**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REVISED RULES: CHAPTERS 1-15**

**as recommended by the NA Rules Committee**

**20 November 2015**

(*Draft 9*)

**Notes: Underlined text is added to the original rules. Highlighted, bracketed text is removed including any text that appears to contain amendments. Such amendments are from an earlier version. This is the same method used for amendment bills.**

**CHAPTER 1**

**SOURCES OF AUTHORITY OF ASSEMBLY AND THEIR APPLICATION**

***Part 1: Definitions***

**1. Definitions**

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise indicates—

**[“Act” means the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2004;]**

**“Assembly”** means the National Assembly;

**“ATC”** means the document entitled Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, which supplements the Minutes of Proceedings of the Assembly;

**“attendance”** means a member's presence at a sitting of the House, a meeting of a mini plenary session or any other committee or forum, or at any other official parliamentary activity;

**“Chamber”** means the Chamber of the National Assembly or any other chamber in which the proceedings of the House and its forums are conducted;

**“Chief Whip”** means the chief whip of the majority party;

**“classification”,** with reference to a bill, means the classification of a bill in terms of Joint Rule 160 (6) or the reclassification of a bill in terms of Joint Rule 163;

**“Constitution”** means the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996;

**“constitutional institution”** means —

(a) any State institution mentioned in section 181 of the Constitution; or

(b) any other institution established, or of which the establishment is required, in terms of a specific provision of the Constitution, including the constitutional institutions listed in Schedule 1 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No1 of 1999);

**“constitution amendment bill”** means a bill to which section 74 of the Constitution applies;

**“Council”** means the National Council of Provinces;

**“document”** means any written instrument, and includes any electronic or other device in or on which information, including visual material, is recorded, stored or kept;

**“duration of the House”** means the term of the House or the remaining part of its term at any time;

**“formal motion”** means a motion of a procedural nature that in terms of Rule 97 does not require notice;

**“forum”** in relation to the Assembly means any formal gathering of members of the Assembly as provided for in the Rules and orders to conduct the business of the Assembly, and includes sittings of the House, mini plenary sessions of the House, committees and other relevant structures of the Assembly;

**“Gazette”** means the national *Government Gazette*;

**“House”** means the Assembly unless otherwise specified;

**“JTM”** means the Joint Tagging Mechanism established by Joint Rule 151;

**“member”** means a member of the Assembly;

**“mini plenary session”** means a subordinate meeting of the House for debating purposes only and involving a reduced number of members, as provided for in Rules 31 to 38;

**“misconduct”** in these Rulesmeans a breach of the standing rules of Parliament by a member, except a breach of the Code of Conduct contained in the Schedule to the Joint Rules or conduct amounting to contempt of Parliament as defined in the Powers and Privileges Act;

**[“mixed section 75/76 bill” means a bill that contains provisions to which section 75 of the Constitution applies and provisions to which section 76 applies;]**

**“money bill”** means a bill that appropriates money or imposes taxes, levies or duties and to which section 77 of the Constitution applies;

“**motion”** means -

(a) a proposal made by a member in the form of a draft resolution that the Assembly do something, order something to be done or express an opinion concerning some matter, or

(b) a proposal made by a member that the Assembly discuss a subject presented by the member for that purpose;

**“official parliamentary activities”** means any business or activity of Parliament, including plenary sittings, committee meetings, study tours, workshops, parliamentary forums or any other parliamentary activity sanctioned by the Assembly, or its committees or presiding officers, as duly authorised;

**“organ of state”** means any executive organ of state in the national sphere of government as contemplated in Section 55(2) and defined in Section 239 of the Constitution.

“**Parliamentary Protection Services**” means any employee authorised by Parliament to perform security and protection services within the precincts of Parliament, and includes all parliamentary staff members employed, appointed, assigned, delegated or contracted by Parliament to perform security and protection functions within the precincts of Parliament;

“**party whip**” means a member designated by the leadership of a party to oversee and guide the conduct of its members in relation to the Rules and the decorum and business of the House or a Committee and to perform such further functions as the House may prescribe;

**“person in charge” —**

(a) with reference to a bill introduced by a Cabinet member, a Deputy Minister or an Assembly member, means that Cabinet member, Deputy Minister or Assembly member;

(b) with reference to a bill introduced by an Assembly committee, means the chairperson or any other member of the committee designated by the committee;

(c) with reference to a money bill, means the Cabinet member responsible for national financial matters **[Minister of Finance or another Minister referred to in Rule 286]**;

(d) with reference to a section 76(2) bill introduced on behalf of a Cabinet member or Deputy Minister in the Council, means that Cabinet member or Deputy Minister;

(e) with reference to a section 76(2) bill introduced in the Council, other than bills referred to in paragraph (d), means the Assembly member designated in terms of Joint Rule 217(2);

(f) with reference to a committee report, means the member who introduces the report in the House on behalf of the committee; and

(g) with reference to a motion, means the member who gives notice of the motion and/or moves the motion in the House.

**“point of order”** means a matter related to the procedure or practice of the House, or a complaint of unparliamentary conduct or behaviour on the part of another member, which a Member is entitled to raise during the sitting of the House or Committee when seeking guidance and a ruling on the matter from the Presiding Officer;

**“Powers and Privileges Act”**means the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2004 (Act No 4 of 2004);

**“precincts of Parliament”** means the precincts referred to in Section 2 of the Powers and Privileges Act;

“**private member**” means any member other than a Minister, a Deputy Minister, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker;

“**question”** except in respect of question time or a question period and a question of privilege, means a proposal presented tothe Assembly or a Committee of the Assembly by the presiding officer for consideration and decision or disposal in some manner;

**“question of privilege”**means any report of an act which may constitute a breach of privilege or contempt of Parliament in terms of the Powers and Privileges Act;

**“Question Paper”** means, as applicable, the Question Paper produced for a particular question day or an Internal Question Paper containing all current questions that have still to be replied to.

**“recess”,** with reference to the Assembly, means a period determined as a recess by the Programme Committee, or by resolution of the Assembly, during which, subject to Rule 138, no **[the]** business of the Assembly is conducted **[interrupted]**;

**“Secretary”** means the Secretary to Parliament;

**“section 75 bill”** means a bill to which the procedure prescribed in section 75 of the Constitution applies;

**“section 76(1) bill”** means a section 76 bill introduced in the Assembly;

**“section 76(2) bill”** means a section 76 bill introduced in the Council;

**“session”**, except in the context of a mini plenary session as contemplated in Part 3 of Chapter 4, means an annual session of a Parliament;

**“sitting day”** means a day on which the Assembly sits or a mini plenary session is held;

**“special petition”** means a petition requesting a pension or other specific or personal relief from the State which is not authorised by law;

**“subject of a Bill”** means the objects of the Bill as introduced in the Assembly and the substance of the Bill to give effect to those objects;

**“substantive motion”**, with reference to a member or the holder of an office specified in Rule 66, means a self-contained proposal in terms of Rule 63A or Rule 66 for separate consideration by the House, relating to any charge against that member or office-bearer;

**“tabling”**, in relation to any document or paper, means the official presentation of the document or paper in the House, or, if not presented in the House, the publication in the ATC of the document or paper after it has been officially submitted to the Speaker **[placing of a document on the Table of the Assembly]**;

**“term”** in relation to the Assembly, means the period for which the Assembly is elected in terms of section 49(1) of the Constitution;

**“working day”** means any day of the week except —

(a) Saturday and Sunday;

(b) a public holiday in terms of the Public Holidays Act, 1994 (Act **[No]** 36 of 1994); and

(c) a Monday following any of these public holidays that falls on a Sunday.

***Part 2: Sources of authority of National Assembly***

**1A. Introduction**

The sources of authority of the National Assembly are -

(a) the Constitution;

(b) the Powers and Privileges Act and any other applicable legislation;

(c) the Rules of the National Assembly;

(d) the Joint Rules of Parliament, if and when applicable;

(e) orders or any other binding decision of the National Assembly;

(f) directives and guidelines of the Rules Committee; **[as approved by the National Assembly;]**

(g) rulings by the Speaker and other presiding officers; and

(h) any conventions or practices, which have been established in the National Assembly by agreement and usage over a period of time.

**2. Rules of National Assembly**

(1)The Rules of the National Assembly are adopted by resolution of this House in accordance with section 57 of the Constitution.

1. The Rules remain in force until amended or repealed.
2. The Rules must be strictly adhered to by members.

**[3. Suspension of Rules**

1. **Any provision of these Rules relating to the business or proceedings at a meeting of [this] the House, of an extended public committee (?), or of a committee of [this] the House, may be suspended by resolution of [this] the House.**
2. **The suspension of any provision [shall] must be limited in its operation to the particular purpose and period for which such suspension has been approved**.**]**

**3. Suspension or Supplementing of Rules**

(1) Any provision of these Rules relating to the business or proceedings at a sitting of the House or a mini plenary session, or of a committee ofthe House or any other forum of the House, may be suspended by resolution ofthe House.

(2) The suspension of any provision shall be limited in its operation to the particular purpose and period for which such suspension has been approved.

(2A) Any motion to adopt or amend any Rule or to suspend any provision of these Rules requires notice in accordance with Rule 97.

**[(3) A majority of the members of the House must be present before a decision may be taken to adopt or amend any Rule or to suspend any provision of these Rules.]**

(2B) At least one third of the members of the House must be present before a decision may be taken to suspend any provision of these Rules but a majority of the members of the House must be present before a decision may be taken to adopt or amend any Rule.

(3) The National Assembly may by resolution, subject to these Rules, make an order supplementing these Rules in accordance with section 57 of the Constitution; Provided that -

(a) a standing order of the House remains in force until amended or repealed; and

(b) a sessional order of the House, identified as such by the House, remains in force -

(i) until the period of its validity, as specified in the order, has expired; or

1. until the end of the last sitting day of the session within which it was made **[a term of the Assembly, or when the Assembly is dissolved]**;

Provided that a sessional order may be amended or repealed at any time.

**4. Non-diminution or non-limitation of Rules and orders**

No convention or practice may limit or inhibit any provision of these Rules or any order of the House.

**5. Unforeseen eventualities**

(1) The Speaker may give a ruling or frame a Rule in respect of any eventuality for which these Rules or orders of the House do not provide, having due regard to the procedures, precedents, practices and conventions developed by the House and on the basis of constitutional values and principles underpinning an open, accountable and democratic society.

1. A Rule framed by the Speaker remains in force until the House, based on a recommendation of the Rules Committee, has decided thereon.

**5A. Directives and guidelines of Rules Committee**

(1) The Rules Committee may, in terms of Rule 161, issue directives and lay down guidelines to assist with the implementation **[or observance]** of these Rules and orders of the House.

(2) Members must comply with any such directives and **[observe any]** guidelines.

**5B. Rulings**

(1) The Speaker must perform the functions as provided for in these Rules and may make rulings in applying and interpreting these Rules, orders of the House and directives and guidelines approved by the Rules Committee.

(2) The Speaker and other presiding officers may make rulings in accordance with Subrule (1) in respect of procedural matters that arise when they are presiding at a sitting of the House or a mini plenary session.

(3) Members must comply with rulings made by presiding officers.

(4) (a) A member may request that a ruling be referred to the Rules Committee for consideration and report.

(b) In considering a ruling referred to it in terms of Subrule (4)(a), the Rules Committee must confine itself to the principle underlying, or subject of, the ruling in question.

**5C. Conventions and practices**

1. Conventions and practices relating to the business of the House and its committees and other forums are established by agreement amongst political parties and parliamentary office-bearers, and may be varied by agreement amongst them and reviewed from time to time as decided by the Rules Committee.
2. Conventions and practices must be consistent with the provisions of the Constitution, these Rules, orders of the House, rulings, and directives and guidelines of the Rules Committee.
3. Presiding officers may request members' compliance with established conventions and practices.

**5D. Contempt**

A member who wilfully fails or refuses to obey any Rule, order or resolution of the House may be found guilty of contempt of Parliament in terms of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2004 (Act No 4 of 2004).

**6. Application to President of the Republic and other non-members**

**[When the President of the Republic takes his or her seat in a Chamber, these Rules shall apply to him or her as they apply to a Minister.]**

1. These Rules and orders of the House apply, as appropriate, to the President of the Republic as they apply to a Minister.
2. A reference in these Rules and orders of the House to a member or a Minister **[shall]** must, where applicable, be construed as a reference also to the President of the Republic **[while taking his or her seat in a Chamber]**, and to the Deputy President, or a Minister or Deputy Minister who is not a member of **[this]** the House.

**CHAPTER 2**

**PROCEEDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH**

**COMMENCEMENT OF SESSION**

**7. Convening notice read [**and oath or affirmation by members**]**

At the commencement of the proceedings of the **[House]** National Assembly on the first day of its first session the Secretary, or an officer of Parliament nominated by him or her, **[shall]** must read the notice convening **[this]** the House under section 51(1) of the Constitution.

**7A. Oath or affirmation by members**

**[(2)** **Whenever necessary]**

When the convening notice has been read at the commencement of the proceedings of the House on the first day on which it meets after a general election at which members of the House were elected, such members [**shall]** must be sworn or make affirmation before the Chief Justice or a judge designated by the Chief Justice, in accordance with Section 48 read with Schedule 2 of the Constitution.

**[8. Election of President of the Republic**

**At its first sitting, [this] the House [shall] must in accordance with Section 86(1) and (2), read with Schedule 3 to the Constitution, elect one of its members as the President of the Republic.**

**9. Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

**At its first sitting, after the election of the President of the Republic, [this] the House [shall] must, in accordance with Section 52(1), (2) and (3), read with Schedule 3 to the Constitution, [proceed to the election of] elect one of its members to be the Speaker [of this House] and thereafter another to be the Deputy Speaker of [this] the House.]**

**8. Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

At its first sitting after its election, the National Assembly must, in accordance with Section 52(1), (2) and (3), read with Schedule 3 to the Constitution, elect one of its members to be the Speaker and thereafter another to be the Deputy Speaker of the House**.**

**9. Election of President of the Republic**

At its first sitting, after its election of a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker,the House must in accordance with Section 86(1) and (2), read with Schedule 3 to the Constitution, elect one of its members as the President of the Republic.

**9A. Opening of a Parliament**

(1) At the commencement of the first session of a Parliament after its election the President must deliver an Opening Address at a date and time to be announced by the Speaker.

(2) The Speaker must thereafter place the Opening Address on the Order Paper for discussion.

**[10. Opening of Parliament or annual session**

**The Speaker shall inform this House of the time at which the President will open Parliament or an annual session of Parliament, and the proceedings shall then be suspended until the President has delivered his or her Opening Address.]**

**10. Commencement of annual session**

The Speaker must inform the House of the date and time on which an annual session of the House will commence, as determined by the Programme Committee in accordance with Rule 190B

**10A. President's State of the Nation Address**

The Speaker must inform the House of the date and time for the President's annual State of the Nation Address.

**11.** [Opening Address] **State of the Nation Address reported**

The Speaker **[shall** **report to this House the President’s Opening Address]** must publish the President’s State of the Nation Address in the Minutes of Proceedings.

**12.** [Opening Address] **State of the Nation Address placed on Order Paper**

When the President has delivered **[his or her Opening Address,]** the State of the Nation Address, the **[Secretary to Parliament]** Speaker **[shall]** must place it on the Order Paper of **[this]** the House for discussion.

**CHAPTER 3**

**PRESIDING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

***Part 1: Presiding Officers***

**13. Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

(1) (a) Whenever it is necessary to elect a Speaker **[or a Deputy Speaker],** the Secretary or an officer of Parliament nominated by him or her, **[shall]** must inform **[this House]** the National Assembly accordingly, whereupon **[this]** the House **[shall]** must immediately **[forthwith]** or at a time announced by the Secretary or such officer proceed to the election in terms of section 52 of the Constitution.

(b) The Chief Justice or another judge designated by the Chief Justice presides over the election of the Speaker.

(2) (a) Whenever it is necessary to elect a Deputy Speaker**,** the Speaker must inform the National Assembly, whereupon the House must immediately or at a time announced by the Speaker proceed to the election in terms of section 52 of the Constitution.

(b) The Speaker presides over the election of a Deputy Speaker.

(3) The member elected **[shall]** must be given the opportunity,from his or her place, **[express his or her sense of the honour conferred upon him or her]** to make an acceptance speech.

**14. Election of other presiding officers**

(1) **[This]** The House must elect three members as House Chairpersons for the duration of the House.

(2) The Speaker must allocate functions and responsibilities to the House Chairpersons and announce such allocations in the ATC.

**15. [**Relief of Speaker**] Officers presiding in the House**

The Deputy Speaker or a House Chairperson must preside during a sitting of the House whenever requested to do so by the Speaker.

**16. [**Absence of Speaker**] Acting Speaker**

(1) Whenever the Speaker is absent or unable to perform the functions of the office of Speaker, or whenever that office is vacant, the Deputy Speaker **[shall]** must act as Speaker.

(2) Whenever both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are absent or unable to perform the functions of the office of Speaker, the Speaker or, if the Speaker is not available, the Deputy Speaker, must designate one of the House Chairpersons to act as Speaker.

**17. [**Continued absence of Speaker and Deputy Speaker**] Acting House Chairperson**

Whenever **[this]** the House has been informed of the likelihood of the continued absence of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for longer than seven consecutive parliamentary working days, **[this]** the House may **[appoint]** elect a member to act as House Chairperson while the House Chairperson so designated acts as Speaker, until the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker becomes available or **[this]** the House decides otherwise.

**17A. General authority and responsibility of Speaker**

(1) In exercising the authority of the Speaker, as provided for in Constitution and legislation and the Rules of Parliament, the Speaker must -

(a) ensure that the National Assembly provides a national forum for public consideration of issues, by passing legislation and by scrutinizing and overseeing executive action in accordance with section 42(3) of the Constitution;

(b) ensure that parties represented in the National Assembly participate fully in the proceedings of the Assembly and it’s committees and forums and facilitate public involvement in the processes of Parliament in accordance with sections 57 and 59 of the Constitution; and

(c) whenever possible, consult with relevant office-bearers and structures within Parliament to achieve the efficient and effective functioning of Parliament in a transparent and accountable manner.

(2) The Speaker must maintain and preserve the order of and the proper decorum in the House, and uphold the dignity and good name of the House..

(3) The Speaker is responsible for the strict observance of the Rules of the House and must decide questions of order and practice in the House, such a ruling being final and binding as provided for in Rule 70.

(4) The Speaker must act fairly and impartially and apply the Rules with due regard to ensuring the participation of members of all parties in a manner consistent with democracy.

**18.** [Absence of presiding officers] **Election of temporary presiding officer to act as Speaker**

Whenever the House has been informed that **[all]** the elected presiding officers are unavoidably absent, the House **[shall forthwith]** must immediatelyelect one of its members to act as Speaker for that day only, the question being put by the Secretary.

**18A. Removal from office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker**

(1) The House may remove the Speaker or Deputy Speaker from office by resolution in terms of Section 52(4) of the Constitution.

(2) A motion for the removal of the Speaker from office must comply, to the satisfaction of the Deputy Speaker, with the prescripts of any relevant law or any relevant rules and orders of the House and directives and guidelines **[recommended by the Rules Committee and approved by the House]** approved by the Rules Committee, before being placed on the Order Paper, and must include the grounds on which the proposed removal from office is based.

(3) In respect of a motion for the removal of the Deputy Speaker from office, the Speaker must approve compliance as contemplated in Subrule (2).

(4) The Deputy Speaker or Speaker, as applicable, may request an amendment of or in any other manner deal with a relevant motion that does not comply with the requirements as contemplated in Subrule (2).

(5) The Deputy Speaker or Speaker, as applicable, must accord an approved motion under this Rule due priority and, before scheduling it, must consult with the Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

(6) The debate on a motion under this Rule may not exceed the time allocated for it by the Deputy Speaker or Speaker, as applicable, after the required consultation.

(7) A majority of the members of the Assembly must be present when the resolution is adopted.

***Part 2: Members***

**19. Oath or affirmation**

**[(1) Other than immediately after a general election, new members may, at a sitting of the House, be announced [introduced] and conducted to the Table by not more than two members in order to be sworn or to make affirmation before the presiding officer in accordance with Item 4(2) of Schedule 2 to the Constitution.**

**(2) When the House is not sitting, new members may be sworn or make affirmation before the Speaker in the Speaker's chambers, the Speaker reporting accordingly to the House at the first opportunity.]**

Other than immediately after a general election, new members may, in accordance with Item 4(2) of Schedule 2 to the Constitution –

(a) at a sitting of the House, be announced and conducted to the Table by not more than two members in order to be sworn or to make affirmation before the presiding officer, or

(b) at any time by arrangement be sworn or make affirmation before the Speaker in the Speaker's chambers, the Speaker reporting accordingly to the House at the first opportunity.

**19A. Declaration of private interests**

If a member has a personal or private financial or business interest in any matter before a forum of the Assembly of which he or she is a member, he or she must at the commencement of engagement on the matter by the forum immediately declare that interest in accordance with Part 2 of the Code of Conduct for members and comply with the other provisions of the Code.

**19B. Raising a question of privilege**

(1) A member who wishes to raise a perceived breach of privilege must report it to the Speaker without delay.

(2) If the alleged breach of privilege is in the Speaker's opinion adequately substantiated and may affect a sitting of the House on the day on which the question of privilege is reported or in the immediate future, the Speaker may, with due regard to the provisions of the Powers and Privileges Act -

(a) make an immediate ruling on the matter and announce it in the House, or

(b) provide the member with an opportunity during the sitting to move an urgent motion without notice in terms of Rules 97(1)(b) and 101.

(3) If the alleged breach of privilege does not directly affect a sitting of the House in the immediate future, the Speaker must refer the matter to the Committee on Powers and Privileges and inform the House accordingly, either immediately or at the earliest opportunity.

**[20. Leave of absence**

**[(1) A member who wishes to absent himself or herself from sittings of [this] the House, or of any other Parliamentary forum of which he or she is a member, for 15 or more consecutive days on which [this] the House or such forum sits, [shall] must, before so absenting himself or herself, [obtain the leave of this House or of a committee of this House authorised to grant such leave] apply to the Speaker to be granted such leave.**

**(2) The grant of such leave by this House shall be moved by the chief whip of the party to which the member desiring the leave belongs or by the Leader of [the House] Government Business.**

**(3) If such leave is granted by a committee, a report by the committee to that effect shall be presented to this House and be published in the Minutes of Proceedings.]**

**21. Leader of the Opposition**

(1) The leader of the largest opposition party in the Assembly must be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition as contemplated in Section 57(2)(d) of the Constitution.

(2) In the event that two or more opposition parties qualify as the largest opposition party in that they hold an equal number of seats in the House, the leader of the opposition party that obtained the most votes in the election must be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition.

**Rule 21A:** **Appointment and responsibilities of whips**

1. At the first meeting of the Rules Committee after an election, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Rules Committee must determine the number of whips to be allocated to parties represented in the House.
2. The Speaker must appoint whips on the recommendation of the leaders of the parties which qualify for whips.
3. (a) Parties which do not qualify for a whip may jointly request the Speaker to appoint one or more whips from amongst their number to represent their interests, or to alter the appointments previously made under this subrule;

(b) In considering such a request, the Speaker must apply guidelines approved by the Rules Committee for that purpose.

1. The names of the appointed whips must be published in the ATC.
2. (a) The functions of the whippery are:

(i) in general, to be responsible collectively for the maintenance of the proper decorum of the House and the orderly conduct of the business of the House; and

(ii) to co-ordinate the business of their parties in Parliament for purposes of facilitating the political management of Parliament.

(b) The Chief Whip of the Majority Party and other Chief Whips must additionally perform the functions prescribed in the rules.

(c) The House may approve recommendations by the Rules Committee to provide for any further responsibilities, duties or functions of the parliamentary whippery.

**Rule 21B: Designation of Parliamentary Counsellors**

(1) The Speaker may, on the recommendation of the President and the Deputy President, designate two members as Parliamentary Counsellors to the President and the Deputy President, respectively.

(2) The Parliamentary Counsellors must facilitate communication between the National Assembly and the offices of the President and Deputy President, respectively.

(3) The names of the designated Parliamentary Counsellors must be published in the ATC.

***Part 3: Members' attendance***

**21CA. Definitions**

*[Note: Deleted; definitions moved to Rule 1, “Definitions”]*

**21CB. Members' attendance**

1. Subject to minimum standards as provided for in these Rules, members' attendance of official parliamentary activities is regulated by their political parties.
2. A member's absence from Parliament during a parliamentary session, other than during a formal recess or resulting from the member's suspension in terms of these Rules and orders of the House, must be approved by the member's political party in Parliament.

(3) A member, or the party whip assigned responsibility for members' leave by the party, must inform -

(a) the party's duty whip, or

(b) the chairperson of a relevant committee,

of the member's approved absence from a sitting of the House or a committee meeting, respectively.

(4) All political parties must -

(a) maintain proper leave records for their members in accordance with an attendance policy for members formally approved by Parliament, as provided for in Appendix A to these Rules; and

(b) annually within 14 days after the last sitting day of an annual session submit the attendance records of their members to the Speaker for publication in the ATC.

**21CC. Absence from sittings of the House**

(1) The period for which leave may be granted to a member by the member's party, other than maternity leave and parental/adoption leave as provided for in the approved attendance policy, may not exceed 15 consecutive sitting days in an annual session.

(2) Leave may be requested of the House by motion for a member's absence in excess of 15 consecutive sitting days, the leave to be requested not later than by the close of the fifteenth consecutive sitting day of the member's absence.

1. The motion presented to the House must state the reasons for the request and the period for which continued leave of absence is sought.
2. If the motion requesting leave of absence is rejected by the House, the reasons for such rejection must be put to the House by way of a formal amendment to the motion, and the motion as amended must be supplied to the member and the member's party in Parliament without delay.

**21CD. Sanctions for extended unauthorised absence from sittings of the House**

(1) A member who absents himself or herself for 15 or more consecutive sitting days of the Assembly without authorization as provided for in these Rules loses his or her membership of the National Assembly in accordance with Section 47(3)(b) of the Constitution.

(2) The Speaker must without delay inform a member and the member's party of the member's loss of his or her membership of the Assembly in terms of this Rule.

**21CE. Absence from meetings of a committee**

1. A member may not without his or her party's approval be absent from more than two consecutive meetings of a committee to which the member has been appointed as a full member in terms of the Rules.
2. A member's approved absence from a meeting of a committee referred to in Subrule (1) must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting as formally adopted by the committee.
3. The secretary to a committee must without delay send a copy of the formal minutes of each meeting of the committee to the responsible whip of each of the parties represented on the committee.

(4) The Secretary must every three months within an annual session submit a report to the Speaker on all members who have been absent from three or more consecutive meetings of a committee without approval as recorded in the committee's minutes.

**21CF. Sanctions for extended unauthorised absence from meetings of a committee**

1. A member who is absent from three or more consecutive meetings of a committee referred to in Rule 21CE(1) without his or her party's approval may be fined **[R1 000]** an amount to be determined by the Rules Committee from time to time for each day of absence.
2. The Speaker must inform the member without delay of the imposition of a fine in terms of this Rule.

**21CG. Appeal against application of sanctions**

(1) A member who feels aggrieved by the sanction imposed upon him or her in terms of Rules 21CD or 21CF may lodge a formal appeal with the Speaker within 14 days of being notified of the application of the sanction.

(2) If the Speaker is unable to resolve the appeal on reasonable grounds, the Speaker must refer the appeal to a committee to be determined by the Rules Committee.

(3) The committee must report its findings to the House.

1. The Speaker must report any sanction imposed or appeal processed in terms of these Rules to the House.

**CHAPTER 4**

**SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

***Part 1: General***

**22. Forums for** **[**public**] proceedings of National Assembly**

(1) Subject to the Constitution and **[to]** these Rules, **[and practice,]** proceedings of the National Assembly may be conducted at sittings of the House or in mini plenary sessionsof the House.

**[are conducted in public —**

**(a) at meetings of this House;**

**(b) in extended public committees of this House; and**

**(c) in appropriation committees of this House.]**

(2) Subject to Section 59 of the Constitution, sittings of the House and its forums in terms of subrule (1) must be held in public.

**23. [**Sitting**] Working days and hours of sitting**

(1) Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, excluding official public holidays,**[shall be]** are parliamentary working days.

(2) **[The business of this House may be considered by it on these days, and the hours of sitting on these days shall be as follows]:** Unless otherwise determined by the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B, the House may consider business on these days during the following times:

Mondays to Thursdays:

14:00, or such later time as the Speaker determines, to adjournment.

Fridays:

09:00, or such later time as the Speaker determines, to adjournment.

(3) The Speaker may in exceptional circumstances, after consultation with the Leader of Government Business and party whips, allow the House to sit on any other day.

**[(3) On Wednesdays before the Easter recess the business of committees shall be considered by them between 09:00 and 12:45 and between 14:15 and 16:30, unless special circumstances require otherwise.**

**(4) New Year’s Day, Human Rights Day, Good Friday, Family Day, Freedom Day, Workers’ Day, Youth Day, National Women’s Day, Heritage Day, the Day of Reconciliation, Christmas Day and the Day of Goodwill shall not be sitting days of this House or any committee: Provided that, if any of these days falls on a Sunday, this House or any committee shall not sit on the following Monday.]**

**24. Change of venue**

**[Before directing under section 51(3) of the Constitution that this House shall sit at a place other than the Houses of Parliament in Cape Town, the Speaker shall consult the Leader of the House and the Chief Whip of each party represented in this House.]**

(1) The Speaker may in an emergency or on grounds of security -

(a) in terms of Section 51(3) of the Constitution after consultation with the Leader of Government Business and the chief whips or party representatives of each party in the House, direct that the National Assembly sit at a place other than the seat of Parliament in Cape Town; and

(b) after consultation with the Leader of Government Business and the chief whips or party representatives of each party in the House, direct that a sitting of the House be held, or resumed, in a different chamber within the precincts.

(2) The Assembly may on grounds of public interest or convenience, in terms of Section 51(3) of the Constitution resolve to sit at a place other than the seat of Parliament in Cape Town, provided that the resolution -

(a) identifies the public interest or convenience that is the reason for the change of venue; and

(b) approves the change of venue to a specified place and for a specific period.

**24A. Arrangement of business on Order Paper when no consensus in Programme Committee**

**[The Chief Whip must arrange the business of the Assembly on the Order Paper, subject to these Rules, the directives of the Programme Committee and the concurrence of the Leader of Government Business when any government business is prioritised.]**

(1) If no consensus could be reached in the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B on the programme of business for a particular sitting day or if the Programme Committee has not made a detailed determination for any sitting day, the Chief Whip of the Majority Party must, subject to these Rules and particularly any Rule providing that the Speaker must exclusively make a specific programming decision, arrange the business of the Assembly on the Order Paper for that day -

(a) with the concurrence of the Speaker, and the Leader of Government Business when any government business is prioritised; and

(b) after due consideration of the views and directions of the Programme Committee.

(2) The Secretary must, on instruction of the Speaker, draw up the order of business as agreed to in terms of Subrule (1) for each sitting.

