

## STANDING ORDERS

2004

### INTERPRETATION

#### **Interpretation**

1. – (1) In these Standing Orders, unless the context otherwise requires, –

“Committee of the whole Parliament” means a committee comprising all Members present at the sitting of Parliament.

“Delivered”, in relation to a document, means the sending of a document by hand, post or electronic transmission in a manner accepted by the Clerk of Parliament.

“General assent” means the approval of all Members present.

“Signed”, with its grammatical variations, includes any symbol or procedure accepted by the Clerk of Parliament for the purpose of authenticating a document, including electronic or digital methods.

“Sitting” means a period during which Parliament is meeting continuously from its commencement till it adjourns for the day, including any period during which Parliament is in Committee.

“Session” means the sittings of Parliament commencing when it first meets after being constituted, or after its prorogation or dissolution at any time, and terminating when Parliament is prorogued or is dissolved without having been prorogued.

“Supporter” refers to a Member of Parliament.

“Writing” and expressions referring to writing include printing, facsimile, typewriting and electronic and other modes of representing or reproducing words or figures in visible form accepted by the Clerk of Parliament.

(2) Where there is a reference to a number of clear days between two events, in calculating the number of days there shall be excluded –

(a) the days on which the events happen; and

(b) any intervening Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

## SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT

### Sittings of Parliament

2. – (1) (a) Subject to the provisions of the law in regard to each session<sup>(1)</sup> and the provisions of paragraph (2) of this Standing Order and of Standing Order No. 5 [*Special sittings*], Parliament may sit only on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (not being public holidays) (hereinafter referred to as "ordinary sitting days") and every adjournment of Parliament shall be till the next such ordinary sitting day, unless Parliament, on a motion moved by a Minister<sup>(2)</sup> without notice, decides to adjourn to a later ordinary sitting day, whether specified or not:

Provided that if Parliament shall have adjourned without any day being named for its next sitting, the Speaker shall name such a day; and in that case the Clerk shall send to each Member a written notice of the day named, not later than the fifth day before the named

sitting day.

(b) In the case of a new session, the Clerk shall send to each Member a written notice directing attention to the Proclamation summoning Parliament.

(2) Parliament may, upon a motion moved by a Minister after notice, decide to sit on any Saturday, Sunday or public holiday named in such motion.

(3) (a) Every sitting, unless otherwise notified by the Speaker, shall begin at 1.30 p.m.

(b) When revising the time for the commencement of a sitting, the Speaker may also revise such other times specified in the Standing Orders as he may think fit.

(4) (a) Any sitting may by decision of Parliament, upon a motion which shall not require notice, be suspended at any time after 3.15 p.m. and when so suspended, shall be resumed at 3.45 p.m.

(b) Any sitting may be suspended at any time by the Speaker for such period as he may deem fit.

(5) (a) At 7.00 p.m., referred to in these Standing Orders as "the moment of interruption", except as hereinafter provided, the proceedings on any business then under consideration shall be interrupted; and, if Parliament be in Committee, the Chairman shall leave the Chair and the Member in charge of the business shall report progress and ask leave to sit again; and, if a motion has been made for the adjournment of Parliament or of the debate, or in Committee, that progress be reported or that the Chairman do leave the Chair, every such motion shall lapse.

(b) The business under consideration at the moment of interruption shall stand deferred to the next sitting day, unless the Member in charge of the business, upon being called by the Speaker, names a different sitting day to which that business shall be deferred.

(c) The remaining items of business shall stand over until the next sitting day, unless the Member in charge of any particular item of business shall have named to the Clerk, at any time prior to the termination of the sitting, a different sitting day on which that item of business shall again be placed upon the Order Paper.

(6) At the moment of interruption the closure may be moved, and if it is moved or if proceedings under Standing Order No. 54 [*Closure of debate*] are already in progress at that time, the Speaker or Chairman shall not interrupt the business until the question, consequent upon the moving of the closure and any further question as provided in Standing Order No. 54 [*Closure of debate*] have been decided. Immediately such questions have been decided the provisions of paragraph (5) of this Standing Order shall come into force.

(7) (a) Parliament shall not adjourn except in pursuance of a resolution, or unless these Standing Orders otherwise provide.

(b) Upon the adjournment of Parliament, unless these Standing Orders otherwise provide, any item of business not disposed of and all other items of business on the Order Paper shall stand over until the next sitting day.

(8) (a) Immediately after every item of business has been concluded or has been dealt with under the provisions of paragraph (5) of this Standing Order, a Minister shall move, "That Parliament do now adjourn".

*(b)* Upon that motion, a debate may take place in which any matter for which the Cabinet is responsible may be raised by a Member who has obtained the right to raise a matter on the motion for the adjournment that day. The Member who has obtained such a right shall be entitled to address Parliament for twenty minutes and this time shall not be extended unless no other Member expresses a desire to speak on the matter raised. If Parliament has not previously resolved to adjourn, the Speaker shall, at the expiration of half an hour after the motion has been made, adjourn Parliament without putting any question. The ruling of the Speaker as to the time taken shall be final.

*(c)* Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (5) of this Standing Order, if the motion upon which a debate under the provisions of sub-paragraph *(b)* of this paragraph takes place has been made before the moment of interruption, such motion shall not lapse and such debate shall not be interrupted at the moment of interruption.

*(d)* The right to raise a matter on the motion for the adjournment of Parliament shall be allotted to one Member only for each sitting day, if necessary by ballot, under the directions of the Speaker.

*(e)* Any Member wishing to obtain the right to raise a matter on the motion for the adjournment shall give not less than three clear days' notice thereof specifying the matter which he proposes to raise.

*(f)* Should the Member fail to obtain such right for the sitting day named in his notice, he shall, at his request and subject to the provisions relating to a ballot, be allotted that right on a succeeding sitting day, if any, within the next ten days.

(g) A Member successful in a ballot will not be eligible to ballot for the following two months.

(h) The names of Members not successful in a ballot shall, at their request, be included in any ballot held for succeeding sitting days, if any, within the next ten days.

(i) A Member may not have more than one entry in any one ballot.

### **Order Paper**

3. The Clerk shall send to each Member a copy of the Order Paper for each sitting as soon as practicable.

### **Exempted business**

4. – (1) A motion may be made, without notice, by a Minister<sup>(2)</sup>, at the commencement of public business or at any time between 6.00 p.m. and 6.30 p.m., to be decided without amendment or debate, to the effect either –

(a) that the proceedings on any specified business be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order No. 2 [*Sittings of Parliament*]; or

(b) that the proceedings on any specified business be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order No. 2 [*Sittings of Parliament*] for a specified period after the moment of interruption.

(2) If a motion made under the preceding paragraph be agreed

to, the business so specified shall not be interrupted if it is under discussion at the moment of interruption, may be entered upon at any hour, and if under discussion when the business is postponed under the provisions of any Standing Order, may be resumed and proceeded with after the moment of interruption:

Provided that business exempted for a specified period shall not be entered upon or be resumed after the expiration of that period, and, if not concluded earlier, shall be interrupted at the end of that period and the relevant provisions of paragraphs (5) and (6) of Standing Order No. 2 [*Sittings of Parliament*] shall then apply.

(3) Not more than one motion under paragraph (1) of this Standing Order may be made at any one sitting.

(4) When the business exempted is disposed of after the moment of interruption, the remaining items of business standing on the Order Paper shall be dealt with according to the provisions applicable to business taken at the moment of interruption.

### **Special sittings**

5. If, during an adjournment of Parliament, it is represented to the Speaker by the Leader of the House that the public interest requires that Parliament should sit on an earlier day than that to which Parliament was adjourned, the Speaker, if he is satisfied that the public interest does so require, may give notice accordingly and Parliament shall sit on the day and at the time stated in such notice. The business set down for that day shall be appointed by the Leader of the House and notice thereof shall be circulated by the Clerk not later than the time of the sitting. The provisions of Standing Order No. 2 [*Sittings of Parliament*] shall not apply to any sitting held under the

provisions of this Standing Order. At the conclusion of the business, unless Parliament has otherwise decided, Parliament shall stand adjourned without any question being put to the day to which Parliament had originally been adjourned at its last sitting.

### **Quorum**

6. – (1) If objection is taken in regard to a quorum as permitted by law<sup>(3)</sup>, Members shall be summoned as if for a division.

(2) If objection has been so taken in Parliament, the Speaker shall, after the expiration of two minutes, count Parliament. If a quorum is not then present, he shall adjourn Parliament without putting any question.

(3) If objection has been so taken in Committee of the whole Parliament, the Chairman shall, after the expiration of two minutes, count the Committee. If he ascertains the quorum is not present, Parliament shall stand adjourned without any question being put.

### **No adjournment or objection as to quorum when President to be present**

7. – (1) Whenever Parliament has been informed that the President will be present in Parliament on a specified date and at a given time then on that day no motion for the adjournment of Parliament shall be made before the time for which the President's arrival has been notified and no objection shall be taken by any Member that a quorum is not present.

(2) On any day when the President is or will be present in Parliament the provisions of paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 2 [*Sittings of Parliament*] shall not apply.



**Performance of functions of Speaker and presiding in Parliament or Committee of the whole Parliament**

8. – (1) The functions conferred upon the Speaker by these Standing Orders or by a resolution of Parliament shall, if there is no person holding the office of Speaker or if the Speaker is absent or is otherwise unable to perform those functions, be performed by a Deputy Speaker.

(2) When the Speaker is absent, a Deputy Speaker, as required by law<sup>(4)</sup>, shall preside at that sitting of Parliament and shall at that sitting be invested with all the powers of the Speaker.

(3) When the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers are absent, the Clerk at the Table shall make an announcement to that effect and thereupon as required by law<sup>(4)</sup> some other person shall be elected by Parliament to preside at Parliament for the sitting at which he is elected, and any person so elected shall be invested with all the powers of the Speaker when presiding at sittings of Parliament. The person shall be elected in the same manner as a Speaker, and the provisions of paragraphs (2) to (10) of Standing Order No. 12 [*Election of Speaker*] shall apply mutatis mutandis to such election.

(4) A Deputy Speaker or if no Deputy Speaker is present any other Member who is not a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary shall take the Chair temporarily when requested so to do by the Speaker without any formal communication to Parliament.

(5) Whenever Parliament resolves itself into a Committee of the whole Parliament, including the Committee of Supply, the Speaker or person presiding in Parliament shall take the Chair as Chairman of the Committee of the whole Parliament.

(6) In these Standing Orders, except where it is expressly provided otherwise, or unless the context otherwise requires, the expression "the Speaker" includes any person presiding in Parliament, and the expression "the Speaker or (the) Chairman" shall mean the Speaker or any person presiding in Parliament or the Chairman when presiding in a Committee of the whole Parliament.

## **BUSINESS OF PARLIAMENT**

### **Order Book**

9. The Clerk shall maintain an Order Book showing all business appointed and other business set down for any future day or for the next available day. The Order Book shall be made accessible to Members.

### **Order of business**

10. – (1) Unless otherwise provided for in these Standing Orders or Parliament otherwise directs, the order of business shall be as follows:-

- (a) Election of Speaker.
- (b) Formal entry of Speaker.
- (c) Oaths of Allegiance and Affirmations.
- (d) Appointment of person to exercise functions of office of President.

- (e)* President's Address.
- (f)* Messages from the President.
- (g)* Election of Deputy Speaker.
- (h)* Announcements by the Speaker.
- (i)* Tributes.
- (j)* Obituary speeches.
- (k)* Presentation of Papers.
- (l)* Petitions.
- (m)* Questions to Ministers<sup>(2)</sup> and other Members.
- (n)* Ministerial statements.
- (o)* Requests for leave to move the adjournment of Parliament on matters of urgent public importance.
- (p)* Personal explanations.
- (q)* Introduction of Government Bills.
- (r)* Business motions moved by Ministers<sup>(2)</sup>.
- (s)* Motions for leave to bring in Bills by private Members.
- (t)* Motions, with or without notice, complaining of a breach

of privilege or affecting the powers and privileges of Parliament or relating to a report of the Committee of Privileges.

(u) Public business<sup>(5)</sup>.

(2) Parliament may, upon a motion which may be made without notice and shall take precedence over all other business, decide to proceed to any particular business out of the regular order.

### **Giving of notices**

11. – (1) Where notice is required under these Standing Orders, such a notice shall be given in writing except for notice given under the provisions of Standing Order No. 76 [*Recommittal of Bill reported from a Committee of the whole Parliament*] or notice of the intention to raise a matter on the adjournment.

(2) Where a written notice is required, such a notice shall be signed by the Member, and shall be delivered to and received by the Clerk within the hours prescribed by him for that purpose.

## **ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

### **Election of Speaker**

12. – (1) The Speaker shall be elected as required and permitted by law<sup>(6)</sup> at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*].

(2) Any Member, having first ascertained that the Member or other person to be proposed is willing to serve, if elected, addressing

himself to the Clerk, may propose such Member or other person then present to Parliament as its Speaker. No debate on the proposal shall be allowed.

(3) If only one candidate is so proposed, he shall be declared by the Clerk to have been elected.

(4) If more than one candidate is so proposed, Parliament shall proceed to elect a Speaker by ballot.

(5) For the purpose of the ballot, the Clerk shall give to each Member present a ballot paper on which the Member may write the name of the candidate for whom he wishes to vote. Each ballot paper shall be folded so that the name written thereon cannot be seen.

(6) The Clerk shall thereafter call the names of Members in alphabetical order and as his name is called each Member shall come to the Table and put his ballot paper into a box or boxes provided for that purpose. The Clerk shall then count the ballot papers at the Table and shall immediately thereafter declare the result to Parliament.

(7) Where more than two candidates have been proposed and at the first ballot no candidate obtains more votes than the aggregate votes obtained by the other candidates, the candidate who has obtained the smallest number of votes shall be excluded from the election and the election shall proceed, the candidate obtaining the smallest number of votes at each ballot being excluded until one candidate obtains more votes than the remaining candidate or the aggregate votes of the remaining candidates, as the case may be.

(8) Where at any ballot among three or more candidates, two or more obtain an equal number of votes and one of them has to be excluded from the election under paragraph (7) of this Standing Order,

the determination, as between the candidates whose votes are equal, of the candidate to be excluded, shall be by lot which shall be drawn in such manner as the Clerk shall decide.

(9) Where at any ballot between two candidates the votes are equal, another ballot shall be held.

(10) As the ballot papers are counted, they shall be placed in a box and, when a candidate has been declared elected as Speaker, the box shall be sealed in the presence of Parliament and kept in the custody of the Clerk for one calendar month and then, subject to any previous direction he may receive from Parliament, the Clerk shall burn the ballot papers and certify to Parliament that this has been done.

## OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE

### Oaths of Allegiance

13. – (1) So soon as Parliament first meets after a General Election, the Clerk shall administer the Oath or affirmation required by law<sup>(7)</sup> to be taken to the Speaker, and thereafter the Oath or affirmation shall be administered to the other Members in such manner and in such order as the Speaker shall determine in accordance with the law<sup>(7)</sup>.

(2) At any other time Members shall present themselves before Parliament, at the time appointed under the provisions of Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*] and the Oath or affirmation shall be administered to them in such manner and in such order as the Speaker shall determine in accordance with the law<sup>(7)</sup>.

(3) Every Member shall immediately after having taken the Oath or made the affirmation sign the form provided for that purpose

by the Clerk.

## **APPOINTMENT OF PERSON TO EXERCISE FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENT**

### **Appointment of person to exercise functions of office of President**

**14.** The appointment of a person to exercise the functions of the office of President as provided by law<sup>(8)</sup> shall be upon a motion moved at the time appointed under the provisions of Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*].

## **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

### **President's Address**

**15.** – (1) At the conclusion of the President's speech delivered at the opening of any session, Parliament shall stand adjourned without any question being put. The Leader of the House shall give two clear days' notice naming an ordinary sitting day, not less than two clear days after the day on which the speech was delivered, for the next sitting of Parliament, and Parliament shall sit on the day stated in such notice.

(2) Such notice shall also give notice for such sitting day, of a motion to be moved by a Minister or other Member named by the Leader of the House that an Address expressing the thanks of Parliament for the speech of the President be agreed to. Debate thereon shall be confined to the policy of the Government as outlined in the speech.

(3) The ordinary sitting day named by the Leader of the House under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order

together with the next four sitting days shall be allotted for the debate, and on such allotted days the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (5) of Standing Order No. 91 [*Business of Supply*] shall apply mutatis mutandis.

(4) Ninety minutes before the end of the time permitted on the last allotted day, the Speaker shall, if the debate shall not previously have been concluded, call upon Ministers who so desire and who have not already done so, to speak and finally call upon the mover of the motion for the Address of Thanks, to reply.

