of reference which they may think fit to bring to the notice of the House.

2. A report or special report together with the Minutes of the Proceedings of a Select Committee shall be brought up by the Chairman or other Member deputed by the Committee and shall be ordered to lie upon the Table. Any Member of the House may move that it be printed and referred to a Committee of the Whole House.

3. A Bill reported from a Select Committee shall be proceeded with as if it had been reported from a Committee of the Whole House.

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

64. APPROPRIATION BILL

1. When the annual Appropriation Bill is received from the House of Assembly the procedure described in paragraph 1 of Standing Order 46 "Bills received from the House of Assembly" shall apply.

2. After the motion for the second reading of the Bill has been made and seconded, the debate thereon shall be adjourned for a period of at least one clear day and when resumed shall be confined to the financial and economic state and financial policy of the Region. Detailed items in the

Estimates may not be debated on second reading. Three days shall be allotted for the second reading of the Bill and at the hour appointed for the interruption of business on the last of such allotted days; the President shall put the questions necessary to bring the proceedings on the second reading to a conclusion : provided that if the question on second reading be agreed to on a day earlier than the last day so allotted, any day or days thus saved may be added to those allotted under paragraph 2 of this Order.

3. When the Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to a Committee of the Whole House to be called the Committee of Supply to which the Estimates shall also stand referred.

4. The President shall preside over each meeting of the Committee of Supply.

5. There shall be allotted a maximum of seven days for discussion of the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill in the Committee of Supply.

6. The clauses of an Appropriation Bill or of a supplementary Appropriation Bill shall stand postponed until after the consideration of any schedule there may be to such Bill.

7. On consideration of the first schedule the Chairman shall call the title of each Head of Expenditure in turn and shall propose the question "that the sum of £..... for Head..... stand part of the schedule".

8. Any Member may move an amendment to reduce by £..... the sum to be allotted for any Head of Expenditure or in respect of any sub-Head included in that Head, or of any item included in the sub-Head.

9. When several such amendments are proposed to the same Head of Expenditure they shall be called in the order in which they appear on the Order Paper and each amendment shall be disposed of before the next called and debate on each amendment shall be confined to the sub-Head or item which is sought to be reduced.

10. No amendment for an increase in the sum allocated for any item, sub-Head or Head shall be made, except on the motion of a member of the Executive Council who shall signify to the House the recommendation or consent of the Governor to such increase in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 68 "Public Money".

11. At least two clear days' notice of any amendment (whether for increasing or decreasing) shall be required.

12. An amendment to increase shall take precedence of any amendment to decrease any Head, sub-Head or item to which the amendment to increase relates and if carried no amendment to decrease the Head, sub-Head or item shall be called : provided that (a) any amendment to increase must if possible be moved to the sub-Head or item which it is desired to increase

and (b) an amendment to increase a sub-Head or item if carried shall not prevent the Head concerned being reduced below the agreed increase in respect of sub-Head or items other than the sub-Head or item which has been increased.

13. After an amendment to a sub-Head or item has been disposed of, no amendment or debate on a previous item or sub-Head of that Head shall be permitted.

14. When all amendments standing on the Order Paper in respect of any particular Head of Expenditure have been disposed of, the Chairman shall propose the question "that the sum (or the reduced or increased sum) of £.....for Head.....stand part of the schedule".

15. On the question "that the sum (or the reduced or increased sum) of £.....for Head.....stand part of the schedule", debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is being provided including the Revenue for which that service is responsible. On such debate Members shall not deal with the details of expenditure but may refer to the details of revenue.

16. At the hour appointed for the interruption of business on the last of the days allotted to the consideration of the Appropriation Bill in Committee of Supply, the Chairman shall proceed to put any question necessary to dispose of the Head then under discussion and shall then proceed to put successively the questions on any Heads not yet voted and the questions that the schedule or schedules stand part of the Bill and then the questions on the postponed Clauses of the Bill, no amendment or debate on any such question being allowed.

17. On any day upon which any proceedings upon the Appropriation Bill are to be brought to a conclusion under this Order no dilatory motion shall be moved upon such proceedings and the proceedings shall not be interrupted or postponed under any Standing Order.

18. When the Appropriation Bill has passed the Committee of Supply a member of the Executive Council shall report it to the House and shall move the third reading forthwith, which motion shall not require to be seconded and shall be decided without amendment or debate and if decided after the hour appointed for the adjournment of the House the President shall immediately on that decision being reached, adjourn the House without question put.

65. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILLS

If at any time a supplementary Appropriation Bill is received from the House of Assembly the provisions of Standing Order 64 "Appropriation Bill" shall apply to the stages of and the proceedings upon a supplementary Appropriation Bill, except that the debate on second reading shall take place

not earlier than the next day after the motion on second reading has been proposed and seconded and not more than two days shall be allotted to the consideration of the Bill in Committee of Supply.

66. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS JOINT COMMITTEE

There shall be a Joint Committee to be known as the Public Accounts Joint Committee, consisting of a Chairman to be nominated by the Governor and six members selected by the Committee of Selection of this House who shall join with such persons as may be selected for this purpose by the House of Assembly. It shall be the duty of the Committee to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted to meet the public expenditure, together with the auditors' reports thereon. The Committee shall have power to take evidence and examine documents and to report from time to time to the House and to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House and the quorum of the members appointed by the House shall be two.

67. JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

There shall be a Committee to be known as the Joint Standing Committee on Finance to consider and report to the House on any proposals made by the Government for expenditure supplementary to or additional to that appropriated in the Appropriation Bill. The Committee shall consist of a Chairman to be nominated by the Governor, and six members selected by the Committee of Selection of this House who shall join with such Members as may be selected for this purpose by the House of Assembly. The Committee shall have power to take evidence and examine documents and to report from time to time and to sit when summoned by the Chairman notwithstanding any adjournment of the House. The quorum of the members appointed by this House shall be two.

68. PUBLIC MONEY

The House shall not proceed upon any bill, amendment or motion which would dispose of or charge any public revenue or public funds or revoke or after any disposition thereof or charge thereon or impose, alter or repeal any rate, tax or duty unless the Governor's recommendation or consent as the case may be, has previously been signified by a member of the Executive Council rising in his place and stating that he has it in command from the Governor to give his recommendation or consent as the case may be, to the consideration of any such bill, amendment or motion and the signification of such recommendation or consent and the name of the member of the Executive Council signifying it shall be entered upon the Votes and Proceedings.

MISCELLANEOUS

69. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A question the object or effect of which may be to suspend any Standing Order of the House shall be proposed only with the consent of the President, either after notice given or after the expression of the assent of the House.

70. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Any Member who is prevented from attending a meeting of the House shall acquaint the Clerk as early as possible of his inability to attend.

71. OFFICIAL REPORTS OF SPEECHES

An official report of all speeches made in the House which shall be as nearly as possible *verbatim*, shall be prepared under the supervision of the Clerk.

2. The report shall be published in such form as the President may direct, and a copy thereof shall be sent to each Member as soon as practicable after the conclusion of each meeting.

3. A Member may inspect the record of his speech on application to the Editor of the Official Report within two hours of its delivery. He may make such minor corrections as do not affect the sense of his speech.

4. If a Member disputes the correctness of the record of any speech or seeks to make any material change in the record, the President shall rule thereon and shall direct publication of the speech in accordance with his ruling which shall be communicated to the Member concerned and shall be final.

72. EMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS IN PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

No Member of the House shall appear before the House or any Committee thereof as Counsel or Solicitor for any party, or in any capacity for which he is to receive a fee or reward.

73. STRANGERS

Strangers shall be admitted to debates in the Chamber under such rules as the President may make from time to time for that purpose, provided that if any Member take notice that strangers be present, the President, or in Committee the Chairman, shall put forthwith the question "That strangers do withdraw", without permitting any debate or amendment. Notwithstanding anything in these Orders the President, or the Chairman, may, whenever he thinks fit, order the withdrawal of strangers from any part of the House.

74. PRESS

The President may grant a general permission to the representative of any Journal to attend the sittings of the House provided that, if the Journal publish a report of the proceedings which the President considers unfair, such permission may be revoked.

75. PRACTICE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

In cases of doubt the Standing Orders of this House shall be interpreted in like manner as any equivalent Standing Order of the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

76. DEFINITIONS

In these Standing Orders unless the context otherwise requires the "Order in Council" means the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1954.

Meeting means any sitting or sittings of the House, commencing when the House first meets after being summoned at any time and terminating when the House is adjourned *sine die* or at a conclusion of a session.

"Sitting" means a period during which the House is sitting continuously without adjournment, and includes any period during which the House is in Committee.

MADE this 29th day of December, 1951, by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northern Region pursuant to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 108 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1951.

By His Honour's Command,

L. H. GOBLE,
Civil Secretary, Northern Region

Kaduna, 29th December, 1951.

AMENDED by Resolution of the Northern House of Chiefs on the 24th day of March, 1955 in exercise of the power conferred on the House by section 71 (2) of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1954.

MOHAMMED TUKUR,
Clerk to the Northern House of Chiefs

Amendment approved by me this 21st day of June, 1955 in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by section 71 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1954.

B. E. SJARWOOD-SMITH
Governor, Northern Region, Nigeria

Kaduna, 21st June, 1955.

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