***Part 2: Sittings in plenary***

**25. [**Quorum**] [**Members' attendance**] Quorum required only for taking decisions**

**[(1)]** The Assembly may proceed with its business irrespective of the number of members present, but may vote on a bill or decide on any question only if a quorumis presentin terms of **[Subrule (2)]** Rule 74A.

**[(2)** **[Except** **where the Constitution provides otherwise** -

**(a) a majority of the members of the National Assembly must be present before a vote may be taken on a bill or an amendment to a bill;**

**(b) at least one third of the members must be present before a vote may be taken on any other question before the Assembly.**

**26. Absence of quorum**

**If the attention of the presiding officer is called to the absence of the prescribed quorum when a question is put for decision and if after an interval of five minutes, during which time the bells must be rung, there is still no quorum, the presiding officer may suspend the proceedings or postpone the decision of the question.]**

**27. [**Deleted (2002)**]**

**28. Opportunity for prayer or meditation**

At the commencement of parliamentary business on every sitting day the presiding officer **[shall]** must afford members an opportunity for silent prayer or meditation.

**29. Sequence of proceedings**

**[Subject to [the provisions of] the Constitution and these Rules, and unless altered by resolution of [this] the House, the business on each sitting day of [this] the House, [shall] must [, where applicable], follow the following sequence of events:**

**(1) Opportunity for silent prayer or meditation;**

**(2) announcements from the Chair;**

**(3) notices of motion;**

**(3A) motions without notice;**

**(4) formal motions;**

**(5) opportunity for statements by members;**

**(6) opportunity for statements and personal explanations by Cabinet members;**

**(7) petitions;**

**(8) Orders of the Day and notices of motion on the Order Paper, which [shall] must be dealt with in sequence: Provided that precedence [shall] must be given to questions [and interpellations] on Question Days.]**

1. Subject to the Constitution and theseRules, and unless altered by resolution of the House, the business on each sitting day of the Housemust follow the following sequence of events:

(a) Opportunity for silent prayer or meditation;

(b) Announcements from the Chair;

(c) Swearing in of new members;

(d) Formal motions moved by Chief Whip;

(e) Statements by Cabinet Members; and

(f) Orders of the Day and notices of motion on the Order Paper, which must be dealt with in sequence: Provided that precedence must be given to questions on Question Days.

1. Subject to Subrule (1), and unless altered by resolution of the House, the business on any sitting day of the House may additionally include any event below, after the business under Subrule (1) has been completed and if included during any sitting must follow the following sequence of events:

(a) Any other formal motions;

(b) Motions without notice;

(c) Opportunity for statements by members and responses to statements by Cabinet members;

(d) Notices of motion; and

(e) Petitions.

**30. Interruption, suspension or adjournment of proceedings**

(1) **[The proceedings of this House or a committee of this House shall be interrupted, suspended or adjourned by the presiding officer.]** The presiding officer may interrupt, suspend or adjourn the proceedingsof the House.

(2) The presiding officer may in consultation with the **[Leader of this House]** Leader of Government Business adjourn **[this]** the House until a **[later]** Parliamentary working day other than the **[following]** next scheduled sitting day as determined by the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B: Provided that during such adjournment the Speaker may accelerate or postpone the date for the resumption of business.

**[***Part 3: Extended public committees***]**

***Part 3: Mini Plenary Sessions***

***[Note:*** *Existing Rules 31-34 deleted****]***

**31. Business of mini plenary sessions**

(1) The Speaker refers matters for consideration in a mini plenary session after due consideration of the views and directions of the Programme Committee.

(2) Any matter may be discussed or debated in a mini plenary session.

1. No more than three mini plenary sessions may take place simultaneously.

(4) Mini plenary sessions are held in the precincts of Parliament, but in special circumstances the Speaker may direct that a mini plenary session may be held elsewhere.

**32. Members attending**

1. A mini plenary session in respect of a budget vote of a particular department or on a bill or oversight matter related to that department consists of the members of the corresponding portfolio committee, and all other Assembly members who attend the proceedings of the mini plenary session.
2. A mini plenary session in respect of any matter other than a matter referred to in Subrule (1) consists of all Assembly members who attend the proceedings of the mini plenary session.

**33. Quorum**

A mini plenary session may proceed with its business irrespective of the number of members present.

**34. Decisions**

(1) No decisions may be taken in a mini plenary session.

(2) In the event that a decision is required on a budget vote debated in a mini plenary session, such decision must be deferred to be taken by a plenary session of the House, provided that when the decision is taken in the House -

(a) no further debate on the matter may be allowed, and

(b) declarations of vote must be permitted subject to Rule 81(4).

**35. Speakers' list**

(1) A mini plenary session does not make use of a speakers' list, except in the event of a debate on a budget vote when a speakers' list must be used.

(1A) In referring a matter for consideration to a mini plenary session in terms of Rule 31(1), the Speaker must -

(a) allocate time for the debate on that matter, including time for participation by the person in charge, provided that if the person in charge is a member of the Executive the time allocated to him or her must be determined in consultation with the Leader of Government Business, and

(b) set a time limit for speeches by all participating members other than the person in charge.

(2) When a speakers' list is not used, the presiding officer must in a balanced manner, allow speakers from all parties to participate in the debate or discussion, subject to any time limit imposed in terms of subrule (1A).

(3) A member may participate in a debate in a mini plenary session more than once if recognised by the presiding officer.

**36. Presiding officer**

The Chair of a mini plenary session must be taken by -

(a) an elected presiding officer, or

(b) any other member

appointed by the Speaker for that purpose.

**37. Relief of presiding officer**

A member attending a mini plenary session must take the Chair whenever requested to do so by the presiding officer.

**38. Order in meetings and rules of debate**

In addition to these Rules, the rules generally applicable to plenary sessions of the House are also applicable to the proceedings of a mini plenary session.

***[Note:*** *The existing**Rules 35-9 on Appropriation Committees are deleted]*

***Part* 4*: Public access***

**40. [**Admittance of strangers**] Admission of Visitors**

**[The power to admit [strangers] visitors to the places set apart for them in the Chamber and public galleries of the Chamber [precincts of this] in which the House or an extended public committee (?) [or an appropriation committee of this House and the places set apart for them in a Chamber, shall] is meeting vests in the Speaker, subject to Section 59 [the provisions] of the Constitution.]**

1. The power to admit visitors to the places set apart for them in the Chamber or public galleries of the Chamber or in any other venue in whichthe House or a mini plenary session or a committee of the Houseis meeting, or to regulate or limit any activity, access or movement of visitors whilst within the precincts of Parliament or a venue utilised for parliamentary work, vests in the Speaker, subject to Section 59 of the Constitution.
2. Unless the Speaker directs otherwise in respect of a particular visitor or group of visitors, all visitors must, in an appropriate manner, be subjected to a security check or screening before entering the precincts of Parliament or the Chamber or any venue utilized for parliamentary work and, if reasonable cause exists, any visitor may at any time whilst within the precincts of Parliament or a venue utilised for parliamentary work, be subjected to a security check or screening.
3. If any visitor refuses in any manner whatsoever to comply with the procedures in Subrules (1) and (2), such visitor may be refused access to the precincts of Parliament or any such venue or may be immediately removed from the precincts of Parliament or such venue by the Parliamentary Protection Services, who may in exercising that duty be assisted by members of the security services acting on or in terms of the instruction of the Speaker.
4. The House may approve an operational manual, as recommended by the Joint Rules Committee, for the use of members of the Parliamentary Protection Services or security services for purposes of exercising this and any other function in terms of the Powers and Privileges Act and these Rules.

**40A. Access for non-members to floor of the Chamber**

The Speaker may give a non-member access to the floor of the Chamber during a sitting of the House or a mini plenary session in special circumstances.

**40B. Conduct of visitors**

Visitors admitted in terms of Rule 40 may not disrupt the proceedings in any manner and must adhere to the directives of the presiding officer and members of the Parliamentary Protection Services and the security services.

**41. Withdrawal of** strangers] **visitors**

The presiding officer may, whenever he or she thinks **[fit]** it reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society to do so, order **[strangers]** visitors to withdraw from the precincts of the House or a mini plenary session and the places set apart for them in a Chamber, or from the precincts of Parliament.

**42. Serjeant-at-Arms to remove** [strangers] **visitors**

**[Subject to the provisions of Rule 43 the Serjeant-at-Arms shall remove, or cause to be removed, any stranger from any part of a Chamber which has been set apart for members only, and also any stranger who, having been admitted into any other part of the Chamber, misconducts himself or herself or does not withdraw when strangers are ordered to withdraw.]**

When instructed by the presiding officer**,** the Serjeant-at-Arms must remove, or arrange with the Parliamentary Protection Services in terms of Rule 40(3) for the removal of, any person who -

(a) without permission is present in that part of the Chamber designated for members only or in another place within the precincts of Parliament or any other venue utilised for parliamentary work which is out of bounds for that person; or

(b) disrupts the proceedings of the House or a mini plenary session or a committee or any other forum of the House or does not withdraw when duly ordered to do so.

**43. [**Visiting Heads of State**] Invitation to Head of State, Head of Government or other person to address House**

(1) The Speaker, after consultation with or at the request of the **[Leader of the House]** Leader of Government Business**,** may invite **[any]** a Head of State or a Head of Government who is on **[a State]** an official visit to the Republic, to address **[this]** the House.

(2) The National Assembly may by resolution invite any person to address the House.

**CHAPTER 5**

**ORDER IN PUBLIC MEETINGS AND**

**RULES OF DEBATE**

***Part 1: Order in meetings***

**44. Freedom of speech [**and debate**]**

(1) In accordance with section **[55(2)]** 58(1)(a) of the Constitution, **[1993, there shall be freedom of speech and debate in or before this House and any committee thereof, or any joint committee of Parliament]** Cabinet members, Deputy Ministers and members of the National Assembly have freedom of speech in the Assembly and in its committees, subject to its rules and orders**[only to the restrictions placed on such freedom in terms of or under the Constitution, any other law or these Rules]**.

(2) In accordance with section **[55(3)]** 58(1)(b) of the Constitution, **[1993,]** Cabinet members, Deputy Ministers and members of the National Assembly are not liable to civil or criminal proceedings, arrest imprisonment or damages for anything that they have said in, produced before or submitted to the Assembly or any of its committees, or anything revealed as a result of anything that they have said in, produced before or submitted to the Assembly or any of its committees. **[and subject to these Rules, a member of this House shall not be liable to any civil or criminal proceedings, arrest, imprisonment or damages by reason of anything which he or she has said, produced or submitted in or before or to this House or any committee thereof, or any joint committee, or by reason of anything which may have been revealed as a result of what he or she has said, produced or submitted in or before or to this House or any such committee.**

(3) The provisions of Subrules (1) and (2) also apply to proceedings in a mini plenary session and other forums of the Assembly.

**45. Conduct of members**

**[(1) Every member [is to be uncovered when he or she enters or leaves the Chamber, or moves to any other part of the Chamber during a debate, unless the Speaker directs otherwise, and shall] must bow to the Chair when entering or leaving the Chamber [in passing to or from his or her seat].**

**(2) No member [shall] may pass between the Chair and the member who is speaking, nor between the Chair and the Table, nor stand in any of the [passages or gangways] aisles or cross aisles.**

**(3) Members must at all times conduct themselves in a manner befitting the dignity and decorum of the Assembly.]**

Members must at all times accord the presiding officers of the National Assembly and members due respect and conduct themselves with dignity and in accordance with the decorum of the House and are required:

(a) to enter or leave the House with decorum;

(b) to be seated when the bells stop ringing to mark the start of proceedings;

(c) **[to bow to the Chair when entering or leaving the Chamber;]** to rise, if possible, when the presiding officer enters the Chamber at the start of proceedings and to remain standing until invited to be seated;

(d) not during proceedings to pass between the Chair and the member who is speaking, nor between the Chair and the Table, nor to stand in any of the aisles or cross aisles, nor to cross the Floor of the House in front of the benches;

(e) not to bring weapons of any kind nor dangerous or threatening articles or objects into the Chamber, excluding cultural objects with the prior approval of the Speaker;

(f) to dress in a manner befitting the dignity and decorum of the House as provided for in guidelines approved by the Rules Committee, provided that no party symbols may be displayed;

(g) not during proceedings to take photographs or video footage, speak on a cellphone, eat or read newspapers or in any other way conduct themselves in a manner not befitting the dignity and decorum of the House; and

(h) on adjournment of the House, to rise if they are able to do so and remain in their allocated seats until the presiding officer has left the Chair.

**46. Members not to converse aloud**

**[During debate no member shall converse aloud]** Members may not converse aloud during debate.

**47. Member not to be interrupted**

No member **[shall]** may interrupt another member whilst speaking, except -

(a) to call attention to a point of order, subject to Rule 70, or a question of privilege, or

(b) at the discretion of the presiding officer, on a point of clarity to request permission to put a question to the member speaking.

**[48. Order at adjournment**

**When a meeting adjourns, members who are able to do so [shall] must rise and remain in their places until the presiding officer has left the [Chamber] Chair**.**]**

**49. Precedence of presiding officer**

Whenever the presiding officer **[rises]** addresses the House during a debate, any member then speaking or offering to speak **[shall]** must resume his or her seat, and the presiding officer **[shall]** must be heard without interruption.

**50. Irrelevance or repetition**

The presiding officer **[, after having called attention to the conduct of a member who persists in irrelevance or repetition of arguments, may direct the member to discontinue his or her speech]** may order a member addressing the House to stop speaking if that member, despite warnings from the Chair, persists in irrelevant or repetitive arguments.

*Proposed new Rule 50A:*

**50A. Grossly disorderly conduct.**

**[Conduct is grossly disorderly if Member or Members concerned:]** Members may not engage in grossly disorderly conduct in the House and its forums, including -

(a) deliberately creating **[an actual]** serious disorder or disruption **[in the House]**;

(b) in any manner whatsoever physically intervening, preventing, obstructing or hindering the removal of a member from the House who has been ordered to leave the House;

(c) repeatedly undermining the authority of the presiding officer or repeatedly refusing to obey rulings of the presiding officer or repeatedly disrespecting and interrupting the presiding officer while the latter is addressing the House;

(d) persisting in making serious allegations against a member without adequate substantiation or following the correct procedure;

(e) using or threatening violence against a member or other person; or

(f) acting in any other way to the serious detriment of the dignity, decorum or orderly procedure of the House.

**51. Member ordered to [**withdraw**] leave Chamber**

(1) If the presiding officer is of the opinion that a member is deliberately contravening a provision of these Rules, or that a member is **[in contempt of or is]** disregarding the authority of the Chair, or that a member’s conduct is grossly disorderly, he or she may order the member to **[withdraw immediately from]** leave the Chamber immediately for the remainder of the day’s sitting.

(2) A member ordered to withdraw from the Chamber must immediately withdraw from the precincts of Parliament**.**

**52. Naming or suspension of member**

**[(1) If a presiding officer is of the opinion that a contravention committed by a member of [this] the House is of so serious a nature that an order to [withdraw from] leave the Chamber for the remainder of the day’s sitting is inadequate, the presiding officer may —**

**(a) if he or she is the Speaker -**

1. **order the member to leave the Chamber immediately and additionally prohibit the member from participating in any parliamentary activities for the remainder of that day;**
2. **order the member to leave the Chamber and the precincts of Parliament immediately for the remainder of that day; or**

**(iii) suspend the member**; **or**

**(b) if he or she is not the Speaker, [name] censure the member and order him or her to leave the Chamber immediately and not participate in any parliamentary activities until the Speaker, after consultation with the presiding officer, has announced what action is to be taken against the member in terms of these rules, [whereupon the Speaker, after consultation with the presiding officer, may take such action as he or she deems necessary.**

**(2) If a member suspended in terms of Subrules (1)(a)(iii) or (1)(b) subsequently so requests in writing to the Speaker, the Speaker must refer the request to the Powers and Privileges Committee for review of the decision to suspend, taking into account all the circumstances that led to the suspension.]**

*Proposed new Rule 52:*

If a presiding officer is of the opinion that a contravention committed in terms of Rule 51 by a member of the House is of so serious a nature that an order to leave the Chamber for the remainder of the day’s sitting is inadequate, the presiding officer may -

(a) if he or she is the Speaker, suspend the member for a period provided for in Rule 54; or

(b) if he or she is not the Speaker, name the member and order him or her to leave the Chamber immediately and not participate in any parliamentary activities until the Speaker, after consultation with the presiding officer, has announced what action is to be taken against the member in terms of these rules, including whether such member will be suspended for a period provided for in Rule 54, provided that the Speaker's decision must be announced within 2 working days after the member has been named.

**53. [**Member to withdraw from precincts of Parliament**] Action against member to be announced in House**

**[(1) A member ordered to withdraw from the Chamber or suspended or named shall, subject to Subrule (2), forthwith withdraw from the precincts of Parliament.**

**(2) If a presiding officer other than the Speaker orders a member of this House to withdraw from the Chamber and the member is a Minister or a Deputy Minister, the Speaker shall, after consultation with the presiding officer, order the member to withdraw from the precincts of Parliament or take such other action as the Speaker deems necessary.**

**(3) The action taken against a member by the Speaker under Rule 52(1)(b) [or Subrule (1) of this Rule shall] must be announced in [this] the House.**

**(4) A member of this House who has been named shall not return to the precincts of Parliament before the action taken against him or her by the Speaker has been announced.]**

The action taken against a member by the Speaker under Rule 52(b) must be announced inthe House.

*New Interim Rule 53A as adopted by the National Assembly:*

**53A. Removal of member from Chamber**

(1) If a member refuses to leave the Chamber when ordered to do so by the presiding officer in terms of Rule 51, the presiding officer must instruct the Serjeant-at- Arms to remove the member from the Chamber and the precincts of Parliament forthwith.

(2) If the Serjeant-at-Arms is unable in person to effect the removal of the member, the presiding officer may call upon the Parliamentary Protection Services to assist in removing the member from the Chamber and the precincts of Parliament.

(3) A member who is removed from the Chamber in terms of subrule (2), is thereby immediately automatically suspended for the period applicable as provided for in Rule 54, and may not enter the precincts for the duration of the suspension.

(4) If a member resists attempts to be removed from the Chamber in terms of subrules (1) or (2), the Serjeant-at-Arms and the Parliamentary Protection Services may use such force as may be reasonably necessary to overcome any resistance.

(5) No member may, in any manner whatsoever, physically intervene in, prevent, obstruct or hinder the removal of a member from the Chamber in terms of these Rules.

(6) Any member or members who contravene subrule (5) may, on the instruction of the presiding officer, also be summarily removed from the Chamber and the precincts of Parliament forthwith.

(7) If proceedings are suspended for the purposes of removing a member or members, all other members must remain seated or resume their seats, unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

(8) When entering the Chamber on the instruction of the presiding officer –

(a) Members of the Parliamentary Protection Services may not be armed; and

(b) Members of the security services may not be armed, except in extraordinary circumstances in terms of security policy.

(9) Members who have been removed from the Chamber will be escorted off the precincts by Parliamentary Protection Services personnel and will not be allowed to enter the House or precincts of Parliament as the Rules prescribe.

(10) If a member(s) offers resistance to being removed from the precincts, members of the security services may be called upon to assist with such removal.

(11) In the event of violence, or a reasonable prospect of violence or serious disruption ensuing in the Chamber as a result of a member(s) resisting removal, the presiding officer may suspend proceedings, and members of the security services may be called upon by the presiding officer to assist with the removal of members from the Chamber and the precincts of Parliament forthwith in terms of Section 4(1) of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act No 4 of 2004, or may intervene directly anywhere in the precincts in terms of section 4(2) of the Act when there is immediate danger to the life or safety of any person or damage to any property.

(12) Whenever a member is physically removed from the Chamber in terms of this Rule, the circumstances of such removal must be referred by the Speaker, within 24 hours, to a multi-party committee for consideration.

(13) The House may approve Standard Operating Procedures (*See Appendix C*), recommended by the Rules Committee, for the exercise of this function, in particular in relation to the use of the Parliamentary Protection Services and members of the security services for this purpose.

1. **Period of suspension**

The suspension of a member **[shall]** on the first occasion during a session continues for 5 **[P]**parliamentary working days, on the second occasion for 10 **[P]**parliamentary working days, and on any subsequent occasion for 20 **[P]**parliamentary working days.

**55. Expression of regret**

(1) A member of **[this]** the House who has been suspended or named may submit to the Speaker a written expression of regret, and if the Speaker approves such expression of regret, he or she may discharge the suspension or other action taken against the member **[permit the member to take his or her seat]**, or reduce the severity of any such action, and the Speaker **[shall]** must inform **[this]** the House accordingly.

(2) An expression of regret approved by the Speaker **[shall]** must be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.

**56. [**57.**] Member to withdraw while his or her conduct is debated**

Whenever a charge is made against a member, he or she **[shall]** must, after having been heard from his or her place, withdraw from the Chamber while such charge is being debated.

**57. [**56.**] Grave disorder**

In the event of grave disorder at a meeting, the presiding officer may adjourn the meeting, or may suspend the proceedings for a period to be stated by him or her.

***Part 2: Rules of debate***

**58. Member to address Chair**

**[(1) Every member desiring to speak [shall] must, if possible, stand while addressing the Chair.**

**(2) At a sitting in the Chamber of the National Assembly a member may -**

**(a) only speak from the podium during debate and whenever else the presiding officer so directs, and at all other times address the Chair from a microphone on the floor of the Chamber; or [except —**

**(b) to raise a point of order or a question of privilege; and**

**(c) to furnish an explanation in terms of Rule 69(1), when he or she may]**

**(d) deliver his or her address in such other manner as the member is physically able to do and agreed to by the presiding officer.]**

(1) Every member desiring to speak must, if possible, stand while addressing the Chair.

(2) At a sitting in the Chamber of the National Assembly a member may -

(a) only speak from the podium during debate and whenever the presiding officer so directs, and at all other times address the Chair from a microphone on the floor of the Chamber; or

(b) deliver his or her address in such other manner as the member is physically able to do and agreed to by the presiding officer.

(3) (a) The Speaker and Deputy Speaker must be referred to as “Honourable Speaker”, or “Honourable Deputy Speaker” or “Mister” or “Madam Speaker” and “Mister” or “Madam Deputy Speaker”, as the case may be, and the other presiding officers must be referred to as “Honourable Chairperson”.

(b) No name to impugn the dignity or undermine the authority or legitimacy of any presiding officer may be used.

**[59. [Calling of members] Opportunity to speak**

**(1) A member may speak only when recognised by the presiding officer.**

**(2) Subject to subrule (1), a member may draw the attention of the presiding officer to a point of order or a question of privilege at any time during proceedings.**

**(3) [A member shall be called in] In a debate [by] the presiding officer must recognise a member in accordance with a list of members who are to speak in the debate and the times allocated for speeches by members of different parties.]**

*New Rule 59 proposed:*

**59. Recognition of members to speak**

(1) Subject to Rule 58, a member may speak only when recognised by the presiding officer during proceedings of the House.

(2) Subject to Subrule (1), a member may draw the attention of the presiding officer to a point of order or a question of privilege at any time.

(3) In a debate the presiding officer must recognise a member in accordance with a list of members who are to speak in the debate and the times allocated for speeches by members of different parties.

*New Rule 59A proposed:*

**59A. Control of microphones in the Chamber**

(1) In the event of a member not showing due respect to the authority of or not obeying an order or ruling or direction of the presiding officer, or acting in a disruptive or grossly disorderly manner in the House, the presiding officer may order that the microphone being used by such member be disabled or switched off.

1. Before issuing such an order, the presiding officer must inform the member and the House of the intention to issue the order.

**60. [**Time limits for speeches**] List of speakers and time limits for speeches**

**[Unless otherwise provided in these Rules, members shall be restricted, in regard to the length of time they may speak, to the times allocated to them in the list contemplated in Rule 59, and if or in so far as times have not been so allocated —**

(**a) the President, Deputy President, the Leader of the Opposition and the member in charge of the business before a meeting, shall not be restricted in regard to the length of time they may speak; and**

**(b) members other than those mentioned in paragraph (a) may not speak for longer than 10 minutes at a time on a vote in the schedule to an appropriation bill or 30 minutes at a time on any other business before a meeting.]**

(1) Unless otherwise provided in these Rules and subject to Rules 73 and 74, members speak in a debate in accordance with a list of speakers compiled by the Chief Whip in consultation with the whips or party representatives of the other parties represented in the House.

(2) The list of speakers must accommodate all parties represented in the House that wish to participate in the debate.

(3) Members on the list may speak for the time allocated to them on the list, which may not be less than three minutes unless by agreement with the member concerned.

(4) If a list of speakers is incomplete in respect of the identification of members who are to speak in a debate or the time allocated to each, or in the absence of a list of speakers, the Speaker must determine speaking arrangements for the debate in accordance with this Rule after consultation with the party whips.

(5) If amendments are proposed to the question before the House at a late stage in a debate, the presiding officer may, at his or her discretion, extend the debate after consultation with the party whips to allow members the opportunity to respond to the amendments.

**61. Reference to member [**by nameas “honourable”**] in respectful terms**

(1) In the House and in mini plenary sessions members must refer to one another **[as “honourable”]** in respectful terms.

(2) Further to Subrule (1), no member **[shall]** may refer to any other member by his or her **[first name or names]** name only.

(3) No name to impugn the dignity of any member may be used.

**62. Member not to read speech**

A member **[shall]** must as far as possible refrain from reading his or her speech, but may refresh his or her memory by referring to notes.

**[63. Offensive language**

**No member [shall] may use offensive or unbecoming language.]**

*Proposed new Rule 63:*

**63. Unparliamentary or unacceptable language or gestures**

No member may use offensive, abusive, insulting, disrespectful, unbecoming or unparliamentary words or language, nor offensive, unbecoming or threatening gestures.

**63A. Reflections upon members, the President and Ministers or Deputy Ministers who are not members of the Assembly**

(1) No member may impute improper motives to any other member, or cast personal reflections on a member's integrity or dignity, or verbally abuse a member in any other way.

(2) A member who wishes to bring any improper or unethical conduct on the part of another member to the attention of the House, may do so only by way of a separate substantive motion, comprising a clearly formulated and properly substantiated charge that in the opinion of the Speaker *prima facie* warrants consideration by the House.

(3) Subrules (1) and (2) apply also to reflections upon the President and Ministers and Deputy Ministers who are not members of the House.

**64. Reflections upon decisions or statutes of same annual session**

**[No member [shall] may, for the remainder of the term of the House, reflect upon any -**

**(a) decision of [this] the House [of the same session] directly relating to any specified person, except for the purpose of moving that such decision be amended or rescinded; or**

**(b) statute of the same annual session, except for the purpose of moving for its amendment or repeal.]**

No member may -

(a) for the remainder of the term of the House, reflect upon any decision of the House that directly refers to any specified person, except for the purpose of moving that such decision be amended or rescinded; or

(b) reflect upon any statute of the same annual session, except for the purpose of moving for its amendment or repeal.

*Proposed new Rule 64A:*

**64A Reflections upon the House and its proceedings and decisions**

No member may reflect in a disrespectful manner on the House or its forums and committees or on their proceedings and decisions.

**[65. Reflections upon statutes]**

*[****Note:*** *This rule is deleted.]*

**66. Reflections upon judges and certain other holders of public office**

No member **[shall]** may reflect upon the competence or **[honour]** integrity of a judge of a superior court, the holder of a public office in a State institution supporting constitutional democracy referred to in Section 194 of the Constitution, or any other **[of the]** holder of an office (other than a member of the Government) whose removal from such office by law is dependent upon a decision of **[this]** the House, except upon a separate substantive motion in **[this]** the House **[alleging facts]** presenting clearly formulated and properly substantiated charges which, if true, would in the opinion of the Speaker *prima facie* warrant such a decision.

**67. Matters *sub judice***

**[[No member shall refer to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending.] No member may reflect on the merits of any matter on which a judicial decision is pending.]**

No member may reflect on the merits of any matter on which a judicial decision in a court of law is pending.

**68. Rule of anticipation**

(1) No member **[shall]** may anticipate the discussion of a matter appearing on the Order Paper or agreed upon by the Programme Committee for scheduling.

(2) In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, the presiding officer **[shall have regard to the probability]** must consider whether it is probable that the matter anticipated will be discussed in **[this]** the House or at a joint sitting within a reasonable time.

**69. Explanations**

**[(1) A member may, with the prior consent of the presiding officer, make an explanation during debate only if [An explanation during debate is allowed only when] a material part of [a] the member’s speech has been misquoted or misunderstood: Provided that--**

**(a) [but] such member [shall not be permitted to] may not –**

**(i) speak for longer than three minutes; and**

**(ii)[may not] introduce any new matter[,] ; and**

**(b) no debate is [shall be] allowed upon such explanation.]**

(1) A member may, with the prior consent of the presiding officer, make an explanation at a time approved by the presiding officer after the conclusion of the debate from which the complaint arises, but only if, during that debate, a material part of the member’s speech has been misquoted or misunderstood: Provided that--

(a) such explanation must be limited to reading into the record a correction as agreed in principle by the presiding officer, not to exceed three minutes in duration; and

(b) no debate is allowed upon such explanation*.*

(2) A member may also, with the prior consent of the presiding officer, **[also]** explain matters of a personal nature, but such matters may not be debated, and the member **[shall]** must confine himself or herself strictly to the vindication of his or her own conduct and may not speak for longer than three minutes.

**70. Points of order**

**[(1) A point of order must be confined to matters of parliamentary procedure and practice and must be raised immediately when the alleged breach of order occurs.**

**(2) When a point of order is raised during debate, the member called to order [shall] must resume his or her seat, and after the point of order has been stated to the presiding officer by the member raising it, the presiding officer [shall] must give his or her ruling or decision thereon [either forthwith or subsequently] immediately, or at the earliest opportunity thereafter by way of a considered ruling.**

**(3) The presiding officer may, at his or her discretion, allow members to address the Chair briefly on a point of order that has been raised.**

**(4) The presiding officer's ruling on a point of order is final and may not be challenged or questioned.**

**(5) A member who is aggrieved by a presiding officer's ruling may subsequently in writing to the Speaker request that the subject of the ruling be referred to the Rules Committee for consideration and report.]**

(1) A member may raise a point of order at any time during the proceedings of the House, in terms of the procedure prescribed in Rule 47, by stating that he or she is rising on a point of order.

(2) A point of order must be confined only to a matter of parliamentary procedure or practice, or a matter relating to unparliamentary conduct, as defined, and must be raised immediately when the alleged breach of order occurs.

(3)(a) The member raising the point of order must commence by quoting the exact rule or standing order, or at least the principle or subject matter, upon which the point of order is based.

(b) If the member does not do so, the presiding officer may insist on him or her doing so, and if he or she fails or does not adequately do so, the presiding officer may summarily rule that it does not amount to a point of order or that the matter is out of order.

(4) The presiding officer may, at his or her discretion, allow members to address the presiding officer briefly on a point of order that has been raised.

1. The presiding officer must give a ruling, and may give his or her ruling or decision on the point of order immediately, or defer the decision to the earliest opportunity thereafter by way of a considered ruling.
2. No point of order may be raised in response to a considered ruling in terms of Subrule (5).

(7) No other member may raise another point of order before the presiding officer has ruled on the first point of order.

(8) No member may raise a point of order again or a similar point of order, if the presiding officer has ruled that it is not a point of order or that the matter is out of order.