(5) If the end of the time permitted on the last allotted day is reached before the debate has been concluded, the Speaker shall forthwith put any questions necessary to bring the proceedings to a conclusion.

## **MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **Messages from the President**

**16.** – (1) The Speaker shall at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*] read to Parliament any message from the President delivered to him and addressed to Parliament.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*], a message from the President, if presented to Parliament by a Minister<sup>(2)</sup>, may be brought up at any time before the commencement or at the close of public business, and shall be considered forthwith or be ordered to be considered upon such future sitting day as that Minister shall appoint.

## **ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER**



## **Election of Deputy Speaker**

17. – (1) The Deputy Speakers shall be elected as required by law<sup>(9)</sup> at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*].

(2) The procedure for the election of a Deputy Speaker shall be, as nearly as may be, the same as that for the election of a Speaker under the provisions of Standing Order No. 12 [*Election of Speaker*], save that the Speaker shall conduct the election, declare the result thereof and decide on the manner in which the lot shall be drawn in the determination as between candidates whose votes are equal of the candidate to be excluded from the election under paragraph (8) of Standing Order No. 12 aforesaid.

## **PETITIONS**

### **Petitions**

18. – (1) A Petition may only be presented to Parliament at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*] 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 the Petition.

(3) Petitions shall be ordered to lie upon the Table without question put. Every such Petition shall stand referred to the Public Petitions Committee, unless it is a Petition against a private or hybrid Bill, in which case it shall stand referred to the Select Committee on

the Bill.

(4) No Member may present to Parliament a Petition of which he is one of the signatories.

(5) No Petition shall be presented to Parliament, unless it has been endorsed by the Clerk as being in accordance with the provisions of the following rules:

- (a) Every Petition offered to be presented to Parliament shall begin with the words "To the Honourable the Members of Parliament, Singapore, in meeting assembled;" or with words equivalent thereto.
- (b) Every Petition shall contain a prayer at the end thereof setting forth the general object of the Petition or the nature of the relief asked for.
- (c) Every Petition shall be original and printed or typewritten on paper.
- (d) Every Petition shall be signed by at least one person on the sheet or sheets on which the Petition is written. Every Petition shall be signed on the last sheet. One or more of the persons signing on the last sheet shall also sign at the bottom of every other sheet on which the Petition is written, the signature or signatures on each such sheet being the same.
- (e) Every signature shall be handwritten upon the sheets bearing, or attached to, the Petition itself, and not pasted upon, photocopied, scanned or otherwise attached or transferred thereto.

- (f) If signatures are affixed to more than one sheet, the prayer of the Petition shall be repeated at the head of one side of each sheet; but on every sheet after the first, the prayer may be reproduced in print or by other mechanical process. Signatures upon sheets not so headed will not be counted, but signatures may be written on either side of any sheet, including that on which the Petition itself is written.
- (g) Every Petition shall be written in the English language.
- (h) Every Petition shall be signed by the parties whose names are appended thereto by their names or by their marks which are duly authenticated, and by no one else.
- (i) The Petition of a corporation shall be under its common seal, which shall be duly authenticated.
- (j) The address of every person signing a Petition or making his mark thereon shall follow his signature or mark, failing which the signature or mark will not be counted; nor will signatures which appear to be in the same handwriting.
- (k) No letters, affidavits, or other documents, may be attached to any Petition.
- (l) No erasures or interlineations may be made in any Petition.
- (m) Every Petition shall be respectful, decorous, and temperate in its language.

- (n) No reference may be made to any debate in Parliament or to any intended motion unless notice of such motion stands upon the Order Paper.

## **QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS AND OTHER MEMBERS**

### **Questions to Ministers and other Members**

**19.** – (1) Questions may be put to Ministers<sup>(2)</sup> relating to –

(a) affairs within their official functions; or

(b) Bills, motions or other public matters connected with the business of Parliament for which such Ministers are responsible.

(2) Questions may also be put to other Members, relating to a Bill, motion or other public matter connected with the business of Parliament for which such Members are responsible.

### **Notices of questions**

**20.** – (1) A question shall not be asked without notice, unless the Speaker is of opinion that it is of an urgent character, and relates either to a matter of public importance or to the arrangement of public business and the Member has obtained the permission of the Speaker to ask it.

(2) Notice of every question shall be given by a Member in writing not later than seven clear days before the sitting day on which the answer is required.

(3) A Member may have up to five questions on the Order Paper at any one time and not more than three of these questions shall be for oral answer. A Member requiring an oral answer to his question shall mark it with an asterisk.

(4) Notice of any question may be given by a Member in writing in the manner prescribed by paragraph (2) of this Standing Order for the next available day, in which event the question shall be put down for an answer on such sitting day next following the date on which the question has been handed in, which is not less than seven clear days after such date and on which Parliament sits.

(5) A Member who has given notice of a question for oral answer may request that it be converted to a question for written answer. Notice of such a request shall be given by the Member in writing on any working day before the sitting day on which the answer is required.

(6) A Member who has given notice of a question for written answer may request that it be converted to a question for oral answer. Notice of such a request shall be given by the Member in writing not less than seven clear days before the sitting day on which the answer is required.

#### **Contents of questions**

21. – (1) Every question shall conform to the following rules

(a) a question shall not contain more than one issue and shall be concise;

(b) a question shall not include the names of persons or

statements not strictly necessary to render the question intelligible;

- (c) a question shall not contain statements which the Member who asks the question is not prepared to substantiate;
- (d) a question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets or tendentious, ironical or offensive expressions;
- (e) a question shall not refer to debates or answers to questions in the current session;
- (f) a question shall not refer to proceedings in a Committee of Parliament which have not been reported to Parliament;
- (g) a question shall not seek information about any matter which is of its nature secret;
- (h) a question shall not reflect on the decision of a court of law and no question shall be asked on any matter which is sub judice;
- (i) a question shall 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;
- (j) a question shall not be asked as to whether statements in the Press or of private individuals or bodies of

persons are accurate;

- (k) a question shall not be asked as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity;
- (l) a question shall not be asked reflecting on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion;
- (m) a question shall not be asked making or implying a charge of a personal character;
- (n) a question shall not be asked seeking for information set forth in accessible documents or ordinary works of reference;
- (o) a question fully answered shall not be asked again during the same session.

(2) If the Speaker is of opinion that any question of which a Member has given notice to the Clerk or which a Member has sought leave to ask without notice is an abuse of the right of questioning or infringes any of the provisions of this or any other Standing Order, he may direct –

- (a) that it be printed or asked with such alterations as he may direct; or
- (b) that the Member concerned be informed that the question is inadmissible for reasons stated.

### **Manner of asking and answering questions**

22. – (1) Questions for oral answer shall be raised at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*] (hereinafter referred to as "Question Time") and may continue for up to one and a half hours from the commencement of a sitting.

(2) When a question for oral answer is reached on the Order Paper, the Speaker shall call upon the Member in whose name the question stands. The Member so called shall then rise in his place and ask the question by reference to its number on the Order Paper.

(3) If a Member asking a question for an oral answer fails to rise and ask his question, then any other Member may make the question his own and may rise in his place and ask the question in the manner prescribed above; but if no other Member so rises, or if a question is not fully answered or not reached by the end of Question Time, the Minister or other Member to whom the question is addressed shall send copies of the answer to the Member who asked it and to the Clerk, who shall cause that answer to be circulated to Members and to be printed in the Official Report:

Provided that at any time prior to the termination of the sitting, the Member who asked the question standing in his name may signify in writing to the Clerk his desire to postpone the question to a later sitting day or may withdraw it.

(4) If a Minister, Parliamentary Secretary or other Member, who is to answer a question, is absent, the question shall, if he then be present, be taken after all other questions appearing on the Order Paper have been disposed of. If the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary or other Member then be not present, he shall send copies of the



answers to the Members who asked them and to the Clerk, who shall cause the answers to be circulated to Members and to be printed in the Official Report.

(5) Supplementary questions may be put for the purpose of elucidating an oral answer, but the Speaker may refuse any such question which in his opinion introduces matter not related to the original question or which infringes any of the provisions of Standing Order No. 21 [*Contents of questions*].

(6) A question shall not be made the pretext for a debate.

(7) If an oral answer to a question is not required the Minister or other Member to whom it is addressed shall send copies of the answer to the Member who asked it and to the Clerk, who shall cause such answer to be circulated to Members and to be printed in the Official Report.

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Ministerial Statements**

**23.** A statement may be made by a Minister in Parliament on a matter of public importance. Members may seek clarification on the statement but no debate shall be allowed thereon.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF PARLIAMENT ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

### **Adjournment on a definite matter of urgent public importance**

**24.** – (1) A Member may rise in his place at the time appointed under the provisions of Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of*

*business*] and ask leave to move the adjournment of Parliament for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.

(2) A Member who wishes so to ask leave to move the adjournment of Parliament shall, before the commencement of the sitting, hand to the Speaker a written notification of the matter which he wishes to discuss. Before allowing leave to be asked, the Speaker shall satisfy himself that the matter to be raised is definite and such as may properly be raised on a motion for the adjournment of Parliament.

(3) If the Speaker is so satisfied, and either the Member obtains the general assent of Parliament, or if general assent is not obtained, at least eight Members rise in their places to support the motion, the motion shall stand adjourned until 5.30 p.m. on the same day, and at that hour any proceedings on which Parliament 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 dealt with in accordance with the next paragraph of this Standing Order.

(4) Any proceedings which have been postponed under this Standing Order shall be exempted from the provisions of paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 2 [*Sittings of Parliament*] for a period of time equal to the duration of the proceedings on the motion made under this Standing Order, and may be resumed and proceeded with at or after the moment of interruption.

(5) Not more than one motion for the adjournment of Parliament under the provisions of this Standing Order may be made at any one sitting.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

### Personal explanations

25. With the leave of the Speaker, a Member may make a personal explanation at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*] although there is no question before the House; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the explanation. The terms of the proposed statement shall be submitted in full to the Speaker when his leave to make it is sought.

## PUBLIC BUSINESS

### Public business – Arrangement of

26. – (1) Any Bill or other matter which Parliament has ordered to be taken into consideration on a particular day shall be known as an order of the day. After a day has been so appointed, an earlier day shall not be substituted therefor. The Member in charge, however, may, either –

- (a) before an order of the day is read, give notice in writing to the Clerk postponing the order to a later sitting day and the Bill or other matter shall thereupon become an order of the day for that day; or
- (b) upon an order of the day being read, name a later sitting day, and the Bill or other matter shall thereupon become an order of the day for that day.

(2) On every sitting day Government business shall have precedence over Private Members' business.

(3) Government business shall be set down in such order as the Cabinet think fit and communicate to the Clerk.

(4) Private Members' business shall be set down in the following order –

(a) Adjourned debates, in the order in which they were appointed under these Standing Orders.

(b) Bills and other orders of the day, in the order in which they were appointed under these Standing Orders.

(c) Notices of motions, in the order firstly in which they were appointed under the Standing Orders and secondly in the order in which notice of each motion appeared in the Order Book.

### **Adjournment of proceedings**

27. – (1) At any time before the conclusion of the consideration of any item of business any Member may move "That the debate be now adjourned" or in Committee "That progress be reported and leave be asked to sit again", and if such motion is agreed to the debate shall be adjourned or Parliament shall resume, as the case may be. The Speaker shall call upon the Member in charge of that item of business to name a later time or a later sitting day for its resumption. In the case of an order of the day, if no time or day has been named the order shall be removed from the Order Book, shall be known as a "dropped order" and shall not be replaced in the Order Book except upon a motion which may be made after two clear days' notice before the commencement of public business and shall be decided without amendment or debate. Upon the motion being agreed, the order shall be replaced in the Order Book for consideration

on such future sitting day as the Member in charge shall name. In the case of a notice of motion, if no time or day has been named a new notice shall be required to bring that motion again before Parliament and the provisions of Standing Order No. 34 [*Manner of giving notices of motions*] shall apply to any such new notice.

(2) Debate under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order shall be confined to the matter of such motion; and a Member who has made such a motion shall not be entitled to move any similar motion during the same debate.

(3) If the Speaker or the Chairman shall be of the opinion that a motion made under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order is an abuse of the rules of Parliament, he may forthwith put the question thereupon from the Chair or he may decline to propose a question thereupon to Parliament or to the Committee.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF PARLIAMENT**

### **Adjournment of Parliament**

**28.** No motion for the adjournment of Parliament shall be made at any sitting before the conclusion of questions, and thereafter, no such motion shall be made except by a Minister, unless a Member rises and obtains leave to move the adjournment in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 24 [*Adjournment on a definite matter of urgent public importance*].

## OFFICIAL REPORTS

### Official Reports

29. – (1) An official report of all speeches made in the Chamber and debates on a Bill in Select Committee which shall be as nearly as possible verbatim, shall be prepared in such form as the Speaker may direct.

(2) A first copy of the report shall be sent to each Member as soon as practicable after the conclusion of each sitting. This first copy of the report shall be exclusively for the use of Members in relation to the business of Parliament conducted in the Chamber or in the Select Committee as the case may be, and subject thereto, shall not be for publication.

(3) If no Member in writing addressed to the Chief Reporter and Editor seeks to make any change in the report within seventy-two hours from the time when the first copy of the report was despatched to each Member, the report shall be published without correction.

(4) Any dispute as to the correctness of the report of any speech contained in the first copy of the report and any request for any material change in the report shall be referred to the Speaker who shall rule thereon and shall direct publication of the speech in accordance with his ruling which shall not be called in question.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

### Votes and Proceedings

30. – (1) The Clerk shall keep the minutes of the proceedings

of Parliament and of Committees of the whole Parliament, and shall circulate a copy of such minutes, to be known as the Votes and Proceedings, on the day following each sitting of Parliament or as soon after as practicable.

(2) Votes and Proceedings shall record the names of Members attending and all Orders and Resolutions of Parliament, and shall be signed by the Speaker.

(3) In the case of divisions of Parliament or Committee of the whole Parliament, the Votes and Proceedings shall include the numbers voting for and against the question, the names of Members so voting and the names of the Members present who abstained from voting.

## PARLIAMENT PAPERS

### Presentation of Papers

**31.** – (1) A copy of every Paper which the Speaker or a Minister<sup>(2)</sup> desires to present to Parliament or which a Chairman or other Member deputed by a Select or other Committee of Parliament is required to present to Parliament or which is required by law to be presented to or laid before Parliament shall be sent to the Clerk. Every Paper a copy of which is so received by the Clerk shall be considered to have been presented to Parliament and ordered to lie

upon the Table and, unless otherwise ordered, to be printed and published.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order, a Paper may be presented by a Minister<sup>(2)</sup> to Parliament at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of*

*business*] by delivering a copy thereof to the Clerk at the Table, and in so presenting the Paper the Minister may, if he so desires, make a brief statement explanatory of its contents. A Paper so presented shall be considered to have been ordered to lie upon the Table and, unless otherwise ordered, to be printed.

(3) If it is desired to withdraw a Paper which has been presented, a request in writing signed by the Member or other person by whom the Paper was presented shall be sent to the Clerk and thereupon the order that the Paper do lie upon the Table shall be considered to have been discharged and the Paper withdrawn.

(4) Every Paper presented to Parliament or withdrawn shall be recorded as so presented or withdrawn, with the date of such presentation or withdrawal, in the Votes and Proceedings of the day on which it is presented or withdrawn or, if Parliament is not then sitting, of the next sitting day following its presentation or withdrawal on which Parliament sits.

#### **Custody of documents**

**32.** The Clerk shall be responsible for the custody of the Votes and Proceedings, records, Bills and other documents presented to or laid before Parliament which shall be open to inspection by Members of Parliament under such arrangements as may be sanctioned by the Speaker.

### **MOTIONS**

#### **Notices of motions**



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

- (a) A motion by way of amendment to a question already proposed from the Chair.
- (b) A motion in Committee.
- (c) A motion for the adjournment of Parliament.
- (d) A motion for the adjournment of a debate or that progress be reported and leave be asked to sit again, or that the Chairman do leave the Chair.
- (e) A motion for the suspension of a Member.
- (f) A motion arising out of any item of business made immediately after that item is disposed of and before the next item is entered upon.

**Manner of giving notices of motions**

**34.** — (1) Except where it is otherwise provided by law<sup>(10)</sup>, a notice of any motion to be moved in Parliament shall be signed by the Member intending to move the motion and, in the case of a private Member's motion, a supporter or supporters not exceeding five in number may signify his or their support in writing.

(2) Except where it is otherwise provided in any Standing Order, not less than seven clear days' notice of any motion shall be given unless it is in the name of a Minister, in which case two clear days' notice shall be sufficient. Notwithstanding anything contained

in these Standing Orders, if it is represented to the Speaker by the Leader of the House that the public interest requires that a motion should be debated as soon as possible, and if the Speaker is satisfied that the public interest so requires, one clear day's notice of such motion shall be sufficient.

