

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**  
**Second Session, Fifty-Third Parliament**

**Sessional Orders adopted 10 February 2015**

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That Standing Orders be and remain so far suspended so as to provide that –

**1 Days and time of meeting**

Unless otherwise ordered, the House meets for business each Tuesday and Wednesday at 11.00 am and on each Thursday at 10.30 am.

**2 Extension of sitting beyond 6.00 pm**

On any motion to extend the sitting of the House beyond 6.00 pm being agreed to (in accordance with SO55) and if the House has not already adjourned the Speaker adjourns the House at 7.00 pm, without a question first being put, until the next sitting day -

1. If the House is in Committee of the whole, the Chairman of Committees vacates the Chair and reports to the Speaker;
2. If a ballot or division has been ordered or is in progress the Speaker or Chairman of Committees does not leave the Chair until the ballot or division and any business immediately consequent has been finished.

**3 Motion for adjournment**

The motion for the adjournment of the House may only be moved by a Minister and at any time without notice, -

1. If moved before 5.30 pm the question may be debated for twenty minutes, with a maximum of ten minutes for each Member speaking. Matters irrelevant to the motion may be debated. On expiry, and in the absence of the receipt of messages, the motion is put immediately without amendment.
2. If the motion is moved after 5.30 pm the motion, if seconded, and in the absence of the receipt of messages, is put immediately without amendment or debate.

**4 Right of Reply**

For the remainder of the session the House of Assembly will make available to any person who believes that he or she has been adversely referred to during proceedings of the Assembly the following procedure for seeking to have a response incorporated into Hansard—

1. Any person who has been referred to in the House of Assembly by name, or in another way so as to be readily identified, may make a submission in writing to the Speaker—
  - (a) claiming that he or she has been adversely affected in reputation or in respect of dealings or associations with others, or injured in profession, occupation or trade or in the holding of an office, or in respect of any financial credit or other status or that his or her privacy has been unreasonably invaded; and

- (b) requesting that his or her response be incorporated into Hansard.
2. The Speaker shall refer the submission to the Standing Orders Committee as soon as practicable.
3. The Standing Orders Committee shall reject any submission that is not made within a reasonable time.
4. If the Standing Orders Committee has not rejected the submission under clause 3, the Committee shall give notice of the submission to the Member who referred in the Assembly to the person who has made the submission.
5. In considering the submission, the Standing Orders Committee—
  - (a) may confer with the person who made the submission;
  - (b) may confer with any Member;
  - (c) must confer with the Member who referred in the Assembly to the person who has made the submission at least one clear sitting day prior to the publication of the response; but
  - (d) may not take any evidence;
  - (e) may not judge the truth of any statement made in the Assembly or the submission.
6. If the Standing Orders Committee is of the opinion that—
  - (a) the submission is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character; or
  - (b) the submission is not made in good faith; or
  - (c) the submission has not been made within a reasonable time; or
  - (d) the submission misrepresents the statements made by the Member; or
  - (e) there is some other good reason not to grant the request to incorporate a response into Hansard; the Committee shall refuse the request and inform the person who made it of the Committee's decision.
7. The Standing Orders Committee shall not be obliged to inform the Assembly or any person of the reasons for any decision made pursuant to this resolution. The Committee's decision shall be final and no debate, reflection or vote shall be permitted in relation to the Committee's decision.
8. Unless the Standing Orders Committee refuses the request on one or more of the grounds set out in paragraph 6 of this resolution, the Committee shall report to the Assembly that the response in terms agreed between the Committee and the person making the request should be incorporated into Hansard and the response shall thereupon be incorporated into Hansard.
9. A response—
  - (a) must be succinct and strictly relevant to the question in issue;
  - (b) must not contain anything offensive in character;
  - (c) must not contain any matter the publication of which would have the effect of—
    - (i) unreasonably adversely affecting or injuring a person, or unreasonably invading a person's privacy in the manner referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution, or
    - (ii) unreasonably aggravating any adverse effect, injury or invasion of privacy suffered by any person, or
    - (iii) unreasonably aggravating any situation or circumstance;and

- (d) must not contain any matter the publication of which might prejudice—
  - (i) the investigation of any alleged criminal offence,
  - (ii) the fair trial of any current or pending criminal proceedings, or
  - (iii) any civil proceedings in any court or tribunal.
- 10. In this resolution—
  - (a) 'person' includes a corporation of any type and an unincorporated association;
  - (b) 'Member' includes a former Member of the House of Assembly.