(9) Members may not disrupt proceedings by raising points of order that do not comply with this Rule.

(10) When a point of order is raised during debate, the member called to order must resume his or her seat, and after the point of order has been stated to the presiding officer by the member raising it, the member raising the point of order must likewise immediately resume his or her seat when he or she has concluded his or her submission or if the presiding officer asks him or her to do so.

(11) The presiding officer's ruling on a point of order is final and binding, and may not be challenged or questioned in the House.

(12) (a) A member who is aggrieved by a presiding officer's ruling on a point of order may subsequently in writing to the Speaker request that the principle or subject matter of the ruling be referred to the Rules Committee.

(b) The Rules Committee may deal with the referral in terms of subparagraph (a) as it deems fit, provided that it must confine itself to the principle underlying, or subject matter of, the ruling concerned, and may not in any manner consider the specific ruling which is final and binding.

**71. Acting for absent member**

**[A member may take charge of a motion or an order of the day in the absence of the member in charge, provided he or she has been authorised to do so by the absent member.]** If the member in charge of a motion or an order of the day is absent, another member authorised by the absent member may take charge of the motion or order after having timeously notified the presiding officer, where possible.

**[72. Right of members to speak**

**A member may speak —**

**(a) when called upon to do so by the presiding officer; or**

**(b) to a point of order.]**

**73. When reply allowed**

**[A reply shall be allowed to the]** The member **[introducing a subject for discussion (except in the case of the President’s Opening Address) or to the member]** in charge of a motion or an order of the day, including an executive statement, is allowed to reply.

**74. Debate closed**

A reply to a debate closes the debate.

**CHAPTER 6**

**DECISION OF QUESTIONS**

**74A. Quorum**

**[(1) In terms of Section 53 of the Constitution, -**

**(a) a majority of the members of the National Assembly must be present before a vote may be taken on a bill or an amendment to a bill;**

**(b) at least one third of the members must be present before a vote may be taken on any other question before the Assembly.**

**(2) Such other attendance of members is required before a vote may be taken on any matter as may be provided for in other sections of the Constitution or in these Rules.]**

In terms of Section 53 of the Constitution, except where the Constitution **[or these Rules]** provides otherwise -

(a) a majority of the members of the National Assembly must be present before a vote may be taken on a bill or an amendment to a bill; and

(b) subject to Rule 3, at least one third of the members must be present before a vote may be taken on any other question before the Assembly.

*Proposed new Rule 74AA:*

**74AA. Questions to be decided by majority**

In terms of Section 53 of the Constitution, except where the Constitution provides otherwise, all questions before the Assembly are decided by a majority of the votes cast.

**74B. Absence of quorum**

(1) If the attention of the presiding officer is called to the absence of the prescribed quorum when a question is put for decision, the presiding officer may suspend the proceedings, postpone the decision of the question or direct that the bells be rung for **[and if after an interval of five]**  five minutes, or such longer time as the presiding officer may direct **[during which time the bells must be rung]** but not exceeding 15 minutes.

(2) If the bells are rung and, after the interval referred to in Subrule (1), there is still no quorum, the presiding officer may suspend the proceedings or postpone the decision of the question.

(3) (a) For the purpose of establishing whether a quorum is present, the presiding officer may, at his or her discretion, utilise the electronic voting system; and

(b) all members present in the Chamber when the electronic voting system is used must record their presence as directed by the presiding officer.

(4) The presiding officer must be counted for the purpose of establishing whether a quorum is present.

**[**76**] 75. Decision of question postponed**

When the debate on a question has been concluded in **[this]** the House, the presiding officer may postpone the decision of the question.

**[**75**] 76. Decision of postponed questions**

Whenever it is expedient to do so, the Speaker may after consultation with the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190 or, if the Programme Committee is not due to meet in time, after consultation with party whips, determine a day **[may be determined]** for the decision of postponed questions by **[this]** the House.

**76A. Decision of questions requiring special majorities**

(1) A question requiring a special majority in terms of the Constitution **[or these Rules]** must be decided by voting whether or not a division is demanded.

(2) (a) In accordance with Section 53(2)(b) of the Constitution, the presiding officer may cast a deliberative vote when a question must be decided with a supporting vote of at least two thirds of the members of the Assembly.

(b) Whenever a presiding officer casts a deliberative vote, he or she must inform members accordingly.

[***Note:*** *For a list of issues requiring a special majority in terms of the Constitution, see Appendix B to these Rules.*]

**76B. Casting of votes**

Unless the Constitution provides otherwise, voting takes place in accordance with Rules 77 or 77A.

**77. Electronic voting system**

(1) At a sitting of **[this]** the House held in a Chamber where an electronic voting system is in operation, unless the presiding officer directs otherwise, questions are **[may at the discretion of the presiding officer be]** decided by the utilisation of such system in accordance with a procedure **[determined]** predetermined by the Speaker and directives as announced by the presiding officer.

(2) Members may vote only from the seats allocated to them individually in the Chamber.

(3) Members vote by pressing the “Yes”, “No” or “Abstain” button on the electronic consoles at their seats when directed by the presiding officer to cast their votes.

(4) A member who is unable to cast his or her vote, must draw this to the attention of the Chair and may in person or through a whip of his or her party inform the Secretary at the Table of his or her vote.

(5) When all members have cast their votes, the presiding officer must immediately announce the result of the division.

(6) Members' names and votes must be printed in the Minutes of Proceedings.

**77A. Manual voting procedure**

(1) Where no electronic voting system is in operation **[or when the presiding officer so directs]**, a manual voting system may be used in accordance with a procedure predetermined by the Speaker and directives to be announced by the presiding officer **[where such a system is in operation but not utilised, questions shall be decided in accordance with the provisions of Rules 78 to 93]**.

(2) When members votes have been counted, the presiding officer must immediately announce the result of the division.

(3) If the manual voting procedure permits, members' names and votes must be printed in the Minutes of Proceedings.

**78. Postponed question put without further debate**

A question referred to in rules 75 and 76 **[to be decided after the debate thereon has been concluded in this House or in an extended public committee (?) or in an appropriation committee of the House,** **shall]** must be put without further debate.

**79. Question put again**

If the presiding officer has put a question and it is not heard or understood, he or she **[shall]** must put it again.

**80. Question fully put**

(1) No member, except a member who is permitted to make a declaration of vote, **[shall]** may speak to any question after it has been fully put by the presiding officer.

(2) A question **[shall be]** is deemed to have been fully put when the voices **[of both the “Ayes’’ and the “Noes’**’**]** in favour of and against the question have been given **[thereon]**.

**81. Declaration of vote**

(1) Subject to Subrule (3), the presiding officer may at any time after a question has been fully put, if so requested, permit one member of each political party**[,]** to declare its vote by **[state]** stating on behalf of his or her party **[in a speech not exceeding three minutes,]** the reasons why the party is in favour of or against the question; provided that in the case of declarations of vote on a committee report, the relevant Minister be given the opportunity to express the Executive's view and for that purpose be allocated the same amount of time as the member of the majority party in terms of subrule (1A).

(1A) The time allocated to a member from each party for making a declaration of vote must be determined by the Rules Committee and must take into account the proportional strength of the party in the House.

(2) A member addressing the Chair in terms of Subrule (1), may read out aloud a written formulation of his or her party’s viewpoint, and deliver a signed copy thereof at the Table for inclusion in the Minutes of Proceedings.

(3) No declaration of vote is permitted if the question is put for decision immediately after the debate on the question has been concluded.

(4) When the budget votes in the schedule to the main Appropriation Bill are to be decided upon, declarations of vote, if requested, must be limited to a total time for all the budget votes, as well as proportional time per party, as allocated for that purpose by the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B.

**82. Recording of opposition**

(1) Whenever a question is put by the presiding officer, any member may, instead of demanding a division, inform the presiding officer that he or she wishes his or her opposition, or that of the party to which he or she belongs, to be formally recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.

(2) The presiding officer may order that a division take place in the event of four or more members wishing to record their individual opposition.

**83. Demand for division**

After a question has been put and the presiding officer has indicated whether in his or her opinion the **[“Ayes’’ or the “Noes’’ have it]** voices in favour of or against the question are in the majority, any member may demand a division, whereupon, subject to Rule 84, a division **[shall]**  must**[, subject to Rule 84,]** take place without debate.

**84. Fewer than four members supporting demand for division**

(1) Whenever a division is demanded, the presiding officer **[shall]** must, before ordering the division bells to be rung, satisfy himself or herself that at least fourmembers support the demand for the division.

(2) If fewer than four members rise in support thereof, the presiding officer **[shall forthwith]** must immediately declare the decision on the question.

(3) The names of the members who indicated their support for the division in terms of Subrule (2) must be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.

**85. Division bells rung and doors [**locked**] barred**

(1) If the required number of members support the demand for a division, the division bells **[shall]** must be rung and the doors **[shall]** must be **[locked]** barred as soon after the lapse of **[three]** five minutes as the presiding officer may direct, but if further divisions are required to dispose of the question and such divisions follow immediately upon the first division, the division bells **[shall]** must again be rung and the doors **[shall]** must be **[locked]** barred as soon after the lapse of 15 seconds as the presiding officer may direct.

(2) When the doors have been **[locked]** barred, no member **[shall]** may enter or leave the Chamber until the result of the division has been declared.

**86. Procedure after doors [**locked**] barred**

**[(1) Subject to Subrule (3), the presiding officer shall again put the question when the doors have been locked.]**

When the doors have been barred and all members are seated, the presiding officer must inform members of the question to be decided and announce that a division has been demanded.

**[(2) Thereupon the presiding officer shall indicate on which side of the Chair the “Ayes’’ and the “Noes’’ shall take their seats and he or she shall appoint tellers for each side.**

**(3) After the lapse of the periods prescribed by Rule 85 the presiding officer may again put the question and may declare afresh whether in his or her opinion the “Ayes’’ or the “Noes’’ have it, in which case a division shall take place only if such fresh declaration is challenged.]**

**[87. Minority consisting of fewer than 15 members**

**When, on a division taking place, fewer than 15 members appear on one side, the presiding officer shall forthwith declare the decision on the question.]**

**88. Member calling for division to vote against the question**

**[A member demanding a division [shall] may not leave the Chamber until the result of the division has been declared and [shall] must vote [with those who, in the opinion of the presiding officer, are in the minority] against the question put by the presiding officer.]**

A member demanding a division may not leave the Chamber until the result of the division has been declared and in the event that he or she did not vote, his or her vote must be recorded as against the question put by the presiding officer.

**89. Members present must vote**

(1) Every member present in the Chamber when the question is put with the doors barred **[locked** **shall]** must vote or record an abstention: Provided that in terms of Section 53(2) of the Constitution the presiding officer has no deliberative vote, but -

(a) must cast a deciding vote when there is an equal number of votes on each side of a question; and

(b) may cast a deliberative vote when a question must be decided with a supporting vote of at least two thirds of the members of the Assembly.

(2) In accordance with Section 54 of the Constitution, the provisions of Subrule (1) do not apply to the President of the Republic or to a Minister or Deputy Minister who is not a member of **[this]** the House. **[[see section 91(3)(c) of the Constitution].]**

**90. Points of order during division**

**[While a division is in progress, members may speak to a point of order arising out of or during the division.]**

Subject to all other rules relating to the taking of points of order, while a division is in progress, members may only raise points of order on procedure directly related to the procedures during a division.

**[91. Result to be declared**

**The tellers shall sign the division lists and hand them to the presiding officer, who shall declare the result of the division.]**

**92. Confusion or error concerning division**

(1) If in the opinion of the presiding officer there is **[In the event of]** confusion or error concerning a division, the presiding officer may direct that another division **[shall]** must take place **[, unless the numbers can be corrected otherwise.]**; Provided that if in the opinion of the presiding officer the nature of the confusion or the extent of the error does not affect the result of the division, the presiding officer may direct that the numbers be corrected otherwise.

(2) Party whips may, at the request of any affected members, scrutinise the electronic voting results at the Table and under their signature make limited corrections, provided the corrections so made do not affect the result of the division.

**93. Correction of Minutes**

If **[the numbers have been inaccurately reported or]** any member, in writing to the Speaker within 24 hours after the Minutes of Proceedings have been published, reports that his or her vote has been mistakenly altered, as recorded, or if any other error occurs in the **[names on the division lists]** voting results as published in the Minutes of Proceedings, the **[presiding officer** **shall]** Speaker may order the Minutes of Proceedings to be corrected.

**CHAPTER 7**

**MOTIONS**

***Part 1: General***

**94. Nature of motions**

A member may propose a subject for discussion, or a draft resolution for approval as a resolution of **[this]** the House, with or without debate.

**95. Same question Rule**

(1) No matter **[shall]** may be proposed for discussion in **[this]** the House which is the same in substance as a matter that has been discussed in it during the same annual session.

(2) (a) No draft resolution **[shall]** may be moved in **[this]** the House which is the same in substance as a draft resolution which has been approved, with or without amendments, or rejected by it during the same annual session.

**[(b) The order, resolution or vote on such previous draft resolution may be amended or rescinded.]**

(b) The House may amend or rescind such previous resolution.

**96. [**No amendment to draft resolution**] Amendments to draft resolutions generally**

**[No amendment to a draft resolution may be moved, except an amendment —**

**(a) to a draft resolution on a question of privilege;**

**(b) to substitute the name of another member for the name of a member in a draft resolution; or**

**(c) which is allowed by the presiding officer.]**

***Proposed Task Team version of Rule 96:***

**[(1) A member may propose an amendment to a draft resolution, provided the amendment does not extend the scope of the draft resolution or is ruled out of order for any other reason by the presiding officer.**

**(2) Proposed amendments to draft resolutions must be put for decision in sequence, with the last amendment being put first and the original motion, with or without amendments, last, unless the presiding officer determines otherwise.]**

*New proposed Rule 96 and 96A:*

(1) Subject to Rule 96A, a member may propose an amendment in writing to a draft resolution, provided the amendment does not extend the scope of the draft resolution or is ruled out of order for any other reason by the presiding officer.

(2) When an amendment is moved as provided for in Subrule (1), a signed copy of the proposed amendment must be delivered to the Secretary at the Table without delay.

(3) A proposed amendment to a draft resolution which does not strictly comply with Subrules (1) and (2) and Rule 96A may not be proceeded with in the House*.*

(4) Proposed amendments to draft resolutions must be put for decision in sequence, with the last amendment being put first and the original motion, with or without amendments, last, unless the presiding officer determines otherwise.

**96A. Amendments to draft resolutions relating to committee reports**

No amendment may be proposed to the content and substance of a committee report tabled for adoption by the House, except in respect of any recommendation made in such report for adoption by the House.

**97. Motions without notice**

**[Every motion requires notice, except a motion —**

**(a) by way of amendment to a draft resolution permitted in terms of these Rules;**

**(b) raising a point of order or a question of privilege;**

**(c) for the postponement or discharge of [or giving precedence to,] an order of the** day**, or giving precedence to an order of the day scheduled for that day;**

**(d) referring a bill to a committee;**

**(e) by the [member in charge] Chief Whip, or any other member with the permission of the presiding officer, proposing a draft resolution on the report of a committee immediately after the debate on the report has been concluded;**

**(f) specially excepted by these Rules; or**

**(g) in regard to which notice is dispensed with by the unanimous concurrence of all the members present.]**

(1) Every motion requires notice, except a **[motion]** draft resolution —

(a) by way of amendment to a draft resolution permitted in terms of these Rules;

(b) raising a point of order or raising a question of privilege when approved by the Speaker in terms of Rule 19B;

(c) for the postponement or discharge of an order of the day, giving precedence to an order of the day scheduled for that day or giving precedence to any other business;

(d) referring a bill to a committee;

(e) by the Chief Whip, or any other member with the permission of the presiding officer,proposing a draft resolution on the report of a committee immediately after the debate on the report has been concluded;

(f) specially excepted by these Rules; or

(g) in regard to which notice is dispensed with by all the members present, subject to Subrule (2).

(2) Motions in respect of which notice is dispensed with in terms of Subrule (1)(g) are accommodated according to the following conditions:

(a) Members of each party are entitled to move motions without notice, minority parties being given an opportunity to participate in a manner consistent with democracy;

(b) the number of motions without notice on any sitting day and the period of time within which such motions must be completed on that day and the sequence of party participation, must be determined by the Rules Committee;

(c) motions without notice must be confined to national issues and must comply with the following criteria as are applicable to all motions requiring a decision of the House: Such a motion -

1. must be consistent with the Constitution, the law and these Rules,

(ii) must deal with only one substantive matter,

(iii) must consist of a clear and succinct proposed resolution,

(iv) may not contain statements, quotations, arguments or other matters not strictly necessary to make the proposed resolution intelligible,

(v) may not be the same in substance as a draft resolution that has been approved or rejected during the same session,

(vi) may not contain unbecoming or offensive expressions,

(vii) may not propose to issue an instruction to the Executive,

(viii) must observe the principles of co-operative government in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Constitution, and

(ix) may in any event not take longer than 90 seconds to read out;

(d) unless the Speaker decides otherwise in a particular case, a member may not be given an opportunity to read out and move a motion without notice in the House unless the following requirements have been met:

(i) the member or the member's party must make the text of the motion available to the Secretary to the National Assembly before 10:00 on the day on which it is to be moved,

(ii) the proposed motion must comply with the criteria specified in paragraph (2)(c),

(iii) if the proposed motion complies with the specified criteria, the Secretary to the National Assembly must circulate **[the proposed motion]** it to all parties by 11:00 on that day, and

(iv) at least five parties including the majority party and the largest minority party have notified the Secretary to the National Assembly **[(and as far as is possible the party of the member proposing the motion)]** at least 30 minutes before the sitting of the House commences that they have no objection to the motion being moved without notice;

(e) if a member is not given the opportunity to read out and move the motion without notice in terms of paragraph **[(c)]** (d) or, for whatever reason, during the sequence of party participation the member fails to utilise the opportunity to move a motion without notice **[or there is objection to the member's motion being moved without notice]**, the party to which that member belongs forfeits that opportunity; and

(f) if a proposed motion without notice as submitted does not comply with the specified criteria, the member or the member's party must be informed accordingly and the proposed motion without notice may be adjusted and resubmitted as a motion without notice for the next appropriate sitting day or be presented as a notice of motion.

(3) Members may be given an opportunity to move a motion without notice only on a sitting day of the House when motions without notice have been placed on the Order Paper in terms of rule 24A read with rule 29.

**98. Notice of motion**

**[(1) Members must be given the opportunity on each sitting day of the House to give notice of a motion, unless the Programme Committee agrees otherwise in respect of a particular day.**

**(2) When giving notice of a motion, a member [shall] must —**

**(a) read it aloud and immediately thereafter deliver to the Table a signed copy of the notice, which may not differ from the notice as read aloud; or**

**(b) deliver to the Secretary a signed copy of the notice on any Parliamentary working day, for placing on the Order Paper.**

**(3) Written notices of motion delivered to the Secretary in terms of Subrule (1)(b) after 12:00 on any Parliamentary working day may be placed on the Order Paper [of the second sitting day thereafter and not earlier] only after the expiry of 24 hours, unless in a particular case the Speaker [determines] directs otherwise.**

**(4) Except with the unanimous concurrence of all the members present, no motion [shall] may be moved on the day on which notice thereof is given.**

**(5) Notices of motion must –**

**(a) deal with a subject within the competence of the National Assembly;**

**(b) be concise;**

**(c) refer to a single substantive matter; and**

**(d) comply with any other rules and orders of the House and relevant guidelines approved by the Rules Committee**.]

*Proposed new Rule 98:*

(1) Members of each party are entitled to **[move]** give notices of motion, **[minority parties being given an opportunity to participate in a manner consistent with democracy]** when recognised by the presiding officer for that purpose.

(2) The number of notices of motion on any sitting day and the period of time within which such motions must be completed on that day **[and the sequence of party participation,]** must be determined by the **[Rules]** Programme Committee in accordance with Rule 190B.

(3) Members must be given an opportunity to give notices of motion only on a sitting day of the House when notices of motion have been placed on the Order Paper in terms of rule 24A read with rule 29.

(4) A notice of motion in the form of a draft resolution must –

1. be submitted in writing **[only]**;
2. deal with a subject within the competence of the National Assembly;

(c) be concise;

(d) refer to a single substantive matter; and

(e) comply with any other rules and orders of the House and relevant guidelines approved by the Rules Committee.

(4A) A notice of motion in the form of a proposed subject for discussion must comply with the requirements of subrule (4) and must additionally be limited to clearly identifying the proposed topic.

**[(5)** **Except with the unanimous concurrence of all the members present, no motion may be moved on the day on which notice thereof is given.]**

(5) When giving notice of a motion, a member must —

(a) read it aloud and immediately thereafter deliver to the Table a signed copy of the notice, which may not differ from the notice as read aloud; or

(b) deliver to the Secretary a signed copy of the notice on any parliamentary working day, for placing on the Order Paper.

(6) Written notices of motion delivered to the Secretary in terms of Subrule (5)(b) after 12:00 on any parliamentary working day may be placed on the Order Paper only after the expiry of 24 hours, unless in a particular casethe Speaker directs otherwise.

**99. Acting for absent member**

A member may give notice of a motion on behalf of an absent member, provided he or she has been authorised to do so by the absent member.

**100. Speaker may [**amend**] disallow notices**

**[Any notice of a motion which offends against the practice or these Rules may be amended or otherwise dealt with as the Speaker may decide].**

The Speaker may **[amend or otherwise deal with]** disallow notices of motion which contravene the rules and orders of the House or directives and guidelines approved by the Rules Committee

**101. Motions on questions of privilege**

An urgent motion directly concerning the privileges of **[this]** theHouse **[shall]** must take precedence of other motions and orders of the day.

**102. Withdrawal and lapsing of motion**

(1) A member who has **[moved]** given notice of a motion may **[move without notice that it be withdrawn]** withdraw it at any time before being called upon to move it in the House.

(2) Once moved in the House, a motion may only be withdrawn with the unanimous concurrence of all the members present.

(3) A notice of motion on the Order Paper lapses -

(a) after a period as determined by the Rules Committee from time to time; or

(b) at the end of the day as specified in Rule 316.

***Part 2: Motions of No Confidence in terms of Section 102 of the Constitution***

**102A. Motions of no confidence in terms of section 102 of the Constitution**

(1) A member may propose that a motion of no confidence in the Cabinet or the President in terms of section 102 be placed on the Order Paper.

(2) The Speaker must accord such motion of no confidence due priority and before scheduling it must consult with the Leader of Government Business and the Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

(3) The motion must comply, to the satisfaction of the Speaker, with the prescripts of any relevant law or any relevant rules and orders of the House and directives and guidelines **[recommended by the Rules Committee and approved by the House]** approved by the Rules Committee, before being placed on the Order Paper, and must include the grounds on which the proposed vote of no confidence is based.

(4) The Speaker may request an amendment of or in any other manner deal with a notice of a no confidence motion which contravenes the law, rules and orders of the House or directives and guidelines approved by the **[House]** Rules Committee.

(5) After proper consultation and once the Speaker is satisfied that the motion of no confidence complies with the aforementioned prescribed law, **[rules, orders, directives or guidelines of the House]** rules and orders of the House and directives or guidelines of the Rules Committee, the Speaker must ensure that the motion of no confidence is scheduled, debated and voted on within a reasonable period of time given the programme of the Assembly.

(6) The debate on a motion of no confidence may not exceed the time allocated for it by the Speaker, after aforesaid consultation process.

(7) If a motion of no confidence cannot reasonably be scheduled by the last sitting day of an annual session, it must be scheduled for consideration as soon as possible in the next annual session.

(8) Rules 95, 97 and 101 do not apply to motions of no confidence in terms of this Rule.

**CHAPTER 8**

**DISCUSSION OF URGENT MATTERS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**103. Urgent matter of national public importance**

(1) A private member may request the Speaker in writing to **[place]** schedule without delay an urgent matter of national public importance **[on the Order Paper]** for discussion by the House.

(2) In submitting the request, the member must motivate why the matter is of so urgent a nature that it should be dealt with in terms of this Rule.

(3) In granting such a request, depending on the urgency of the matter the Speaker may at his or her discretion -

(a) if, on a sitting day, the request is received at least **[an hour] [four hours before the appointed time of the sitting]** by midday, schedule the discussion for the same day;

(b) if the House is not programmed to meet at an early date that will accommodate the urgency of the matter, convene a special sitting of the House for the discussion; or

(c) schedule the matter for discussion at the earliest opportunity.

(4) If the Speaker grants the request, he or she must without delay inform the House, the Leader of Government Business and the responsible Minister of the date and time set for the discussion.

**[ (2) The member [shall] must make the request to the Speaker before the adjournment of [this] the House on the previous sitting day.]**

(5) **[(3)]** Such a discussion **[shall]** may not exceed the time allocated for it by the Speaker after consultation with the Leader of **[the House]** Government Business and the Chief Whip.

(6) **[(4) If 15 minutes before the expiration of the allocated time a member other than the responsible Minister is speaking, the presiding officer shall interrupt such member and shall ascertain from the Minister whether or not he or she wishes to reply.]** In the absence of the responsible Minister, any other member of the Executive may respond to the discussion on that Minister's behalf, provided that, at the Speaker's discretion, the discussion may proceed even if no member of the Executive is available to respond.

(7) There may only be one discussion in terms of this Rule on a sitting day, and if the Speaker receives more than one request, he or she must decide which matter is more urgent or important.

(8) **[(5)(a) Questions of privilege may not be discussed under this Rule.**

**(b)]** In exercising his or her discretion the Speaker must apply the following criteria:

1. Matters already discussed by **[this]** the House during the same annual session may not be discussed under this Rule;

(b) The matter must be raised at the earliest opportunity;

(c) The matter must be -

(i) of so serious a nature that it requires urgent attention, or

(ii) of sufficient immediate public importance to warrant it taking precedence over other programmed business;

(d) The request must deal with a matter of national importance for which the Government can be held responsible, or that falls within the scope of ministerial action;

(e) The subject must relate to a specific matter of recent occurrence, and not to a general state of affairs or to a matter of policy;

(f) The matter must be defined and specific;

(g) The request must deal with only one substantive matter;

(h) The request will not be granted if the matter can be considered by some other means in the near future; and

(i) The *sub judice* rule(Rule 67) applies to such a discussion.

**104. Withdrawal of scheduled discussion on matter of public importance**

The member who requested the discussion may request the Speaker to withdraw the scheduled discussion, provided that sufficient notice of such withdrawal is given.

*[Note: Old Rule 104 and 104A deleted]*

**CHAPTER 9**

**MEMBERS' STATEMENTS AND EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS**

**105. Statements by members**

**[(1) A member, other than the Deputy President, a Minister or a Deputy Minister, may be recognised by the presiding officer to make a statement on any matter for not more than one and a half minutes.**

**(2) Members of each party are entitled to make a number of statements, minority parties being given an opportunity to participate in a manner consistent with democracy.**

**(3) If a member, for whatever reason, during the sequence of proceedings, fails to utilise the opportunity to make a statement, the party to which that member belongs forfeits that opportunity.**

**(4) The number of members' statements on any day and the sequence of party participation must be [Members of the various parties must be recognised in the order] determined by the Rules Committee.**

**(5) The process in Subrule (4) must continue until statements by members are exhausted or [fourteen] fifteen statements have been made, whichever occurs first.**

**(6) At the conclusion of statements by members, a Minister present may be given an opportunity to respond, for not more than two minutes, to any statement directed to that Minister or made in respect of that Minister’s portfolio.**

**(7) In the absence of a Minister who may respond to a statement as envisaged in Subrule (6), the relevant Deputy Minister or any other Minister must be given an opportunity to respond on behalf of the absent Minister.**

**(8) Ministerial responses must be taken in the following order of preference:**

**Minister as envisaged in Subrule (6), the relevant Deputy Minister, or a Minister responding on behalf of the absent Minister.**

**(9) [A maximum of five Ministers may be given an opportunity to respond to members’ statements.] The number of permissible ministerial responses to members' statements must be determined by the Rules Committee.**

**(10) Statements are taken on Tuesdays and Thursdays, [and Fridays when the Assembly sits on a Friday,] unless the Programme Committee in respect of a particular day or days determines otherwise.**

**(11) A member’s statement may not be responded to more than once.**

**(12) The rules of debate apply to members’ statements and ministerial responses.]**

*Proposed new Rule 105:*

(1) A member, other than the Deputy President, a Minister or a Deputy Minister, may be recognised by the presiding officer to make a statement on any matter for not more than one and a half minutes.

(2) Members of each party are entitled to make a number of statements, minority parties being given an opportunity to participate in a manner consistent with democracy.

(3) If a member, for whatever reason, during the sequence of proceedings, fails to utilise the opportunity to make a statement, the party to which that member belongs forfeits that opportunity.

(4) The number of members' statements on any sitting day and the period of time within such statements must be completed on that day and the sequence of party participation must be determined by the Rules Committee.

(5) At the conclusion of statements by members, a Minister or Deputy Minister present may be given an opportunity to respond, for not more than twominutes, to any statement**.**

(6) The number of permissible ministerial responses to members' statements must be determined by the Rules Committee.

(7) Statements are only taken on any sitting day when placed on the Order Paper in terms of rule 24A read with rule 29.

(8) The rules of debate apply to members’ statements and ministerial responses.

**106. Executive statements**

(1) A Cabinet member may request the Speaker for an opportunity for that Cabinet member or the relevant Deputy Minister on behalf of that Cabinet member to make a factual or policy statement relating to government policy, any executive action or other similar matter of which the **[Assembly]** House should be informed.

(2) The time allotted to a Cabinet member making an executive statement in terms of Subrule (1) including any reply to party responses in terms of Subrule (7) may not exceed 20 minutes, except with the consent of the **[Assembly]** House.

(3) Whenever reasonably possible, a copy of an executive statement must be delivered to the leader of each party, or that leader’s representative, at or before the time the statement is made in the **[Assembly]** House.

(4) After any executive statement has been made, the Cabinet member concerned **[must]** may**[, if applicable,]** table **[a compendium of background information]** relevant supporting papers.

(5) Following any executive statement, a member or members of each of the parties represented in the House may comment on the executive statement, the time allocated to each party for that purpose and the sequence for party comments to be determined by the Rules Committee. **[for not more than three minutes per party, commencing with the [official] largest opposition party and followed by other parties in the order of the size of their membership in the Assembly**.**]**

(6) Party responses as envisaged in Subrule (5) may be postponed by agreement between the majority of parties represented in the House or by motion without notice in the House to a later date as determined by the Programme Committee.

(7) At the conclusion of party responses, the responsible Cabinet member or Deputy Minister must, subject to Subrule (2), be given **[two five minutes]** an opportunity to reply.

**CHAPTER 10**

***QUESTIONS***

***Part 1: General***

**107. Notice and placing of questions**

(1) Except as otherwise provided in these Rules or with the prior consent of the Speaker –

(a) notice must be given of each question by placing it on the Question Paper; and

(b) no question for oral reply may be asked on the day on which notice thereof is given.

(2) (a) A member may give notice of a question on any working day in accordance with these Rules.