(3) Such notices shall if possible be made available to Members not later than the day before the sitting for which they have been put down and the day upon which each notice is received shall be indicated.

(4) Any such notice shall be submitted to the Speaker who shall direct –

(a) that it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in;  
or

(b) that it be printed with such alterations as he may direct; or

(c) that it be returned to the Member who signed it, as being in his opinion inadmissible for reasons stated.

(5) Motions or amendments sent to the Clerk shall be printed and circulated by him, even if they are matters of which notice is not required.

#### **Dispensing with notice**

**35.** Notice shall not be dispensed with in respect of any proceeding for which notice is required except with the consent of the Speaker and the general assent of Members present.

### **Alteration of terms of motion and postponement and withdrawal of motion**

**36.** – (1) If a Member who intended to move a motion of which he has given notice desires to alter its terms, he may do so by giving to the Clerk an amended notice of motion, duly signed as required by the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 34 [*Manner of giving notices of motions*], provided that such alteration does not, in the opinion of the Speaker, materially alter any principle embodied in the original motion or the scope thereof. The amended notice shall run from the time at which the original notice was given.

(2) A Member who intended to move a motion of which he has given notice may, in respect of such motion, either –

- (a) before the notice is read, give notice in writing to the Clerk postponing the motion to a later sitting day and the motion shall thereupon be set down for that day; or
- (b) upon the notice being read, name a later sitting day and the motion shall be placed on the Order Paper for that day.

(3) A Member, who intended to move a motion of which he has given notice, may, before the notice is read, give notice to the Clerk withdrawing the motion.

### **Amendments to motions**

**37.** – (1) Unless Standing Orders otherwise provide, when any motion is under consideration in Parliament or in a Committee thereof, an amendment may be proposed to the motion if it is relevant

thereto.

(2) An amendment may be proposed to any such amendment if it is relevant thereto.

### **Moving of motions and amendments**

**38.** – (1) No private Member's motion shall be proceeded with unless, upon the notice of such motion being read, support thereof or in principle shall be signified to Parliament by at least one Member then present in the Chamber or unless the notice of such motion has been supported in the manner prescribed by the provisions of paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 34 [*Manner of giving notices of motions*].

(2) If a private Member does not move a motion or amendment which stands in his name when he is called upon, it shall lapse, unless some other Member duly authorised by him in writing or who has supported the notice of motion or amendment in writing shall move in his stead.

(3) Any motion or amendment which stands in the name of a Minister may be moved by any other Minister or by any Parliamentary Secretary and any motion or amendment which stands in the name of a Parliamentary Secretary may be moved by any Minister or by any other Parliamentary Secretary.

(4) An order of the day may be moved by any Member, unless the Member in charge of that order names a later sitting day for its consideration in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 26 [*Public business – Arrangement of*].

### **No seconder required**

39. No seconder shall be required for any motion, amendment or order of the day in Parliament or in Committee.

**Amendments to motions and to amendments to be put in writing**

40. Any amendment to a motion or to an amendment upon which the question has been proposed in Parliament or in a Committee of Parliament shall, if so required by the Speaker or Chairman, be put into writing by the mover and delivered to the Clerk or Chairman in a Select Committee.

**Manner of debating motions**

41. – (1) When a motion has been moved, the Speaker or Chairman shall propose the question thereon to Parliament or Committee in the same terms as the motion; debate may then take place upon that question and may continue so long as any Member wishes to speak who is entitled to do so.

(2) When no more Members wish to speak, the Speaker or Chairman shall put the question to Parliament or Committee in the same terms as the motion.

(3) Debate upon a motion other than a motion for the adjournment of Parliament shall be relevant to such motion.

**Manner of debating amendments to motions**

42. – (1) Any amendment to a motion which a Member wishes to propose may be moved at any time after the question upon the motion has been proposed by the Speaker or Chairman, and before it has been put by the Speaker or Chairman at the conclusion of the

debate upon the motion. When every such amendment has been disposed of, the Speaker or Chairman shall either again propose the question upon the motion or shall propose the question upon the motion as amended, as the case may require, and after any further debate which may arise thereon, shall put the question to Parliament or Committee for its decision:

Provided always that, with the assent of the majority of Members present, debate on the motion and on any amendment (including an amendment to an amendment) proposed thereto may be proceeded with or continued simultaneously, and such debate shall thereafter proceed or continue and be subject to the provisions of Standing Orders as though the debate were a debate on a single question, and at the conclusion thereof, the Speaker or Chairman shall forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the amendments which may have been moved, and of the motion itself, as amended, as the case may require.

(2) Debate upon an amendment to a motion shall be relevant to such amendment.

(3) (a) Upon any amendment to leave out any of the words of the motion, the question to be proposed shall be "That the words proposed to be left out be left out of the question". Debate shall be confined to the omission of such words.

(b) Upon any amendment to insert words in, or add words at the end of, a motion, the question to be proposed shall be "That those words be there inserted (or added)". Debate shall be confined to the insertion or addition of such words.

(c) Upon any amendment to leave out any of the words of the motion and insert or add other words instead, a question shall first

be proposed "That the words proposed to be left out be left out of the question", and if that question is agreed to, the question shall then be proposed "That those words be there inserted (or added)". If the first question is disagreed to, no further amendment may be proposed to the words which Parliament or Committee has so decided shall not be left out. Debate upon the question "That the words proposed to be left out be left out of the question" may include both the words proposed to be left out and those proposed to be inserted or added.

(4) If the Speaker or Chairman, before putting a question to leave out certain words, is informed that a Member wishes to move an amendment to leave out part only of those words and if he is of opinion that the proposed amendment of which he is so informed is substantially a new amendment, he shall, if possible, put the question to leave out only so much of the original amendment as is unaffected by the second amendment; but if that question is agreed to, the whole of the words proposed in the original amendment to be left out shall be deemed to have been ordered to be left out.

(5) When two or more amendments are proposed to be moved to the same motion, the Speaker or Chairman shall call upon the movers in the order in which their amendments relate to the text of the motion, or in cases of doubt in such order as the Chair shall decide; provided that no amendment may be moved which relates to any words which Parliament or Committee has decided shall not be left out of the motion.

(6) (a) Any amendment to an amendment which a Member wishes to propose may be moved at any time after the question upon the original amendment has been proposed, and before it has been put at the conclusion of the debate on the original amendment.

(b) The provisions of paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of this

Standing Order shall apply to the discussion of amendments to amendments, with the substitution of the words "original amendment" for the word "motion" throughout.

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

### **Withdrawal of motions and amendments**

43. – (1) If the question has been proposed on a motion or an amendment, the motion or amendment may be withdrawn, at the request of the mover, by leave of the majority in Parliament or Committee, before the question is fully put thereon. A motion or an amendment so withdrawn may be proposed again provided that notice as and if required by these Standing Orders is given.

(2) If the question has been proposed on an amendment to a motion or to another amendment, the original motion or amendment may not be withdrawn until the amendment thereto has been disposed of.

(3) If an interval of three calendar months has lapsed after notice of a motion has been given without the motion being proceeded with, the notice shall be deemed to have lapsed unless Parliament otherwise orders.

### **Debate on a specific matter**

44. – (1) Except for matters considered under procedure on



Bills or financial procedure, whenever it is desired that any matter be debated on which it is not intended to formulate a motion in express terms, a Minister may move, without notice, "That [subject matter] be considered by Parliament". No amendment shall be allowed on the motion.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 54 [*Closure of debate*], the motion shall not be put to a vote. Unless the motion is earlier withdrawn or the question on the closure of debate on the motion is decided in the affirmative, the debate shall continue until its conclusion when the motion shall lapse.

#### **Motions not open to debate**

**45.** Motions on the following matters are not open to debate and immediately after its proposal, the question for such motions shall be put forthwith from the Chair:

- (a) Exempted business [Standing Order Nos 4(1) and 91(2)];
- (b) Replacement of a dropped order [SO 27(1)];
- (c) Closure of debate [SO 54(1) and (2)];
- (d) Suspension of a Member [SO 59(1)];
- (e) Committal of a Bill to Select Committee [SO 71(1)];
- (f) Withdrawal of a Bill [SO 84(4)];
- (g) Supply resolutions [SO 92(8), (10) to (13)];
- (h) Third Reading of the Supply Bill [SO 93(3)]; and
- (i) Withdrawal and re-admittance of strangers [SO 109(2) and (3)].

### **Appointment of Committee of the whole Parliament**

46. – (1) Whenever in any matter, other than matters considered under procedure on Bills, or financial procedure, a Member desires that the matter be considered in a Committee of the whole Parliament, he may move, without notice, that Parliament shall immediately or on a future sitting day resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Parliament to consider the matter.

(2) In Committee, any Member may move a motion or motions relevant to the matter referred to the Committee.

(3) When the question upon a motion has been proposed from the Chair, unless progress be reported, it shall be agreed to either with or without amendment, negatived or withdrawn.

(4) When a resolution has or resolutions have been agreed to, the Chairman shall say "Resolution(s) to be reported" and shall leave the Chair without question put.

(5) Upon Parliament resuming, the Member in charge shall report "That the Committee have come to a certain resolution(s)". Parliament shall thereupon forthwith, or upon a future sitting day to be named by the Member in charge, proceed to the consideration of the resolution.

(6) Upon consideration of the resolution, the Clerk shall read the resolution and thereupon amendments or a motion for the recommittal of the resolution or for the postponement of consideration of the resolution may be moved.

(7) At the conclusion of the consideration of the resolution, the Member in charge shall move "That Parliament doth agree with the Committee on the said resolution (as amended)", and debate on the question thereon shall be confined to the general merits of the resolution.

## **RULES OF DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT**

### **Languages**

47. A Member may speak in English, Malay, Mandarin or Tamil as permitted by law <sup>(11)</sup>.

### **Time and manner of speaking and time limit for speeches**

48. – (1) A Member desiring to speak shall speak only from the rostrum or if he is a front bencher and he so desires, at the Table. He shall rise in his place and if called upon shall address his observations to the Chair. No Member shall speak unless called upon by the Speaker or Chairman. The Speaker or Chairman may require a Member to state in which language he desires to speak in which event the Member after stating his desire shall not speak further unless called upon again by the Speaker or Chairman.

(2) If two or more Members rise at the same time, the Speaker or Chairman shall call upon the Member who first catches his eye.

(3) No Member shall speak more than once to any question except –

(a) in Committee; or

(b) in clarification as prescribed in paragraph (4) of this Standing Order; or

(c) in the case of the mover of a substantive motion, or an order of the day, only in reply.

(4) A Member who has spoken to a question may again be heard to offer a clarification of his speech which has been misunderstood or to seek a clarification on some part of another Member's speech; but he shall not introduce any new matter.

(5) Except as prescribed in paragraph (1) of Standing Order No.42 [*Manner of debating amendments to motions*], a Member who has spoken may speak again when a new question has been proposed

by the Speaker such as a proposed amendment or a motion for the adjournment of the debate.

(6) No Member may speak to any question after the same has been fully put by the Speaker or Chairman. A question is fully put, when the Speaker or Chairman has collected the voices both of the "Ayes" and of the "Noes".

(7) A Member, having commenced to speak in one language, shall continue to speak in that language throughout his speech, but passages quoted may be read out in the original language in which they are published:

Provided that a Minister or Member in charge of a matter may use any or all of the four languages in reply to matters raised in a

debate.

(8) (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph and unless Standing Orders otherwise provide, no Member shall be entitled to speak to any question in Parliament for more than thirty minutes, or to address a Committee of the whole Parliament for more than fifteen minutes at any one time, except that a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary shall be entitled to speak for up to one hour to any question in Parliament.

(b) The mover of an original motion shall be entitled to not more than one hour for his opening speech and another hour for his reply, but Parliament or a Committee of the whole Parliament may at any time by motion made, without notice and decided without amendment or debate, extend this time by fifteen minutes.

(c) The ruling of the Speaker as to time taken shall be final.

#### **Oral translation of speeches**

**49.** – (1) In the event of there being, in the opinion of the Speaker or Chairman, inadequate or unsatisfactory facilities for simultaneous oral translation, the Speaker or Chairman may require, as a condition of his being called under the provisions of paragraph (1) or (2) of Standing Order No. 48 [*Time and manner of speaking and time limit for speeches*], that –

(a) a Member who desires to speak in Malay, Mandarin or Tamil shall provide an English translation of a prepared speech and hand it to the interpreter prior to

delivery of his speech; or

- b) a Member who desires to speak in Malay, Mandarin or Tamil shall hand to the interpreter a copy of his speech from which the interpreter can deliver a prepared English translation or an English translation at sight; or
- (c) a Member who intends to deliver a speech of importance shall prepare a summary of his speech and hand copies of the summary to the interpreters for translation into all the other three languages after he has completed his speech; or
- (d) a Member shall speak in a language in which, in the opinion of the Speaker or Chairman, he is proficient.

(2) The Speaker or Chairman may grant time to a Member to comply with any requirement of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order, in which event the Speaker or Chairman may suspend the debate on the matter before Parliament until a specified time, but not later than the next ordinary sitting day. If the debate be suspended to the next ordinary sitting day, then, notwithstanding any order that Parliament shall at its rising adjourn to a later day, Parliament shall sit on the next ordinary sitting day in continuation of the debate and shall, without any question being put, adjourn to that later day upon the termination of the debate or at the termination of the sitting in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 2 [*Sittings of Parliament*], whichever shall first occur.

(3) If a Member claims that his speech or any part thereof has been misinterpreted, he may again be heard, after the completion of his speech and after any other Member speaking has resumed his seat,

to explain the manner in which he claims that his speech or any part thereof has been misinterpreted and in doing so he shall speak in the same language in which he delivered his speech, shall confine his remarks to that part of his speech which he claims has been misinterpreted and shall not introduce any new matter. No other Member shall question the claim nor shall same be discussed.

### **Contents of speeches**

**50.** – (1) A Member shall confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.

(2) Reference shall not be made to any matter which is sub judice, except by means of or in the course of consideration of a Bill when reference may be made but only in such a way as will not in the opinion of the Speaker or Chairman prejudice the interests of parties thereto.

(3) It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which Parliament has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for rescission.

(4) It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of Parliament.

(5) A Member, other than a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary, shall be referred to by the Constituency he represents or the name he was returned to Parliament. Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries shall be referred to by the designation of the offices held by them.

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

(7) The President's name shall not be used to influence Parliament.

(8) The conduct of the President shall not be referred to except as permitted by law<sup>(10)</sup>.

(9) The conduct of a Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be discussed except as permitted by law<sup>(12)</sup>.

(10) No reference shall be made to the conduct or character of any Member or of any public servant, other than his conduct in his capacity as a Member or as a public servant.

(11) The proceedings and report of a Select Committee or Committee of Parliament shall not be referred to before they have been presented to Parliament.

### **Interruptions**

**51.** No Member shall interrupt another Member except by rising –

(a) to a point of order, when the Member speaking shall resume his seat and the Member interrupting shall simply direct attention to the point which he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the Speaker or Chairman for decision; or

(b) to a point of clarification, to clarify some matter raised by that Member in the course of his speech, provided that



the Member speaking is willing to give way and resumes his seat and that the Member wishing to interrupt is called by the Speaker or Chairman.

### **Seating and behaviour of Members**

**52.** During a sitting –

- (a) Members shall occupy seats allocated to them by the Speaker. The Speaker may change the allocation from time to time and the allocation of seats for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries on the Government benches shall be on the advice of the Leader of the House.
- (b) All Members shall enter or leave Parliament with decorum.
- (c) No Member shall cross the floor of the Chamber unnecessarily.
- (d) Members shall not read newspapers, books, letters or other documents except such matters therein as may be directly connected with the business under debate.
- (e) While a Member is speaking all other Members shall be silent and shall not make interruptions except as permitted under the provisions of Standing Order No. 51 [*Interruptions*], and no Member shall pass between the Member speaking and the Chair.

### **Anticipation**

**53.** – (1) When Parliament has ordered a Bill or any other matter to be considered upon a certain day, it shall be out of order for a Member –

- (a) on an earlier day to move a motion or an amendment dealing with the subject matter of the Bill or that other order of the day;
- (b) to discuss the subject matter of the Bill or that other order of the day on a motion for the adjournment of Parliament, whether moved under Standing Order No. 24 [*Adjournment on a definite matter of urgent public importance*] or not, or on any other question before Parliament.

(2) When notice of a motion has been given, it shall be out of order to raise the subject matter of that motion in the form of an amendment to another motion or to discuss the subject matter to which the motion relates on a motion for the adjournment of Parliament.

(3) In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the grounds of anticipation, regard shall be had by the Speaker or Chairman to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before Parliament within a reasonable time.