## **5 Deliver and Receive Messages**

The Clerk may deliver messages to the Legislative Council and the Speaker may receive messages from the Legislative Council when this House is not sitting and the Clerk may deliver messages to the President of the Legislative Council when that House is not sitting.

## **6 Private Member's Business**

After the Address in Reply is completed, Private Member's Business has precedence as follows –

1. On Wednesday after Prayers, Private Member's Business relating to motions with respect to Committees and motions for the disallowance of subordinate legislation for up to one hour provided that –
  - (a) Notices of Motion take priority over Orders of the Day unless otherwise ordered;
  - (b) Leave to continue remarks may not be sought by any Member, but the Member speaking when the allotted time for such business is completed has the right to be first heard when the matter is next called on.
2. On Thursday after Prayers, Private Member's Business relating to Private Member's Bills and Other Motions until 1.00 pm provided that –
  - (a) Unless otherwise ordered –
    - (i) Private Member's Bills have priority until 11.30 am;
    - (ii) Notices of Motion have priority over Orders of the Day;
  - (b) Leave to continue remarks may not be sought by any Member, but the Member speaking when the allotted time for such business is completed has the right to be first heard when the matter is next called on.
3. The following debate time limits apply –
  - Mover, 15 minutes;
  - All other Members, 10 minutes;
  - Mover in reply, 5 minutes.An extension of 15 minutes may be granted, by leave, to a Member moving the second reading of a Bill.

## **7. Direction to Leave the Chamber**

1. The Speaker may direct a disorderly Member to leave the Chamber for up to one hour. The direction shall not be open to debate or dissent, and if the Member does not leave the Chamber immediately, the Speaker may name the Member in accordance with Standing Order 138.
2. A Member who has been directed to leave the Chamber under this Sessional Order is excluded from the House and its galleries for up to one hour. However, the Member may enter the Chamber during the ringing of the bells for the purpose of forming a quorum, an absolute majority or voting in a division. Once the Speaker or Chairman of Committees has declared the presence of a quorum or the business for which an absolute majority was required has concluded or result of the division has been declared, the Member must immediately withdraw from the Chamber for the remainder of the period of exclusion.

## **8. Time Limit for Answers to Questions without Notice**

During the periods for asking Questions without Notice an answer to a question must not exceed four minutes. The Speaker has discretion to extend the time for a Minister's answer if the answer is interrupted.

### **Sessional Order adopted 9 March 2016**

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## **9. Parliamentary Secretaries to act on behalf of Ministers**

That for the remainder of the Session, Standing and Sessional Orders be so far suspended as to enable Parliamentary Secretaries to act on behalf of Ministers and reference to Ministers in the Standing and Sessional Orders shall be taken to include reference to Parliamentary Secretaries except in respect to the following standing and sessional orders.

### **Sessional Orders -**

- Extension of sitting beyond 6 pm
- Motion for Adjournment
- Time Limit for answers to Questions without Notice

### **Standing Orders -**

- 11 Inform the House when the Governor will receive the House with its new Speaker
- 13 Inform the House when the Governor will give reasons for opening of Parliament
- 34 Address in Reply, nominating mover of Address
- 49 Adjournment of the House
- 55 Extend sitting beyond 6 pm

56 Next meeting of the House  
57 Early meeting of House  
80 Arrange Government Business  
86 Referral of Petitions to Ministers  
96 Questions to Ministers  
107 Ministerial Statements  
114 Limitation on Debate  
194 Orders of the Day (Government Business)  
198 Order for Papers  
213 Messages communicated  
232, 362 Money Bills, increase tax  
255 Clauses in erased type  
265 Grievances Appropriation Bills  
267 Referral to Estimates Committees  
268 Consideration in Estimates Committee  
277 Question proposed Estimates Committee Reports  
278 Time Limits Appropriation Bills