(b) A member who wants to give notice of a question must deliver to the **[Secretary]** Speaker, for placement on the Question Paper -

(i) a signed copy of the notice; or

(ii) an electronic copy of the notice, which must be accompanied by the member's electronic signature or originate from the member's email address,

indicating the day on which the question will be put.

(c) A whip or representative of the member's party designated by the party may submit a notice in terms of Subrule (2)(a) on behalf of the member.

(3) Questions delivered to the **[Secretary]** Speaker before 12:00 on any working day in terms of Subrule (2) may appear on the Question Paper **[on the second sitting day thereafter and not earlier]** only after the expiry of 24 hours.

(4) Subject to these Rules and any guidelines that may be approved by the Rules Committee, and in particular Rules 108(7), 110(3) and 111 , **[the Secretary must place the]** questions must be placed on the Question Paper in the order in which they are received.

(5) (a) No question may be addressed to any person other than a member of the Cabinet, and

(b) questions must relate to matters for which Cabinet members are officially responsible.

(6) If a notice of a question **[offends against]** is not consistent with **[the practice or]** these Rules or any guidelines that may be approved by the Rules Committee, the Speaker may either amend the question or return it to the member who submitted it.

**[(7)** **A member may give notice or take charge of a question on behalf of an absent member if the member has been authorised to do so by the absent member.]**

**107A. Lapsing of questions**

All questions on the Question Paper on the last sitting day of an annual session lapse 20 working days after the last sitting day.

**107B. Monitoring replies to questions**

(1) The Speaker must in consultation with the Rules Committee establish a system to monitor and report regularly to the House on questions that have been endorsed as unanswered on the Question Paper in terms of Rules 114(2), 115(5) and 117(3).

(2) The Leader of Government Business must be informed of any steps taken in respect of any member of the Executive in giving effect to the monitoring of replies and the application of Rules 114 to 117.

***Part 2: Questions for oral reply***

**108. Form and arrangement of questions**

(1) A member who wants an oral reply to a question must write the words “for oral reply” on the copy of the notice of the question delivered to the **[Secretary]** Speaker in terms of Rule 107(2).

(2) A question for oral reply must be concise and may not contain more than **[five]** two subdivisions.

(3) If the Speaker is of the opinion that a question **[deals with a matter]** comprises matters of a substantively statistical nature, the Speaker may direct that the question be placed on the Question Paper for written reply.

(4) Questions for oral reply are limited to two questions per member per question day.

(5) (a) The restrictions imposed by Subrule (4) and by Rules 109(5), 110(4) and 111(5) do not apply to questions -

**[(a)]**(i) approved as urgent questions in terms of Rule 112;

**[(b)]**(ii) standing over in terms of Rule **[114(2)(a) or]** 115(1) or (3); or

**[(c)]** (iii) transferred from written to oral reply in terms of Rule 117.

(b) If a question referred to in paragraphs (a)(i) to (iii) is included on a Question Paper for a particular day, an additional 30 minutes must be added to the question time for that day.

(6) A question that is submitted for oral reply must be placed on the Question Paper for reply at least six working days prior to the Question day on which it is to be replied to.

(7) An authorised representative of a party may before 12:00 on the day after questions for a particular question day appear on the Question Paper for the first time, **[Wednesday before the question day on which questions put by members of that party are to be answered,]** notify the **[Secretary]** Speaker in writing of the order in which **[those]** questions put by members of that party are to be placed on the Question Paper.

1. Questions that cannot be placed on the Question Paper for oral reply because of quotas must be placed as questions for written reply.
2. The sequence of questions on the Question Paper rotates without interruption for the duration of an annual session according to the order in which members of the respective parties may put questions. That order is determined by the **[Chief Whips’ Forum]** Rules Committee from time to time.

(10) **[(7) A member may give notice or take charge of a question on behalf of an absent member if the member has been authorised to do so by the absent member.]**

(a) If the member in whose name a question appears on the Question Paper is absent on the day when the question is to be replied to, another member authorised by the absent member may take charge of the question after having timeously notified the presiding officer, where possible.

(b) If another member has not been authorised to take charge of a question as contemplated in subparagraph (a), the relevant member of the Executive must still reply to the question after which, notwithstanding Rule 113(5), the presiding officer permits four supplementary questions each of one minute's duration.

**109. Questions to Ministers**

**[(1) Questions for oral reply by Ministers must be dealt with in accordance with three clusters of portfolios of government affairs, as determined from time to time by the Chief Whips’ Forum after consultation with the Leader of Government Business, and published in the ATC.**

**(2) The clusters rotate on a weekly basis, so that questions relating to each respective cluster are answered every third question day (subject to Subrules (3) and (4)).]**

1. Questions for oral reply by Ministers must be dealt with in accordance with a clustered system of government portfolios, as determined by the **[Chief Whips' Forum]** Rules Committee from time to time **[after consultation with the Leader of Government Business,]** and published in the **[Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports]** ATC.

(2) The clusters rotate on a weekly basis, so that, subject to Subrules (3) and (4), questions relating to each cluster are answered in succession in accordance with the agreed system. **[(this rule remains subject to Subrules (3) and (4)]**.

(2A) A Minister may authorise his or her Deputy Minister to reply to a question directed at that Minister, provided the Deputy Minister is able also to respond competently to any permissible supplementary questions that may be asked.

(2B) If a Minister and his or her Deputy Minister are absent on a day when questions relating to the relevant Ministry are to be answered, the Minister may authorise another Cabinet member to reply to a question directed at that Minister, provided the Cabinet member so authorised is able also to respond competently to any permissible supplementary questions that may be asked.

(3) If a Minister is absent on a day when a question **[questions]** relating to the relevant cluster is called **[are to be answered]** and the question is **[those questions are]** not answered by **[another Cabinet Member or by the Deputy Minister concerned]** the Deputy Minister concerned or another Cabinet member in accordance with Subrules (2A) and (2B), the Speaker may, if requested to do so by the member in whose name **[a]** the question to that Minister stands, and after consultation with the Leader of Government Business, direct that –

(a) such question **[questions]** to that Minister be placed on the Question Paper for the first question session for Ministers following that day; and

(b) an additional 30 minutes be added to the question time for that session.

(4) Questions to Ministers must not be scheduled for a day on which the President is scheduled to answer questions in the Assembly.

(5) The number of questions to a Minister is limited to ten questions per question day in respect of any one department of state.

(6) Where the order in which questions are put to Ministers according to Rule 108(9) is interrupted at the end of a question session, the next question session to Ministers starts from the point where the order was so interrupted.

**110. Questions to Deputy President**

(1) Questions to the Deputy President must be scheduled **[in accordance with Rule 24A]** by the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B for a question day once **[every second week]** per month during session time in accordance with the annual programme of the Assembly, outside of the question time for Ministers; Provided that -

(a) questions to the Deputy President may not be scheduled for any week in which questions to the President are scheduled, and

(b) the Programme Committee must further determine which months qualify as months during session time within the annual programme for purposes of this rule.

(1A) Questions to the Deputy President must be limited to matters of national and international importance, as assigned to him or her by the President.

**[(2) If that day falls within a week in which -**

**(a) the President is scheduled to answer questions in the Assembly; or**

**(b) the Deputy President is scheduled to answer questions in the Council,**

**questions to the Deputy President must not be scheduled for that week, but for the following week**.**]**

**(3) Questions to the Deputy President have precedence over questions to Ministers.]**

(4) The number of questions to the Deputy President is limited to **[four]** six questions per question day.

(4A) The total time allowed for replies to questions and associated supplementary questions under this Rule is limited to three hours **[which may be extended by the presiding officer to ensure that all six questions and permissible supplementary questions are answered]**.

(5) Where the order in which questions are put to the Deputy President according to Rule 108(9) is interrupted at the end of a question session to the Deputy President, the next question session to the Deputy President starts from the point where the order was so interrupted.

(6) **[Notwithstanding Rule 107, questions to the Deputy President must be submitted by party representatives in prioritized order before 12:00 on the Monday 9 days before the Question day on which they are to be answered.]** Questions to the Deputy President must be submitted to the Speaker at least 16 calendar days before the question day on which they are to be answered, for the Speaker's approval as complying with these Rules and the guidelines determined by the Rules Committee.

**[(7) A question that is submitted for oral reply must be placed on the Question Paper at least 9 working days prior to the question day on which it is to be replied to.]**

**111. Questions to President**

(1) Questions to the President must be -

(a) scheduled in accordance with Rule 24A for a question day at least once **[per term]** per quarter during session time **[in accordance with]** within the annual **[Parliamentary]** programme; and

(b) limited to matters of national and international importance.

**[(2) All other questions relating to the Presidency must be directed to the Deputy President or the Minister in the Presidency.]**

(3) Questions to the President must be submitted to the **[Secretary]** Speaker **[before 12:00 on the Monday,]** at least16 calendar days before the question day on which they are to be answered, for the Speaker's approval as complying with these Rules and the guidelines determined by the Rules Committee.

**[(3A) A question that is submitted for oral reply must be placed on the Question Paper at least 9 working days prior to the question day on which it is to be replied to.]**

**[(4)** **[The Secretary must submit the questions to the Speaker for approval.]**

(5) The number of questions to the President is limited to six questions per question day.

(5A) The total time allowed for replies to questions and associated supplementary questions under this Rule is limited to three hours, **[which may be extended by the presiding officer to ensure that all six questions and permissible supplementary questions are answered]**.

(6)Where the **[order]** party sequence in which questions are put to the President according to Rule 108(9) is interrupted at the end of a question session, the next question session to the President starts from the point where the **[order]** sequence was so interrupted.

**112. Urgent questions**

(1) A member may **[, with the permission of]** request the Speaker in writing to allow **[place]** an urgent question for oral reply **[on the Question Paper for a]** to be put to -

(a) the relevant Minister at the next question **[day]** session for Ministers in the House, regardless of whether that Minister falls within the ministerial cluster for that day **[on which such a question would not normally be dealt with**.**]**; or

(b) the President or the Deputy President on the next applicable question day.

(2) A member who wants to **[place]** put an urgent question **[on the Question Paper]** in terms of Subrule (1) must deliver a signed copy of the question to the Speaker before 12:00 on the **[Tuesday in the week]** day preceding the **[week** **in]** question day on which the question is to be answered, clearly indicating that it is an urgent question.

(2A) In submitting the request, the member must motivate why the question is so urgent that it must be dealt with in terms of this Rule.

1. The Speaker must consult the Leader of Government Business before approving an urgent question.

(4) **[If the Speaker approves an urgent question, it must appear on the Question Paper before or on the Friday of the week preceding the week in which the question is to be answered.]** An approved urgent question takes precedence over all other questions on the relevant question day.

**113. Times allotted and time limits**

(1) Questions for oral reply have precedence on Wednesdays, unless the Programme Committee determines otherwise in accordance with Rule 190B.

(2) The time allotted for questions is **[two]** three hours.

(3) The reply to a question is limited to **[three]** four minutes but if the presiding officer is of the opinion that the matter is of sufficient importance an additional two minutes may be allowed.

(4) In respect of each question, four supplementary questions may be asked, the member in whose name a question stands or who takes charge of a question in terms of Rule **[107(7)]** 108(10) being given the first opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

[**(5)** **The member in whose name a question stands or who takes charge of a question in terms of Rule 107(7), must be given the first opportunity to ask a supplementary question.]**

**[(6)]** (5) A member who asks a supplementary question may make a statement or express an opinion, but the time allowed for the first supplementary question is limited to two minutes and for subsequent supplementary questions **[may not speak for more than]** one minute.

(5A) A supplementary question must arise directly from the original question and the reply given thereto and may not constitute a new question.

**[(7)]** (6) A supplementary question may not consist of more than one question.

**[(8)]** (7) The reply to a supplementary question is limited to two minutes.

(8) The provisions of Subrules (1), (2), (3) and (7) do not apply to questions to the Deputy President and the President.

**114. Unanswered questions for oral reply**

(1) Replies to questions for oral reply which have not been reached at the end of the time allotted on a question day must be submitted in writing to the **[Secretary]** Speaker on the same day for appropriate distribution and inclusion in the Official Report of the Debates of the Assembly.

(2) If a reply to such a question is not received by the **[Secretary]** Speaker on **[by 12:00 on the Thursday following]** the question day concerned, the question must be regarded as unanswered and the question must be endorsed on the Question Paper to that effect.

**[(a) the question must be regarded as standing over; and**

**(b) in the case of a question that has stood over in terms of (a) or Rule 115(1) from a previous question day, the Question Paper must be endorsed to the effect that the question has not been replied to.]**

**[(3) Subrule (1) does not apply where questions to a Minister are put on the Question Paper for the following question day in terms of a direction by the Speaker under Rule 109(3).]**

**115. Questions for oral reply standing over**

(1) A question for oral reply must stand over if the **[person]** Minister to whom it is addressed -

(a) so requests, either in the Assembly when the question **[comes up]** is called for reply, or by notice in writing to the **[Secretary]** Speaker before the start of question time on the day for which it is on the Question Paper; or

(b) is not present in the Assembly when the question **[comes up]** is called for reply and the question is not replied to by **[someone else]** the relevant Deputy Minister or another Cabinet member on his or her behalf in terms of Rule 109(2A).

(2) Subject to a direction by the Speaker under Rule 109(3), a question that stands over in terms of Subrule (1) **[or Rule 114(2)]** must be -

(a) placed on the Question Paper for reply on the next question day on which the **[person to whom it is addressed]** relevant Minister is scheduled to reply to questions; and

(b) published at the end of the Question Paper, but may be prioritised in terms of Rule 108(7), provided that if more than one question is to be so published, the questions must be published in the order in which they previously appeared.

(3) A question for oral reply may not stand over more than once and is regarded as unanswered, unless the relevant Minister offers a valid reason -

(a) in the Assembly for requesting that it stand over again, when the question **[comes up]** is called for reply; or

(b) in writing to the Speaker for being absent from the House on the question day for which it has been set down in terms of Subrule(2), or the Speaker determines otherwise.

(4) If a question stands over again in terms of Subrule (3), the member in whose name the question stands may again request the Speaker that the question be placed on the Question Paper for the first question session for Ministers following that day in terms of Rule 109(3).

**[(4)]** (5) If a question standing over is not answered, either orally or in terms of Rule 114(1), the Question Paper must be endorsed to the effect that the question has not been replied to.

***Part 3: Questions for written reply***

**116. Form and placing of questions**

(1) A question for written reply **[– (a)]** may be placed on the Question Paper for any working day.

**[(b) must be delivered to the [Secretary] Speaker before 12:00 on the Tuesday of the week during which it is to be placed on the Question Paper for reply.]**

(2) A question for written reply may not contain more than **[15]** 10 subdivisions.

(3) Questions for written reply are limited to three questions per member per week.

(4) The restriction imposed by Subrule (3) does not apply to questions referred to in Rule 108(8).

(5) (a) **[If** **a]** A question **[standing over is not answered, either orally or in terms of Rule 114(1),]** for written reply must be replied to within 10 working days, provided that the responsible Minister may in writing request the Speaker for an extension not exceeding a further 10 working days on good cause shown. **[the Question Paper must be endorsed to the effect that the question has not been replied to.]**

(b) If the Speaker approves a request for an extension in terms of paragraph (a), the member in whose name the question stands must be informed accordingly and the extension must be recorded on the Question Paper.

**117. Written reply not given**

(1) If the responsible Cabinet member has not replied in writing to a question within 10 working days of the day for which the question was set down for written reply or within the period of an extension approved by the Speaker in terms of Rule 116(5), and the member in whose name the question stands, or who takes charge of a question in terms of Rule **[107(7)]** 108(10), so requests, the **[Secretary]** Speaker must place the question on the Question Paper for oral reply.

(2) If a reply to a question placed on the Question Paper for oral reply in terms of Subrule (1) is submitted in writing to the **[Secretary]** Speaker not later than 12:00 on the question day on which it is to be replied to, the question must not be called in the House.

(3) If a written reply has not been received within 10 working days or within the period of an extension approved by the Speaker in terms of Rule 116(5), subject to Subrule (1) the Question Paper must be endorsed to the effect that the question has not been replied to, and the Speaker must inform the Leader of Government Business accordingly.

**CHAPTER 11**

**MESSAGES**

**118. Messages from Council**

A message received from the Council **[shall]** must be recorded in the **[Minutes of Proceedings]** ATC, or be made known in such other manner as the Speaker may determine.

**119. Messages to President of the Republic**

A message from **[this]** the House to the President of the Republic **[shall]** must be signed and communicated by the Speaker **[and the Secretary]**.

**120. Messages from President of the Republic**

(1) All communications from the President of the Republic to **[this]** the House **[shall]** must, if he or she does not **[take his or her seat in this]** attend a sitting of the House or **[in]** a joint sitting, be by message.

1. The message **[shall]** must be presented to **[this]** the House by the presiding officer, may in the discretion of the presiding officer be read out by him or her, and **[shall]** must be printed in the ATC, or in the Minutes of Proceedings if the message is read out in the House.

(3) The consideration of the message may be placed on the Order Paper, or the presiding officer may interrupt business at the request of the Leader of **[the House]** Government Business in order that precedence may be given to the consideration of the message: Provided that a message whereby the President of the Republic calls a sitting of Parliament **[see]** in terms of Section 42(5) of the Constitution **[shall]** may not be considered.

**CHAPTER 12**

**COMMITTEE SYSTEM**

***Part 1: Introduction***

**121. List of committees**

(1) The Assembly has the following committees -

(a) as established by these Rules:

**[(a)]**(i) the Rules Committee established by Rule 158;

**[(b)]**(ii) the Programme Committee established by Rule 187;

(iii) the Disciplinary Committee established by Rule 194B;

**[(c)]** **[the Powers and Privileges Committee established by Rule 191;]**

**[(d)]**(iv)the **[Committee of]** Forum of Committee Chairpersons established by Rule 195;

**[(e)]**(v) the portfolio committees that must be established in terms of Rule 199;

**[(f)]**(vi) the Standing Committee on Public Accounts established by Rule 204;

**[(g) the Committee on the Auditor-General established by Rule 208A;]**

**[(h) the Committee on Private Member’s Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions established by Rule 209; and]**

**[i]** (vii) *ad hoc* committees that may be established in terms of Rule 214; and

(viii) the Chief Whips' Forum, and

(b) as established by these Rules in terms of legislation:

(i) the Powers and Privileges Committee established by Rule 191;

* + 1. (ii) the Standing Committee on Finance established by Rule 203A;
    2. (iii) the Standing Committee on Appropriations established by Rule 203G; and
    3. (iv) the Standing Committee on the Auditor-General established by Rule 208A.

(2) Other committees may be established but only by resolution of the Assembly. **[—**

**(a) resolution of the Assembly; or**

**(b) the Rules Committee.]**

(3) If a proposal to establish a committee is contained in draft legislation before a portfolio committee, that committee must first refer the proposal to the Rules Committee for a report and recommendation before that committee considers the proposal.

(4) The Assembly participates in joint committees and other structures in accordance with the Joint Rules.

**122. Subcommittees**

(1) A committee —

(a) has such subcommittees as are established by these Rules; and

(b) may appoint a subcommittee only when —

(i) there is provision for such appointment in these Rules; or

(ii) authorised **[by the Rules Committee or]** by resolution of the Assembly.

(2) Subrule (1) does not prevent a committee from assigning a task to one or more of its members for a purely internal or administrative purpose.

(3) If a proposal to establish a subcommittee is contained in draft legislation before a portfolio committee, that committee must first refer the proposal to the Rules Committee for a report and recommendation before that committee considers the proposal.

**123. Application of Rules to committees and subcommittees established in terms of legislation**

These Rules also apply to a committee or subcommittee established in terms of legislation, and in such application the committee or subcommittee must be regarded as having been established in terms of these Rules.

***Part 2: Rules applicable to committees generally***

**124. Application of this Part**

The provisions of this Part apply to all committees established by or in terms of these Rules except in so far as any of these provisions is inconsistent with —

(a) another provision of these Rules applicable in a specific case; or

(b) a resolution of the Assembly.

**125. Composition**

(1) Parties are entitled to be represented in committees in substantially the same proportion as the proportion in which they are represented in the Assembly, except where —

(a) these Rules prescribe the composition of the committee; or

(b) the number of members in the committee does not allow for all parties to be represented.

(2) Subject to these Rules, the Joint Rules and decisions of the Rules Committee, and where practicably possible, each party is entitled to at least one representative in a committee.

**126. Appointment procedures**

(1) Unless these Rules provide otherwise, the parties appoint the members of a committee and advise the Speaker accordingly.

(2) Parties must appoint their members within five working days after the establishment of a committee by the House.

**[(2)]** (3) The names of the members appointed must be published in the ATC without delay.

**127. Alternates**

(1) Alternates may be appointed for one or more specific members of a committee.

(2) An alternate acts as a member when the member for which the alternate was appointed —

(a) is absent; or

(b) has vacated office, until the vacancy is filled.

**128. Term of office**

(1) Subject to Section 49(4) of the Constitution, members of a committee and alternates for members are appointed until the Assembly’s term expires or the Assembly is dissolved, whichever occurs first.

(2) A member of a committee ceases to be a member and an alternate for a member ceases to be an alternate if a whip of the party to which that member or alternate belongs, or a designated representative of that party, gives notice to the Speaker, in writing, that the member or alternate is to be replaced or withdrawn.

**129. Chairpersons**

(1) A committee must elect one of its members as the chairperson of the committee.

(2) The chairperson of a committee, subject to the other provisions of these Rules and the directions of the committee —

(a) presides at meetings of the committee;

(b) may act in any matter on behalf of and in the best interest of the committee when it is not practical to arrange a meeting of the committee to discuss that matter, if that matter concerns —

(i) a request by a person to give evidence or make oral representations to the committee;

(ii) any other request to the committee; and

(iii) the initiation of any steps or decisions necessary for the committee to perform its functions or exercise its powers;

(c) performs the functions, tasks and duties and exercises the powers that the committee, resolutions of the Assembly and legislation may assign to the chairperson;

(d) in the event of an equality of votes on any question before the committee, must exercise a casting vote in addition to the chairperson’s vote as a member.

(3) The chairperson must report to the committee on any steps taken in terms of Subrule (2)(b).

**130. Acting chairpersons**

(1) If the chairperson of a committee is absent or unable to perform the functions of chairperson, the committee **[may]** must elect another of its members as acting chairperson.

(2) An acting chairperson performs the functions and may exercise the powers of the chairperson.

**131. First meetings**

(1) The Secretary must call a meeting of a committee within five working days after the names of the members of the committee have been announced.

(2) If a party or parties have not appointed their members in time, as provided for in Rule 126(2), the Secretary must call a meeting of the committee within five working days after a sufficient number of members have been appointed to form a quorum in terms of Rule 133(2).

**[(2)]** (3) If the Assembly is in recess, the Secretary must notify the members of the committee, the Chief Whip of the majority party and the most senior whip of each of the other parties, of the time and place of the meeting at least 14 days before the meeting.

**132. Meetings**

(1) Committees meet whenever necessary and as determined in accordance with these Rules and the decisions, directives and guidelines of the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B.

(2) A meeting of a committee may be called in terms of Subrule (1) —

(a) by the chairperson of the committee; or

(b) by resolution of the Assembly.

(3) If at least one third of the members of a committee in writing request the chairperson of the committee to call a meeting of the committee, the chairperson must call the meeting within a reasonable time.

**133. Quorum requirements**

(1) A committee at all times requires at least one third of its members to be present for it to conduct any business.

(2) A majority of the members of a committee must be present for it to decide any question.

**[(1) A majority of the members of a committee constitutes a quorum, subject to Subrule (2).**

**(2) A committee may proceed with business irrespective of the number of members present, but may decide a question only if a quorum is present.]**

(3) When a committee has to decide a question and a quorum in terms of Subrule (2) is not present, the **[member presiding]** chairperson may either suspend business until a quorum is present, or adjourn the meeting.

**134. Co-option when members and alternates not available**

If a member of a committee and that member’s alternate are both absent from a meeting of the committee, the chairperson may co-opt any other Assembly member from the same party to act as a member of the committee until that committee member or the alternate member is no longer absent.

**135. Interruption, suspension or adjournment**

The **[member presiding at a meeting]** chairperson of a committee -

(a) may interrupt or suspend the proceedings or adjourn the meeting, and

(b) may change the date for the resumption of business, provided **[sufficient]** reasonable notice is given.

**136. [**Charges against**] Information reflecting on integrity of members**

If any information **[charging an]** reflecting on the integrity of an Assembly member comes before a committee, the committee may not proceed upon that information, but must report it to the Speaker without delay.

**137. Reporting**

(1) A committee must report to the Assembly on a matter referred to the committee —

(a) when the Assembly is to decide the matter in terms of these Rules, the Joint Rules, a resolution of the Assembly or legislation;

(b) if the committee has taken a decision on the matter, whether or not the Assembly is to decide the matter as contemplated in paragraph (a); or

(c) if the committee is unable to decide a matter referred to it for a report.

(2) A committee must report to the Assembly on —

(a) all other decisions taken by it, except those decisions concerning its internal business; and

(b) its activities at least once per year.

(3) A report of a committee —

(a) must be formally adopted by the committee;

**[(a)]** (b) must be submitted to the Assembly by the chairperson or another member of the committee designated by the committee; and

**[(b)]** (c) may request that the chairperson or another member of the committee designated by the committee introduces or explains the report in the Assembly.

(4) (a) A committee may not submit a minority report [**except where provided for in these Rules]**.

(b) If a report is not a unanimous report, it must -

(i) specify in which respects there was not consensus; and

(ii) in addition to the views representative of the majority in the committee, express any views of a minority in the committee.

(5) If a committee reports on a matter other than a matter mentioned in Subrule (1)(a) and is of the view that its report, or a specific matter mentioned in the report, should be considered by the Assembly, it may make a request to that effect in the report.

**138. General powers**

For the purposes of performing its functions a committee may, subject to the Constitution, legislation, the other provisions of these Rules and resolutions of the Assembly —

(a) summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath or affirmation, or to produce documents;

(b) receive petitions, representations or submissions from interested persons or institutions;

**[(d)]** (c) permit oral evidence on petitions, representations, submissions and any other matter before the committee;

**[(c)]** (d) conduct public hearings;

(e) consult any Assembly or Council committee or subcommittee, or any joint committee or subcommittee;

**[(e)]** (f) determine its own **[procedure]** working arrangements;

**[(f)]** (g) meet at a venue determined by it, which may be a venue beyond the seat of Parliament;

**[(g)]** (h) meet on any day and at any time, including —

(i) on a day which is not a working day;

(ii) on a day on which the Assembly is not sitting;

(iii) at a time when the Assembly is sitting; or

(iv) during a recess;

**[(h)]** (i) exercise any other powers assigned to it by the Constitution, legislation, the other provisions of these Rules or resolutions of the Assembly.

**138A. Privilege of witnesses**

Prior to a witness giving evidence before a House or committee, the **[member presiding shall]** chairperson must in accordance with Section 16 of the Powers and Privileges Act inform the witness as follows:

“Please be informed that by law you are required to answer fully and satisfactorily all the questions lawfully put to you, or to produce any document that you are required to produce, in connection with the subject matter of the enquiry, notwithstanding the fact that the answer or the document could incriminate you or expose you to criminal or civil proceedings, or damages. You are, however, protected in that evidence given under oath or affirmation before a House or committee may not be used against you in any court or place outside Parliament, except in criminal proceedings concerning a charge of perjury or a charge relating to the evidence or documents required in these proceedings.”

**139. Conferring powers of committees**

(1) A committee may confer with any other committee of the Assembly.

(2) Committees must confer —

(a) if the Assembly instructs them to confer; or

(b) during a recess, if the Speaker, with the concurrence of the Chief Whip, instructs them to confer.

(3) When committees meet to confer the respective chairpersons of the committees co-chair the meeting.

(4) Committees conferring in terms of Subrule (1) may report jointly, subject to the provisions of Rule 202(2).

(5) If a committee is unable to meet to confer with another committee within reasonable time frames, the committee may invite the other committee to convey its views in writing.

**139A. Public involvement**

Committees must ensure public involvement in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and these Rules.

***Part 3: Rules applicable to subcommittees generally***

**140. Application of this Part**

The provisions of this Part apply to all subcommittees established by or in terms of these Rules except in so far as any of these provisions is inconsistent with —

(a) another provision of these Rules applicable in a specific case; or

(b) a resolution of the Assembly.

**141. General rules**

(1) A subcommittee established by or in terms of these Rules —

(a) is accountable to its parent committee;

(b) must carry out its task and responsibilities within a policy framework determined by its parent committee and in accordance with these Rules and any directives, guidelines or regulations issued by the parent committee;

(c) may consult any Assembly or Council committee or subcommittee, or any joint committee or subcommittee;

(d) may determine its own **[procedure]** working arrangements, subject to these Rules, any directives of the parent committee or resolutions of the Assembly;

(e) may only make recommendations to its parent committee; and

(f) must report to its parent committee regularly or when requested by the parent committee.

(2) The parent committee of a subcommittee —

(a) must appoint the members of the subcommittee from among its members;

(b) may, if appropriate, determine a period within which the subcommittee must complete its task;

(c) must determine the extent, nature and form of the subcommittee’s reports to the committee, and time limits for the submission of a report;

(d) may delegate any of its powers to the subcommittee necessary for the subcommittee to perform its task; and

(e) may instruct the subcommittee to perform any of its functions.

**142. Alternates**

(1) A parent committee may appoint alternates from among its members for one or more specific members of a subcommittee.

(2) An alternate acts as a member when the member for which the alternate was appointed —

(a) is absent; or

(b) has vacated office, until the vacancy is filled.

**143. Term of office**

(1) Subject to Section 49(4) of the Constitution, the members of a subcommittee established by a provision of these Rules and any alternates for those members are appointed until the Assembly’s term expires or the Assembly is dissolved, whichever occurs first.

(2) A subcommittee established by a committee in terms of a provision of these Rules ceases to exist —

(a) when it has completed the task for which it was established; or

(b) if it is dissolved by the parent committee earlier.

(3) (a) A member of a subcommittee ceases to be a member and an alternate for a member ceases to be an alternate if a whip of the party to which that member or alternate belongs gives notice to the Speaker, in writing, that the member or alternate is to be replaced or withdrawn.

(b) The written notice to the Speaker in terms of Subrule (3)(a) must be copied to the parent committee.

**144. Chairpersons**

(1) The parent committee of a subcommittee must designate a member of the subcommittee as the chairperson of the subcommittee.

(2) The chairperson of a subcommittee, subject to the other provisions of these Rules and the directions of the parent committee —

(a) presides at meetings of the subcommittee;

(b) may act in any matter on behalf of and in the best interest of the subcommittee when it is not practical to arrange a meeting of the subcommittee to discuss that matter, if that matter concerns —

(i) a request by a person to give evidence or make oral representations to the subcommittee;

(ii) any other request to the subcommittee; and

(iii) the initiation of any steps or decisions necessary for the subcommittee to perform its functions or exercise its powers; and

(c) performs the functions, tasks and duties and exercises the powers that the parent committee, resolutions of the Assembly and legislation may assign to the chairperson.

(3) The chairperson must report to the subcommittee on any steps taken in terms of Subrule (2)b).

