



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING ORDERS**

Made by the House of Representatives pursuant to
Section 50 (1) of the
Grenada Constitution Order, 1973

<i>Standing Order</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>
	SITTINGS AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE	
10	Ordinary Sittings	7-8
11	Suspended Sittings	8-9
12	Special Sittings	9-10
13	Adjournment	10
14	Adjournment of the House on matters of urgent public importance	10-11
15	Periodic Adjournments	11
	ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS	
16	Order of Business	11-12
	PETITIONS AND PAPERS	
17	Presentation of Petitions	12-13
18	Presentation of Papers	13-14
	QUESTIONS	
19	Nature of Questions	14

<i>Standing Order</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>
20	Notice of Questions	14
21	Contents of Questions	15-17
22	Manner of Asking and Answering Questions	17-18
PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS		
23	Non-Controversial Matters	18
PUBLIC BUSINESS		
24	Arrangement of Public Business	18-19
MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS		
25	Questions for Debate	19
26	Notices of Motions or Amendments	20-21
27	Exemption from Notice	21-22
28	Dispensing with Notice	23
29	Privilege Motions	23
30	Moving of Motions	23-24
31	Seconding of Motions	24

<i>Standing Order</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>
32	Motions not Moved or Seconded	24
33	Withdrawal of Motions	24-25
34	Amendment of Motions	25-26
RULES OF DEBATE		
35	Time and Manner of Speaking	26-27
36	Right of Reply	27-28
37	Interruptions	28
38	Contents of Speeches	28-29
39	Scope of Debate	29-30
40	Budget Debate	30-31
41	Closure of Debate	31
42	Rules for Members not Speaking	31
RULES OF ORDER		
43	Responsibility for Order in the House and in Committee	32
44	Order in the House and in Committee	32-34

<i>Standing Order</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>
	VOTING	
45	Decisions on Questions	35
46	Collection of Voices	35
47	Divisions	35-36
	PROCEDURE ON BILLS	
48	Introduction and First Reading	36-37
49	Money Bills	37
50	Appointment of days for stages of Bills	37-38
51	Printing and circulation of Bills	38
52	Second Reading of Bills	38-39
53	Committal of Bills	39
54	Function of Committees on Bills	39
55	Procedure in Committee of the whole House on a Bill	39-42
56	Procedure in Select Committees on Bills	43

<i>Standing Order</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>
57	Procedure on Reporting of Bills from Committee of the whole House	43
58	Recommittal of Bills reported from Committee of the whole House	43-44
59	Procedure on Bills reported from Select Committee	44-45
60	Third Reading	45
61	Recommittal and Third Reading	45-46
62	Procedure after Third Reading	46
63	Procedure on Senate Amendments	47-48
64	Submission of Bills for Assent	48-49
65	Withdrawal of Bills	49
66	Bills containing substantially the same provisions	49
67	Private Bills	49-53
COMMITTEES		
68	Standing Committee on Finance	53
69	Public Accounts Committee	54-55

<i>Standing Order</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>
70	Sessional Select Committees	55-57
71(A)	Special Select Committees	57
71(B)	Joint Select Committees	57
72	Constitution of Select Committees ...	57-58
73	Procedure in Select Committees	58-60
74	Voting in Select Committees	60
75	Premature Publication of Evidence ...	60
76	Reports from Select Committees ...	60-61
GENERAL PROVISIONS		
77	Absence of Members	61-62
78	Employment of Members in professional capacity	62
79	Report of Debates ...	62
80	Visitors ...	62-63
81	Press ...	63
82	Practice of Parliament ...	63-64

<i>Standing Order</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>
	SUSPENSION, AMENDMENT AND REVOCATION	
83	Suspension of Standing Orders	64
84	Amendment of Standing Orders	64
85	Revocation	65
	Appendix (Forms of Oaths and Affirmations) ...	65

1. Title and Commencement

These Standing Orders may be cited as the

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING ORDERS, 1993

and shall commence on the 1st day of September 1993.