#### **Closure of debate**

**54.** – (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 appears to the Speaker or Chairman that such motion is an abuse of the rules of Parliament, 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 Member may claim that any other question already proposed by the Speaker or Chairman be now put and if the assent of the Speaker or Chairman is given such questions shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 8 [*Performance of functions of Speaker and presiding in Parliament or Committee of the whole Parliament*] this Standing Order shall be put in force only when the Speaker or a Deputy Speaker is in the Chair.

(4) A question for the closure of debate shall not be considered to have been decided in the affirmative upon a division notwithstanding that the "Ayes" have it unless it appears by the numbers declared by the Speaker or a Deputy Speaker that not less than twenty-five Members voted in the majority in support of the motion.

## **RULES OF ORDER IN PARLIAMENT**

### **Chair to be heard in silence**

**55.** Whenever the Speaker or the Chairman rises to speak no Member shall enter or leave the Chamber and any Member then standing, speaking, or offering to speak, shall sit down, and Parliament or Committee shall be silent so that the Speaker or the Chairman may be heard without interruption.

### **Decision of Chair final**

**56.** The Speaker in Parliament or the Chairman in Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in Parliament and Committee respectively and his decision on any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by Parliament except upon a substantive motion moved for that purpose. Notwithstanding anything in Standing Order No. 34 [*Manner of giving notices of motions*] such a motion shall not require more than two clear days' notice.

### **Irrelevance or repetition**

**57.** The Speaker or the Chairman, after having drawn attention 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.

### **Disorderly conduct**

**58.** The Speaker or the Chairman shall order any Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from Parliament during the remainder of that day's sitting; and the Serjeant at Arms shall act on such orders as he may receive from the Speaker or the Chairman in pursuance of this Standing Order. But if, on any occasion, the Speaker or the Chairman deems that his powers under the previous provisions of this Standing Order are inadequate, he may name such Member or Members in which event the same procedure shall be followed as is prescribed by Standing Order No. 59 [*Suspension of Members*].

## **Suspension of Members**

59. – (1) Whenever a Member has been named by the Speaker 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 Parliament by abusing the rules of Parliament, or otherwise, then, if the offence has been committed by such Member in Parliament a motion shall forthwith be proposed by a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary present "That Mr. .... be suspended from the service of Parliament", and the Speaker shall forthwith put the question on that motion, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed; and, if the offence has been committed in Committee of the whole Parliament, the Chairman shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee and report the circumstances to Parliament; and the Speaker shall on a motion being made as aforesaid forthwith put the same question, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, as if the offence had been committed in Parliament itself.

(2) 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.

(3) If a Member is suspended under the provisions of this Standing Order, he shall be directed by the Speaker to withdraw. His suspension shall last for such period as may be determined by Parliament.

(4) If a Member, or two or more Members acting jointly, who have been suspended under this Standing Order from the service of Parliament, shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker to withdraw, when severally summoned under the orders of the Speaker

by the Serjeant at Arms to obey such direction, the Speaker shall call the attention of Parliament 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 has or have been removed from Parliament he or they shall thereupon without any further question being put be suspended from the service of Parliament during the remainder of the session.

(5) Nothing in this Standing Order shall be taken to deprive Parliament of the power of proceeding against any Member according to any resolution of Parliament.

#### **Members suspended etc to withdraw from precincts**

**60.** Members who are ordered to withdraw under Standing Order No. 58 [*Disorderly conduct*] or who are suspended from the service of Parliament under Standing Order No. 59 [*Suspension of Members*] shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of Parliament and shall be excluded therefrom for the remainder of the sitting or for the period of their suspension as the case may be.

#### **Power of the Speaker to adjourn or suspend sitting**

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

### **VOTING IN PARLIAMENT OR A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PARLIAMENT**

#### **Collection of voices**

**62.** – (1) When the Speaker or Chairman has put the question at the conclusion of a debate, he shall collect the voices of the "Ayes" and "Noes" and provided that no Member then claims a division, shall declare the result in accordance with the provisions of the law <sup>(13)</sup>.

(2) A Member may, instead of claiming a division, inform the Speaker or Chairman that he wishes his dissent to be recorded in the Votes and Proceedings and the Official Report and his dissent shall be so recorded.

### **Procedure of divisions**

**63.** – (1) No division shall be taken unless at least five Members rise in their places in support of it.

(2) When a division is to be proceeded with, the Speaker or the Chairman shall direct that the division bells shall be rung. After the lapse of at least one minute, the Speaker or the Chairman shall direct that the doors be locked and the Serjeant at Arms shall thereupon cause the doors to be locked.

(3) Thereafter the Speaker or Chairman shall put the question a second time and if a division is again claimed, a division shall be taken in a manner to be decided by the Speaker and the Clerk shall enter on the Votes and Proceedings a record of each Member's vote and of the names of Members who abstain from voting.

(4) At a division a Member shall vote for the "Ayes" or for the "Noes", or expressly indicate that he abstains from voting. A Member shall not vote in a manner inconsistent with any opinion which he may have expressed when the voices were taken collectively.

(5) A Member may vote in a division although he did not hear the question put.

(6) When the votes have been collected, the Speaker or Chairman shall state the numbers voting for the "Ayes" and for the "Noes" respectively, and shall then declare the result of the division, whereupon the Serjeant at Arms shall cause the doors to be unlocked.

(7) If, from the number of Members taking part in a division, including those Members who abstain from voting, it appears that a quorum is not present, the division shall be invalid, the business then under consideration shall stand over until the next sitting and the next business shall be entered upon.

#### **Voting in error in divisions**

64. 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 Speaker or Chairman has announced the numbers and before the Speaker or Chairman shall have declared the result of the division.

#### **Procedure to disallow vote of Member having a direct personal pecuniary interest**

65. – (1) Apart from the provisions of law requiring a Member to disclose the extent of any direct pecuniary interest <sup>(14)</sup>, a Member shall not vote on any subject in which he has a direct personal pecuniary interest.

(2) 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.



(3) In deciding whether a motion for the disallowance of a Member's vote shall be proposed by the Speaker or Chairman, the Speaker or 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 the citizens of Singapore or whether his vote was given on a matter of State policy.

(4) If the motion for the disallowance of a Member's vote is agreed to, the Speaker or Chairman shall direct the Clerk to correct the numbers voting in the division accordingly.

## **PROCEDURE ON BILLS**

### **Member's and Government Bills**

**66.** – (1) Any Member may move for leave to bring in a Bill, but a Bill may be introduced on behalf of the Government without an order of Parliament.

(2) At least two clear days' notice shall be given of the introduction of a Bill on behalf of the Government, and four clear days' notice of a motion for leave to bring in a Bill by a private Member. A Member giving notice of a motion for leave to bring in a Bill shall at the same time deliver to the Clerk a certified true copy of the full text of the Bill proposed to be introduced, and the Clerk shall transmit the same to the Minister charged with responsibility for finance.

(3) On a motion for leave to bring in a Bill, the Member who gave notice under the provisions of paragraph (2) of this Standing

Order or any other Member who has signified his support of the Bill in writing, shall move and in moving shall confine himself to a brief explanatory statement and, if opposed, the Members who oppose shall likewise confine themselves to brief statements, the Member moving having the right to reply in like manner.

### **Introduction, presentation and first reading**

67. – (1) It shall be the duty of the Minister charged with the responsibility for finance to inform the Speaker, before the moving of a motion for leave to introduce a Bill, whether the recommendation of the President to such Bill is required by law<sup>(15)</sup>. If the Speaker has been informed that such recommendation is required he shall, before calling on the Member to move his motion, require a Minister<sup>(2)</sup> to signify to Parliament whether or not such recommendation be forthcoming, and if such recommendation be not forthcoming, he shall not allow the motion to be moved. A Minister<sup>(2)</sup>, when giving notice of the introduction of a Bill (including an Urgent Bill) on behalf of the Government, shall indicate on the notice whether or not such recommendation is required and shall signify such recommendation, where required, when called upon by the Speaker to introduce the Bill. The signification to Parliament by a Minister<sup>(2)</sup> of the recommendation of the President shall be recorded in the Votes and Proceedings.

(2) In introducing a Bill, either in pursuance of an order of Parliament or on behalf of the Government, the Member who gave notice under the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 66 [*Member's and Government Bills*] or any other Member who has signified his support of the Bill in writing, shall read aloud the long title of the Bill and shall thereafter lay the Bill on the Table. The Clerk shall thereupon read aloud the short title of the Bill, which shall then be deemed to have been read the first time without any question

being put.

(3) At the conclusion of the proceedings on the first reading of a Bill the Bill, without any question being put, shall be ordered to be read a second time on such sitting day as the Member presenting it shall name and shall be ordered to be printed.

### **Hybrid Bills**

68. – (1) Where a public Bill has been ordered to be read a second time on a future day and the Speaker is of the opinion that the Bill appears to affect prejudicially individual rights or interests (referred to in these Standing Orders as "a hybrid Bill"), the Bill shall, after being read a second time, be referred to a Select Committee before which any affected party who has presented a Petition to Parliament under the provisions of Standing Order No. 18 [*Petitions*] may be heard upon that Petition, either in person or by Counsel.

(2) In the consideration of the Bill the Select Committee shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (5) of Standing Order No. 87 [*Private Bills*].

### **Printing and circulation of Bills**

69. – (1) The Clerk shall be responsible for the printing of every Bill which Parliament has ordered to be printed from the draft handed to him by the Member in charge of the Bill.

(2) Before any Bill is printed the Clerk shall satisfy himself that –

(a) the Bill accords with the requirements of the law <sup>(16)</sup>;

(b) the Bill is divided into successive clauses consecutively numbered;

(c) to every clause there is a heading giving a short indication of its contents.

(3) The Clerk shall ascertain and advise the Speaker as to whether –

(a) the Bill contains anything foreign to what the title of the Bill imports;

(b) the Bill is a hybrid Bill and so affected by the provisions of Standing Order No. 68 [*Hybrid Bills*]; and

(c) if the Bill is a private Bill the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of Standing Order No. 87 [*Private Bills*] have been complied with.

(4) As soon as possible after the printing of a Bill the Clerk shall circulate a copy to every Member, accompanied by a short explanatory statement if such statement is provided by the Member in charge of the Bill.

(5) If the Bill involves expenditure of public money an indication of the cost shall be provided by the Member in charge of the Bill and shall be circulated with the Bill.

(6) The Clerk shall as soon as possible cause every Bill (including a private Bill) to be published once in the *Gazette*.

### **Second reading**

70. – (1) No Bill shall be read a second time until it has been printed and circulated to Members and has appeared in the *Gazette* not less than seven clear days before the day appointed for the second reading of the Bill.

(2) 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 principle of the Bill.

(3) 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 leave out the word "now" and add, at the end of the question, "on this day six months", or an amendment may be moved to leave out all the words after the word "That" in order to add 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. If Parliament agrees to the amendment in either of such forms, the second reading of the Bill shall be considered to have been negatived.

#### **Committal of Bills**

71. – (1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to a Committee of the whole Parliament unless Parliament on motion commits it to a Select Committee. Such motion shall not require notice, must be made immediately after the Bill is read a second time and may be proposed by any Member; the question thereon shall be put forthwith and shall be decided without amendment or debate.

(2) If the question on a motion made under paragraph (1) of this Standing Order is negatived, the Speaker shall forthwith declare

that the Bill stands committed to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

(3) On a Bill being committed to a Committee of the whole Parliament, the Member in charge may either name a future sitting day to be appointed for the committee stage to be taken or may forthwith move "That Parliament will immediately resolve itself into a Committee on the Bill" and a debate on such a motion may arise.

### **Functions of Committees on Bills**

72. – (1) Any Committee to which a Bill is committed shall not discuss the principle of the Bill but only its details.

(2) Any such Committee shall have power to make such amendments to the Bill as they shall think fit; provided that the amendments (including new clauses and new schedules) are relevant to the subject matter of the Bill; but if any such amendments are not within the title of the Bill, they shall amend the title accordingly.

### **Committee of the whole Parliament on a Bill**

73. – (1) Whenever Parliament resolves that it will immediately resolve itself into a Committee on a Bill, or whenever an order of the day is read for Parliament to resolve itself into such a Committee, the Speaker shall leave the Chair of Parliament without question put and shall take the Chair in Committee, unless notice of an instruction to such Committee has been given, when such instruction shall be first disposed of.

(2) If any Member, before the conclusion of proceedings on a Bill in a Committee of the whole Parliament, moves to report progress and such motion is carried, or if such proceedings have not been concluded at the moment of interruption, the Chairman shall

leave the Chair and Parliament shall resume and the Member in charge of the Bill shall report progress to Parliament and ask leave to sit again, and a future sitting day for the resumption of the proceedings shall be named by the Member in charge of the Bill.

#### **Procedure in Committee of the whole Parliament on a Bill**

74. – (1) The Chairman in Committee of the whole Parliament on a Bill shall call the number of each clause in succession. If no amendment is proposed thereto, or when all proposed amendments have been disposed of, he shall propose the question "That the clause (or the clause as amended) stand part of the Bill" and, when all Members who wish to speak thereon have spoken, he shall put that question to the Committee for its decision:

Provided that the Chairman may deal with clauses and/or schedules, or clauses and/or schedules, as amended, together as one question, unless a Member requests that any particular clause or schedule or clause or schedule, as amended, be considered separately.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order, if, during the consideration of a Bill in a Committee of the whole Parliament, the Chairman is of opinion that the principle of a clause and any matters arising thereon have been adequately discussed in the course of debate on the amendments proposed thereto, he may, after the last amendment has been disposed of, state that he is of this opinion and shall then forthwith put the question that the clause (or the clause as amended) stand part of the Bill.

(3) (a) Except in the case of urgent Bills, no amendment shall be proposed unless two clear days' notice thereof has been given:

Provided that if the Chairman is of opinion that an amendment is of a minor or purely drafting character, he may, with the assent of the majority of Members present, permit it to be moved without notice.

(b) Any proposed amendment of which notice has not been given shall be handed to the Chairman in writing if the Chairman so requires.

(c) The provisions of paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 67 [*Introduction, presentation and first reading*] shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the moving of amendments to a Bill including an urgent Bill.

(4) Amendments of which notice has been given under the provisions of paragraph (3) of this Standing Order shall be arranged by the Clerk so far as may be in the order in which they will be proposed.

(5) 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 has shown that the amendment contravenes the provisions of this paragraph.

(6) The provisions of Standing Order No. 41 [*Manner of debating motions*] and Standing Order No. 42 [*Manner of debating amendments to motions*] shall apply to the discussion of amendments to Bills, with the substitution where appropriate of the word "clause" for the word "motion" or the word "question" and of the word "Chairman" for the word "Speaker" throughout; and any amendment proposed to such an amendment shall be dealt with before a decision is taken on the original amendment.



(7) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (6) of this Standing Order and paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 42 [*Manner of debating amendments to motions*], where notice of two or more amendments to a clause stand in the name of a Member on the Order Paper Supplement, the Member may, with the leave of the Chairman, move such or all of the amendments together and the Chairman shall propose such amendments as one question:

Provided that if any Member requests that any of such amendments be considered separately, the Chairman shall propose that amendment separately.

(8) The Chairman may, at the request of the mover of an amendment to a clause, allow debate on the amendment to range over similar or interdependent amendments to later clauses. Questions on the similar or interdependent amendments and on any amendments thereto, if any, shall be decided without debate.

(9) A clause may be postponed, unless a decision has already been taken upon an amendment thereto. A postponed clause shall, in the absence of an order to the contrary, be considered after the remaining clauses of the Bill have been considered and before new clauses are brought up.

(10) Any proposed new clause shall be considered after the clauses of the Bill have been disposed of and, in the absence of an order to the contrary, before consideration of any schedule to the Bill:

Provided that a new clause proposed in substitution for a clause which has been disagreed to may be considered immediately after such disagreement.

(11) On a new clause being offered, the Chairman shall desire the Member offering the same to bring it up, whereupon the Clerk shall read aloud the title to the new clause which shall then be deemed to have been read a first time. The question shall then be proposed "That the clause be read a second time"; if this is agreed to, amendments may then be proposed to the new clause. The final question to be proposed shall be "That the clause (as amended) be added to the Bill".

(12) Schedules shall be disposed of in the same way as clauses and any proposed new schedule shall be considered after the schedules to the Bill have been disposed of, and shall be treated in the same manner as a new clause.

(13) After all clauses and schedules have been gone through, any Member may, with the leave of the Chairman, move an amendment to a clause or schedule already passed, provided that the amendment is made necessary by an amendment made to any other clause or schedule.