**145. Acting chairpersons**

(1) If the chairperson of a subcommittee is absent or unable to perform the functions of chairperson, the subcommittee **[may]** must elect another of its members as acting chairperson.

(2) An acting chairperson performs the functions and **[may]** exercises the powers of the chairperson.

**146. Meetings**

(1) Subcommittees meet whenever necessary and as determined in accordance with these Rules and the decisions, directives and guidelines of the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B.

(2) A meeting of a subcommittee may be called in terms of Subrule (1) by —

(a) the chairperson of the subcommittee;

(b) the parent committee; or

(c) the chairperson of the parent committee.

**147. Matters relating to quorum**

A subcommittee may proceed with business irrespective of the number of members present.

**148. Decisions**

(1) A question before a subcommittee is decided by consensus.

(2) If consensus cannot be reached all views in the subcommittee on the question must be reported to the parent committee.

**149. General powers**

A subcommittee has the powers listed in Rule 138 only when assigned to it in terms of these Rules or by a resolution of the Assembly.

***Part 4: Rules applicable to both committees***

***and subcommittees generally***

**150. Application of this Part**

The provisions of this Part apply to all committees and subcommittees established by or in terms of these Rules except in so far as any of these provisions is inconsistent with —

(a) another provision of these Rules applicable in a specific case; or

(b) a resolution of the Assembly.

**150A. Conduct of members**

Members must at all times conduct themselves in a manner befitting the dignity and decorum of a forum of the Assembly.

**151. Persons appearing before committees**

Any person, including counsel and attorneys, appearing before a committee or subcommittee must observe the directions and conform to the procedures determined by the chairperson of the committee or subcommittee.

**152. Admission of the public**

(1) Meetings of committees and subcommittees are open to the public, including the media, and the **[member presiding]** chairperson of the committee or subcommittee may not exclude the public, including the media, from the meeting, except when —

(a) legislation, these Rules or resolutions of the Assembly provide for the committee or subcommittee to meet in closed session; or

(b) the committee or subcommittee is considering a matter which is —

(i) of a private nature that is prejudicial to a particular person;

(ii) protected under parliamentary privilege, or for any other reason privileged in terms of the law; or

(iii) confidential in terms of legislation **[; or]**,

**[(iv) of such a nature that its confidential treatment is for any other reason reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society.]**

the nature of which is such that its confidential treatment is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society.

(2) A decision in terms of Subrule (1) to exclude the public must be taken, after due consideration, by the committee or subcommittee concerned, provided that the chairperson of the committee or subcommittee may at any time —

(a) before the start of the meeting rule that the meeting must take place in closed session, but the committee or subcommittee may at any time after the start of the meeting open the meeting; or

(b) close the meeting for a decision by the committee or subcommittee whether the matter should be considered in closed session.

(3) The Speaker must —

(a) set aside places for the public in the committee rooms; and

(b) determine the entrances and routes through which the public can obtain access to these places.

(4) The Speaker may take reasonable measures —

(a) to regulate public access, including access of the media, to the committees and subcommittees;

(b) to prevent and control misconduct of the public in committee rooms; and

(c) to provide for the searching of any person, including that person’s vehicle or other property in that person’s possession, and, where appropriate, the refusal of entry to, or the removal of any person.

**153. Presence of other Assembly members**

(1) A member of the Assembly who is not a member of the committee or subcommittee may be present at a meeting of the committee or subcommittee.

(2) A member mentioned in Subrule (1) who is present at a meeting of a committee or subcommittee —

(a) may speak on a matter before the committee or subcommittee subject to any reasonable restrictions the chairperson may impose; and

(b) may not vote except when the vote is cast as an alternate **[or as a co-opted member]** in terms of Rule 127 **[or 134** **or 142]**.

**154. Exclusion of members of the public from meetings**

The **[member presiding at a meeting]** chairperson of a committee or subcommittee may —

(a) order a member of the public to leave the meeting —

(i) when the public is excluded from a meeting in terms of Rule 152(1); or

(ii) when necessary to give effect to the measures taken under Rule 152(3); or

(b) order a person referred to in Rule 151 to leave the meeting if that person does not comply with a ruling of the **[presiding member]** chairperson.

**155. Exclusion of other persons from meetings**

When the public is excluded from a meeting of a committee or subcommittee in terms of Rule 152(1), the **[member presiding]** chairperson may order a staff member,a **[member** **or]** Government official **[of the executive or a member of Parliament who is not a member of the committee or subcommittee,]** and any other person not deemed a member of the public, excluding a member of the Assembly, also to leave the meeting.

**156. Removal of persons**

When instructed by the **[presiding member]** chairperson of a committee or subcommittee**,** the Serjeant-at-Arms must remove or arrange for the removal of any person who —

(a) without permission, is present in that part of a committee room designated for members of the committee or subcommittee only;

(b) disrupts the proceedings of the committee or subcommittee or causes a nuisance; or

(c) does not leave when ordered to leave under Rule 154 or 155.

**157. Publication or disclosure of proceedings, evidence, reports, etc.**

(1) All documents officially before, or emanating from, a committee or subcommittee are open to the public, including the media, but the following documents may not be published, and their contents may not be disclosed, except with the permission of the committee, or the parent committee in the case of a subcommittee, or by order of the Speaker, or by resolution of the Assembly:

(a) The proceedings of, or evidence taken by or placed before, the committee or subcommittee while the public were excluded from a meeting in terms of Rule 152(1).

(b) Any report or summary of such proceedings or evidence.

(c) Any document placed before or presented to the committee or subcommittee as a confidential document and declared by it as a confidential document.

(d) Any document —

(i) submitted or to be submitted to members of the committee or subcommittee as a confidential document by order of the chairperson of the committee or subcommittee; or

(ii) after its submission to members declared by the chairperson as a confidential document.

(2) The permission, order or resolution authorising the publication, or the disclosure of the contents, of documents mentioned in Subrule (1) may provide that specific parts of, or names mentioned in, the document may not be published or disclosed.

(3) For the purposes of Subrule (1) a document is officially before a committee or subcommittee when —

(a) the **[presiding member]** chairperson places the document, or permits the document to be placed. before the committee or subcommittee; or

(b) a person appearing before the committee or subcommittee as a witness or to make representations, presents the document to the committee or subcommittee.

(4) Subrule (1)(c) and (d) applies only to documents that —

(a) contain **[private]** information of a private nature that is prejudicial to a particular person;

(b) are protected under parliamentary privilege, or for any other reason are privileged in terms of the law;

(c) are confidential in terms of legislation; or

(d) are subject to a media embargo, until the embargo expires **[; or]** ,

**[(e) are of such a nature that their confidential treatment is for any other reason reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society.]**

the nature of which is such that its confidential treatment is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society.

***Part 5: Rules Committee***

**158. Establishment**

There is a Rules Committee.

**159. Composition**

**[The Rules Committee consists of –**

**(a) the Speaker;**

**(b) the Deputy Speaker;**

**(c) the House Chairpersons; and**

**(d) no more than 50 other members appointed by the Speaker, provided that each party in the Assembly is entitled to a least one representative on the Committee.]**

(1) Unless the House by resolution decides otherwise, the Rules Committee consists of -

(a) in their capacity of elected office-bearers -

(i) the Speaker, and

(ii) the Deputy Speaker; and

(b) in their capacity as party representatives -

(i) the Chief Whip and nine other members of the majority party,

(ii) the Chief Whip of the largest opposition party and two other members of that party,

(iii) two members of the second largest opposition party, and

(iv) two members representative of other parties,

appointed by the Speaker as members of the Rules Committee.

(2) Alternate members may be appointed for the party representatives referred to in Subrule (1)(b).

(3) The House Chairpersons and other members may attend and participate in Rules Committee meetings in accordance with Rule 153.

**160. Chairperson**

(1) The Speaker is the chairperson of the Rules Committee.

(2) If the Speaker is not available, the Deputy Speaker performs the functions of the Speaker.

**161. Functions and powers**

(1) The Rules Committee may —

(a) develop and formulate **[and adopt]** policy proposals concerning the exclusive business of the Assembly in respect of **[—]** the proceedings, procedures, Rules, orders and practices concerning the business of the Assembly;

**[(i) the management, administration and functioning of the Assembly;**

**(ii) the financial management and policy of the Assembly, including the sources of funding, the budget, income and expenditure of the Assembly;**

**(iii)** **the proceedings, procedures, Rules, orders and practices concerning the business of the Assembly;** **or**

**(iv) the provision of facilities and other support for Assembly members;]**

**[(b) [make recommendations to the Assembly concerning the Assembly’s annual budget;]**

**[(c)]** (b) monitor and oversee the implementation of policy on all matters referred to in paragraph (a);

**[(d)]** (c)make recommendations to the Joint Rules Committee on any matter falling within the functions and powers of the Committee;

**[(e)]** (d) lay down guidelines and issue directives **[, and formulate regulations]** regarding any aspect of policy referred to in this Rule;

**[(f)]** (e) appoint committees or subcommittees to assist it with the performance of any of its functions or the exercise of any of its powers;

**[(g)]** (f) recommend to the Assembly for adoption Rules and orders and other policy proposals concerning the business of the Assembly; and

**[(h)]** (g) perform any other functions assigned to it by legislation, the other provisions of these Rules or resolutions of the Assembly.

(2) The Committee may deal with a matter falling within its functions and powers —

(a) on its own initiative; or

(b) when referred to it for consideration and report by —

(i) the Assembly; or

* + - 1. the Speaker.

**162. Implementation of policy**

(1) The responsibility for the implementation of policy determined by the Rules Committee vests in the Speaker subject to the decisions of the Rules Committee and resolutions of the Assembly.

(2) The Speaker, with the concurrence of the Rules Committee, may appoint task teams to assist the Speaker in executing the responsibility mentioned in Subrule (1).

**[163. Policy matters requiring decision during recess**

**(1) If during a recess a matter of policy arises that requires a Rules Committee decision but cannot await finalisation when the session resumes, the Speaker may convene a meeting of those of the following office-bearers who are available to decide on the matter:**

**(a) the Speaker;**

**(b) the Deputy Speaker;**

**(c) the House Chairpersons;**

**(d) the Chief Whip;**

**(e) the Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party;**

**(f) the chairperson of the relevant Subcommittee of the Rules Committee under whose jurisdiction the matter in question falls, if applicable;**

**(g) the Chief Whip of the Opposition and one additional whip representative of the largest minority party in the Assembly designated by that party;**

**[(g)] (h) the most senior whip or party representative of each of the other parties in the Assembly or alternate of such whip or representative, designated by the parties concerned; [and]**

**[(h)] (i) a committee chairperson designated by the Committee of Chairpersons; and**

**(j) the number of additional members to be determined by the Speaker with the concurrence of the Rules Committee.**

**(2) (a) A majority of the members listed in Subrule (1) constitutes a quorum.**

**(b) The matter before a meeting convened in terms of Subrule (1), is decided when there is agreement on the question among the majority of the members present.**

**(3) A decision taken in terms of this Rule must be published in the ATC within 3 days after the Assembly reconvenes after the recess.]**

**163A. Quorum**

(1) The Rules Committee requires at least one third of its members or alternates referred to in Rule 159(1) and (2) to be present for it to conduct any business.

(2) A majority of the members must be present for it to decide any question.

**164. Decisions**

A question before the Rules Committee is decided when there is a quorum present in terms of Rule 163A(2) and there is agreement on the question among the majority of the members of the Committee.

**165. Subcommittees**

(1) The Rules Committee has the following subcommittees:

**[(a) The Subcommittee on the National Assembly Budget;**

**(b) The Subcommittee on Support for Members;]**

**[(c)]** (a) The Subcommittee on Review of the Assembly Rules; and

**[(d) The Subcommittee on Internal Arrangements;**

**(e) The Subcommittee on International Relations;**

**(f) The Subcommittee on Delegated Legislation;**

**(g) The Subcommittee on Powers and Privileges of Parliament; and]**

**[(h)]** (b) Any other subcommittees appointed in terms of Rule 161(1) **[(f)]** (e).

(2) When the Rules Committee appoints the members of a subcommittee the Committee —

(a) is not restricted to the members of the Rules Committee; and

(b) may appoint any Assembly member.

(3) A subcommittee of the Rules Committee may take a matter to a Joint Subcommittee of the Joint Rules Committee only if authorised by the Rules Committee.

**[(4) A subcommittee of the Rules Committee may not issue directives relating to any aspect of the control and management of the administration of the Assembly.]**

[***Note:*** *Rules 166-171 are deleted.*]

***[Subcommittee on the National Assembly Budget***

**166. Composition**

**The Subcommittee on the National Assembly Budget consists of eight Assembly members appointed in such a way that —**

**(a) the majority party in the Assembly has three members;**

**(b) the three largest minority parties in the Assembly have one member each; and**

**(c) two of the other minority parties in the Assembly have one member each.**

**167. Chairperson**

**The Rules Committee must appoint one of the members of the Subcommittee as the chairperson of the Subcommittee.**

**168. Functions and powers**

**The Subcommittee may —**

**(a) make recommendations to the Rules Committee on the**

**development, formulation and adoption of policy regarding —**

**(i) the financial management of the Assembly;**

**(ii) the sources of funding, resources, income and expenditure of the Assembly; and**

**(iii) the preparation to the Assembly’s annual budget;**

**(b) monitor and oversee the implementation of policy on the matters referred to in paragraph (a) and make recommendations in this regard to the Rules Committee; and**

**(c) perform any other function and exercise any other power assigned to it by the Rules Committee.**

***Subcommittee on Support for Assembly Members***

**169. Composition**

**The Subcommittee on Support for Assembly Members consists of —**

**(a) three members from the majority party in the Assembly;**

**(b) one member from each of the three largest minority parties in the Assembly; and**

**(c) one member from each of two of the other minority parties in the Assembly.**

**170. Chairperson**

**The Subcommittee must appoint one of the members of the subcommittee as Chairperson of the subcommittee**

**171. Functions and powers**

**(1) The Subcommittee may —**

**(a) make recommendations to the Rules Committee on the**

**development, formulation and adoption of policy regarding the provisions of facilities and other support for Assembly members, including training of members;**

**(b) monitor and oversee the implementation of policy on the matters referred to in paragraph (a) and make recommendations in this regard to the Rules Committee; and**

**(c) perform any other function and exercise any other power assigned to it by the Rules Committee.**

**(2) The Subcommittee must consult the Subcommittee on the National Assembly Budget on any of its recommendations that has financial implications for the Assembly.**

**(3) If the Subcommittee on the National Assembly Budget disagrees with the recommendation, the Subcommittee must report the disagreement to the Rules Committee.]**

***Subcommittee on Review of the National Assembly Rules***

**172. Composition**

The Subcommittee on Review of the National Assembly Rules consists of the number of members and party representation as determined by the Rules Committee. **[eight Assembly members appointed in such a way that —**

**(a) the majority party in the Assembly has three members;**

**(b) the three largest minority parties in the Assembly have one member each; and**

**(c) two of the other minority parties in the Assembly have one member each.]**

**173. Chairperson**

The Rules Committee must appoint one of the members of the Subcommittee as the chairperson of the Subcommittee.

**174. Functions and powers**

The Subcommittee may —

(a) make recommendations to the Rules Committee regarding —

(i) the proceedings, procedures, Rules, orders and practices of the Assembly; and

(ii) the development, formulation or adoption of policy on a matter mentioned in subparagraph (i); and

(b) perform any other function and exercise any other power assigned to it by the Rules Committee.

[***Note:*** *Rules 175-186 are deleted.*]

***[Subcommittee on Internal Arrangements***

**175. Composition**

**The Subcommittee on Internal Arrangements consists of —**

**(a) the Deputy Speaker;**

**(b) five members from the majority party in the Assembly;**

**(c) one member from each of the three largest minority parties in the Assembly; and**

**(d) one member from each of three of the other minority parties in the Assembly.**

**176. Chairperson**

**The Deputy Speaker is the chairperson of the subcommittee.**

**177. Functions and powers**

**The Subcommittee may —**

**(a) make recommendations to the Rules Committee on the**

**development, formulation and adoption of policy regarding the administration and management of the Assembly, including —**

**(i) staff;**

**(ii) infrastructure;**

**(iii) household services and catering;**

**(iv) human resource development and training;**

**(v) information systems and the library; and**

**(vi) public relations and public education;**

**(b) monitor and oversee the implementation of policy on the matters referred to in paragraph (a) and make recommendations in this regard to the Rules Committee; and**

**(c) perform any other function and exercise any other power assigned to it by the Rules Committee.**

***Subcommittee on International Relations***

**178. Composition**

**The Subcommittee on International Relations consists of –**

**(a) the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker;**

**(b) the House Chairperson designated by the Speaker;**

**(c) three members of the majority party in the Assembly;**

**(d) one member from each of the three largest minority parties in the Assembly;**

**(e) one member from each of two of the other minority parties in the Assembly;**

**(f) one member from the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs designated by the committee; and**

**(g) three chairpersons of Assembly committees designated by the Committee of Chairpersons.**

**179. Chairperson**

**The Speaker is the chairperson of the Subcommittee.**

**180. Functions and powers**

**The Subcommittee may —**

**(a) make recommendations to the Rules Committee on the**

**development, formulation and adoption of policy regarding Parliament’s international relations, including —**

**(i) relations with other Parliaments and international**

**organisations;**

**(ii) membership of international parliamentary organisations;**

**(iii) visits abroad by parliamentary groups; and**

**(iv) the hosting and receiving of delegations from abroad;**

**(b) monitor and oversee the implementation of policy on the matters referred to in paragraph (a) and make recommendations in this regard to the Rules Committee; and**

**(c) perform any other function and exercise any other power assigned to it by the Rules Committee.**

***Subcommittee on Delegated Legislation***

**181. Composition**

**The Subcommittee on Delegated Legislation consists of eight Assembly members appointed in such a way that —**

**(a) the majority party in the Assembly has three members;**

**(b) the three largest minority parties in the Assembly have one member each; and**

**(c) two of the other minority parties in the Assembly have one member each.**

**182. Chairperson**

**The Rules Committee must appoint one of the members of the Subcommittee as the chairperson of the Subcommittee.**

**183. Functions and powers**

**The Subcommittee must —**

**(a) investigate and make recommendations to the Rules Committee on possible mechanisms that could be used by legislators to maintain oversight of the exercise of legislative powers delegated to the executive; and**

**(b) perform any other function and exercise any other power assigned to it by the Rules Committee.**

***Subcommittee on Powers and Privileges***

***of Parliament***

**184. Composition**

**The Subcommittee on Powers and Privileges of Parliament consists of —**

**(a) the Speaker;**

**(b) three members of the majority party in the Assembly;**

**(c) one member from each of the three largest minority parties in the Assembly; and**

**(d) one member from each of two of the other minority parties in the Assembly.**

**185. Chairperson**

**The Speaker is the chairperson of the Subcommittee*.***

**186. Functions and powers**

**The Subcommittee —**

**(a) must review existing legislation, the common law and practice relating to parliamentary powers and privileges;**

**(b) may make recommendations to the Rules Committee to transform the existing law and practice on parliamentary powers and privileges; and**

**(c) perform any other function and exercise any other power assigned to it by the Rules Committee.]**

***Part 6: Programme Committee***

***Note:*** *The existing Rules 187 – 190A are deleted and replaced by the proposed new Rules 187 – 190B as indicated below.*

**[187. Establishment**

**There is a Programme Committee.**

**188. Composition**

**[(1)] The Programme Committee consists of -**

**(a) the Speaker;**

**(b) the Deputy Speaker;**

**(c) the House Chairpersons;**

**[(c)] (d) the Leader of Government Business or a designated representative;**

**[(d) the House Chairpersons;]**

**(e) the Chief Whip of the Majority Party;**

**(f) the Chief Whip of the Opposition [the Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party in the Assembly]; and**

**(g) the number of whips and party representatives that the Speaker may determine with the concurrence of the Rules Committee. [the whip of the majority party responsible for programming;**

**(h) another two whips of the majority party designated by that party;**

**(I) one whip and two additional representatives of the largest minority party in the Assembly designated by that party;**

**(j) one whip and one additional representative of the second largest minority party in the Assembly designated by that party; and**

**(k) one whip of each of the other minority parties in the Assembly designated by the party concerned.]**

***The changes indicated reflect only the amendments approved by the Assembly, 22 August 2013]***

**[(2) A whip referred to in Subrule (1)(f) to (l) who is unable to attend a meeting of the Committee may designate another whip to attend the meeting.**

**(3) Rule 125 does not apply to this Committee.]**

***[Rules 188(2) and (3) deleted, 22 August 2013]***

**189. Chairperson**

**(1) The Speaker is the chairperson of the Programme Committee.**

**(2) If the Speaker is not available the Deputy Speaker presides at a meeting of the Committee.**

**190. Functions and powers**

**The Programme Committee —**

**(a) must prepare and, if necessary, from time to time adjust the annual programme of the Assembly, subject to any relevant decisions of the Joint Programme Committee;**

**(b) must monitor and oversee the implementation of Parliament’s annual programme in the Assembly, including the legislative programme;**

**(c) must implement the Rules regarding the scheduling or programming of the business of the Assembly, and the functioning of Assembly committees and subcommittees;**

**(d) may make recommendations to the Joint Programme Committee on any matter falling within the functions and powers of that Committee; and**

**(e) may take decisions and issue directives and guidelines to prioritise or postpone any business of the Assembly, but when the Committee prioritises or postpones any government business in the Assembly it must act with the concurrence of the Leader of Government Business.**

**190A. Decisions**

**A question before the Programme Committee is decided when a quorum in terms of [Rule 133] Rule 133(2) is present and there is agreement among the majority of members present.]**

***[Rule 190A inserted, 22 August 2013]]***

*[****Notes:***

***(a) The above Rules (187-190A), amended as indicated, were adopted by the Assembly on 22 August 2013. The purpose of the amendments was to provide for decision-taking and to amend the composition accordingly.***

***(b) The Speaker announced on the same day that, following the approval by the House of the amended Rules, the Programme Committee would for the remainder of the 4th Parliament consist of 14 members, namely the office-bearers as specified, as well as -***

1. ***“the Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party;***
2. ***the Programme Whip of the Majority Party;***
3. ***the Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition;***
4. ***the Chief Whip of the second largest opposition party; and***
5. ***two representatives elected by and representing the opposition parties other than the largest and second largest opposition parties in the National Assembly.”***

***(c) The composition as above was retained in the 5th Parliament.]***

***Notes*** *to proposed new Rules 187 - 190B, being the original Rules prior to August 2013 with amendments as indicated:*

**187. Establishment**

There is a Programme Committee.

**188. Composition**

The Programme Committee consists of -

(a) the Speaker;

(b) the Deputy Speaker;

(c) the Leader of Government Business or a designated representative;

(d) the House Chairpersons;

(e) the Chief Whip;

(f) the Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party in the Assembly;

(g) the whip of the majority party responsible for programming; and

(h) the number of party representatives that the Speaker may determine with the concurrence of the Rules Committee, provided that each party is entitled to at least one representative on the Committee.

**189. Chairperson**

(1) The Speaker is the chairperson of the Programme Committee.

(2) If the Speaker is not available the Deputy Speaker presides at a meeting of the Committee.

**190. Functions and powers**

The Programme Committee, subject to Rule 190B —

(a) must prepare and, if necessary, from time to time adjust the annual programme of the Assembly, subject to any relevant decisions of the Joint Programme Committee;

(b) must monitor and oversee the implementation of Parliament’s annual programme in the Assembly, including the legislative programme;

(c) must implement the Rules regarding the scheduling or programming of the business of the Assembly, and the functioning of Assembly committees and subcommittees;

(d) may make recommendations to the Joint Programme Committee on any matter falling within the functions and powers of that Committee; and

(e) may take decisions and issue directives and guidelines to prioritise or postpone any business of the Assembly, but when the Committee prioritises or postpones any government business in the Assembly it must act **[with the concurrence of]** in consultation with the Leader of Government Business.

**190A. Quorum**

The Committee may proceed with its business irrespective of the number of members present.

**190B. Decisions**

(1) Decisions are taken in the Programme Committee by consensus.

(2) If consensus cannot be reached on a question before the Programme Committee, a decision on the question may be taken, at the meeting or subsequently, by the Chief Whip with the concurrence of the Speaker and the Leader of Government Business in accordance with Rule 24A.

(3) If a decision is taken subsequently in terms of Subrule (2), the decision must be communicated to all parties without delay.

***Part 7: Powers and Privileges Committee***

**191. Establishment**

There is a Powers and Privileges Committee as required by section 12 of the Powers and Privileges Act.

**192. Composition**

(1) The Committee consists of the number of Assembly members that the Speaker may determine with the concurrence of the Rules Committee, **[but must have no fewer than 13 members and no more than 40 members]** subject to the provisions of Rule 125.

(2) The Committee must elect a chairperson, and may elect an acting chairperson when the chairperson is not available.

**193. Meetings**

(1) The chairperson of the Committee convenes meetings of the Committee.

(2) Meetings of the Committee must be held in closed session when the Committee considers a matter affecting a specific member or members and the Committee regards that matter to be confidential, unless the Committee decides to open a meeting **[in** **accordance with Subrule (3)]** in the public interest.

(3) **[The Committee may decide to open a closed meeting if –**

**(a) all parties to the proceedings agree; and**

**(b) it is in the public interest.]**

Meetings of the Committee must be open when it considers matters in terms of its general functions when such matters are not related to a specific member or members.

**194. Functions**

(1) The Committee must consider any matter referred to it by the Speaker relating to contempt of Parliament or misconduct by a member or a request to have a response recorded in terms of section 25 of the Powers and Privileges Act, except a breach of the Code of Conduct contained in the Schedule to the Joint Rules.

(2) (a) Upon receipt of a matter relating to contempt of Parliament or misconduct by a member, the Committee must deal with the matter in accordance with the procedure contained in the Schedule to the Rules.

(b) The Committee must table a report in the Assembly on its findings and recommendations in respect of any alleged contempt of Parliament, as defined in section 13 of the Powers and Privileges Act, or misconduct.

(c) If it found that a member is guilty of contempt or misconduct, the Committee must recommend an appropriate penalty from those contained in section 12(5) of the Powers and Privileges Act.

(d) The Assembly may impose the recommended penalty, an alternative penalty contained in section 12(5) of the Powers and Privileges Act, or no penalty.

(3) The Committee may on its own initiative or upon request by the Speaker conduct research **[relating to,]** and comment on matters relating to the powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament.

(4) (a) After receiving the request to have a response recorded referred to in Subrule (1) **[above]**, the Committee must without delay inform the member or witness concerned that a request to have a response recorded has been received, and thereafter consider the request in accordance with criteria that the Committee has approved.

(b) In considering the request, the Committee may invite verbal or written submissions by the member, witness or any other person concerned.

(c) After considering the request to have a response recorded, the Committee must publish the response in the ATC, refer it back to the person for amendments, or not publish the response.

**194A. Decisions**

A question before the Committee is decided when a quorum in terms of Rule 133(2) is present and there is agreement among the majority of the members present.

***Part 7A: Disciplinary Committee***

**194B. Establishment**

There is a Disciplinary Committee consisting of -

(a) the Deputy Speaker;

(b) a senior whip from each party in the Assembly nominated by the party; and

(c) any other Assembly member or members designated by the Speaker.

**194C. Chairperson**

(1) The Deputy Speaker is the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee.

(2) If the Deputy Speaker is not available, a member of the Committee designated by the Speaker performs the functions of the Deputy Speaker as chairperson of the Committee.

**194D. Meetings**

The Deputy Speaker convenes a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee.

**194E. Functions and Powers**

The Disciplinary Committee -

(a) at the Speaker's request, must investigate any alleged **[infringement]** misconduct by **[an Assembly]** a member except -

(i) **[an infringement that involves the privileges or proceedings of Parliament]** a charge against a member of contempt of Parliament in terms of the Powers and Privileges Act; or

(ii) a breach of the Code of Conduct contained in the Schedule to the Joint Rules; and

(b) must report to the Speaker.

**194F. Public access**

Meetings of the Committee must be held in closed session.

***Part 8: [****Committee of Chairpersons****] Forum of Committee Chairpersons***

**195. Establishment**

There is a Committee of Chairpersons.

**196. Composition**

(1) The Committee of Chairpersons consists of –

(a) the House Chairpersons; and

(b) the chairperson of each Assembly committee and each Assembly member who is a chairperson or co-chairperson of a joint committee, or an Assembly member of the committee designated by the chairperson.

(2) The Committee may co-opt the chairperson of an *ad hoc* committee as a member of the Committee.

**197. Chairperson**

(1) The House Chairperson designated by the Speaker presides at meetings of the Committee of Chairpersons.

(2) If the designated House Chairperson is not available another House Chairperson may preside at a meeting of the Committee.

**198. Functions and powers**

The Committee of Chairpersons may make recommendations to the Rules Committee or the Programme Committee regarding any matter affecting the scheduling or functioning of any Assembly committee, subcommittee or other Assembly forum*.*

***Part 9: Portfolio committees***

**199. Establishment**

The Speaker acting with the concurrence of the Rules Committee must —

(a) establish a range of portfolio committees;

(b) assign a portfolio of government affairs to each committee; and

(c) determine a name for each committee.

**200. Composition**

**[(1)]** A portfolio committee consists of the number of Assembly members that the Speaker may determine with the concurrence of the Rules Committee in each case, subject to the provisions of Rule 125.

**[(2) A portfolio committee must have no fewer than 13 and no more than 40 members.]**

***[[Rule 200(2) amended, 25 October 2005]]***

**201. Functions**

(1) A portfolio committee —

(a) must deal with bills and other matters falling within its portfolio as are referred to it in terms of the Constitution, legislation, these Rules, the Joint Rules or by resolution of the Assembly;

(b) must maintain oversight of —

(i) the exercise within its portfolio of national executive authority, including the implementation of legislation;

(ii) any executive organ of state falling within its portfolio;

(iii) any constitutional institution falling within its portfolio; and

(iv) any other body or institution in respect of which oversight was assigned to it;

(c) may monitor, investigate, enquire into and make recommendations concerning any such executive organ of state, constitutional institution or other body or institution, including the legislative programme, budget, rationalisation, restructuring, functioning, organisation, structure, staff and policies of such organ of state, institution or other body or institution;

(d) may consult and liaise with any executive organ of state or constitutional institution; and

(e) must perform any other functions, tasks or duties assigned to it in terms of the Constitution, legislation, these Rules, the Joint Rules or resolutions of the Assembly, including functions, tasks and duties concerning parliamentary oversight or supervision of such executive organs of state, constitutional institutions or other bodies or institutions.

(2) Bills and amendments to bills referred to a portfolio committee must be considered by it in accordance with Chapter 13 of these Rules and Chapter 3 of the Joint Rules.

(3) If there is doubt which portfolio committee must deal with a specific matter, the Speaker in consultation with the Chief Whip must decide the question, subject to any directions of the Rules Committee or a resolution of the Assembly.

**202. Decisions**

(1) A question before a portfolio committee is decided when a quorum in terms of Rule 133(2) is present and there is agreement among the majority of the members present.

(2) A question before two or more conferring Assembly committees is decided when a majority of members of each of the conferring committees is present and there is agreement on the question between the conferring committees.