(14) When every clause and schedule and proposed new clause or new schedule has been dealt with, the preamble, if there is one, shall be considered and the question put "That this preamble (as amended) be the preamble to the Bill". No amendment to the preamble shall be considered which is inconsistent with the provisions of the Bill as passed by the Committee.

(15) If any amendment to the title of the Bill is made necessary by the provisions of the Bill as passed by the Committee, it shall be made at the conclusion of the proceedings detailed above, but no question shall be put that the title (as amended) stand part of the Bill; nor shall any question be put upon the enacting formula.

(16) At the conclusion of the proceedings in Committee, the Chairman shall say, "Bill to be reported".

### **Procedure on Bills reported from a Committee of the whole Parliament**

75. – (1) So soon as a Bill is to be reported from a Committee of the whole Parliament, the Chairman shall leave the Chair without question put and, upon Parliament resuming, the Member in charge shall report, "That the Bill has been considered in Committee and agreed to without (with) amendments".

(2) The Member in charge of the Bill may thereupon move, "That the Bill be now read a third time" or may name a future sitting day to be appointed for the third reading.

### **Recommittal of Bill reported from a Committee of the whole Parliament**

76. – (1) If any Member desires to delete or amend any provisions contained in a Bill as reported from a Committee of the whole Parliament or to introduce any new provisions therein he may, at any time before a Member rises to move the third reading of the Bill, give notice either –

- (a) that he wishes to propose amendments to the Bill at large;  
or
- (b) that he wishes to propose amendments to any particular part or parts of the Bill or to introduce any new clause or new schedule.

(2) When a Member has given notice that he wishes to

propose amendments to the Bill at large the whole Bill shall send recommitted.

(3) When a Member has given notice that he wishes to propose amendments to any particular part or parts of the Bill or to introduce any new clause or new schedule, the Bill shall stand recommitted in respect only of such particular part or parts of the Bill and of any such new clause or new schedule.

(4) Upon a Bill being recommitted under the provisions either of paragraph (2) or of paragraph (3) of this Standing Order, Parliament shall thereupon either, with the general assent of Members present to dispensing with such notice as may be required for amendments under the provisions of paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 74 [*Procedure in Committee of the whole Parliament on a Bill*] forthwith or failing such assent, upon a future sitting day to be named by the Member in charge of the Bill, resolve itself into a Committee to consider the business so recommitted.

(5) When the whole Bill has been recommitted, the Committee shall go through the Bill as provided in Standing Order No. 74 [*Procedure in Committee of the whole Parliament on a Bill*].

(6) Immediately a Bill has been recommitted in respect only of some particular part or parts of the Bill or some proposed new clause or new schedule, the Speaker shall call upon any Member who wishes to propose any other amendment or to propose any other new clause or new schedule to give notice thereof, and (subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this Standing Order) any part or parts of the Bill affected by any such amendment or any such new clause or new schedule notice of which is received at any time before Parliament resolves itself into a Committee on the recommitted matter, shall also stand referred to the Committee, and the Committee shall

consider all matters recommitted to it under the provisions of paragraph (3) of this Standing Order and of this paragraph and any amendment which may be proposed thereto.

(7) At the conclusion of the proceedings in Committee, the Chairman shall say, "Bill to be reported".

(8) So soon as the Bill is to be reported from the Committee, the provisions of Standing Order No. 75 [*Procedure on Bills reported from a Committee of the whole Parliament*] shall apply; but, except with the general assent of Members present, no further notice of amendment in relation to the Bill under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order shall be received.

### **Procedure in Select Committee on a Bill**

77. – (1) A Select Committee on a Bill shall be subject to all the provisions of Standing Orders No. 102 [*Vacancies in Select Committees*], No. 103 [*Procedure of Select Committees*], No. 104 [*Voting in Select Committees*] and No. 105 [*Reports from Select Committees*], but before reporting the Bill to Parliament it shall go through the Bill as provided in Standing Order No. 74 [*Procedure in Committee of the whole Parliament on a Bill*].

(2) The deliberations and enquiries of the Select Committee shall be confined to the Bill and relevant amendments.

(3) When a Bill has been amended in a Select Committee, the whole text of the Bill as amended shall be printed as part of the report of the Select Committee.

### **Advertisement when Bill committed to a Select Committee**

78. Unless Parliament otherwise orders, upon a Bill being committed to a Select Committee, the Clerk shall as soon as practicable thereafter advertise in such newspapers as the Speaker may direct, inviting written representations on the Bill to be sent to him within not less than a period of fifteen days from the date of the advertisement and requesting the representors to state whether they are prepared, if invited, to appear before the Select Committee to give evidence in support of or supplementary to their written representations.

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

79. When a Bill has been reported from a Select Committee, the Member in charge of the Bill may give two clear days' notice naming a future sitting day to be appointed for the third reading, such sitting day to be not less than seven clear days after the report has been made available to Members.

### **Recommittal of Bill reported from a Select Committee**

80. At any time before a Member rises to move the third reading of a Bill reported from a Select Committee, the provisions of Standing Order No. 76 [*Recommittal of Bill reported from a Committee of the whole Parliament*] may be applied mutatis mutandis, and on recommittal the Bill shall be recommitted to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

### **Third reading**

81. – (1) On the third reading of a Bill amendments may be proposed to the question "That the Bill be now read a third time"

similar to those which may be proposed on second reading; but the debate shall be confined to the contents of the Bill and any reasoned amendment which raises matters not included in the Bill shall be out of order.

(2) Amendments for the correction of errors or oversights may, with the Speaker'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.

(3) Subject to the provisions of the law<sup>(17)</sup> being first complied with, when a Bill has been read the third time a printed copy thereof, certified by the Speaker to be a true copy of the Bill passed by Parliament, shall be submitted by the Clerk to the President for his assent.

### **Withholding of assent to Bills**

**82.** Upon receipt of a signification of the President of his decision to withhold assent to a Bill pursuant to the provisions of the law<sup>(18)</sup>, the Speaker shall –

- (a) if Parliament is sitting, announce the decision of the President to Parliament; or
- (b) if Parliament is not then sitting, cause the decision of the President to be circulated to Members and to be printed in the Official Report of the next sitting day following the receipt of the signification of the President's decision.

### **Procedure on Bills adversely reported upon by Presidential Council for Minority Rights**

**83.** – (1) Upon an adverse report on a Bill from the Presidential Council for Minority Rights (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") being presented to Parliament pursuant to the provisions of the law<sup>(19)</sup>, the Member in charge of the Bill may give two clear days' notice –

(a) of amendments he proposes to move to the specified provisions of the Bill which have been adversely reported upon by the Council; or

(b) of his intention to move that, notwithstanding the adverse report of the Council, the Speaker do cause the Bill to be presented forthwith to the President for his assent.

(2) (a) When a notice under the provisions of subparagraph (a) of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order has been given, the Bill shall stand recommitted to a Committee of the whole Parliament in respect of the specified provisions of the Bill.

(b) Upon the order of the day being read for the recommitment of the Bill under the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, the Speaker shall forthwith leave the Chair of Parliament without question put and take the Chair in Committee.

(c) The Committee shall consider the provisions of the Bill recommitted to them and any amendments which may be proposed thereto. At the conclusion of the proceedings, the Chairman shall say, "Bill to be reported".

(d) So soon as the Bill is to be reported from the Committee, the Chairman shall leave the Chair without question put and, on Parliament resuming, the Member in charge shall report, "That the Bill



has been considered in Committee and agreed to with (without) amendments".

(e) If the Bill has been amended, the Member in charge may forthwith, or upon a future sitting day to be named by him, move, "That the Bill in its amended form be submitted again to the Presidential Council", and the question thereon shall be decided without amendment.

(3) (a) When a motion, of which notice has been given under the provisions of sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order, has been moved, the provisions of Standing Order No. 41 [*Manner of debating motions*] shall apply to the discussion of the motion, which motion shall be decided without amendment.

(b) When the Speaker has put the question at the conclusion of the debate, he shall direct that a division be taken and shall declare the result in accordance with the provisions of the law <sup>(20)</sup>.

### **Withdrawal of Bills**

**84.** – (1) Either before the commencement of public business or on the order of the day for any stage of a Bill being read, the Member in charge of a Bill may, without notice, move a motion that the order be discharged and the Bill be withdrawn.

(2) During the debate on the second or third reading of a Bill, the Member in charge of the Bill may, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (3) (c) of Standing Order No. 48 [*Time and manner of speaking and time limit for speeches*], without notice move that the Bill be withdrawn. If such motion be agreed to, the motion for the second or third reading of the Bill, as the case may be, shall lapse and the Bill shall be withdrawn.

(3) When a Bill is being considered in Committee of the whole Parliament, the Member in charge of the Bill may, immediately after the question upon any amendment or clause has been decided, without notice move that the Committee proceed no further with the consideration of the Bill. If such motion be agreed to, the Chairman shall leave the Chair, the Member in charge shall report the resolution

to Parliament, and the question that the Bill be withdrawn shall be put forthwith.

(4) The question upon every motion made under this Standing Order shall be decided without amendment or debate.

### **Bills containing substantially the same provisions**

**85.** Once the second reading of any Bill has been agreed to or negatived, no question shall be proposed during the same session for the second reading of any other Bill containing substantially the same provisions.

### **Urgent Bills**

**86.** Subject to the provisions of the law and notwithstanding the provisions of any Standing Order, when a certificate of urgency signed by the President in respect of a proposed Bill or a Bill which has already been introduced has been laid on the Table by a Minister<sup>(2)</sup>, the Bill to which the certificate relates may in the case of a proposed Bill be introduced forthwith and in either case may, provided that typed or printed copies are available for the use of Members, be proceeded with throughout all its stages until such Bill has been read the third time.

## Private Bills

87. – (1) Where any Member proposes to move for leave to bring in a Bill which is intended to promote the interests of some particular person, association, or corporate body (referred to in these Standing Orders as "a private Bill"); he shall give notice of the Bill by not less than three successive publications of the Bill in the *Gazette* before its introduction into Parliament. This provision shall not affect the publication required by paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 69 [*Printing and circulation of Bills*]. The Member giving notice of the motion for leave to bring in the Bill shall at the same time deliver to the Clerk one copy each of the aforesaid publications of the Bill in the *Gazette*.

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

(3) Every private Bill shall, after being read a second time, be referred to a Select Committee, before which any affected party who has presented a Petition to Parliament under the provisions of Standing Order No. 18 [*Petitions*] may be heard upon that Petition, either in person or by Counsel.

(4) Every Select Committee on a private Bill shall require proof of the facts and other allegations set forth in the Bill and may take such oral or other evidence as it may think requisite, and thereafter if the Committee finds that the said facts and allegations are not proved it shall report accordingly.

(5) If the Committee finds that the said facts and allegations have been proved, the Committee shall proceed as provided in

Standing Order No. 77 [*Procedure in Select Committee on a Bill*], and in respect of all material amendments which it makes shall describe their purport in its report to Parliament. No clause affecting any private right or interest shall be allowed in the Bill unless circumstances are set forth in the Bill which render such clause justifiable and expedient.

(6) In the case of a private Bill the Committee shall not allow any new clause to be inserted which is outside the terms of the notice in the *Gazette*.

(7) All expenses incurred in the printing and publication of any private Bill shall be paid by the promoters of that Bill.

### **Effect of prorogation on Bills**

**88.** – (1) A Bill before Parliament shall not lapse upon the prorogation of Parliament and all business and proceedings connected therewith shall be carried over to the next session of the same Parliament and continue from the stage that it had reached in the preceding session.

(2) If the Bill is before a Select Committee, the term of the Select Committee and its business on the Bill shall not lapse upon the prorogation of Parliament and shall be carried over to the next session of the same Parliament and continue from the stage that it had reached in the preceding session.

(3) A Bill which has been passed by Parliament but has not been assented to by the President shall not lapse upon the prorogation of Parliament and shall be proceeded with as required by law as if its passage had not been interrupted by the prorogation.

## FINANCIAL PROCEDURE

### Annual Budget Statement

89. – (1) Whenever a motion, "That Parliament approves the financial policy of the Government for the year ....." has been made by a Minister<sup>(2)</sup>, the debate thereon shall stand adjourned for not less than seven clear days and, when resumed, shall be confined to the general principles of Government policy and administration as set forth by the Minister in moving the motion and as indicated in the Main Estimates.

(2) (a) The provisions of paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 2 [*Sittings of Parliament*] shall not apply to the proceedings on the moving of the motion referred to in paragraph (1) of this Standing Order.

(b) In moving the motion the Minister shall not be bound by the provisions of paragraph (8) of Standing Order No. 48 [*Time and manner of speaking and time limit for speeches*].

(3) Two days shall be allotted for the continuation of the debate and on such allotted days the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (5) of Standing Order No. 91 [*Business of Supply*] shall apply mutatis mutandis.

(4) Thirty minutes before the end of the time permitted on the second allotted day, the Speaker shall, if the debate shall not previously have been concluded, call upon the Minister who moved the motion to reply.

(5) If the end of the time permitted on the second allotted day is reached before the debate has been concluded, the Speaker shall forthwith put any questions necessary to bring the proceedings to a conclusion.

### **Committee of Supply**

90. There shall be a Committee of the whole Parliament to be called the Committee of Supply for the consideration of all matters referred to it under the provisions of these Standing Orders or by Parliament.

### **Business of Supply**

91. – (1) For the purposes of this Standing Order, the business of Supply shall consist of proceedings on the Main Estimates and Development Estimates whether for the coming or the current financial year, Estimates containing a Vote on Account, Supplementary Estimates, Statements of Excess, Supply Bills and the consideration of reports from the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee.

(2) On a day allotted to the business of Supply, the business of Supply shall stand as the first order, and so long as the business of Supply has not been completed, no business other than the business of Supply shall be taken after Question Time or before the moment of interruption:

Provided that upon the introduction of a Government Bill or a business motion being moved at the end of Question Time, or upon any complaint or motion affecting the powers and privileges of Parliament being raised or moved under the provisions of paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 100 [*Standing Select Committees*],

proceedings on the business of Supply shall be postponed until such Bill, complaint or motion is disposed of.

(3) Except in pursuance of Standing Order No. 24 [*Adjournment on a definite matter of urgent public importance*] or unless Parliament orders on the motion of a Minister moved under paragraph (4) of this Standing Order, no business of Supply shall be taken after the moment of interruption, whether an order exempting business from interruption under Standing Order No. 4 [*Exempted business*] is in force or not.

(4) A Minister may move a motion under this Standing Order to continue the business of Supply until a specified time after the moment of interruption in respect of any or all of the allotted days. Such a motion is to be decided without amendment or debate.

(5) Except with the consent of the Speaker or Chairman, no dilatory motion, including a motion for the adjournment of a debate or a motion that progress be reported or that the Chairman do leave the Chair, shall be moved in proceedings on the business of Supply, and the business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order other than this Standing Order.

### **Estimates**

**92.** – (1) Upon the annual estimates of expenditure (hereinafter referred to as the "Estimates") comprising estimates of expenditure for the public services proposed to be met from the Consolidated Fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Main Estimates") and estimates of expenditure proposed to be met from the Development Fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Development Estimates") being laid before Parliament as required by law<sup>(21)</sup>, they shall stand referred to the Committee of Supply.

(2) Seven days shall be allotted for discussion of the Estimates. The Speaker may, if he thinks fit, increase the number of allotted days.

(3) The Member in charge shall, upon or after presentation of the Estimates, give not less than seven clear days' notice of the seven allotted days.

(4) Any Member may give notice of his intention to move an amendment to any head of expenditure in the Estimates to reduce by a token amount of \$100 the total sum to be allocated for that head. Debate upon this amendment shall be confined to such matters relating to the public services set out in the Estimates as shall be indicated by the Member in his notice of such amendment which shall be given at least four clear days before the first allotted day. No amendment may be moved to any such amendment.

(5) No amendment to increase the sum to be allocated for any head of expenditure shall be moved except by a Minister <sup>(2)</sup>. Notice of any such amendment shall be given at least two clear days before the first allotted day.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (8) of Standing Order No. 48 [*Time and manner of speaking and time limit for speeches*], in the discussion of any amendment to any head of expenditure in Committee of Supply, no Member, including the mover of the amendment, shall be entitled to address the Committee for more than ten minutes at any one time:

Provided that a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary shall be entitled to speak without any time limit in reply to matters raised in the debate, subject to the times fixed under paragraph (7) of this



Standing Order.

(7) (a) The Speaker shall fix the time on any allotted day at which the consideration of any head of expenditure shall, if not previously disposed of, be concluded. If the time so fixed is reached before the head concerned is disposed of, the Chairman shall forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of that head.

(b) The Speaker may, if he thinks fit, also allot the time to be allowed for discussion of any amendment to any head of expenditure and shall take such time into account in fixing the time on any allotted day at which the consideration of the head shall be concluded under sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph. If the time so allowed has expired before the amendment is disposed of, the Chairman shall forthwith dispose of such amendment.