**203. Subcommittees**

A portfolio committee may appoint a subcommittee from amongst its members to assist the committee.

***Part 9A: Standing Committee on Finance***

**203A. Establishment**

There is a Standing Committee on Finance, established in terms of section 4(1) of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009, and Rule 123.

**203B. Composition**

The Standing Committee on Finance consists of the number of Assembly members that the Speaker may determine with the concurrence of the Rules Committee, subject to the provisions of Rule 125 and Rule 200(2).

**203C. Functions and powers**

(1) The Standing Committee on Finance must perform the functions and exercise the powers specified in the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009.

(2) The committee must also perform the functions listed in Rule 201 and can exercise the powers specified in Rule 138, except in so far as any of these provisions are inconsistent with –

(a) the provisions of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009;

(b) another provision of these Rules applicable in a specific case; or

(c) a resolution of the Assembly.

***[Note:*** *It has also been proposed that the functions of this committee should include consideration of special petitions.]*

**203D. Consultation**

The committee must consult with its counterpart in the Council and other committees on matters specified in the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009, in a manner agreed by the committee.

**203E. Subcommittees**

The committee may appoint a subcommittee from amongst its members to assist the committee, the subcommittee to adhere to the provisions of Part 3 of Chapter 12 of the Assembly Rules.

**203F. Public involvement**

The committee must ensure public involvement in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009.

*[Part 9A, Rules 203A - F inserted, 22 June 2011]*

***Part 9B: Standing Committee on Appropriations***

**203G. Establishment**

There is a Standing Committee on Appropriations, established in terms of section 4(3) of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009, and Rule 123.

**203H. Composition**

The Standing Committee on Appropriations consists of the number of Assembly members that the Speaker may determine with the concurrence of the Rules Committee, subject to the provisions of Rule 125 and Rule 200(2).

**203I. Functions and powers**

(1) The Standing Committee on Appropriations must perform the functions and exercise the powers specified in the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009, and can exercise the powers specified in Rule 138.

(2) The committee must perform any other functions, tasks or duties assigned to it in terms of the Constitution, legislation, these Rules, the Joint Rules or resolutions of the Assembly.

(3) The committee may consult and liaise with any executive organ of state or constitutional institution.

**203J. Consultation**

The committee must consult with its counterpart in the Council and other committees on matters specified in the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009, in a manner agreed by the committee.

**203K. Subcommittees**

The committee may appoint a subcommittee from amongst its members to assist the committee, the subcommittee to adhere to the provisions of Part 3 of Chapter 12 of the Assembly Rules.

**203L. Mediation**

When conflicting amendments are proposed by portfolio committees –

(a) a subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Appropriations consisting of the chairperson and three other members must conduct mediation with a view to finding agreement on the conflicting amendments; and

(b) the subcommittee established in terms of (a) will be advised by three members from each of the portfolio committees that had submitted conflicting amendments and, if requested by the Standing Committee on Appropriations, two members designated by the Speaker.

**203M. Public involvement**

The committee must ensure public involvement in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009.

*[Part 9B, Rules 203G - M inserted, 22 June 2011]*

***Part 10: Standing Committee on Public Accounts***

**204. Establishment**

There is a Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

**205. Composition**

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts consists of the number of Assembly members that the Speaker may determine with the concurrence of the Rules Committee.

**206. Functions and powers**

(1) The Standing Committee on Public Accounts —

(a) must consider —

(i) the financial statements of all executive organs of state and constitutional institutions or other public bodies when those statements are submitted to Parliament;

(ii) any audit reports issued on those statements;

(iii) any reports issued by the Auditor-General on the affairs of any executive organ of state, constitutional institution or other public body;

(iv) any reports reviewing expenditure of public funds by any executive organ of state and constitutional institution or other public body; and

(v) **[(iv)]** any other financial statements or reports referred to the Committee in terms of these Rules;

(b) may report on any of those financial statements or reports to the Assembly;

(c) may initiate any investigation in its area of competence; and

(d) must perform any other functions, tasks or duties assigned to it in terms of the Constitution, legislation, these Rules, the Joint Rules or resolutions of the Assembly, including functions, tasks and duties concerning parliamentary financial oversight or supervision of executive organs of state, constitutional institutions or other public bodies.

(2) The Speaker must refer the financial statements and reports mentioned in paragraph (a)(i) - (iv) **[(ii) and (iii)]** to the Committee when they are submitted to Parliament irrespective of whether they are also referred to another committee.

**206A. Decisions**

A question before the Committee is decided when a quorum in terms of Rule 133(2) is present and there is agreement among the majority of the members present.

**207. Subcommittees**

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts may appoint a subcommittee from amongst its members to assist the Committee.

**208. Notice to portfolio committee**

When a matter falling within a portfolio committee’s competence is to be considered by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the chairperson of the Committee, after consultation with the chairperson of the portfolio committee, must give notice to the portfolio committee when that matter will be considered by the Committee.

***Part 10A: Standing Committee on the Auditor-General***

**208A. Establishment**

There is a Standing Committee on the Auditor-General, established in terms of section 10(3) of the Public Audit Act, 2004.

**208B. Composition**

The Standing Committee on the Auditor-General consists of **[13 members or such other number of members as]** the number of Assembly members that the Speaker may determine with the concurrence of the Rules Committee, subject to the provisions of Rule 125.

**208C. Functions and powers**

(1) The Standing Committee on the Auditor-General must –

(a) maintain oversight over the Auditor-General;

(b) perform the functions and exercise the other powers as specified in the Public Audit Act, 2004.

(2) The Assembly may by resolution assign any other function, task or duty to the Standing Committee on the Auditor-General within its area of competence.

(3) The Standing Committee on the Auditor-General may not consider –

(a) audit reports produced by the Auditor-General;

(b) any budget or business plan other than that of the Auditor-General.

**208D**. **Decisions**

A question before the Standing Committee on the Auditor-General is decided when a quorum in terms of Rule 133(2) is present and there is agreement among the majority of members present.

[***Note on Part 11:*** *Part 11 is deleted.]*

**[***Part 11: Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions*

**209. Establishment**

**There is a Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions.**

**210. Composition**

**(1) The Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions consists of the number of Assembly members that the Speaker may determine with the concurrence of the Rules Committee.**

**(2) The members of the Committee are appointed by the Speaker after consulting —**

**(a) the Chief Whip, when a member of the majority party is appointed; or**

**(b) the most senior whip of another party, when a member of that particular party is appointed.**

**211. Functions and powers**

**The Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions must consider and make recommendations to the Assembly on —**

**(a) all legislative proposals made by Assembly members intending to introduce bills and referred to the Committee in terms of Part 2 of Chapter 1 3 of these Rules; and**

**(b) all special petitions referred to the Committee by the Speaker in terms of Rule 315.**

**212. Decisions**

**A question before the Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions is decided when a quorum in terms of Rule 133 is present and there is agreement among the majority of the members present.**

**213. Subcommittees**

**The Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions may appoint a subcommittee from amongst its members to assist the Committee.]**

***Part 12: Ad hoc Committees***

**214. Establishment**

(1) An *ad hoc* committee may be established —

(a) by resolution of the Assembly; or

(b) during an adjournment of the Assembly for a period of more than 14 days, by the Speaker after consulting the Chief Whip and the most senior whip of each of the other parties.

(2) Any decision by the Speaker to appoint an *ad hoc* committee must be tabled in the Assembly on its first sitting day after the decision was taken, for ratification by the Assembly.

(3) An *ad hoc* committee may only be established for the performance of a specific task.

(4) The resolution of the Assembly or decision of the Speaker establishing an ad *hoc* committee must —

(a) specify the task assigned to the committee; and

(b) set time frames for —

(i) the completion of any steps in performing the task; and

(ii) the completion of the task.

(5) An *ad hoc* committee has those of the powers listed in Rule 138 only as are specified in the resolution or decision establishing the committee.

(6) An *ad hoc* committee ceases to exist —

(a) when it has completed the task for which it was established and has submitted its report to the Assembly;

(b) if it is dissolved by the Assembly earlier; or

(c) if it has not completed its task by the date set for the completion of the task **[.]**,

provided that the committee may be revived thereafter by decision of the Speaker or resolution of the House.

**215. Composition**

(1) The Assembly resolution establishing an *ad hoc* committee must either specify the number of members to be appointed or the names of the members who are appointed.

(2) The Speaker appoints the members of an *ad hoc* committee

if —

(a) the resolution of the Assembly establishing the *ad hoc* committee does not specify the names of the committee members; or

(b) the Speaker established the *ad hoc* committee.

(3) The Speaker must appoint the members of an *ad hoc* committee established by —

(a) the Assembly, within five working days after the establishment of the committee;

(b) the Speaker, within ten working days after the establishment of the committee.

(4) When appointing the members of an *ad hoc* committee the Speaker must consult —

(a) the Chief Whip, when a member of the majority party is appointed; and

(b) the most senior whip of another party, when a member of that particular party is appointed.

(5) The names of the members appointed must be published in the ATC without delay.

**216. Decisions**

Unless a resolution establishing an *ad hoc* committee provides otherwise, a question before an *ad hoc* committee is decided when a quorum in terms of Rule 133(2) is present and there is agreement among the majority of the members present.

***Part 13: Other structures relating to programming and functioning***

***Chief Whips’ Forum***

**217. Establishment**

There is a Chief Whips’ Forum.

**218. Composition**

(1) The Chief Whips’ Forum consists of –

(a) the House Chairpersons;

(b) the Chief Whip;

(c) the Deputy Chief Whip of the majority party; and

(d) the most senior whip of each of the other parties represented in the Assembly. **[; and**

**(e) a committee chairperson designated by the Committee of Chairpersons.]**

(2) The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker may attend meetings of the Forum or designate someone to attend on their behalf.

(3) A whip referred to in paragraph(d) **[or (e)]** who is unable to attend a meeting of the Forum may designate another whip to attend the meeting.

(4) Rule 127 does not apply to this Forum.

**219. Chairperson**

(1) The Chief Whip is the chairperson of the Chief Whips’ Forum.

(2) If the Chief Whip is not available, the Deputy Chief Whip performs the functions of the Chief Whip.

**220. Meetings**

(1) The Chief Whip may call a meeting of the Forum on own initiative or upon request by another member of the Forum, but must call a meeting if the Speaker so requests.

(2) The Forum meets in closed session unless it decides otherwise.

**221. Functions and powers**

The Chief Whips’ Forum acts as a forum —

(a) for the discussion and co-ordination of matters for which the whips are responsible; and

(b) which the Speaker may consult when appropriate.

***Arrangement of House business and***

***certain committee meetings***

**[222. Arrangement of business on Order Paper**

**The Chief Whip must arrange the business of the Assembly on the Order Paper, subject to these Rules, the directives of the Programme Committee and the concurrence of the Leader of Government Business when any government business is prioritised.]**

**223. Unusual meetings of committees and subcommittees**

(1) A committee or subcommittee may sit on a day which is not a working day, or at a venue beyond the seat of Parliament, or during a recess of the Assembly, or at a time when the Assembly is sitting, only with the permission of the Chief Whip.

(2) If a committee or subcommittee applies to the Chief Whip to sit on a day which is not a working day, or at a venue beyond the seat of Parliament, the Chief Whip may give permission in terms of Subrule (1) only after having consulted the Speaker.

***House Chairperson: Committees***

**224. Scheduling function of the designated House Chairperson**

The House Chairperson designated by the Speaker must, as delegated by the Speaker, implement any policy, directive or guideline on the scheduling and co-ordination of meetings of all committees and subcommittees.

***Part 14: Miscellaneous committee matters***

**225. Composition of Assembly component in Mediation Committee**

(1) The number of Assembly representatives in the Mediation Committee to which a party is entitled must be determined by multiplying the number of seats the party holds in the Assembly by 9 and dividing the result by 401.

(2) The result, disregarding any decimal fractions, indicates the number of representatives allocated to the party.

(3) If any number of representatives remains unallocated the number of representative or representatives are allocated in sequence of the highest decimal fractions referred to in Subrule (2).

(4) If no representative is allocated to a party in terms of Subrules (1) to (3), that party may designate an observer in the Assembly component of the Mediation Committee*.*

**226. Election of Assembly members to Mediation Committee**

(1) The Assembly must elect its nine representatives to the Mediation Committee in accordance with the respective allocations made to parties in terms of Rule 225.

(2) Each party must nominate in accordance with its allocation a member or members for election by the Assembly.

(3) If the Assembly fails to elect a member nominated by a party, the party must nominate another member.

**227. Alternates for Assembly representatives in Mediation Committee**

Alternates for Assembly representatives in the Mediation Committee envisaged in Joint Rule 105 must be elected in accordance with the same procedure applicable to the election of the Assembly representatives in terms of Rule 226.

**228. *Ad hoc* joint committees**

(1) The Speaker must appoint the members of the Assembly who are to serve on an *ad hoc* joint committee.

(2) The Speaker must cause the names of the members so appointed to be published in the **[Minutes of Proceedings]** ATC.

(3) The Speaker must so appoint members whose names have been submitted by the chief or other whip of a party in the Assembly, not exceeding the number of members which such party is entitled to have on the committee.

(4) If the names of members of a party have not been so submitted within two working days after the Speaker has called upon the chief or other whip of a party to submit the names of members to be appointed to the joint committee, such party must be regarded as not willing to participate in the committee.

**CHAPTER 13**

**LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

***Part 1: Introduction***

**229. Legislative powers of Assembly**

(1) The national legislative authority as vested by the Constitution in Parliament confers on the Assembly, in terms of section 44(1) of the Constitution, the power -

(a) to amend the Constitution;

(b) to pass legislation with regard to any matter, including a matter within a functional area listed in Schedule 4 of the Constitution, but excluding, subject to Subrule (2), a matter within a functional area listed in Schedule 5; and

(c) to assign any of its legislative powers, except the power to amend the Constitution, to any legislative body in another sphere of government.

(2) The Assembly may, as part of the legislative process contemplated in terms of section 44(2) of the Constitution, pass legislation falling within a functional area listed in Schedule 5 of the Constitution, when it is necessary —

(a) to maintain national security;

(b) to maintain economic unity;

(c) to maintain essential national standards;

(d) to establish minimum standards required for the rendering of services; or

(e) to prevent unreasonable action taken by a province which is prejudicial to the interests of another province or to the country as a whole.

(3) Any Bill **[bill** **falling within the Assembly’s legislative powers]** may in terms of section 73(1) of the Constitution be introduced in the Assembly.

(4) In exercising its legislative powers, the Assembly in terms of section 55 of the Constitution may —

(a) consider, pass, amend or reject any legislation before the Assembly; and

(b) initiate or prepare legislation, except money **[bills]** Bills.

**230. Initiation of legislation by Assembly**

(1) The Assembly initiates or prepares legislation in terms of these Rules for introduction as envisaged in section 73(2) of the Constitution through –

(a) its committees **[and members]** acting with the permission of the Assembly **[in terms of these Rules]**; or

(b) its members.

(2) Save for a money Bill or legislation envisaged in section 214 of the Constitution, any **[Any]** committee or member of the Assembly may in terms of section 73(2) of the Constitution introduce a **[bill]** Bill in the Assembly that has been initiated or prepared in terms of Subrule (1).

**231. Initiation of legislation by national executive**

(1) The national executive may prepare and initiate legislation in terms of section 85(2)(d) of the Constitution for introduction in the Assembly.

(2) Such legislation may be introduced in the Assembly by a Cabinet member or a Deputy Minister in terms of section 73(2) of the Constitution, but only the **[Minister of Finance]** Cabinet member responsible for national financial matters may introduce a money **[bill]** Bill or a Bill which provides for equitable shares and allocations of revenue as envisaged in section 214 of the Constitution.

**232. Application of this Chapter**

(1) The Rules set out in Parts 1, 2, 3 and **[12]** 10 of this Chapter apply to **[bills]** Bills of all types to the extent that those Rules are not inconsistent with the Rules for specific types set out in Parts 4 to **[11]** 9 of this Chapter.

(2) This Chapter must be read with Chapter 4 of the Joint Rules.

***Part 2: Steps prior to introduction***

***Bills initiated by Cabinet members and Deputy Ministers***

**233. Submission of legislative proposals to Speaker**

**[(1)]**  A Cabinet member or Deputy Minister intending to introduce a **[bill]** Bill in the Assembly must, **[comply with]** as is set out in Joint Rule 159, before the **[bill]** Bill is introduced submit to the Speaker -

(a) the draft of the proposed Bill as approved by Cabinet, whether or not the draft has been legally or technically formalised as a proper draft Bill; and

(b) a memorandum explaining the objects of the proposed legislation.

**[(2) The Speaker, at the request of a Cabinet member or Deputy Minister, may dispense with this Rule with regard to any particular bill.]**

***Bills initiated by Assembly members in individual capacity***

[***Note:*** *The heading is retained.*]

**[234. Submission of legislative proposals to Speaker**

**(1) An Assembly member intending to introduce a bill in the Assembly in an individual capacity (other than as a Cabinet member or Deputy Minister) must, for the purpose of obtaining the Assembly’s permission in terms of Rule 230 (1),] submit to the Speaker a memorandum which —**

**(a) sets out particulars of the proposed legislation;**

**(b) explains the objects of the proposed legislation; and**

**(c) states whether the proposed legislation will have financial implications for the State and, if so, whether those implications may be a determining factor when the proposed legislation is considered.**

**(2) The Speaker must table the member’s memorandum in the Assembly.]**

**[235. Referral of proposals to committee**

**(1) The Speaker must refer the member’s memorandum to the Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions.**

**(2) The Committee may consult the portfolio committee within whose portfolio the proposal falls.**

**(3) After considering the member’s memorandum, the Committee must recommend that permission either be —**

**(a) given to the member to proceed with the proposed legislation; or**

**(b) refused.**

**(4) If the Committee recommends that the proposed legislation be proceeded with, it may —**

**(a) express itself on the desirability of the principle of the proposal;**

**(b) recommend that the Assembly approve the member’s proposal in principle; or**

**(c) recommend that permission be given subject to conditions.]**

**[Rule 235 substituted, 22 June 2011]**

**[235A. Criteria for consideration of proposals**

**(1) The Committee will confine its consideration of the legislative proposal to whether it -**

**(a) goes against the spirit, purport and object of the Constitution;**

**(b) seeks to initiate legislation beyond the legislative competence of the Assembly;**

**(c) duplicates existing legislation or legislation awaiting consideration by the Assembly or Council;**

**(d) pre-empts similar legislation soon to be introduced by the national executive;**

**(e) will result in a money bill; or**

**(f) is frivolous or vexatious.]**

**[Rule 235A Inserted, 22 June 2011]**

**[236. Consideration of legislative proposal by Assembly**

**(1) The Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions must table in the Assembly the member’s memorandum and the Committee’s recommendation, including any views of a portfolio committee on the financial or other implications of the proposal.**

**(2) The Speaker must place the Committee’s report together with the member’s proposal on the Order Paper for a decision.**

**(3) The Assembly may —**

**(a) give permission that the proposal be proceeded with;**

**(b) refer the proposal back to the Committee or the portfolio committee concerned for a further report; or**

**(c) refuse permission.**

**(4) If the Assembly gives permission that the proposal be proceeded with, it may, if it so chooses —**

**(a) express itself on the desirability of the proposal; or**

**(b) subject its permission to conditions.]**

**237. Preparation of draft [bill]** **Bill**

(1) **[If the Assembly gives permission that the proposal be proceeded with, the]** A member who intends to initiate or prepare legislation in an individual capacity (other than as a Cabinet member or Deputy Minister) for introduction in the Assembly as contemplated in Rule 230 **[concerned]** must —

(a) prepare a draft **[bill]** Bill, and a supporting memorandum setting out the objects of the **[bill]** Bill, in a form and style that complies with any prescribed requirements, including those set out in rule 243; and

(b) **[consult the JTM for advice on the classification of the bill; and]**

(c) comply with Rule 241 or, if it is a proposed constitutional amendment, with Rule 258.

(2) The **[Secretary]** Speaker must reimburse a member —

(a) for any reasonable expenses incurred by the member **[in giving effect to Subrule (1), provided that those expenses were approved by the Speaker before they were incurred]** in the publication of a Bill as contemplated in Rule 241, provided that such publication is facilitated by the Speaker;

(b) in full for any reasonable expenses incurred by the member in the preparation of a Bill as contemplated in Rule 241 if the Bill, with or without amendments, is passed by the Assembly, provided that those expenses were approved by the Speaker before they were incurred.

***Bills initiated by Assembly Committees***

**238. Submission of legislative proposals to Speaker**

(1) An Assembly committee intending to introduce a **[bill]** Bill in the Assembly must, for the purpose of obtaining the Assembly’s permission in terms of Rule 230(1), table in the Assembly a memorandum which —

(a) sets out particulars of the proposed legislation;

(b) explains the objects of the proposed legislation; **[and]**

(c) states whether the proposed legislation will have financial implications for the State and, if so, gives an account of those implications**[.]**; and

(d) sets out the views of the Executive on the objects of the proposed legislation.

(2) The Speaker must place the **[proposal]** proposed legislation on the Order Paper for decision.

(3) The Assembly may —

(a) give permission that the **[proposal]** proposed legislation be proceeded with;

(b) refer the **[proposal]** proposed legislation back to the committee for reconsideration; or

(c) refuse permission.

(4) If the Assembly gives permission that the **[proposal]** proposed legislation be proceeded with, it may, if it so chooses —

(a) express itself on the desirability of the **[proposal]** proposed legislation; or

(b) subject its permission to conditions.

**239. Preparation of draft [bill] Bill**

(1) If the Assembly gives permission that the **[proposal]** proposed legislation be proceeded with, the committee must —

(a) prepare a draft **[bill]** Bill, and a memorandum setting out the objects of the **[bill]** Bill in a form and style that complies with any prescribed requirements, including those set out in rule 243; and

(b)consult the JTM for advice on the classification of the [bill] Bill; and

(c) comply with Rule 241 or, if it is a proposed constitutional amendment, with Rule 258.

(2) If the committee chooses in terms of Rule 241 or 258 to publish the draft **[bill]** Bill, it is not bound to publish the **[bill]** Bill as it is to be introduced. Instead, the committee may publish any version of the draft **[bill]** Bill prepared by it in terms of Subrule (1)(a).

(3) The **[Committee]** committee must report to the Assembly when it publishes the draft **[bill]** Bill.

**240. Consideration of draft [bill] Bill before introduction**

Before introducing its **[bill]** Bill, the committee —

(a) must **[arrange its business in such a manner that]** give interested persons and institutions **[have]** a period of at least three weeks after the draft **[bill]** Bill or particulars of the draft **[bill]** Bill have been published in terms of Rule 241 or 258, to comment on the proposed legislation;

(b) must give **[officials of any relevant State department or other executive organ of State a]** the relevant department in the national executive authority or executive organ of state in the national sphere of government sufficient opportunity to **[state their case before]** make submissions to the committee;

(c) must consult the JTM for advice on the classification of the draft **[bill]** Bill as it is to be introduced; and

(d) may in view of any comments received in terms of paragraph (a) or (b) or advice given in terms of paragraph (c), adjust the draft **[bill]** Bill before its introduction.

***All bills generally***

**241. Prior notice and publication of draft legislation**

(1) A **[bill]** Bill may be introduced in the Assembly only if —

(a) a copy of the draft legislation has been submitted to the Speaker in terms of Rule 233, if it is a **[bill]** Bill initiated by the national executive and that Rule is applicable;

(b) prior notice of its introduction has been given in the Gazette; and

(c) an explanatory summary of the **[bill]** Bill, or the draft **[bill]** Bill as it is to be introduced, has been published in the Gazette.

(1A) When intending to introduce a Bill in the Assembly, an Assembly member acting in his or her individual capacity must, as soon as possible after publication contemplated in Subrule (1)(c), submit to the Speaker the explanatory summary of the Bill, or the draft Bill, as appropriate.

(1B) The Speaker must refer the explanatory summary of the Bill, or the draft Bill, as appropriate, contemplated in Subrule (1A) to the responsible portfolio committee in order -

(a) to assist the committee in planning its work; and

(b) to enable the committee members to acquaint themselves with and to develop their positions with regard to the proposed legislation.

(2) If the **[bill]** Bill as it is to be introduced is published, the notice referred to in Subrule (1)(b) must contain an invitation to interested persons and institutions to submit written representations on the draft legislation to the **[Secretary]** Speaker within a specified period.

(3) If the draft **[bill]** Bill itself is published, a memorandum setting out the objects of the **[bill]** Bill must also be published.

(4) This Rule does not apply to —

(a) constitution amendment **[bills]** Bills, which must be dealt with in terms of Rule 258; and

(b) money **[bills]** Bills when the special procedure set out in Rule 287(2) is followed.

(5) Subrule (1) (b) and (c) does not apply to a **[bill]** Bill that has been certified by the member in charge of the **[bill]** Bill, in consultation with the Speaker, as an urgent matter.

**242. Notice withdrawing proposed legislation**

(1) If a Cabinet member, Deputy Minister, committee or member decides not to proceed with the introduction of a **[bill]** Bill after Rule 241 has been complied with, the Cabinet member, Deputy Minister, committee or member must without delay inform the **[Secretary]** Speaker in writing of the decision.

(2) In the case of a **[The Secretary]** Cabinet member or Deputy Minister referred to in Subrule (1), he or she must publish a notice in the Gazette stating that the proposed legislation has been withdrawn.

(3) The Speaker must publish a notice in the Gazette stating that the proposed legislation has been withdrawn where a committee or member decides not to proceed with the introduction of the Bill as is contemplated in Subrule (1).

**242A. Referral of bills to National House of Traditional Leaders**

(1) The Secretary must refer a Bill to the National House of Traditional Leaders if the JTM has made a finding that the Bill pertains to customary law or customs of traditional communities in accordance with Rule 160 of the Joint Rules.

(2) The Secretary must inform the Speaker and the chairperson of the portfolio committee to which the Bill was referred of the date of referral, which date must be published in the relevant parliamentary paper.

***Part 3: Introduction of bills and first and second readings***

***Introduction and related matters***

**243. Introduction of bills in Assembly**

(1) A Cabinet member or Deputy Minister or an Assembly member or committee introduces a **[bill]** Bill (other than a **[bill]** Bill mentioned in Subrule (4)) by submitting to the Speaker —

(a) a copy of the **[bill]** Bill or, if the **[bill]** Bill as it is introduced was published in terms of Rule 241(1)(c), a copy of the Gazette concerned;

(b) the explanatory summary referred to in Rule 241(1)(c), if a draft of the **[bill]** Bill itself was not published; and

(c) a supporting memorandum which must —

(i) state whether the **[bill]** Bill is introduced as a proposed section 75 **[bill]** Bill, a section 76(1) **[bill]** Bill, or a money **[bill]** Bill **[or a mixed section 75/76 bill]**;

(ii) explain the objects of the **[bill]** Bill;

(iii) give an account of the financial implications of the **[bill]** Bill for the state;

(iv) contain a list of all persons and institutions that have been consulted in preparing the **[bill]** Bill: Provided that in respect of Bills introduced by a member in his or her individual capacity, such a list may be included where consultations were conducted; **[and]**

(v) if the **[bill]** Bill is introduced by a Cabinet member or a Deputy Minister, include a legal opinion by a State law adviser, or a law adviser of the State department concerned, on the classification of the **[bill]** Bill and any other question in respect of which the JTM is required to make a finding in terms of Joint Rule 160**[.]**; and

(vi) if the Bill is introduced by a committee or an Assembly member, include a legal opinion by a Parliamentary Legal Adviser, on the classification of the Bill and any other question in respect of which the JTM is required to make a finding in terms of Joint Rule 160.

(1A) A **[bill]** Bill introduced by a Cabinet member or Deputy Minister must be certified by the Chief State Law Adviser or a state law adviser designated by him/her as being -

(a) consistent with the Constitution; and

(b) properly drafted in the form and style which conforms to legislative practice.

(1B) If a Bill is not certified as contemplated in subrule (1A), the Bill must be accompanied by a report or legal opinion by a state law adviser mentioned in subrule (1A) on why it has not been so certified.

[*Note: Subrules (1A) and (1B) inserted, September 2002*]

(1C) A Bill introduced by a committee or an Assembly member must be certified by the Chief Parliamentary Legal Adviser or a Parliamentary Legal Adviser designated by him or her as being—

(a) consistent with the Constitution and existing legislation; and

(b) properly drafted in the form and style which conforms to legislative drafting practice.

(1D) If a Bill is not certified as contemplated in Subrule (1C), the Bill must be accompanied by a report or legal opinion by a Parliamentary Legal Adviser mentioned in Subrule (1C) on why it has not been so certified.

(2) A **[bill]** Bill introduced by a Cabinet member or Deputy Minister must contain on its cover page a reference to that Cabinet member or Deputy Minister as the person introducing the **[bill]** Bill.

(3) A **[bill]** Bill introduced by —

(a) an Assembly member; or

(b) committee with the Assembly’s permission in terms of Rule **[236(3) or]** 238(3),

must —

**[(a)]** (i) be accompanied by a statement to that effect; and

**[(b)]** (ii) contain on its cover page a reference to the name of the member or the committee as the member or committee introducing the **[bill]** Bill.

(4) This Rule does not apply to —

(a) constitution amendment **[bills]** Bills, which must be introduced in accordance with Rule 260; and

(b) money **[bills]** Bills when the special procedure set out in Rule 287(2) is followed.

**[(5) Bills initiated by Assembly members or committees may be introduced only when the Assembly is in session.]**

**244. Classification of bills**

(1) When a **[bill]** Bill, other than a Bill initiated by an Assembly committee, is introduced in the Assembly in terms of Rule 243 or 260, the **[Secretary]** Speaker must refer the **[bill]** Bill to the JTM for classification of the **[bill]** Bill in terms of Joint Rule 160.

(1A) The findings of the JTM contemplated in Rule 240(c) in respect of a Bill initiated by an Assembly committee must be tabled in the Assembly with the Bill when it is introduced.

(2) The classification of the **[bill]** Bill and all findings of the JTM must be —

(a) conveyed to the portfolio or other committee considering the **[bill]** Bill; and

(b) tabled in the Assembly.

**245. Reintroduction of Bills ruled out of order by JTM**

A **[bill]** Bill reintroduced in the Assembly in terms of Joint Rule 162 must follow the same procedure as if it were introduced for the first time, except that the steps prior to introduction as prescribed by the Assembly Rules do not apply if no substantive new provisions were added to the **[bill]** Bill.

***First and Second Reading procedures***

**246. When First and Second Reading procedures are applicable**

(1) Subject to Rules 247(2) and 248(2), all **[bills]** Bills introduced in the Assembly have a First Reading, except a Bill initiated and introduced by an Assembly committee, and a Second Reading in the Assembly after their introduction, and all **[bills]** Bills introduced in and as passed by the Council have a First Reading and a Second Reading in the Assembly after their referral to the Assembly.

(2) **[The First and Second Reading procedures do not apply if a bill or a version of the bill is referred back to the Assembly from either the Council or the Mediation Committee in terms of section 75 or 76 of the Constitution or a provision of the Joint Rules]** The First Reading of a Bill consists of an introduction by the member in charge followed by a debate as provided for in these Rules, the First Reading being confined to the principles of the Bill as contained in the Long Title of the Bill and as may be elaborated on in the supporting memorandum.