(8) (a) In the Committee of Supply on the Estimates the Chairman shall first call the title of each head of expenditure in succession in such order as may be determined by the Speaker and, if no amendment to any head stands on the Order Paper Supplement, put the question in respect of the Main Estimates, "That the sum of \$..... for head ..... stand part of the Main Estimates." and thereafter put the question in respect of the Development Estimates, "That the sum of \$..... for head ..... stand part of the Development Estimates." and these questions shall be decided without debate.

(b) In the case of each head of expenditure, in respect of which an amendment stands on the Order Paper Supplement, the Chairman shall call upon the Member in whose name it stands to move the first amendment standing on the Order Paper Supplement in respect of that head, and when that amendment has been disposed of shall in like manner call successively upon any other Members in whose names amendments to that head stand on the Order Paper

Supplement.

(9) An amendment to the total sum allocated for a head of expenditure shall be placed upon the Order Paper Supplement before an amendment in respect of an item or subhead of that head.

(10) When every amendment standing on the Order Paper Supplement in respect of any particular head of expenditure has been disposed of, the Chairman shall put the question in respect of the Main Estimates, "That the sum of \$..... for head ..... stand part of the Main Estimates", (or the amended question, "That the (increased) (reduced) sum of \$..... for head ..... stand part of the Main Estimates") and thereafter put the question in respect of the Development Estimates, "That the sum of \$..... for head ..... stand part of the Development Estimates" (or the amended question, "That the (increased) (reduced) sum of \$..... for head ..... stand part of the Development Estimates.") and these questions shall be decided without debate.

(11) (a) When every head of expenditure has been disposed of, the Chairman shall put the question on the whole Main Estimates, "That the sum of \$..... shall be supplied to the Government (to complete the sum necessary<sup>(22)</sup>) under the heads of expenditure for the public services shown in the Main Estimates (as amended) contained in Paper .....", and thereafter put the question on the whole Development Estimates, "That the sum of \$..... shall be supplied to the Government (to complete the sum necessary<sup>(22)</sup>) under the heads of expenditure shown in the Development Estimates (as amended) contained in Paper .....", and these questions shall be decided without debate.

(b) Upon those questions being agreed to, the Chairman shall say "Resolutions to be reported", and shall leave the Chair without question put.

(12) If any head of expenditure is still under consideration fifteen minutes before the end of the time permitted for the discussion of the Estimates on the last allotted day, the Chairman shall forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of any amendment to that head which has already been moved and of the head itself. The Chairman shall then forthwith put the questions upon the whole Main Estimates and upon the whole Development Estimates consecutively, no amendment or debate being permitted in respect of such questions. Upon these questions being agreed to, he shall say "Resolutions to be reported", and shall leave the Chair without question put.

(13) Upon Parliament resuming, the Member in charge shall report "That the Committee of Supply have come to certain resolutions". The Clerk shall thereupon read the resolutions and the Member in charge shall forthwith move, "That Parliament doth agree with the Committee on the said resolutions". The question upon the motion shall be put and decided without amendment or debate.

### **Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill and Final Supply Bill**

**93.** – (1) Upon the introduction of a Supply Bill, a Supplementary Supply Bill or a Final Supply Bill as required by law <sup>(23)</sup>, the procedure upon the Bill shall be as provided in this Standing Order.

(2) One day shall be allotted for the second and third readings of the Bill and the debate on the second reading shall be confined to the general principles of Government policy and administration as indicated in the Bill.

(3) When the Bill has been read a second time a motion for

the third reading shall thereupon be made by the Member in charge. Such motion shall be decided without debate.

(4) At 7.00 p.m. on the allotted day, the Speaker shall put any questions necessary to bring the proceedings upon the Bill to a conclusion.

(5) When the printed copy of a Supply Bill or a Supplementary Supply Bill, certified by the Speaker to be a true copy of the Bill passed by Parliament, has been submitted by the Clerk to the President for his assent, the Clerk shall publish a notification in the Government *Gazette* of the date the Bill was so presented.

(6) Where, on the expiration of thirty days after the date the Bill has been presented to the President for his assent, the Speaker has not received any signification from the President withholding his assent to the Bill, the Clerk shall publish a notification of this in the Government *Gazette*.

(7) If the President assents to a Supply Bill or Supplementary Supply Bill notwithstanding his opinion that the Bill is likely to draw on the reserves which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office and his opinion in writing is received by the Speaker, the Speaker shall –

- (a) if Parliament is sitting, announce the opinion of the President to Parliament; or
- (b) if Parliament is not then sitting, cause the opinion of the President to be circulated to Members and to be printed in the Official Report of the next sitting day following the receipt of the President's opinion.

(8) Where the President has withheld his assent to a Supply Bill or Supplementary Supply Bill contrary to the recommendation of the Council of Presidential Advisors, the Minister responsible for finance may give notice of his intention to move a motion that Parliament overrule the decision of the President, in pursuance of the law<sup>(24)</sup>, and such motion shall be decided without amendment.

(9) If the President withholds his assent to a Supply Bill or Supplementary Supply Bill and no resolution to overrule the President is passed by Parliament within thirty days of the withholding of assent, as provided by law<sup>(25)</sup> the Minister in charge of finance may give notice of his intention to move a motion that Parliament authorise expenditure during that financial year in accordance with the law<sup>(25)</sup>.

### **Vote on Account**

**94.** – (1) Upon Estimates containing a Vote on Account<sup>(26)</sup> being laid before Parliament, they shall stand referred to the Committee of Supply.

(2) One day shall be allotted for the consideration of such Estimates.

(3) The Member in charge shall, upon or after presentation of such Estimates, give not less than seven clear days' notice of the allotted day.

(4) On the consideration of such Estimates in the Committee of Supply, the provisions of paragraphs (4) to (13) inclusive of Standing Order No. 92 [*Estimates*] shall apply mutatis mutandis, the final question to be put in Committee of Supply being "That the sum of \$..... shall be supplied to the Government on account under the

heads of expenditure for the public services specified in the Estimates contained in Paper .....

(5) When a resolution under paragraph (4) of this Standing Order has been agreed to by Parliament, the Clerk shall submit a copy of the resolution, certified by the Speaker to be a true copy of the resolution passed by Parliament, to the President for his concurrence in pursuance of the law<sup>(26)</sup>.

(6) On receipt of a signification by the President of his concurrence or otherwise with the resolution of Parliament, the Speaker shall –

(a) if Parliament is sitting, announce the decision of the President to Parliament; or

(b) if Parliament is not then sitting, cause the decision of the President to be circulated to Members and to be printed in the Official Report of the next sitting day following receipt of the President's signification.

#### **Vote of Credit**

**95.** – (1) Upon Estimates containing a Vote of Credit<sup>(26)</sup> being laid before Parliament, they shall stand referred to the Committee of Supply.

(2) One day shall be allotted for the consideration of such Estimates.

(3) The Member in charge shall, upon or after presentation of such Estimates, give not less than seven clear days' notice of the allotted day.

(4) On the consideration of such Estimates in the Committee of Supply, the provisions of paragraphs (4) to (13) inclusive of Standing Order No. 92 [*Estimates*] shall apply mutatis mutandis.

(5) When a resolution under paragraph (4) of this Standing Order has been agreed to by Parliament, the Clerk shall submit a copy of the resolution, certified by the Speaker to be a true copy of the resolution passed by Parliament, to the President for his concurrence in pursuance of the law <sup>(26)</sup>.

(6) On receipt of a signification by the President of his concurrence or otherwise with the resolution of Parliament, the Speaker shall –

- (a) if Parliament is sitting, announce the decision of the President to Parliament; or
- (b) if Parliament is not then sitting, cause the decision of the President to be circulated to Members and to be printed in the Official Report of the next sitting day following receipt of the President's signification.

#### **Motions on guarantees or loans**

**96.** – (1) When a resolution for the giving or raising of a guarantee or loan by the Government has been agreed to by Parliament, the Clerk shall submit a copy of the resolution, certified by the Speaker to be a true copy of the resolution passed by Parliament, to the President for his concurrence in pursuance of the law <sup>(27)</sup>.

(2) On receipt of a signification by the President of his concurrence or otherwise with the resolution of Parliament, the Speaker shall –

- (a) if Parliament is sitting, announce the decision of the President to Parliament; or
- (b) if Parliament is not then sitting, cause the decision of the President to be circulated to Members and to be printed in the Official Report of the next sitting day following receipt of the President's signification.

### **Supplementary Estimates**

97. – (1) Upon Supplementary Estimates being laid before Parliament as required by law<sup>(28)</sup>, they shall stand referred to the Committee of Supply.

(2) The number of days to be allotted for the consideration of such Estimates shall be at the discretion of the Speaker.

(3) The Member in charge shall, upon or after presentation of the Supplementary Estimates, give not less than seven clear days' notice of the first allotted day.

(4) On the consideration of the Supplementary Estimates in the Committee of Supply, the provisions of paragraphs (4) to (13) inclusive of Standing Order No. 92 [*Estimates*] shall apply mutatis mutandis.

### **Statements of Excess**



**98.** – (1) Upon Statements of Excess being laid before Parliament as required by law<sup>(28)</sup>, they shall stand referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

(2) Upon the report of the Public Accounts Committee being presented to Parliament, the report and the Statements of Excess shall stand referred to the Committee of Supply.

(3) One day shall be allotted for the consideration of such report and the Statements of Excess.

(4) The Minister responsible for finance shall, not later than seven clear days after the presentation of the said report, give not less than seven clear days' notice of such allotted day.

(5) On the consideration of the report and Statements of Excess in the Committee of Supply, the provisions of paragraphs (4) to (13) inclusive of Standing Order No. 92 [*Estimates*] shall apply mutatis mutandis

## **SELECT COMMITTEES**

### **Standing Select Committees**

#### **Term of a Standing Select Committee**

**99.** A Standing Select Committee shall continue for the duration of a Parliament unless Parliament provides otherwise. The business and proceedings before a Standing Select Committee shall not lapse by reason of a prorogation and shall be proceeded with in the next ensuing session of the same Parliament.

#### **Standing Select Committees**

##### **Committee of Selection**

**100.** – (1) (a) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Committee of Selection appointed as soon as practicable after the beginning of a Parliament to perform the functions allotted to it by these Standing Orders, and for such other matters as Parliament may from time to time refer to it.

(b) The Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as Chairman, and seven Members of Parliament to be appointed by Parliament, in such manner as shall ensure that, so far as is possible, the balance between the Government benches and the Opposition benches in Parliament is reflected in the Committee. The Committee shall inform Parliament by means of a report when any Member has been nominated to any Committee. The Committee shall not have power to send for persons, papers and records unless Parliament so resolves.

#### **Public Accounts Committee**

(2) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Public Accounts Committee to consist of a Chairman to be appointed by the Speaker and not more than seven Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, as soon as may be after its appointment, in such manner as shall ensure that, so far as is possible, the balance between the Government benches and the Opposition benches in Parliament is reflected in the Committee. It shall be the duty of the Committee to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by Parliament to meet the public expenditure and such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may think fit together with the Auditor's reports thereon.

#### **Estimates Committee**

(3) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Estimates

Committee to consist of a Chairman to be appointed by the Speaker and not more than seven Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, as soon as may be after its appointment, in such manner as shall ensure that, so far as is possible, the balance between the Government benches and the Opposition benches in Parliament is reflected in the Committee. It shall be the duty of the Committee to examine any of the Estimates, to report what economies consistent with the policy implied in the Estimates might be effected, and, subject to the provisions of the law<sup>(29)</sup>, to suggest the form in which the Estimates might be presented.

#### **Standing Orders Committee**

(4) (a) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Standing Orders Committee to consist of the Speaker as Chairman, the Deputy Speakers and seven other Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection as soon as may be after its appointment, in such manner as shall ensure that, so far as is possible, the balance between the Government benches and the Opposition benches in Parliament is reflected in the Committee. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider from time to time and report on all matters relating to the Standing Orders which may be referred to it by Parliament. The Committee shall not have power to send for persons, papers and records unless Parliament so resolves.

(b) If a notice of motion 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 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 thereon.

### **House Committee**

(5) There shall be a Committee to be known as the House Committee, to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and seven Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, as soon as may be after its appointment, in such manner as shall ensure that, so far as is possible, the balance between the Government benches and the Opposition benches in Parliament is reflected in the Committee. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider and advise the Speaker upon all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of Members of Parliament. The Committee shall from time to time report its minutes of proceedings to Parliament.

### **Public Petitions Committee**

(6) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Public Petitions Committee to consist of the Speaker as Chairman, and seven Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, as soon as may be after its appointment, in such manner as shall ensure that, so far as is possible, the balance between the Government benches and the Opposition benches in Parliament is reflected in the Committee. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider all Petitions referred to it under the provisions of Standing Order No. 18 [*Petitions*], to classify such Petitions, prepare abstracts thereof in such form and manner as shall appear to it best suited to convey to Parliament all requisite information respecting their contents and the signatures attached thereto and to report the same from time to time to Parliament.

### **Committee of Privileges**

(7) (a) (i) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Committee of Privileges to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and

seven Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, as soon as may be after its appointment, in such manner as shall ensure that, so far as possible, the balance between the Government benches and the Opposition benches in Parliament is reflected in the Committee. There shall be referred to this Committee any complaint of breach of privilege or any matter which appears to affect the powers and privileges of Parliament. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider any such matters to it referred, and to report on them to Parliament.

(ii) The Speaker shall, in the event of any Member of the Committee being a complainant or being complained against, or being involved in the matter referred to the Committee, suspend him from the service of the Committee until such time as the Committee has reported upon the matter to it referred. Upon such suspension, the Speaker shall nominate another Member in the place of such Member on the Committee. Such other Member shall cease to be a Member of the Committee after the Committee has reported upon the matter to it referred.

(b) Whenever Parliament is sitting, any Member may rise at any time to make a complaint alleging a breach of privilege suddenly arising, and if the Speaker is satisfied that the matter complained of *prima facie* affects the privileges of Parliament and that it has been raised at the earliest opportunity, the same shall stand referred, without any question, to the Committee and no further proceedings shall be taken in the matter until the Committee has reported thereon.

(c) Whenever Parliament is not sitting, a Member may make a complaint in writing to the Speaker alleging a breach of privilege, and if the Speaker is satisfied that the matter complained of *prima facie* affects the privileges of Parliament and that it has been raised at

the earliest opportunity, he shall refer such matter to the Committee which shall report thereon to Parliament.

(d) (i) Upon a motion complaining of a breach of privilege or affecting the powers and privileges of Parliament being moved, the same shall stand referred without any question being proposed thereon to the Committee and no further proceedings shall be taken on such motion until the Committee has reported thereon.

(ii) Such a motion may be moved without notice if the Speaker is satisfied that the matter raised does, *prima facie*, affect the powers and privileges of Parliament and has been raised at the earliest opportunity.

(e) The Leader of the House shall, upon receiving notice from the Clerk that copies of a report from the Committee have been made available to Members, give notice of a motion expressing the opinion of Parliament in regard to the report. The provisions of paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 105 [*Reports from Select Committees*] shall not apply to a report from the Committee.

(f) Any motion complaining of a breach of privilege or affecting the powers and privileges of Parliament and any motion relating to a report of the Committee shall take precedence over public business and shall be moved at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 10 [*Order of business*].

(g) Nothing in this or any other Standing Order shall be taken to deprive Parliament and the Speaker of the power to deal summarily, in accordance with these Standing Orders or any provision of law with any breach of privilege committed in the actual view of Parliament or in the precincts thereof when Parliament is sitting or in any committee of Parliament.

(h) The expression "breach of privilege" shall include any contempt of Parliament, and the expressions "powers and privileges of Parliament" or "privileges of Parliament" shall include the powers and privileges or the privileges of the Speaker, the Members and the committees of Parliament.

#### **Other Select Committees**

**101.** – (1) A Select Committee other than a Standing Select Committee or Select Committee on a Bill shall be appointed on motion made after notice given, and shall, unless Parliament otherwise orders, consist of such Members as may be nominated by the Committee of Selection, in such manner as shall ensure that, so far as is possible, the balance between the Government benches and the Opposition benches in Parliament is reflected in the Committee.

(2) Unless Parliament appoints the Chairman, a Select Committee shall elect a Chairman from among its Members:

Provided that a Committee may, if it so desires, by resolution elect the Speaker as its Chairman, notwithstanding that the Speaker is not a member of the Committee.

(3) If the Chairman appointed by Parliament or so elected by the Committee is not the Speaker and is unable to be present at any meeting, the Committee shall elect from among its members another Chairman whose tenure of office shall be for the day of his election only.

#### **Vacancies in Select Committees**

**102.** The Speaker may, in the event of any vacancy in any Select Committee or if he is satisfied that a Member is unable to

continue to serve on any Select Committee, nominate another Member to take the place of such Member on such Select Committee. As soon as may be after such nomination, the Clerk shall give notice thereof to Members and every such nomination shall be announced to Parliament at its next sitting.

### **Procedure of Select Committees**

**103.** – (1) Except as otherwise provided in Standing Order No. 100 [*Standing Select Committees*] this Standing Order shall apply to all Select Committees.

(2) A Select Committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, and shall have leave to report its opinion and observations, together with the minutes of evidence taken before it to Parliament.

(3) Unless Parliament otherwise directs, three Members (besides the Chairman) or, if the number of the Select Committee does not exceed four, two Members (besides the Chairman) shall be the quorum. If, at any time during a sitting of a Select Committee, a quorum shall not be present, the Chairman shall suspend the proceedings of the Committee until a quorum be present, or adjourn the Committee to some future day.

(4) Strangers may with the agreement of the majority of Members present be admitted to a Select Committee except when the Committee is deliberating. Admission shall be subject to such rules as the Speaker may make from time to time.

(5) The deliberations of a Select Committee shall be confined to the matter referred to it by Parliament and any extension or limitation thereof made by Parliament.



(6) The first meeting of a Select Committee shall be held at such time and place as the Chairman in the case of a Standing Select Committee, or the Speaker in the case of any other Select Committee, shall appoint. Such subsequent meetings shall be held at such time and place as the Committee may determine:

Provided that –

(a) if the Committee fails to do so the Chairman shall, in consultation with the Clerk of Parliament, appoint such time and place; and

(b) no Select Committee shall meet outside the Parliament building unless power so to do has been specifically given to that Committee by Parliament.

(7) Except by leave of Parliament no Select Committee shall sit while Parliament is sitting. Should a Select Committee be unable to sit by reason of Parliament sitting at a time appointed for a meeting of the Select Committee, the Chairman of the Select Committee shall, in consultation with the Clerk, appoint some other time and place for such meeting.

(8) A Select Committee may continue its investigations although Parliament may be adjourned.

(9) The Clerk of Parliament or his deputy appointed by him shall be the Clerk to every Select Committee.

(10) Every Select Committee shall have the right to the services of a reporter.

(11) When it is intended to examine any witnesses, the Member of Parliament, or in the case of a private or hybrid Bill, the petitioner requiring such witnesses shall deliver to the Clerk, two clear days at least before the day appointed for their examination, a list containing the name, residence and occupation of every witness. The Clerk shall then summon such witnesses on behalf of Parliament.

(12) A copy of the minutes of the evidence of every witness shall be sent to him. If the witness does not, in writing addressed to the Chief Reporter and Editor, seek to make any change in the minutes of evidence within seventy-two hours from the time when the copy of the minutes was despatched, the minutes shall be printed without correction. Any dispute as to the correctness of the minutes of evidence and any request for any material change in the minutes of evidence shall be referred to the Chairman who shall rule thereon and shall direct that the minutes he printed in accordance with his ruling which shall not be called in question.

(13) The Committee may at its discretion refuse to hear any irrelevant evidence or any recalcitrant witness and may reject any irrelevant representation.

(14) (a) Any Member of a Select Committee may bring up a report for its consideration, and all such reports shall be entered in full upon the minutes of the Committee. When all the reports have been brought up, the Chairman shall propose the reports in turn until one is accepted as a basis for discussion, beginning with his own report and proceeding with the remainder in the order in which they were brought up. The question to be proposed by the Chairman on any report shall be, "That the Chairman's (or Mr. ....'s) report be read a second time paragraph by paragraph". When this question has been agreed to, it shall not be proposed on any further reports, but any portions thereof may be offered as amendments to the report under

consideration if they are relevant to it.

(b) The Committee shall then proceed to go through the report paragraph by paragraph and the provisions of paragraphs (1) to (13) of Standing Order No. 74 [*Procedure in Committee of the whole Parliament on a Bill*] other than the provision requiring two clear days' notice of amendments shall apply to such consideration as if the report were a Bill and the paragraphs thereof the clauses of the Bill.

(c) Upon the conclusion of the consideration of the report paragraph by paragraph and when all proposed new paragraphs have been considered the Chairman shall put the question "That this report be the report of the Committee to Parliament".

(15) In a Select Committee on a Bill, the Chairman shall have all the powers of a Chairman of a Committee of the whole Parliament on a Bill.

### **Voting in Select Committees**

**104.** – (1) All questions in Select Committees shall be decided by a majority of votes.

(2) No Member may speak to a question after the same has been fully put by the Chairman.

(3) The question is fully put when the Chairman has collected the voices both of the "Ayes" and of the "Noes".

(4) When the Chairman has put the question he shall collect the voices of the "Ayes" and "Noes" and provided that no Member then claims a division, shall declare the result.

(5) Every division in a Select Committee shall be taken by the Clerk to the Committee asking each Member of the Committee separately how he desires to vote and recording the votes accordingly.

(6) In taking the division, the names of all Members of the Committee shall be called in alphabetical order.

(7) When a division is claimed, it shall be taken by voices "Ayes" and "Noes". The Clerk to the Committee shall enter in the Minutes of Proceedings a record of each Member's vote and of the names of Members who abstain from voting. A Member shall not vote in a manner inconsistent with any opinion which he may have expressed when the voices were taken collectively.

(8) As soon as the Clerk has collected the votes the Chairman shall state the number of Members voting for the "Ayes" and "Noes" respectively and shall then declare the result of the division. The Chairman shall vote in the same manner and to the same extent as is permitted to him when in Parliament or in the Committee of the whole Parliament. When on a division the votes are equal, the question shall pass in the negative.

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

(10) The provisions of Standing Order No. 65 [*Procedure to disallow vote of Member having a direct personal pecuniary interest*] shall apply to divisions under this Standing Order.

### **Reports from Select Committees**

**105.** – (1) Except in a case of prorogation, every Select Committee shall make a report to Parliament upon the matters referred to them before the end of the session, and if a Committee finds itself unable to conclude its investigations before the end of the session, it shall so report to Parliament.

(2) A Select Committee shall have leave to make a special report relating to the powers, functions and proceedings of the Committee on any matters which it may think fit to bring to the notice of Parliament.

(3) A report or special report together with the Minutes of Proceedings of a Select Committee and the minutes of any evidence taken before that Committee shall be presented to Parliament by the Chairman or other Member deputed by the Committee.

(4) The Minutes of Proceedings of a Committee shall record all proceedings upon the consideration of any report or Bill in the Committee and upon every amendment proposed to such report or Bill together with a note of any division taken in the Committee and of the names of Members voting therein or abstaining from voting.

(5) Any Member may, after not less than seven clear days' notice, move in Parliament that the report of a Select Committee, other than a report of a Select Committee on a Bill, be adopted.

#### **Term of a Select Committee and effect of prorogation**

**106.** – (1) The provisions of this Standing Order shall apply to any business before any Select Committee, other than a Standing Select Committee or Select Committee on a Bill.

(2) The term and business of every Select Committee which has not presented its final report shall not lapse upon the prorogation of Parliament and shall be carried over to the next session of the same Parliament and continue from the stage that it had reached in the preceding session.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

**107.** A question the object or effect of which may be to suspend any Standing Order of Parliament shall be proposed only either after notice given or after the expression of the general assent of Parliament.

### **Employment of Members in professional capacity**

**108.** No Member of Parliament shall appear before Parliament 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.

### **Strangers**

**109.** – (1) Strangers shall be admitted to debates in the Parliament Chamber under such rules as the Speaker may make from time to time.

(2) If any Member takes notice that strangers are present, the Speaker, or in Committee the Chairman, shall put forthwith the question "That strangers do withdraw", without permitting any debate or amendment.

(3) When strangers have withdrawn pursuant to an order of

Parliament, any Member may without notice move "That strangers be now admitted" and the Chairman shall forthwith put the question without permitting any debate or amendment. A Member who has made such a motion shall not be entitled to move any similar motion during the same sitting.

(4) The Speaker, or the Chairman, may, whenever he thinks fit, order the withdrawal of strangers from the whole or any part of the Parliament Chamber and from the precincts of Parliament.

(5) The Speaker may grant a general permission to the representative of any media to attend the sittings of Parliament under such rules as he may make from time to time for that purpose. If such rules are contravened, such permission may be revoked.

### **Residuary powers**

**110.** Any matter not provided for by these Standing Orders and any question relating to the interpretation or application of any Standing Order shall be regulated in such manner as the Speaker may decide, having regard but not limited to the relevant practice of the Commons House of Parliament of the United Kingdom.

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## NOTES

### (1)

Article 64 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore:—

#### *Sessions of Parliament*

"64.— (1) There shall be a session of Parliament once at least in every year and a period of six months shall not intervene between the last sitting of Parliament in any one session and the first sitting thereof in the next session.

(2) The sessions of Parliament shall be held in such places and shall commence at such times as the President may, from time to time, by Proclamation in the *Gazette*, appoint."

### (2)

"Minister" here is interpreted to mean a Minister of the Cabinet [*Speaker's Ruling*].

### (3)

Article 56 of the Constitution:—

#### *Quorum*

"56. If objection is taken by any Member present that there are present (besides the Speaker or other Member presiding) fewer than one-quarter of the total number of Members and, after such interval as may be prescribed in the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Speaker or other Member presiding ascertains that the number of Members present is still less than one-quarter of the total number of Members, he shall thereupon adjourn Parliament."



**(4)**

Articles 54 and 43 of the Constitution:-

*Presiding in Parliament*

"54. The Speaker shall preside at each sitting of Parliament."

*Performance of functions of Speaker*

"43. The functions conferred by this Constitution upon the Speaker shall, if there is no person holding the office of Speaker or if the Speaker is absent from a sitting of Parliament or is otherwise unable to perform those functions, be performed by a Deputy Speaker, or if there be no Deputy Speaker or if he is likewise absent or unable to perform those functions, by some other person to be elected by Parliament for the purpose."

**(5)**

The proceedings on the Address of Thanks for the President's speech, the resumed Debate on the Annual Budget Statement and Business of Supply are taken at 1.30 p.m. on an allotted day, and all business (other than the introduction of a Government Bill, or a business motion being moved at the end of Question Time, or complaints or motions affecting the powers and privileges of Parliament) set down on the Order Paper will be interrupted or suspended.

**(6)**

Article 40 (1), (2) and (3) and Article 61 of the Constitution:-

*Speaker*

"40-(1) When Parliament first meets after any general

election and before it proceeds to the despatch of any other business, it shall elect a person to be Speaker, and, whenever the office of Speaker is vacant otherwise than by reason of a dissolution of Parliament, shall not transact any business other than the election of a person to fill that office.

(2) The Speaker may be elected, in such manner as Parliament may from time to time decide, either from among the Members of Parliament who are neither Ministers nor Parliamentary Secretaries or from among persons who are not Members of Parliament:

Provided that a person who is not a Member of Parliament shall not be elected as Speaker if, under any of the provisions of this Constitution, he is not qualified for election as a Member of Parliament.

(3) Upon the Speaker being elected and before he enters upon the duties of his office, he shall (unless he has already done so in accordance with Article 61) take and subscribe before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance in the form set out in the First Schedule."

#### *Oath of Allegiance*

"61. No Member of Parliament shall be permitted to take part in the proceedings thereof (other than proceedings necessary for the purpose of this Article) until he has taken and subscribed before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance in the form set out in the First Schedule:

Provided that the election of a Speaker may take place before the Members of Parliament have taken and subscribed such Oath."

(7)

Article 61, Article 2 (7) and Article 40 (3) of the Constitution:-

*Oath of Allegiance*

"61. No Member of Parliament shall be permitted to take part in the proceedings thereof (other than proceedings necessary for the purpose of this Article) until he has taken and subscribed before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance in the form set out in the First Schedule:

Provided that the election of a Speaker may take place before the Members of Parliament have taken and subscribed such Oath."

"2.- (7) Where a person is required by this Constitution to take an oath, he shall be permitted, if he so desires, to comply with that requirement by making an affirmation."

"40.- (3) Upon the Speaker being elected and before he enters upon the duties of his office, he shall (unless he has already done so in accordance with Article 61) take and subscribe before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance in the form set out in the First Schedule.

FIRST SCHEDULE

3. *Oath as Member of Parliament.*

I, ....., having been elected as a member of the Parliament of Singapore, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge my duties as such to the best of my ability, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Republic of Singapore, and that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore."

**(8)**

Article 22N (1), (2) and (3) of the Constitution:—

*Persons to exercise functions of President when office is vacant*

"22N.— (1) If the office of President becomes vacant, the Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers or, if he is unavailable, the Speaker shall exercise the functions of the office of President during the period between the date the office of President becomes vacant and the assumption of office by the person declared elected as President.

(2) If neither the Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers nor the Speaker is available, Parliament may appoint a person in accordance with clause (3) to exercise the functions of the office of President during the period referred to in clause (1).

(3) Parliament shall not appoint any person to exercise the functions of the office of President under clause (2) unless the person is qualified to be elected as President."

**(9)**

Article 42 (1) and (2) (a) and (b) of the Constitution:—

*Deputy Speaker*

"42.— (1) Parliament shall from time to time elect two Deputy Speakers; and whenever the office of a Deputy Speaker is vacant otherwise than by reason of a dissolution of Parliament, Parliament shall, as soon as convenient, elect a person to that office.

(2) (a) A Deputy Speaker may be elected, in such manner as

Parliament may from time to time decide, either from among the Members of Parliament who are neither Ministers nor Parliamentary Secretaries or from among persons who are not Members of Parliament:

Provided that a person who is not a Member of Parliament shall not be elected as Deputy Speaker if, under any of the provisions of this Constitution, he is not qualified for election as a Member of Parliament.

(b) Upon a Deputy Speaker being elected and before he enters upon the duties of his office, he shall (unless he has already done so in accordance with Article 61) take and subscribe before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance in the form set out in the First Schedule."

**(10)**

Article 22L(3) of the Constitution:—

"22L.-(3) The Prime Minister or not less than one-quarter of the total number of the elected Members of Parliament referred to in Article 39 (1) (a) may give notice of a motion alleging that the President is permanently incapable of discharging the functions of his office by reason of mental or physical infirmity or that the President has been guilty of -

(a) intentional violation of the Constitution;

(b) treason;

(c) misconduct or corruption involving the abuse of the powers of his office; or

(d) any offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude,

and setting out full particulars of the allegations made and seeking an inquiry and report thereon."

**(11)**

Article 53 of the Constitution:—

*Use of languages in Parliament*

"53. Until the Legislature otherwise provides, all debates and discussions in Parliament shall be conducted in Malay, English, Mandarin or Tamil."

**(12)**

Article 99 of the Constitution:—

*Restriction on Parliamentary discussion of conduct of a Judge of Supreme Court*

"99. The conduct of a Judge of the Supreme Court or a person designated to sit as such a Judge or a Judicial Commissioner shall not be discussed in Parliament except on a substantive motion of which notice has been given by not less than one-quarter of the total number of the Members of Parliament."

**(13)**

Articles 57, 55, 5 and 39 of the Constitution:—

*Voting*

"57.— (1) Subject to this Constitution, all questions proposed for decision in Parliament shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting; and if, upon any question

before Parliament, the votes of the Members are equally divided, the motion shall be lost.

(2) If the Speaker has been elected from among persons who are not Members of Parliament, he shall not vote, but subject to this provision, the Speaker or other person presiding shall have an original vote but no casting vote."

*Validity of proceedings of Parliament*

"55. Parliament shall not be disqualified for the transaction of business by reason of any vacancy among the Members thereof, including any vacancy not filled when Parliament is first constituted or is reconstituted at any time; and any proceedings therein shall be valid notwithstanding that some person who was not entitled to do so sat or voted in Parliament or otherwise took part in the proceedings."

*Amendment of Constitution*

"5.— (1) Subject to this Article and Article 8, the provisions of this Constitution may be amended by a law enacted by the Legislature.

(2) A Bill seeking to amend any provision in this Constitution shall not be passed by Parliament unless it has been supported on Second and Third Readings by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of the elected Members of Parliament referred to in Article 39 (1) (a).

(3) In this Article, "amendment" includes addition and repeal."

*Parliament*

"39.– (1) Parliament shall consist of –

- (a) such number of elected Members as is required to be returned at a general election by the constituencies prescribed by or under any law made by the Legislature;
- (b) such other Members, not exceeding 6 in number, who shall be known as non-constituency Members, as the Legislature may provide in any law relating to Parliamentary elections to ensure the representation in Parliament of a minimum number of Members from a political party or parties not forming the Government; and
- (c) such other Members not exceeding 9 in number, who shall be known as nominated Members, as may be appointed by the President in accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Schedule.