(3) The Second Reading of a Bill consists of a debate on the substance of the Bill and a decision on the Bill by the Assembly.

**247. Procedure when Assembly in session**

(1) If the Assembly is in session when a **[bill]** Bill is introduced in the Assembly or when a **[bill]** Bill introduced in and as passed by the Council is referred for the first time to the Assembly -

(a) the person in charge of the **[bill]** Bill must **[— (i)]** submit to the **[Secretary]** Speaker a notice of First Reading of the **[bill]** Bill; and

**[(ii) if that person wishes to give an introductory speech, request in the notice an opportunity for such a speech; and]**

(b) the Speaker must table in the Assembly the **[bill]** Bill and the supporting memorandum and, if there is one, also the explanatory summary.

(2) (a) Once notice has been given in terms of Subrule (1)(a)**[(i)]**, the **[bill]** Bill must be placed on the Order Paper for First Reading, unless the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B decides otherwise in respect of a particular Bill.

(aA) The First Reading is conducted in accordance with Rule 248A.

(b) No decision is taken by the Assembly at the conclusion of the First Reading and no amendment to a **[bill]** Bill is allowed on the First Reading of the **[bill]** Bill.

(c) When the First Reading has been concluded, or when the First Reading is dispensed with by decision of the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B, the Bill is regarded as having been read a first time.

**[(3) (a) If the person in charge of a bill has requested an opportunity for an introductory speech;**

**in terms of Subrule (1)(a)(ii) and the request has been granted —**

**(i) that person may, at the First Reading, in a speech not exceeding 15 minutes, explain the background to the bill and the reasons for and the objects of the provisions of the bill; and**

**(ii) one member of each party in the Assembly may make a statement on the bill on behalf of the party in a speech not exceeding three minutes.**

**(b) Once the speeches have been made the bill is regarded as having been read a first time.**

**(4) If the person in charge of a bill has not requested an opportunity for an introductory speech in terms of Subrule (1)(a)(ii) or has made a request but the request has not been granted, the bill as tabled is regarded as having been read a first time.]**

(5) When a **[bill]** Bill has been read a first time the Speaker must refer the **[bill]** Bill and its annexures —

(a) to the portfolio committee under which the subject of the **[bill]** Bill falls;

(b) by resolution of the Assembly to any other Assembly committee; or

(c) to a joint committee, if this is required by a decision in terms of Joint Rule 166.

(6) If the **[bill]** Bill is referred to an Assembly committee, the committee must deal with the **[bill]** Bill in accordance with Rule 249. If the **[bill]** Bill is referred to a joint committee, the Joint Rules apply.

(7) **[ Subrule (5)(a) and (b) does not apply to a bill]** A Bill initiated and introduced by an Assembly committee**[. Instead, the bill]** does not have a First Reading but upon introduction must directly be placed on the Order Paper for Second Reading unless the **[bill]** Bill is referred to a joint committee.

**248. Procedure during recess**

(1) If the Assembly is in recess when a **[bill]** Bill is introduced in the Assembly or when a **[bill]** Bill introduced in and as passed by the Council is referred for the first time to the Assembly, the Speaker must refer the **[bill]** Bill and its annexures —

(a) to the portfolio committee within whose portfolio the subject of the **[bill]** Bill falls;

(b) with the concurrence of the person in charge of the **[bill]** Bill, to any other Assembly committee; or

(c) to a joint committee, if this is required by a decision in terms of Joint Rule 166.

(2) (a) A **[bill]** Bill referred to a committee in terms of Subrule (1) must additionally be placed on the Order Paper for First Reading in the Assembly at an early date upon the resumption of House business, unless the Programme Committee in terms of Rule 190B decides otherwise in respect of a particular Bill

(b) If the First Reading of a Bill is dispensed with in terms of paragraph (a), the Bill is regarded as having been read a first time.

(3) The **[bill]** Bill, together with its annexures, must be submitted to the members of the committee at least 14 days before the date appointed for a meeting of the committee, unless the Assembly or, if the **[bill]** Bill is referred to a joint committee, both Houses, are due to meet during that period.

(4) If the **[bill]** Bill is referred to an Assembly committee, the committee must deal with the **[bill]** Bill in accordance with Rule 249. If the **[bill]** Bill is referred to a joint committee, the Joint Rules apply.

**248A. First Reading**

(1) The debate on the First Reading of a Bill must be conducted on the principles of the Bill as contained in its Long Title.

(2) The Programme Committee must schedule and allocate time for the debate in terms of Rule 190B.

(3) The person in charge must be allocated 15 minutes to make an introductory speech and to reply to the debate.

(4) (a) There is no speakers' list, members being permitted to speak for no longer than three minutes upon being recognised by the presiding officer.

(b) No member except the person in charge of the Bill may speak more than once in the debate.

(5) At the conclusion of the First Reading debate on the Bill, no decision on the Bill is taken by the House but the Bill is regarded as having been read a first time.

**249. Process in committee**

(1) If a **[bill]** Bill has been published for public comment in terms of Rule 241 or 258, the Assembly committee to which the **[bill]** Bill is referred must **[arrange its business in such a manner that]** give interested persons and institutions **[have]** an opportunity to comment on the **[bill]** Bill.

(2) If a **[bill]** Bill has not been published for public comment, and the committee to which the **[bill]** Bill is referred considers public comment on the **[bill]** Bill to be necessary, it must facilitate public involvement and may by way of invitations, press statements, advertisements or in any other manner, invite the public to comment on the **[bill]** Bill.

(2A) A committee to which a Bill introduced by an Assembly member in his or her individual capacity has been referred must provide reasonable notice to the person in charge of the Bill before it considers the Bill.

(3) The committee —

(a) must inquire into the subject of the **[bill]** Bill and report on it to the Assembly;

(aA) may seek the permission of the Assembly to inquire into extending the subject of the Bill;

(b) if **[it is a bill]** the Bill **[amending]** amends provisions of legislation, **[may]** must, if it intends to propose amendments to other provisions of that legislation, seek the permission of the Assembly to **[inquire into amending other provisions of that legislation]** do so;

(c) may, or if ordered by the Speaker must, consult any other committee that has a direct interest in the substance of the **[bill]** Bill;

(cA) must, if the Bill was introduced by a member in his or her individual capacity, give the relevant department in the national executive authority or executive organ of state in the national sphere of government sufficient opportunity to make submissions to the committee on the objects and particulars of the Bill;

(d) may, or if permitted by the Assembly to extend the subject of a Bill in accordance with subparagraphs (aA) or (b) must, consult the **[member]** person in charge of the **[bill]** Bill;

(e) may consult the JTM on whether any amendments to the **[bill]** Bill proposed in the committee —

(i) may affect the classification of the **[bill]** Bill; or

(ii) may render the **[bill]** Bill constitutionally or procedurally out of order;

(f) may not propose an amendment that —

(i) affects the classification of the **[bill]** Bill, except as provided in Subrule (4) and Joint Rule 163; or

(ii) renders the **[bill]** Bill constitutionally or procedurally out of order within the meaning of Joint Rule 161;

(fA) after due deliberation, must consider a motion of desirability on the subject matter of the Bill and if rejected, must immediately table the Bill and its report on the Bill;

(fB) if the motion of the desirability is adopted, the committee must proceed to deliberate on the details of the legislation;

(g) may recommend approval or rejection of the **[bill]** Bill or present with its report an amended **[bill]** Bill or a redraft of the **[bill]** Bill, provided that in the case of a redraft the subject of the Bill has not been extended without the permission of the Assembly as contemplated in subparagraphs (aA) and (b);

(h) must report to the Assembly in accordance with Rule 251; **[and]**

(i) may report to the Assembly on a Bill introduced in the Assembly and classified as being subject to section 18(1) of the Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act, 2003, only after 30 days have passed since the referral to the National House of Traditional Leaders in terms of Rule 332**[.]**; and

(j) if an amended Bill or a redraft of the Bill is to be presented to the Assembly, must formally adopt the final version of the Bill as it is to be presented.

(4) The committee may propose an amendment that changes the classification of a section 75 to a section 76 Bill, or section 76 to a section 75 Bill **[bill to a mixed 75/76 bill]** only if the JTM is of the view that the **[bill]** Bill as amended is unlikely to lead to unmanageable procedural complications.

(5) In the process of inquiring into a Bill, the committee must, where applicable, as far as possible apply the following separate formal stages:

(a) informal discussion on the principles and subject of the Bill, including -

(i) a briefing by the department concerned and, in the case of a member's Bill, by the member concerned; and

(ii) consideration of public comments that have been received;

(b) adoption of a motion of desirability, relating to whether the principles of the Bill and the need for the Bill are accepted;

(c) invitation for further public comment and submissions on the substance of the Bill, followed by the hearing and examination of such or other oral submissions if deemed necessary;

(d) deliberation by members, taking into consideration proposed amendments and comments and proposals received and evidence presented;

(e) formal consideration of the Bill clause by clause including amendments as formally proposed; and

(f) consideration and adoption of the committee's report and adoption of the final version of the Bill as it is to be presented to the Assembly.

**250. Referral to Assembly committee if joint committee fails to report**

(1) If a **[bill]** Bill has been referred to a joint committee in terms of Rule 247(5)(c) or 248(1)(c) and that joint committee fails to present a report or fails to reach consensus on the **[bill]** Bill, the Speaker must refer the **[bill]** Bill and its annexures —

(a) to the portfolio committee within whose portfolio the subject of the **[bill]** Bill falls; or

(b) by resolution of the Assembly, to any other Assembly committee.

(2) The committee to which the **[bill]** Bill is referred must deal with the **[bill]** Bill in accordance with Rule 249.

**251. Committee’s report**

(1) The Assembly committee to which a **[bill]** Bill is referred must table in the Assembly —

(a) its report;

(b) the **[bill]** Bill that has been agreed on by it, in its final amended or redrafted form as adopted by the committee where applicable, or, if it has not agreed on a **[bill]** Bill, the **[bill]** Bill as referred to it; **[and]**

(c) the supporting memorandum which was introduced with the **[bill]** Bill or, if the memorandum has been amended by the committee, the amended memorandum**[.]**; and

(d) if the Bill was introduced by a member in his or her individual capacity, the views, if any, expressed on the Bill by the relevant department in the national executive authority or executive organ of state in the national sphere of government.

(2) The committee may report to the Assembly only after the JTM has classified the **[bill]** Bill and has made its findings on the **[bill]** Bill.

(3) In its report the committee —

(a) must state the JTM’s classification of and findings on the **[bill]** Bill;

(b) must state whether it recommends approval of the **[bill]** Bill with or without amendments, a redraft of the **[bill]** Bill, or rejection of the **[bill]** Bill;

(bA) in the case of a Bill introduced by a member in his or her individual capacity, must state the views on the Bill submitted by the relevant executive authority;

(c) must specify each amendment if an amended **[bill]** Bill (other than a redraft of the **[bill]** Bill) was agreed on by it, and each amendment that was considered and, for a reason other than its being out of order, was rejected by it;

(d) must specify each amendment rejected by the committee if a redrafted **[bill]** Bill was agreed on by it;

(e) must, if it is not a unanimous report —

(i) specify in which respects and why there was not consensus, and

(ii) in addition to the **[majority report]** views representative of the majority in the committee, convey **[express]** any views of a minority in the committee,

in order to facilitate debate when the report comes before the House;

(f) may specify such details or information about its **[enquiry]** inquiry and any representations or evidence received or taken by it, as it may consider necessary for the purposes of the debate on the **[bill]** Bill;

(g) may report on any matter arising from its deliberations on the **[bill]** Bill but which is not necessarily related to the **[bill]** Bill; and

(h) may recommend to the Assembly that any matter contained in the report be placed on the Order Paper for separate consideration either before or after the Assembly considers the **[bill]** Bill.

**252. Explanation of report**

The chairperson or other member of the committee who tables the report in the Assembly on behalf of the committee, may, if the committee has so recommended in its report, address the Assembly in order to explain the report.

**253. Second Reading**

**[(1) (a) If a bill has been referred to an Assembly or joint committee, the debate on the Second Reading of the bill may not commence before at least three working days have elapsed —**

**(i) since the committee’s report was tabled; or**

**(i) if a committee member has addressed the Assembly in terms of Rule 252, since the address was delivered.**

**(b) If a bill has not been referred to a committee, the debate on the Second Reading of the bill may not commence before at least three Assembly working days have elapsed since the bill was introduced.]**

(1) All Bills placed on the Order Paper for Second Reading must be debated, unless the Programme Committee notwithstanding Rule 190B by consensus decides otherwise in respect of a particular Bill.

(1A) (a) If a Bill has been referred to an Assembly or joint committee, the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill may not commence before at least three working days have elapsed —

(i) since the committee’s report was tabled; or

(ii) if a committee member has addressed the Assembly in terms of Rule 252, since the address was delivered.

(b) If a Bill introduced by a committee has not been referred to a joint committee in terms of Rule 247(7), the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill may not commence before at least three Assembly working days have elapsed since the Bill was introduced.

(2) (a) The debate on the Second Reading of a **[bill]** Bill must be conducted on the subject of the **[bill]** Bill.

(b) The debate on the Second Reading of a **[bill]** Bill that amends legislation must be conducted on the subject of the proposed amendments.

(3) No motion may be moved during the debate.

(4) The Assembly passes a **[bill]** Bill if it approves the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill in accordance with section 53(1)(a) and (c) of the Constitution, except that the Second Reading of —

(a) a constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill must be approved in accordance with Rule 262 (2) or (3); and

(b) a **[bill]** Bill determining the seat of Parliament must be approved in accordance with section 76(5) of the Constitution.

(5) The Assembly rejects a **[bill]** Bill if it rejects the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill or, subject to Rule 296, fails to approve the Second Reading with the appropriate majority.

**254. Amendments proposed by members before decision of Second Reading**

(1) (a) After a **[bill]** Bill has been placed on the Order Paper for Second Reading but before the Assembly decides on the Second Reading, a member may, subject to Subrule (4), place amendments to clauses of the **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper.

(b) A **[bill]** Bill that has been rejected by the committee which considered it may not be amended under this Rule.

(2) Amendments delivered to the **[Secretary]** Speaker after 12:00 on any working day may be placed on the Order Paper for the second sitting day thereafter and not earlier, unless the Speaker determines otherwise in a particular case.

(3) (a) The following amendments are out of order and may not be proposed under this Rule:

(i) Amendments that affect the principle of the **[bill]** Bill and in respect of which the Assembly has not given any instruction.

(ii) Amendments that change the classification of the **[bill]** Bill, except as provided for in Joint Rule 163.

(iii) Amendments that would render the **[bill]** Bill constitutionally or procedurally out of order within the meaning of Joint Rule 161.

(iv) Amendments that are out of order for any other reason.

(b) The Speaker’s ruling on whether an amendment is out of order or in order, is final. If the JTM has made a finding on the substance of the amendment the Speaker is bound by the finding.

(4) No amendment which has the same effect as an amendment previously rejected in the committee may be placed on the Order Paper, except when it is a **[bill]** Bill of which a Cabinet member or Deputy Minister is in charge and that Cabinet member or Deputy Minister places such an amendment on the Order Paper.

(5) If an amendment has been placed on the Order Paper and the debate on the Second Reading has been concluded, the Speaker may either —

(a) recommit the **[bill]** Bill for reconsideration to the committee which considered the **[bill]** Bill or, if it is a **[bill]** Bill introduced by an Assembly committee, to that committee, together with the amendment; or

(b) put the amendment for decision by the Assembly and then the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill as a whole, including any approved amendment.

(6) An Assembly committee to which a **[bill]** Bill is recommitted must deal with the **[bill]** Bill in terms of Rule 255.

(7) A **[bill]** Bill may not be recommitted to a committee more than once in terms of this Rule.

**255. Referral of amendments proposed in Assembly to Assembly committee**

(1) If a **[bill]** Bill is recommitted in terms of Rule 254(5) to an Assembly committee, the committee —

(a) may consider only those clauses of the **[bill]** Bill in respect of which amendments have been placed on the Order Paper and any consequential amendments that have to be effected;

(b) may consult the JTM on whether any of the amendments —

(i) affects the JTM’s classification of the **[bill]** Bill; or

(ii) renders the **[bill]** Bill constitutionally or procedurally out of order within the meaning of Joint Rule 161;

(c) must mention in its report each amendment agreed on by the committee;

(d) must specify in the report each amendment placed on the Order Paper by the person in charge of the **[bill]** Bill but rejected by the committee;

(e) may not agree on any amendment that –

(i) changes the classification of the **[bill]** Bill, except as provided for in Subrule (3) or joint Rule 163; or

(ii) renders the **[bill]** Bill constitutionally or procedurally out of order within the meaning of Joint Rule 161; and

(f) must table its report together with the **[bill]** Bill in the Assembly.

(2) Subrule (1) (d) applies only if the person in charge of the **[bill]** Bill is a Cabinet member or a Deputy Minister.

(3) The committee may agree on an amendment that changes the classification of a section 75 to a section 76 Bill, or a section 76 to a section 75 Bill **[bill to a mixed section 75/76 bill]**, but only if the JTM is of the view that the **[bill]** Bill as amended is unlikely to lead to unmanageable procedural complications.

**256. Referral to Assembly committee if joint committee fails to report**

(1) If a **[bill]** Bill is recommitted to a joint committee in terms of Rule 254(5), and that joint committee fails to present a report or fails to reach consensus on any amendments, the Speaker must refer the **[bill]** Bill and its annexures —

(a) to the portfolio committee within whose portfolio the subject of the **[bill]** Bill falls; or

(b) by resolution of the Assembly, to any other Assembly committee.

(2) The committee to which the **[bill]** Bill is referred must deal with the **[bill]** Bill in terms of Rule 249.

**257. Consideration of Assembly or joint committee’s report**

(1) The report of the Assembly or joint committee to which a **[bill]** Bill has been recommitted or referred must be placed on the Order Paper for consideration of —

(a) the amendments agreed on by the committee; and

(b) any amendment specified in the report in terms of Rule 255(1)(d) or Joint Rule 170(1(d) and which is moved in the Assembly, which motion may be moved without notice.

(2) Before the Assembly decides on the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill, the Speaker must put the amendment or amendments to the vote.

***Part 4: Specific Rules applicable to constitution amendment Bills***

***Specific Rules relating to matters in Parts 1 and 2***

**258. Requirements prior to introduction of constitution amendment Bill**

(1) A Cabinet member or a Deputy Minister, or a member or committee of the Assembly, intending to introduce a **[bill]** Bill amending the Constitution must, before introducing the **[bill]** Bill, comply with section 74(5) of the Constitution.

(2) When the person or committee intending to introduce the **[bill]** Bill publishes particulars of the **[bill]** Bill in the Gazette in accordance with section 74(5), the publication must contain —

(a) a notice stating the intention to introduce the **[bill]** Bill; and

(b) an invitation to interested persons and institutions to submit written representations on the draft constitutional amendment to the person or committee intending to introduce the **[bill]** Bill.

(3) If the draft **[bill]** Bill itself, as it is to be introduced, is published, a memorandum setting out the objects of the **[bill]** Bill must also be published.

**259. Notice withdrawing proposed constitutional amendment**

(1) If a Cabinet member, Deputy Minister, committee or member decides not to proceed with the introduction of a **[bill]** Bill after Rule **[233] 258** has been complied with, the Cabinet member, Deputy Minister, committee or member must without delay inform the **[Secretary]** Speaker in writing of the decision.

(2) The **[Secretary]** Cabinet member or Deputy Minister referred to in Subrule (1) must publish a notice in the Gazette stating that the proposed legislation has been withdrawn.

(3) The Speaker must publish a notice in the Gazette stating that the proposed legislation has been withdrawn where a committee or member decides not to proceed with the introduction of the Bill as contemplated in Subrule (1).

**260. Introduction of constitution amendment Bills**

(1) A Cabinet member or Deputy Minister or an Assembly member or committee introduces a constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill by submitting to the Speaker —

(a) a copy of the **[bill]** Bill, or if the **[bill]** Bill itself, as it is introduced, has been published in the Gazette to give effect to section 74(5) of the Constitution, a copy of the Gazette;

(b) a supporting memorandum which must —

(i) state that the **[bill]** Bill is introduced as a constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill;

(ii) explain the objects of the proposed constitutional amendment;

(iii) give an account of the financial implications of the proposed constitutional amendment for the state;

(iv) contain a list of all persons and institutions that have been consulted in preparing the **[bill]** Bill; **[and]**

(v) if the **[bill]** Bill is introduced by a Cabinet member or a Deputy Minister, include a legal opinion by a State law adviser, or a law adviser of the State department concerned, on the classification of the **[bill]** Bill and any other question in respect of which the JTM is required to make a finding in terms of Joint Rule 160; and

(vi) if the Bill is introduced by a committee or an Assembly member, include a legal opinion by a Parliamentary Legal Adviser on the classification of the Bill and any other question in respect of which the JTM is required to make a finding in terms of Joint Rule 160; and

(c) any written comments on the **[bill]** Bill envisaged in section 74(6) of the Constitution.

(2) A constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill introduced by a Cabinet member or a Deputy Minister must contain on its cover page a reference to that Cabinet member or Deputy Minister as the person introducing the **[bill]** Bill.

(3) A constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill introduced by —

(a) an Assembly member in an individual capacity; or

(b) by an Assembly committee with the Assembly’s permission in terms of Rule **[236(3) or]** 238(3), must —

**[(a)]** (i) be accompanied by a statement to that effect; and

**[(b)]** (ii) contain a reference on its cover page to the name of the member or committee as the member or committee introducing the **[bill]** Bill.

**[(4) Constitutional amendment bills initiated by Assembly members or committees may be introduced only when the Assembly is in session.]**

**261. Referral of constitution amendment Bills to committees**

(1) If a constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill is in terms of section 74 of the Constitution required to be passed by the Assembly alone, the **[bill]** Bill may in terms of Rule 247(5) or 248(1) only be referred to an Assembly committee.

(2) If a constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill is in terms of section 74 required to be passed by both Houses, the **[bill]** Bill must in terms of Rule 247(5) or 248(1) be referred either —

(a) to an Assembly committee; or

(b) if this is required by a decision in terms of Joint Rule 166 to a joint committee on constitutional matters.

**262. Consideration of committee’s report and Bill**

(1) The Speaker must place the committee’s report and the **[bill]** Bill presented to the Assembly in terms of Rule 251 or Joint Rule 168 on the Order Paper irrespective of whether the time period mentioned in section 74(7) of the Constitution has expired, but the Assembly may not vote on the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill unless this time period has expired.

(2) A constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill is passed by the Assembly if its Second Reading —

(a) is put to the vote after the expiry of the time period mentioned in section 74(7) of the Constitution; and

(b) receives a supporting vote of at least two thirds of the members of the Assembly or, if it is a **[bill]** Bill referred to in section 74(1), a supporting vote of at least 75 per cent of the members.

(3) If the **[bill]** Bill, in addition to other constitutional amendments, contains amendments referred to in section 74(1), the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill is approved if —

(a) the **[bill]** Bill as a whole is passed with a supporting vote of at least 75 per cent of the members; or

(b) the **[bill]** Bill, excluding the section 74(1) amendments, is passed with a supporting vote of at least two thirds of the members and the section 74(1) amendments are passed separately with a supporting vote of at least 75 per cent of the members.

(4) If a **[bill]** Bill mentioned in Subrule (3) is passed with a supporting vote of at least two thirds of the members, but the section 74(1)(a) amendments fail to achieve 75 per cent support —

(a) the Speaker, after consulting the member in charge of the **[bill]** Bill, may refer the **[bill]** Bill to an Assembly committee to delete the section 74(1) amendments and to table an amended **[bill]** Bill; or

(b) the person in charge of the **[bill]** Bill may withdraw the **[bill]** Bill if the section 74 provisions are not severable.

**[*Note:*** *Rule 296 provides for a second vote on a [bill] Bill which was not passed because of the absence of members*.**]**

(5) When the committee resubmits the **[bill]** Bill as amended the Assembly votes on the amended **[bill]** Bill without debate.

**263. Consequences of approval or rejection of Second Reading**

(1) Joint Rule 173 applies if the Assembly approves the Second Reading of a constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill.

(2) A constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill lapses if the Assembly rejects the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill.

***Reconsideration of constitution amendment Bills if amended by Council***

**264. Procedure if Council amends Bill**

(1) If the Council has amended a constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill passed by the Assembly, the Speaker must —

(a) place the amended **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper for debate and decision if the chairperson of the portfolio committee concerned or other relevant Assembly committee so requests; or

(b) refer the amended **[bill]** Bill to the portfolio committee concerned, or to any other appropriate Assembly committee, for a report and recommendations on the Council’s amendments.

(2) If the amended **[bill]** Bill is referred to a committee, the committee —

(a) may consult with the appropriate Council committee or chairperson of that committee;

(b) must confine itself to the amendments effected by the Council;

(c) may consult the JTM on whether any of the Council’s amendments —

(i) changes the JTM’s classification of the **[bill]** Bill; or

(ii) renders the **[bill]** Bill constitutionally or procedurally out of order within the meaning of Joint Rule 161;

(d) may not propose any amendments; and

(e) may state reasons if it does not support any of the Council’s amendments.

(3) The committee must table its report and recommendations.

(4) When the report is tabled the Speaker must place the **[bill]** Bill as amended by the Council on the Order Paper for debate and decision.

**265. Debate and decision**

(1) The debate in the Assembly on the amended **[bill]** Bill must be confined to —

(a) the matters dealt with in the committee’s report (if there is a report); and

(b) the question whether the amended **[bill]** Bill should be passed or not.

(2) No member may place any amendments to the **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper.

(3) If the Assembly passes the amended **[bill]** Bill in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 262(2)(b), and (3) or (4), the **[bill]** Bill must be submitted to the President for assent.

(4) If the Assembly rejects the **[bill]** Bill or fails to pass it in accordance with the said procedure, read with Rule 296, the **[bill]** Bill must be referred to the Mediation Committee in terms of Joint Rule 177.

**266. Process if mediation successful**

(1) The Speaker must table a notice in the Assembly stating that the Assembly’s version of the **[bill]** Bill has been agreed on by the Mediation Committee, if the Mediation Committee has agreed on the version of the **[bill]** Bill as originally passed by the Assembly before its rejection or amendment by the Council.

(2) The Speaker must place a **[bill]** Bill agreed on by the Mediation Committee on the Order Paper for debate and decisions if that **[bill]** Bill is —

(a) the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill which the Assembly has rejected or has failed to pass as stated in Rule 265(4); or

(b) a version that differs from any version of the **[bill]** Bill as passed by either the Assembly or the Council.

(3) If, after consultation with the chief whips of the parties and the chairperson of the portfolio committee or other Assembly committee concerned, the Speaker is of the view that the Assembly debate on the **[bill]** Bill in terms of Subrule (2) may be facilitated by a report of the portfolio committee concerned or any other appropriate Assembly committee, the Speaker must first refer the **[bill]** Bill to the committee for a report before placing the **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper.

(4) If the **[bill]** Bill is referred to a committee, the committee may —

(a) consult with the appropriate Council committee or the chairperson of that committee; and

(b) not propose any amendments to the **[bill]** Bill.

(5) The committee must table in the Assembly —

(a) the committee’s report; and

(b) the version of the **[bill]** Bill as agreed **[on]** to by the Mediation Committee.

(6) The debate in the Assembly on the **[bill]** Bill as agreed **[on]** to by the Mediation Committee must be confined —

(a) to the matters dealt with in the committee’s report, if the **[bill]** Bill was referred to a committee, or to the clauses of the **[bill]** Bill which differ from the clauses of the **[bill]** Bill as originally passed by the Assembly, if the **[bill]** Bill was not referred to a committee; and

(b) to the question whether the **[bill]** Bill as agreed on by the Mediation Committee should be passed.

(7) No amendments may be proposed to the **[bill]** Bill as agreed on by the Mediation Committee.

**267. Consequences of unsuccessful mediation**

A constitution amendment **[bill]** Bill lapses in terms of Joint Rule 180 if mediation is unsuccessful.

***Part 5: Specific Rules applicable to section 75 Bills***

**268. Application of this Part to money bills**

The Rules set out in this Part apply to all section 75 **[bills]** Bills, **[including]** as well as money **[bills]** Bills other than those dealt with in terms of the special procedure set out in Rule 287 (2).

**269. Consequences of approval or rejection of Second Reading**

A section 75 **[bill]** Bill —

(a) must be referred to the Council in terms of Joint Rule 181 if the Assembly approves the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill; or

(b) lapses if the Assembly rejects the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill.

***Reconsideration of section 75 bills if Council rejects or passes subject to amendments***

**270. Referral of Bill to Assembly committee**

(1) If the Council rejects a section 75 **[bill]** Bill referred to it in terms of Joint Rule 1 81 or passes the **[bill]** Bill subject to amendments, the Speaker must refer the **[bill]** Bill and any amendments proposed by the Council to the portfolio committee concerned or to any other appropriate Assembly committee for —

(a) a report on the Council’s rejection of the **[bill]** Bill or on the amendments proposed by the Council; and

(b) recommendations on whether the **[bill]** Bill should be passed again with or without any amendments, or whether it should not be proceeded with.

(2) The committee to which the **[bill]** Bill is referred —

(a) may consult with the appropriate Council committee or the chairperson of that committee;

(b) may not propose any amendment which is not strictly relevant either to the Council’s rejection of the **[bill]** Bill or to the amendments proposed by it;

(c) may consult the JTM on whether any of the Council’s amendment proposals or any amendments proposed in the committee —

(i) will change the JTM’s classification of the **[bill]** Bill; or

(ii) will render the **[bill]** Bill constitutionally or procedurally out of order within the meaning of Joint Rule 161; and

(d) may not propose any amendment that would —

(i) change the classification of the **[bill]** Bill; or

(ii) render the **[bill]** Bill constitutionally or procedurally out of order within the meaning of Joint Rule 161.

**271. Committee’s report**

(1) The committee to which the **[bill]** Bill is referred must table in the Assembly —

(a) the committee’s report and recommendations;

(b) the Council’s proposed amendments, if the Council has passed the **[bill]** Bill subject to amendments; and

(c) an amended **[bill]** Bill, if the committee, in view of the Council’s rejection of the **[bill]** Bill or its amendment proposals, has agreed to amend the **[bill]** Bill previously passed by the Assembly.

(2) When the report is tabled the Speaker must place the **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper for debate and decision.

**272. Debate and decision**

(1) The debate in the Assembly on the committee’s report and the **[bill]** Bill must be confined to -

(a) the matters dealt with in the report;

(b) the question whether the **[bill]** Bill should be proceeded with; and

(c) any amendments proposed either by the Council or the committee.

(2) No member may place any amendments to the **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper.

(3) The Assembly may recommit the **[bill]** Bill or any amendment proposal to the committee for reconsideration and a further report and recommendation before it decides on the **[bill]** Bill.

(4) The Assembly may either —

(a) pass the original **[bill]** Bill again;

(b) pass any amended **[bill]** Bill proposed by the committee;

(c) pass the original **[bill]** Bill incorporating any amendments proposed by the committee or any amendments proposed by the Council which were rejected by the committee; or

(d) decide not to proceed with the **[bill]** Bill.