(2) A non-constituency Member or a nominated Member shall not vote in Parliament on any motion pertaining to –

- (a) a Bill to amend the Constitution;
- (b) a Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill;
- (c) a Money Bill as defined in Article 68;
- (d) a vote of no confidence in the Government; and
- (e) removing the President from office under Article 22L.



(3) In this Article and in Articles 39A and 47, a constituency shall be construed as an electoral division for the purposes of Parliamentary elections.

(4) If any person who is not a Member of Parliament is selected as Speaker or Deputy Speaker, he shall, by virtue of holding the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker, be a Member of Parliament in addition to the Members aforesaid, except for the purposes of Chapter 2 of Part V and of Article 46."

**(14)**

Section 32 of the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act (Chapter 217):—

*Member to disclose pecuniary interest*

"32. A Member shall not in or before Parliament or any committee take part in the discussion of any matter in which he has a direct personal pecuniary interest without disclosing the extent of that interest and shall not in any circumstances vote upon any such matter."

**(15)**

Article 59 of the Constitution:—

*Introduction of Bills*

"59.— (1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and of Standing Orders of Parliament, any Member may introduce any Bill or propose any motion for debate in, or may present any petition to, Parliament, and the same shall be debated and disposed of according to the Standing Orders of Parliament.

(2) A Bill or an amendment making provision (directly or indirectly) for -

- (a) imposing or increasing any tax or abolishing, reducing or remitting any existing tax;
- (b) the borrowing of money, or the giving of any guarantee, by the Government, or the amendment of the law relating to the financial obligations of the Government;
- (c) the custody of the Consolidated Fund, the charging of any money on the Consolidated Fund or the abolition or alteration of any such charge;
- (d) the payment of moneys into the Consolidated Fund or the payment, issue or withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of any moneys not charged thereon, or any increase in the amount of such a payment, issue or withdrawal; or
- (e) the receipt of any moneys on account of the Consolidated Fund or the custody or issue of such moneys,

being provision as respects which the Minister responsible for finance signifies that it goes beyond what is incidental only and not of a substantial nature having regard to the purposes of the Bill or amendment, shall not be introduced or moved except on the recommendation of the President signified by a Minister.

(3) A Bill or amendment shall not be deemed to make provision for any of the said matters by reason only that it provides for

the imposition or alteration of any fine or other pecuniary penalty or for the payment or demand of a licence fee or a fee or charge for any service rendered."

**(16)**

Article 60 of the Constitution:--

*Words of enactment of laws*

"60. In every Bill presented for assent, the words of enactment shall be as follows:-

"Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:."

**(17)**

Articles 78, 68 and 79 (1) of the Constitution:--

*Copies of Bills and amendments thereto to be sent to the Council*

"78.-(1) Immediately after any Bill to which this Article applies has been given a final reading and passed by Parliament and before it is presented to the President for assent, the Speaker shall cause an authenticated copy of the Bill to be sent to the Council\*.

(2) The Council\* shall consider the Bill and shall, within thirty days of the date on which the Bill was sent to the Council\*, make a report to the Speaker stating whether or not in the opinion of the Council\* any and, if so, which provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure.

(3) Whenever after the receipt of an adverse report from the Council\*, the Bill to which it relates is amended by Parliament, the

Speaker shall cause the Bill in its amended form to be sent again to the Council\*.

(4) On the application of the Chairman, the Speaker may extend, as he thinks fit, the period of thirty days prescribed by clause (2), where he considers it proper to do so on account of the length or complexity of any Bill or the number of matters for the time being under consideration by the Council\* or for any sufficient reason.

(5) The Speaker shall cause every report received by him from the Council\* in pursuance of clause (2) to be presented to Parliament without undue delay. Where the Speaker receives no such report on the Bill within the time provided in clause (2), or any extension thereof granted under clause (4), it shall be conclusively presumed that the Council\* is of the opinion that no provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure.

(6) No Bill to which this Article applies shall be presented to the President for assent unless it is accompanied by a certificate under the hand of the Speaker stating that –

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\*Presidential Council for Minority Rights

- (a) the opinion of the Council\* no provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure;
- (b) no report having been received from the Council\* within the time prescribed or any extension thereof, the Council\* is presumed to be of the opinion that no provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure; or

(c) notwithstanding the opinion of the Council\* that some specified provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure, a motion for the presentation of the Bill to the President for assent has been passed by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of Parliament.

(7) This Article shall not apply to –

(a) a Money Bill;

(b) a Bill certified by the Prime Minister as being one which affects the defence or the security of Singapore or which relates to public safety, peace or good order in Singapore; or

(c) a Bill certified by the Prime Minister to be so urgent that it is not in the public interest to delay its enactment.

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\*Presidential Council for Minority Rights

(8) A Bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if the Speaker certifies in writing that, in his opinion, it is a Bill to which the definition of "Money Bill" contained in Article 68 applies. No Money Bill shall be presented to the President for assent, unless it is accompanied by the Speaker's certificate which shall be conclusive for all purposes and shall not be open to question in any court."

*Interpretation*

"68. In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires –

"Money Bill" means a Bill which contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters:–

- (a) the imposition, repeal, remission, alteration or regulation of taxation;
- (b) the imposition, for the payment of debt or other financial purposes, of charges on the Consolidated Fund or any other public funds, or the variation or repeal of any such charges;
- (c) the grant of money to the Government or to any authority or person, or the variation or evocation of any such grant;
- (d) the appropriation, receipt, custody, investment, issue or audit of accounts of public money;
- (e) the raising or guarantee of any loan or the repayment thereof, of the establishment, alteration, administration or abolition of any sinking fund provided in connection with any such loan;
- (f) subordinate matters which are ancillary or incidental to any of the foregoing matters."

*Functions of the Council in regard to Bills enacted on a certificate of*

*urgency*

"79.– (1) Where the President assents to a Bill which has been certified as urgent by the Prime Minister under Article 78 (7), it shall nevertheless be the duty of the Speaker to cause an authenticated copy of the Act to be sent as soon as may be to the Council\*."

**(18)**

Articles 22E, 22H(1), 144(2) and 148A(1) of the Constitution:-

*Moneys of the Central Provident Fund*

"22E. The President, acting in his discretion, may withhold his assent to any Bill passed by Parliament which provides, directly or indirectly, for varying, changing or increasing the powers of the Central Provident Fund Board to invest the moneys belonging to the Central Provident Fund."

*President may withhold assent to Bill circumventing or curtailing his power*

"22H.– (1) The President may, acting in his discretion, in writing withhold his assent to any Bill (other than a Bill seeking to amend this Constitution), if the Bill or any provision therein provides, directly or indirectly, for the circumvention or curtailment of the discretionary powers conferred upon the President by this Constitution."

"144.– (2) The President, acting in his discretion, may withhold his assent to any Bill passed by Parliament providing directly or indirectly for the borrowing of money, the giving of any guarantee or the raising of any loan by the Government if, in the opinion of the President, the Bill is likely to draw on the reserves of the Government

which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office."

*Withholding of assent to Supply Bill, etc.*

"148A.– (1) The President may, acting in his discretion, withhold his assent to any Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill for any financial year if, in his opinion, the estimates of revenue and expenditure for that year, the supplementary estimates or the statement of excess, as the case may be, are likely to lead to a drawing on the reserves which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office, except that if the President assents to any such Bill notwithstanding his opinion that the estimates, supplementary estimates or statement of excess are likely to lead to a drawing on those reserves, the President shall state his opinion in writing addressed to the Speaker and shall cause his opinion to be published in the Gazette."

**(19)**

Article 78 (2), (3), (5) and (6)(c) of the Constitution:–

"78. –(2) The Council\* shall consider the Bill and shall, within thirty days of the date on which the Bill was sent to the Council\*, make a report to the Speaker stating whether or not in the opinion of the Council\* any and, if so, which provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure.

(3) Whenever after the receipt of an adverse report from the Council\*, the Bill to which it relates is amended by Parliament, the Speaker shall cause the Bill in its amended form to be sent again to the Council\*.

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\*Presidential Council for Minority Rights



(5) The Speaker shall cause every report received by him from the Council\* in pursuance of clause (2) to be presented to Parliament without undue delay. Where the Speaker receives no such report on the Bill within the time provided in clause (2), or any extension thereof granted under clause (4), it shall be conclusively presumed that the Council\* is of the opinion that no provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure.

(6) No Bill to which this Article applies shall be presented to the President for assent unless it is accompanied by a certificate under the hand of the Speaker stating that –

(c) notwithstanding the opinion of the Council\* that some specified provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure, a motion for the presentation of the Bill to the President for assent has been passed by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of Parliament."

**(20)**

See Article 78 (6)(c) in Note 19.

\*Presidential Council for Minority Rights

**(21)**

Article 147 (1) to (4) of the Constitution:–

*Annual estimates and financial statements*

“147. – (1) The Minister responsible for finance shall, before the end of each financial year, cause to be prepared annual estimates of revenue and expenditure of Singapore during the succeeding financial year which, when approved by the Cabinet, shall be presented to Parliament.

(2) The estimates of expenditure shall show separately –

- (a) the total sums required to meet expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund;
- (b) the sums respectively required to meet the heads of other expenditure for the public services proposed to be met from the Consolidated Fund, except the following sums:
  - (i) sums representing the proceeds of any loan raised by the Government for specific purposes and appropriated for those purposes by the law authorising the raising of the loan;
  - (ii) sums representing any money or interest on money received by the Government subject to a trust and to be applied in accordance with

the terms of the trust; and

(iii) sums representing any money held by the Government which has been received or appropriated for the purpose of any trust fund established by or in accordance with any written law; and

(c) the sums respectively required to meet the heads of expenditure proposed to be met from the Development Fund.

(3) The estimates of revenue to be shown in the estimates shall not include any sums received by way of zakat, fitrah and baitulmal or similar Muslim revenue.

(4) The Minister responsible for finance shall also present to Parliament together with the estimates of revenue and expenditure –

(a) a statement whether the annual estimates of revenue and expenditure is likely to draw on the reserves which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office; and

(b) an audited statement showing as far as practicable the assets and liabilities of Singapore at the end of the last completed financial year."

**(22)**

The words "to complete the sum necessary" are added when part of the whole sum has been provided by a vote on account.

**(23)**

Article 148 (1) and (2) of the Constitution:—

*Authorisation of expenditure from Consolidated Fund and Development Fund*

"148.— (1) The heads of expenditure to be met from the Consolidated Fund and Development Fund (other than statutory expenditure and expenditure to be met by such sums as are mentioned in Article 147 (2) (b) (i), (ii) or (iii)) shall be included in a Bill to be known as a Supply Bill, providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund and Development Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure and the appropriation of those sums for the purposes specified therein.

(2) Wherever —

- (a) any moneys are expended or are likely to be expended in any financial year upon any service or purpose which are in excess of the sum provided for that service or purpose by the Supply law relating to that year; or
- (b) any moneys are expended or are likely to be expended (otherwise than by way of statutory expenditure) in any financial year upon any new service or purpose not provided for by the Supply law

relating to that year,

supplementary estimates (or, as the case may be, statements of excess) shall be prepared by the Minister responsible for finance and, when approved by the Cabinet, shall be presented to and voted on by Parliament; in respect of all supplementary expenditure so voted the Minister responsible for finance may, at any time before the end of the financial year, introduce into Parliament a Supplementary Supply Bill containing, under appropriate heads, the estimated sums so voted and shall, as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, introduce into Parliament a Final Supply Bill containing any such sums which have not yet been included in any Supply Bill."

**(24)**

Article 148D (1) and (2) of the Constitution:--

*Parliament may overrule President's withholding of assent to Supply Bill, etc.*

"148D.— (1) Where the President withholds his assent under Article 148A to any Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill relating to any financial year contrary to the recommendation of the Council of Presidential Advisers, Parliament may by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the total number of the elected Members of Parliament referred to in Article 39 (1) (a) overrule the decision of the President.

(2) Upon the passing of a resolution under clause (1), the assent of the President shall be deemed to have been given on the date of the passing of such resolution."

**(25)**

Article 148A (2) and (3) of the Constitution:--

"148A.– (2) If the President withholds his assent to any Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill relating to any financial year and no resolution to overrule the President is passed by Parliament under Article 148D within 30 days of such withholding of assent, Parliament may by resolution authorise expenditure or supplementary expenditure, as the case may be, (not otherwise authorised by law) from the Consolidated Fund and Development Fund during that financial year:

Provided that –

- (a) where the President withholds his assent to a Supply Bill, the expenditure so authorised for any service or purpose for that financial year (which shall include any amount authorised under Article 148B (4)) shall not exceed the total amount appropriated for that service or purpose in the preceding financial year; or
- (b) where the President withholds his assent to a Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill, the expenditure so authorised for any service or purpose shall not exceed the amount necessary to replace an amount advanced from any Contingencies Fund under Article 148C (1) for that service or purpose.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (a) of the proviso to clause (2), the total amount appropriated for any service or purpose in any financial year shall be ascertained by adding the sums appropriated for such service or purpose by the Supply law, Supplementary Supply law and Final Supply law (if any) for that financial year.

(3A) Upon the passing of a resolution under clause (2), the Minister responsible for finance shall introduce in Parliament a Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill, as the case may be, containing, under appropriate heads, the sums so voted on by Parliament."

**(26)**

Article 148B (1) to (4) of the Constitution:—

*Power to authorise expenditure on account, etc., or for unspecified purposes*

"148B.— (1) Subject to clause (3), Parliament may, by resolution approving estimates containing a vote on account, authorise expenditure for part of any year before the passing of the Supply law for that year, but the aggregate sums so voted shall be included under the appropriate heads, in the Supply law for that year.

(2) Subject to clause (3), Parliament may, by resolution approving a vote of credit, authorise expenditure for the whole or part of the year, otherwise than in accordance with Articles 147 and 148, if, owing to the magnitude or indefinite character of any service or to circumstances of unusual urgency, it appears to Parliament desirable to do so.

(3) No resolution of Parliament made under clause (1) or (2) shall have effect unless the President, acting in his discretion, concurs

therewith.

(4) If no Supply Bill has become law by the first day of the financial year to which it relates (whether by reason of the President withholding his assent thereto or otherwise), the Minister responsible for finance may, with the prior approval of the Cabinet, authorise such expenditure (not otherwise authorised by law) from the Consolidated Fund, Development Fund or other Government fund as he may consider essential for the continuance of the public services or any purpose of development shown in the estimates until there is a Supply law for that financial year:

Provided that the expenditure so authorised for any service or purpose shall not exceed one-quarter of the amount voted for that service or purpose in the Supply law for the preceding financial year."

**(27)**

Article 144 (1) of the Constitution:—

*Restriction on loans, guarantees, etc.*

"144.— (1) No guarantee or loan shall be given or raised by the Government —

- (a) except under the authority of any resolution of Parliament with which the President concurs;
- (b) under the authority of any law to which this paragraph applies unless the President concurs with the giving or raising of such guarantee or loan; or
- (c) except under the authority of any other written law."



**(28)**

Article 148 (2) of the Constitution:—

"148. — (2) Wherever —

(a) any moneys are expended or are likely to be expended in any financial year upon any service or purpose which are in excess of the sum provided for that service or purpose by the Supply law relating to that year; or

(b) any moneys are expended or are likely to be expended (otherwise than by way of statutory expenditure) in any financial year upon any new service or purpose not provided for by the Supply law relating to that year,

supplementary estimates (or, as the case may be, statements of excess) shall be prepared by the Minister responsible for finance and, when approved by the Cabinet, shall be presented to and voted on by Parliament; in respect of all supplementary expenditure so voted the Minister responsible for finance may, at any time before the end of the financial year, introduce into Parliament a Supplementary Supply Bill containing, under appropriate heads, the estimated sums so voted and shall, as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, introduce into Parliament a Final Supply Bill containing any such sums which have not yet been included in any Supply Bill."

**(29)**

Article 147 (2) of the Constitution:—

"147.— (2) The estimates of expenditure shall show separately

—

- (a) the total sums required to meet expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund;
- (b) the sums respectively required to meet the heads of other expenditure for the public services proposed to be met from the Consolidated Fund, except the following sums:
- (i) sums representing the proceeds of any loan raised by the Government for specific purposes and appropriated for those purposes by the law authorising the raising of the loan;
  - (ii) sums representing any money or interest on money received by the Government subject to a trust and to be applied in accordance with the terms of the trust; and
  - (iii) sums representing any money held by the Government which has been received or appropriated for the purpose of any trust fund established by or in accordance with any written law; and
- (c) the sums respectively required to meet the heads of expenditure proposed to be met from the Development Fund."