(5) If Subrule (4)(c) applies, the Assembly must first decide on each amendment proposal of the Council, then on each amendment proposal of the committee and then on the **[bill]** Bill as a whole, incorporating any amendment proposals agreed to by the Assembly.

(6) A **[bill]** Bill passed by the Assembly in accordance with this Rule and section 53 (1)(a) and (c) of the Constitution, must be submitted to the President for assent.

(7) If the Assembly decides not to proceed with the **[bill]** Bill, the **[bill]** Bill lapses.

***Part 6: Specific Rules applicable to section 76(1) Bills introduced in the Assembly***

**273. Consequences of approval or rejection of Second Reading**

A section 76(1) **[bill]** Bill —

(a) must be referred to the Council in terms of Joint Rule 184(1) if the Assembly approves the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill; or

(b) lapses if the Assembly rejects the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill.

***Reconsideration of section 76(1) Bills if amended by Council***

**274. Bill to be placed on Order Paper or referred to portfolio committee**

(1) If the Council amends a **[bill]** Bill referred to it in terms of Joint Rule 184(1), the Speaker must —

(a) place the **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper for debate and decision if the chairperson of the portfolio committee concerned or other relevant Assembly committee so requests, provided that any debate must be confined to the Council's amendments; or

(b) submit the amended **[bill]** Bill to the portfolio committee concerned or any other appropriate Assembly committee for a report and recommendations on the Council’s amendments.

(2) The committee to which the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill is referred —

(a) may consult the appropriate Council committee or the chairperson of that committee;

(b) may not propose any further amendments to the **[bill]** Bill; and

(c) may consult the JTM on whether any of the Council’s amendments —

(i) changes the JTM’s classification of the **[bill]** Bill; or

(ii) renders the **[bill]** Bill constitutionally or procedurally out of order within the meaning of Joint Rule 161.

**275. Committee’s report**

(1) The committee to which the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill is referred must table in the Assembly —

(a) its report and recommendations; and

(b) the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill.

(2) When the report is tabled the Speaker must place the report and the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper for debate and decision.

**276. Debate and decision**

(1) The debate on the report and the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill must be confined to —

(a) the matters dealt with in the report; and

(b) the question whether the amended **[bill]** Bill should be passed or not.

(2) No amendments may be proposed to the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill.

(3) If the Assembly passes the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill in accordance with section 53(1)(a) and (c) of the Constitution, the **[Secretary]** Speaker must without delay submit the **[bill]** Bill to the President for assent.

(4) If the Assembly refuses to pass the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill, the **[bill]** Bill must be referred to the Mediation Committee in terms of Joint Rule 186.

**277. Process if mediation successful**

(1) The Speaker must table a notice in the Assembly stating that the Assembly’s version of the **[bill]** Bill has been agreed on by the Mediation Committee, if the Mediation Committee has agreed on the version of the **[bill]** Bill as originally passed by the Assembly before its rejection or amendment by the Council.

(2) The Speaker must place a **[bill]** Bill agreed on by the Mediation Committee on the Order Paper for debate and decision if that **[bill]** Bill is —

(a) the Council’s amended **[bill]** Bill which the Assembly has refused to pass as stated in Rule **[276(3)]** 276(4); or

(b) a version that differs from any version of the **[bill]** Bill as passed by either the Assembly or the Council.

(3) If, after consultation with the chief whips of the parties and the chairperson of the portfolio committee or other Assembly committee concerned, the Speaker is of the view that the Assembly debate on the **[bill]** Bill in terms of Subrule (2) may be facilitated by a report of the portfolio committee concerned or any other appropriate Assembly committee, the Speaker must first refer the **[bill]** Bill to the committee for a report before placing the **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper.

(4) If the **[bill]** Bill is referred to a committee, the committee may —

(a) consult with the appropriate Council committee or the chairperson of that committee; and

(b) may not propose any amendments to the **[bill]** Bill.

(5) The committee must table in the Assembly —

(a) the committee’s report; and

(b) the version of the **[bill]** Bill as agreed on by the Mediation Committee.

(6) The debate in the Assembly on the **[bill]** Bill as agreed on by the Mediation Committee must be confined —

(a) to the matters dealt with in the committee’s report, if the **[bill]** Bill was referred to a committee, or to the clauses of the **[bill]** Bill which differ from the clauses of the **[bill]** Bill as originally passed by the Assembly, if the **[bill]** Bill was not referred to a committee; and

(b) to the question whether the **[bill]** Bill as agreed on by the Mediation Committee should be passed.

(7) No amendments may be proposed to the **[bill]** Bill as agreed on by the Mediation Committee.

***Process after mediation***

**278. Process if mediation unsuccessful**

(1) The Speaker, at the request of the person in charge of the **[bill]** Bill, must place the version of the **[bill]** Bill as originally passed by the Assembly before its rejection or amendment by the Council, on the Order Paper for debate and decision in terms of section 76(1)(e), (i) or (j) of the Constitution if —

(a) the Mediation Committee is unable to agree within 30 days of the **[bill’s]** Bill’s referral to it;

(b) the Assembly refuses to pass the version of the **[bill]** Bill agreed on by the Mediation Committee and considered by the Assembly in terms of Rule 277; or

(c) the Mediation Committee has agreed on the version of the **[bill]** Bill as originally passed by the Assembly, and the Council refuses to pass this version.

(2) If the Assembly passes a version of the **[bill]** Bill as described in Rule 277(2)(b) and the Council refuses to pass this version of the **[bill]** Bill, the Speaker, at the request of the person in charge of the **[bill]** Bill, must place this version on the Order Paper for debate and decision in terms of section 76(1)(i) of the Constitution.

(3) Unless the Assembly decides not to proceed with a **[bill]** Bill placed on the Order Paper in terms of Subrule (1) or (2), the **[bill]** Bill must be put to the vote and, if passed with a supporting vote of at least two thirds of the members, be submitted to the President for assent.

***Part 7: Specific Rules applicable to section 76(2) Bills introduced in the Council***

**279. Powers of committee to which Bill is referred**

If a section 76(2) **[bill]** Bill as passed by the Council is referred to an Assembly committee in terms of Rule 247 or 248, the committee may —

(a) consult with the appropriate Council committee or the chairperson of that committee on the contents of the **[bill]** Bill and any amendments to the **[bill]** Bill that are being considered by the Assembly committee; and

(b) recommend that any time limit for the Assembly’s consideration of the **[bill]** Bill be extended.

**280. Consequences of approval or rejection of Second Reading**

A section 76(2) **[bill]** Bill must be referred to —

(a) the President in terms of Joint Rule 185(2)(a) if the Assembly approves the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill as passed by the Council;

(b) the Council in terms of Joint Rule 185(2)(b) if the Assembly amends the **[bill]** Bill as passed by the Council; or

(c) the Mediation Committee in terms of Joint Rule 186(2)(a) if the Assembly rejects the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill as passed by the Council.

***Process after mediation***

**281. Process if mediation successful**

(1) The Speaker must table a notice in the Assembly stating that the Assembly’s version has been agreed on by the Mediation Committee if the Mediation Committee has agreed on the **[bill]** Bill as amended by the Assembly and as referred to the Council in terms of Rule 280(b).

(2) The Speaker must place a **[bill]** Bill agreed on by the Mediation Committee on the Order Paper for debate and decision if that **[bill]** Bill is —

(a) the version as passed by the Council and which the Assembly has either amended or rejected as stated in Rules 280(b) or (c); or

(b) a version that differs from any version of the **[bill]** Bill as passed by either the Assembly or the Council.

(3) If, after consultation with the chief whips of the parties and the chairperson of the portfolio committee or other Assembly committee concerned, the Speaker is of the view that the Assembly debate on the **[bill]** Bill in terms of Subrule (2) may be facilitated by a report of the portfolio committee concerned or any other appropriate Assembly committee, the Speaker must first refer the **[bill]** Bill to the committee for a report before placing the **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper.

(4) If the **[bill]** Bill is referred to a committee, the committee may —

(a) consult with the appropriate Council committee or the chairperson of that committee; and

(b) not propose any amendments to the **[bill]** Bill.

(5) The committee must table in the Assembly —

(a) the committee’s report; and

(b) the version of the **[bill]** Bill as agreed on by the Mediation Committee.

(6) The debate in the Assembly on the **[bill]** Bill agreed on by the Mediation Committee must be confined —

(a) to the matters dealt with in the committee’s report, if the **[bill]** Bill was referred to a committee; and

(b) to the question whether the **[bill]** Bill as agreed on by the Mediation Committee should be passed.

**282. Consequences of unsuccessful mediation**

A section 76(2) **[bill]** Bill lapses in terms of Joint Rule 190 if mediation is unsuccessful.

[**Note***: If mediation between the Houses on a section 76(1)*  ***[bill]*** *Bill fails, the* ***[bill]*** *Bill can still be passed if the Assembly can muster a two thirds majority. This deadlock-braking mechanism is not available when the* ***[bill]*** *Bill is a section 76(2)* ***[bill]*** *Bill, ie where the* ***[bill]*** *Bill is introduced in the Council. In terms of the Constitution a section 76(2)* ***[bill]*** *Bill lapses if mediation fails.*]

***[ Part 8: Specific Rules applicable to mixed section 75/76 bills***

**283. Consequences of approval or rejection of Second Reading**

**A mixed section 75/76 bill —**

**(a) must be referred to the Council in terms of Joint Rule 195 if the Assembly approves the Second Reading of the bill; or**

**(b) lapses if the Assembly rejects the Second Reading of the bill.]**

***Part 9: Specific Rules applicable to money Bills***

**284. Contents of money Bills**

**[(1)]**  In terms of section 77(1) of the Constitution a money **[bill]** Bill may not deal with any other matter except a subordinate matter incidental to the appropriation of money or the imposition of taxes, levies or duties.

**[(2) A money bill that is inconsistent with section 77(1) may not be introduced in the Assembly.]**

**[285. Person in charge of money bills**

**For the purposes of these Rules the Minister of Finance is the person in charge of all money bills, except —**

**(a) Bills appropriating money for postal and telecommunication services, where the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications must be in charge; and**

**(b) any Bills in respect of which the Minister of Finance designates another Minister to be in charge.]**

**286. Introduction of money Bills**

(1) Only the **[Minister of Finance]** Cabinet member responsible for national financial matters may introduce a money **[bill]** Bill.

(2) The responsible Minister must introduce a money **[bill]** Bill by following either the ordinary procedure set out in Rule 243 or the special procedure set out in Rule 287(2), but if it is a **[bill]** Bill appropriating money for the ordinary annual services of the government or imposing taxes, levies or duties for this purpose, the special procedure must be followed. The Minister must consult the Speaker when exercising a choice in terms of this Rule.

**287. Procedure applicable to money Bills**

(1) If the ordinary procedure is followed, the **[bill]** Bill in all respects must be dealt with in the Assembly as if it were an ordinary section 75 **[bill]** Bill, subject to any legislation envisaged in section 77(2) of the Constitution.

**[ [Note: A money bill can be amended but the Constitution requires that a procedure be prescribed by an Act of Parliament. Proposed legislation in this regard is presently being attended to by the NA Portfolio Committee on Public Finance.] ]**

(2) If the special procedure is followed, Parts 2, 3 and 4 of this Chapter do not apply and the **[bill]** Bill must be dealt with in the Assembly in accordance with the following specific Rules.

[***Note****: The special introductory procedure comes from the existing Rules. These Rules may need to be replaced in view of procedures presently being attended to by the Portfolio Committee on Public Finance.*]

**288. Special introductory procedure**

(1) The Minister in charge of the **[bill]** Bill must deliver an introductory speech in the Assembly on the appointed day.

(2) After having delivered the introductory speech, the Minister must introduce the **[bill]** Bill by tabling it and any accompanying schedule and papers in the Assembly**[: Provided that if the introductory speech was delivered by a Minister other than the Minister of Finance, that other Minister must introduce and table the bill on behalf of the Minister of Finance]**.

**289. Bill placed on Order Paper for First Reading**

(1) After introduction of the **[bill]** Bill in terms of Rule 288 the Speaker must place the **[bill]** Bill on the Order Paper for First Reading.

(2) The First Reading of the **[bill]** Bill may be considered only after the report of the committee to which it was referred in terms of Rule 290 has been presented to the Assembly.

(3) If the Assembly rejects the First Reading of the **[bill]** Bill, it rejects the **[bill]** Bill.

**290. Referral of Bill to Assembly committee**

(1) On the day on which the **[bill]** Bill is introduced, the Speaker must, unless legislation provides otherwise, refer the **[bill]** Bill, and any accompanying schedule and papers and the Minister’s introductory speech to the portfolio committee on public finance for consideration and report.

(2) The committee may confer with the corresponding committee of the National Council of Provinces.

(2A) The committee must —

(a) conduct joint public hearings with the corresponding committee of the National Council of Provinces on the fiscal framework and revenue proposals if submitted with the Bill as is required in section 8(2) of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 9 of 2009; and

(b) report on the fiscal framework and revenue proposals if submitted with the Bill within 16 days after the tabling of the framework and proposals.

**[(3) The period for the consideration of a bill and any schedule and papers so referred is limited, in the case of a main appropriation bill, to a maximum of \*seven consecutive Assembly working days and, in the case of any other bill, to a period determined in each case by the Speaker after consultation with the Leader of Government Business in the Assembly.]**

(3)**[(4)]** Unless legislation provides otherwise, **[No]** no amendment to a **[bill]** Bill or any accompanying schedule or papers may be moved while the committee is considering the **[bill]** Bill, schedule and papers.

**[(5) The report of the committee must be presented to the Assembly on or before the first sitting day following the expiration of the period allowed for the consideration of the bill, schedule and papers.]**

**291. Consideration of schedule to appropriation Bill**

When the First Reading of an appropriation **[bill]** Bill which has a schedule has been approved, the votes in the schedule must be discussed.

**292. Supplementary estimates in main appropriation Bill**

When the debate on the schedule to a main appropriation **[bill]** Bill has been concluded, those votes in respect of which supplementary amounts are to be requested, must be placed on the Order Paper for discussion.

**293. Approval of votes and schedule**

The Assembly must first decide on the separate votes in the schedule to an appropriation **[bill]** Bill (in the case of a main appropriation **[bill]** Bill, when the debate on supplementary amounts has been concluded) and thereafter on the schedule.

**294. Second Reading of money [bill] Bill**

(1) When the schedule to an appropriation **[bill]** Bill has been approved, the **[bill]** Bill must be placed on the Order Paper for Second Reading.

(2) When the First Reading of a money **[bill]** Bill which has no schedule has been approved, the **[bill]** Bill must be placed on the Order Paper for Second Reading.

**295. Money [bill] Bill rejected or passed subject to amendments by Council**

(1) If a money **[bill]** Bill that has been rejected, or passed subject to amendments, by the Council, is referred back to the Assembly for reconsideration in terms of section 75(1)(c) of the Constitution, the **[bill]** Bill may be given precedence over other orders of the day on the day on which it is received from the Council, and a motion to that effect may be moved without prior notice by the Minister in charge of the **[bill]** Bill.

(2) The Assembly must consider any amendments proposed by the Council. No further amendments may be considered unless moved as permitted by the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 9 of 2009 by the Minister in charge of the **[bill]** Bill, who may do so without prior notice.

(3) The debate on the reconsideration of the **[bill]** Bill, including the consideration of any amendment, may not continue for more than one hour, excluding the reply of the Minister in charge of the **[bill]** Bill, during which time a member may be restricted to one speech not exceeding five minutes in duration, except the Minister, who may be allowed more than one such speech.

***Part 10: General***

**296. Second vote on bills rejected through absence of members**

(1) Should a bill that requires a special majority in the Assembly fail to obtain the required majority when the bill is put to the vote, the Speaker may, within seven working days after the vote was taken, put the bill to the vote again, but only if the Chief Whip and the most senior whip of one or more parties which together with the majority party command at least the required majority in the Assembly —

(a) request such a second vote; and

(b) persuade the Speaker that the bill failed to obtain the required majority because of the absence of party members.

(2) The bill is considered as having been rejected if it again fails to obtain the required majority.

**297. Same [bill]** **Bill may not be introduced more than once**

When a **[bill]** Bill has been passed or has been rejected during a session in any year, no **[bill]** Bill of the same substance may be introduced in the Assembly in that year except by leave of the Assembly or where otherwise provided in these Rules.

**298. Lapsing of Bills on last sitting day of annual session or term of Assembly or when Assembly is dissolved**

(1) All **[bills]** Bills introduced in the Assembly and which on the last sitting day of an annual session of the Assembly, appear on the Order Paper for First or Second Reading, lapse at the end of that day unless the Assembly decides otherwise.

(2) All **[bills]** Bills before the Assembly or any Assembly committee on the last sitting day of a term of the Assembly or when the Assembly is dissolved, lapse at the end of that day.

**299. Withdrawal of [bill]** **Bill**

The person in charge of a **[bill]** Bill introduced in the Assembly may withdraw the **[bill]** Bill at any time before the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill is decided.

**300. Discrepancies in versions of [bill] Bill**

(1) If any discrepancy in meaning is found between the versions of any **[bill]** Bill in the different official languages after such **[bill]** Bill has been passed by the Assembly, but before it is presented to the President for assent, the Speaker must report such discrepancy to the Assembly.

(2) If the Assembly agrees to an amendment referred to in Subrule (1), the Assembly must be regarded as having agreed to the Second Reading of the **[bill]** Bill as amended.

[***Note****:*

*(1) This Rule will be deleted if the proposal in the Joint Rules is accepted that all* ***[bills]*** *Bills should have an official text in one of the official languages and one or more official translations in one or more of the other official languages.*

*(2) Is it necessary to provide for discrepancies in the official text of a* ***[bill]*** *Bill should the draft Joint Rule on official texts and official translations be accepted?*]

**CHAPTER 14**

**PROCESS FOR WRITTEN INSTRUMENTS**

**OTHER THAN LEGISLATION**

***Part 1: General***

**301. Application**

This Chapter applies to all written instruments received by the Assembly, other than draft legislation, that have to be formally dealt with in the parliamentary process.

**302. Tabling of written instruments in the Assembly**

The Speaker must table the following instruments without delay, or if the Assembly is in recess, on its first sitting day when the Assembly resumes its sittings:

(a) all reports and other written instruments submitted by a member of the national executive or in terms of legislation for tabling in the Assembly;

(b) all requests, applications and other written submissions made to the Assembly in terms of legislation to activate a parliamentary process prescribed by such legislation;

(c) all international agreements submitted to the Assembly in terms of section 231 of the Constitution;

(d) all special petitions and other petitions of a general nature; and

(e) any other written instrument required to be tabled in terms of these Rules.

**303. Referral of written instruments to committees**

(1) Except where these Rules or the Joint Rules provide otherwise in a specific case, the Speaker must without delay refer to an appropriate committee —

(a) all written instruments tabled or that must be tabled in the Assembly in terms of Rule 302;

(b) all reports and other written instruments tabled in the Assembly by a member of the national executive; and

(c) any other instrument that must in terms of these Rules or the Joint Rules be referred to a committee.

(2) If there is doubt as to which committee is the appropriate committee, the Speaker, in consultation with the Chief Whip, must decide the issue subject to these Rules and any **[directions]** directives of the Rules Committee or a resolution of the Assembly.

(3) If a matter is referred to two or more committees, the referral may be accompanied by an instruction —

(a) whether the committees must confer; and

(b) which of them must report, if a report is required, or whether they must report jointly.

(4) When referring a written instrument to a committee or committees, the Speaker may, where appropriate, direct that a report thereon be submitted to the House within a specified timeframe.

**304. Consideration of matter by committees**

A committee must deal with an instrument referred to it in terms of Rule 303 in accordance with any applicable procedures prescribed by these Rules or the Joint Rules.

**305. Reporting by committees**

(1) A committee must report on a matter referred to it if —

(a) required by a provision of these Rules or the Joint Rules; or

(b) the Speaker so instructs.

(2) If a committee is not required in terms of Subrule (1) to report on a matter referred to it, it may nevertheless submit such a report if it so desires.

(3) A committee must report on any written instrument referred to it in accordance with Rule 137. **[If a committee —**

**(a) reports, the report must be placed on the Order Paper;**

**(b) when it reports on a matter, makes a request that a specific matter mentioned in the report should be considered by the Assembly, that matter, including any recommendations of the committee, must also be placed on the Order Paper.]**

***Part 2: International agreements***

**306. Submission to Parliament for approval**

(1) When the Assembly’s approval is to be sought for an international agreement in terms of section 231(2) of the Constitution, a copy of the agreement must be submitted to the Speaker together with an explanatory memorandum.

(2) The explanatory memorandum must —

(a) briefly set out the history, objectives and implications of the agreement;

(b) include a legal opinion by a State law adviser as to whether the agreement is consistent with the domestic law of the Republic, including the Constitution, with the international obligations of the Republic and with international law in general;

(c) state whether the agreement contains any self-executing provision that will become law in the Republic in terms of section 231(4) of the Constitution upon the approval of the agreement by Parliament;

(d) give an account of the projected financial and other costs of the agreement for the state; and

(e) contain all other information needed by the Assembly in order to take an informed decision.

**307. Tabling and referral to committee**

(1) The Speaker must —

(a) table the agreement and explanatory memorandum in the Assembly; and

(b) refer the matter for consideration and report —

(i) to the portfolio committee under which the subject of the agreement falls; or

(ii) by resolution of the Assembly to any other Assembly committee.

(2) The committee —

(a) must enquire into the subject of the agreement with a view **[of]** to recommending approval or rejection of the agreement;

(b) may, or if ordered by the Speaker must, consult the portfolio committee responsible **[for** **foreign affairs]** to oversee international relations and any other Assembly **[C]**committee that has a direct interest in the substance of the agreement; and

(c) must report to the Assembly in accordance with Rule 137.

(3) In its report the committee must state whether it recommends approval or rejection of the agreement.

(4) The committee’s report must be placed on the Order Paper for decision.

**308. Submission to Parliament for information**

An international agreement of a technical, administrative or executive nature, or an agreement which does not require either ratification or accession, and which must be tabled in the Assembly in terms of section 231(3) of the Constitution, must be referred by the Speaker for information **[to]** —

(a) to the portfolio committee under which the subject of the agreement falls; or

(b) by resolution of the Assembly to any other Assembly committee.

***Part 3: Petitions***

[***Note:*** *Part 3, Petitions, is standing over pending finalisation by another forum.*]

**309. Form of petitions**

Petitions must be in the form prescribed by the Speaker in accordance with guidelines determined by the Rules Committee.

**310. Language of petitions**

A petition must be in one of the official languages.

**311. Signing of petitions**

(1) Unless the Speaker decides otherwise, every petition must be signed by the petitioners themselves.

(2) Persons unable to write must make their marks on the petition in the presence of two witnesses, who must sign the petition in that capacity.

**312. Lodging**

(1) A petition must be lodged by a member with the Secretary for approval and tabling by the Speaker, and must be signed at the beginning thereof by the member.

(2) A member may not lodge a petition on his or her own behalf, but such a petition may be lodged by another member.

**313. Approval by Speaker**

Each petition must be deposited for at least one day with the Secretary, who must submit it to the Speaker for approval before it is tabled in the Assembly.

**314. Tabling**

If a petition complies with these Rules and the guidelines determined by the Rules Committee, **[approved]** the Speaker must approve it and table **[the petition]** it in the Assembly without delay.

**315. Referral of petitions to committees**

After tabling a petition in the Assembly, the Speaker must —

(a) if it is a special petition, refer the petition to the **[Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions]** portfolio committee on public finance; or

(b) if it is a petition of a general nature, refer the petition to the relevant portfolio committee or other appropriate committee.

**CHAPTER 15**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

***Part 1: Lapsing of business before the Assembly***

**316. Lapsing of business on last sitting day of annual session or term of Assembly or when Assembly is dissolved**

(1) All motions and all other business, other than Bills, on the Order Paper on the last sitting day of an annual session of the Assembly, lapse at the end of that day.

(2) All business referred to in Subrule (1) before the Assembly or any Assembly committee on the last sitting day of a term of the Assembly or when the Assembly is dissolved, lapse at the end of that day.

***Part 2: Executive Government***

**317. Resolutions affecting Executive Government**

(1) Resolutions of **[this]** the House affecting the Executive Government **[shall]** must be communicated to the President of the Republic or other relevant executive authority and to the Leader of Government Business by the **[Secretary]** Speaker.

(2) The Secretary must send a copy of the Speaker's letter to the Director-General in the Presidency.

**318. Consent in respect of State-owned land or property**

**[This]** The House **[shall]** may not proceed upon any bill, motion or proposal affecting State-owned land or property and of which a member other than a Minister is in charge, unless the President of the Republic has given his or her consent that, as far as the State’s interests are concerned, the House may **[do therein]** take such decision in regard thereto as it **[shall]** thinks fit.

[***Note:*** *This Rule is based on the State Land Disposal Act, No 48 of 1961*.]

**[319. Liaison with Executive Government**

**The Speaker may, in consultation with the chief whips of the parties of the President of the Republic and of the Deputy President, respectively, designate two members of this House as Parliamentary Counsellors, each of whom shall be charged with facilitating communication between this House and the offices of the President of the Republic and of the Deputy President, respectively: Provided that not more than one such member shall so be charged in relation to a particular office.]**

***Part 3: Abuse of privilege***

*[Heading substituted, 21 November 2008]*

**320. Abuse of privilege**

(1) The Assembly may make a finding that a breach or abuse of the privilege provided for in sections 45(2) and 58 of the Constitution, or as set out in rule 44 of these Rules, is contempt of Parliament as envisaged by section 13(d) of the Powers and Privileges Act, in accordance with **[the]** Subrule (2).

(2) The Assembly may make a finding in terms of Subrule (1) only if the Powers and Privileges Committee has decided that a specified act constitutes contempt of Parliament and has reported accordingly to the House.

**321. Fines**

The amount of a fine that can be imposed under the Powers and Privileges Act for each of the offences mentioned therein, and for each offence referred to in these Rules or any resolution of the Assembly, must be determined in every case by a resolution of the Assembly; but such fine may not exceed the amounts provided in the Act.

**322. Recovery of fines**

All fines must be recovered by the Secretary and paid into Parliament’s bank account.

**323. Fines remitted**

A fine or portion thereof may be remitted by resolution of the Assembly.

*[Rules 320 – 323; substituted, 21 November 2008]*

**323A. Request to have a response recorded by persons other than members**

The Secretary must refer to the Speaker any **[a]** written request to have a response recorded by a person, other than a member, regarding a statement or remark made by an Assembly member, a Cabinet member or a witness in or before the Assembly, a committee or other forum of the Assembly, or in or before a joint sitting of the Houses or a joint committee**[, to the Speaker]**.

*[Rule 323 – inserted, 21 November 2008]*

***Part 4: Witnesses***

**324. Summonsing of witnesses**

Any person may be summonsed to appear before the House or a committee or other forum of the House in accordance with Sections 14 to 17 of the Powers and Privileges Act and these Rules

**[324] 325. Attendance of witnesses detained in prison**

If a witness whose attendance before **[this]** the House or a committee or other forum thereof is required, is being detained in any prison, the person in charge of such prison may be ordered to bring the witness in safe custody for examination as often as his or her attendance is deemed necessary, and on the instruction of the Speaker the Secretary **[Speaker]** may issue his or her warrant accordingly.

**[325. Summonsing of witnesses**

**(1) No committee shall summons a witness without first having satisfied the Speaker that the evidence of such witness will be material to the enquiry.**

**(2) For the examination of every such witness the committee shall sit *de die in diem.***

**326. Witness expenses**

**Subject to the Speaker’s approval, the Secretary may pay to witnesses a reasonable sum for travelling and attendance time and for transport expenses actually incurred.]**

***Part 5: Office of Secretary and Records***

***of the Assembly***

**326A. Records of National Assembly**

The Records of the National Assembly include -

(a) the Journals of the National Assembly;

(b) the Debates of the National Assembly (Hansard);

(c) the Order Paper, the Question Paper and other papers produced under the authority of the House or the Speaker;

(d) documents officially before, or emanating from, a committee or subcommittee or other forum, excluding internally produced preliminary working drafts;

(e) papers tabled in the National Assembly; and

(f) official correspondence.

**327. Minutes of Proceedings of National Assembly**

The Minutes of Proceedings **[shall]** of the National Assembly and mini plenary sessions must be **[noted]** recorded by the Secretary, and **[shall]**, after having been perused by the Speaker, must be signed by the Secretary, printed and supplied to members.

**328. Journals of National Assembly**

The **[Minutes of Proceedings, signed by the Secretary, shall]** Journals of the National Assembly comprise -

(a) the official Minutes of the House and its committees and other forums, including the document entitled Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, and

(b) any transcripts and tape recordings made by order of the House or any of its committees or other forums. **[constitute the Journals of the National Assembly.]**

**329. Custody of papers**

The Secretary **[shall have]** has custody of all records and other papers of the National Assembly, and he or she **[shall]** may neither remove nor permit to be removed any such records or other papers **[or copies thereof]** beyond the precincts of this House without the leave of the Speaker.

**330. Access to tabled papers**

**[Subject to Rule 329, no person other than a member of this House shall have access to or be entitled to take extracts from or make copies of papers laid upon the Table, but if the House has ordered that the contents of any such paper shall not be made public, or if such paper is marked as being confidential, no member shall divulge such contents, under pain of breach of privilege.]** Tabled papers are open to all members and to the public, unless otherwise ordered by the Speaker or by resolution of the House in respect of a particular paper, or part thereof, and subject to Rule 157 in respect of papers officially before or emanating from a committee or subcommittee or other forum.

**331. General duties of Secretary**

The Secretary **[shall be]** is responsible for the regulation of all matters connected with the business of the National Assembly, subject to such directions as he or she may receive from the Speaker or the House.

**[[332. Referral of bills to National House of Traditional Leaders**

**(1) The Secretary must refer a bill to the National House of Traditional Leaders if the JTM has made a finding that the bill pertains to customary law or customs of traditional communities in accordance with Rule 160 of the Joint Rules.**

**(2) The Secretary must inform the Speaker and the chairperson of the portfolio committee to which the bill was referred of the date of referral, which date must be published in the relevant parliamentary paper.]]**

**Appendix C**

(Refer Rule 53A)

**Standard Operating Procedures: Member refusing to leave Chamber**

(1) If a member refuses to leave the Chamber, the presiding officer asks the Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the member from the Chamber.

(2) The Serjeant-at-Arms approaches the member(s) to explain in a respectful manner that the instruction of the presiding officer must be complied with and that failure to do so can constitute a grave offence and have serious implications, including that the member(s) may need to be physically removed from the Chamber.

(3) If the member still refuses to leave, the Serjeant-at-Arms indicates to the presiding officer that the member refuses to comply, whereupon the presiding officer informs the House that the Parliamentary Protection Services are to be called upon to assist.

(4) The Parliamentary Protection Services personnel enter the Chamber upon the instruction of the presiding officer, and proceed to remove the member(s) concerned under the direction of the Serjeant-at-Arms.

(5) Members of the public in the gallery who participate in disorderly conduct will beremoved by the security services.