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

2. Oath of Allegiance

(1) Except for the purpose of electing a Speaker and Deputy Speaker after a general election, no Member of the House shall take part in the proceedings thereof until he has made and subscribed the oath of affirmation or allegiance in the form set out in the Appendix to these Orders, in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Constitution of Grenada.

(2) Immediately following the election of a Speaker and Deputy Speaker after a general election, the Clerk shall administer the oath before the House, first to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker and then to the other Members.

(3) At any other time, the oath shall be administered by the Clerk immediately after Prayers.

3. Election of Speaker

(1) Whenever it is necessary, in accordance with section 34(1) of the Constitution, for the House to elect a person to be Speaker, whether after a general election or when a vacancy in the office of Speaker has occurred in any other way, the procedure for the election shall be as provided in this Order.

(2) Only a person specified in section 34(2) of the Constitution may be elected as Speaker.

(3) Any Member, having first ascertained that the Member or other person to be proposed is willing to serve if elected, may, addressing himself to the Clerk, propose that Member or other person then present, to the House as Speaker. No debate on this proposal shall be allowed.

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

(5) If more than one person is so proposed, the House shall proceed to elect a Speaker by ballot.

(6) The procedure for the holding of a ballot shall be as follows:

- (a) Every Member present shall, if he desires, write upon a ballot-paper to be supplied to him by the Clerk the name of the person so proposed whom he desires to be Speaker.
- (b) The Clerk shall then call the names of all the Members and each Member who so desires shall, as his name is called, come to the Table and drop his ballot-paper into the glass thereon provided for the purpose in such a manner as not to disclose his vote.
- (c) When all Members who wish to do so have dropped their ballot-papers into the glass, the Clerk shall examine the ballot-papers and report the result of the ballot.
- (d) If no person receives a majority of votes, but two or more persons receive the same number of votes, and that number of votes exceeds the number of votes received by every other person, a second ballot shall be taken in the manner prescribed in the preceding subparagraphs, save that no vote shall be cast for any person except one or other of the persons who received an equal number of votes.

- (e) If upon the holding of the second ballot, referred to in subparagraph (d) of this paragraph, two or more persons receive an equal number of votes, subsequent ballots shall be held until one person has been duly elected.
- (f) A Member shall not drop any ballot-paper into the glass save his own.
- (g) A Member who arrives after the names of the Members have been called and before the Clerk has begun his examination of the ballot-papers, shall be entitled to record his vote in the manner prescribed in this Standing Order.

4. Election of Deputy Speaker

(1) Wherever it is necessary, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Constitution, for the House to elect a Member to be Deputy Speaker, the election shall be conducted in a similar manner to the election of the Speaker, save that the Speaker shall preside.

(2) Only a Member specified in section 34(3) of the Constitution may be elected as Deputy Speaker.

5. Presiding in the House and in Committee of the whole House

(1) The Speaker, or in his absence the Deputy Speaker, or in their absence a Member of the House (not being a Member of the Cabinet or the Leader of the Opposition) elected by the House for the sitting, shall preside at the sittings of the House and shall act as Chairman of Committees of the whole House.

(2) Save as otherwise provided in these Standing Orders, the Deputy Speaker, or other Member presiding, shall have all the authority and power of the Speaker when presiding or otherwise performing the function of the Speaker.

(3) The Speaker may, without any formal communication to the House or to the Committee, request the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair.

(4) The Speaker in the House and the Chairman in Committee shall have power to regulate the conduct of business in all matters not provided for in these Standing Orders.

(5) The Speaker shall be responsible for the management and general administration of the House.

(6) The decision in all cases for which these Standing Orders do not provide shall lie within the discretion of the Speaker, and shall not be open to challenge.

6. Duties of the Clerk

(1) The Clerk shall be responsible for keeping the Minutes of proceedings of the House and of Committees of the whole House, which shall record the names of Members attending, all decisions taken and details of every division held.

(2) The Clerk shall submit the Minutes of proceedings of each sitting to the Speaker for his signature and shall then circulate copies thereof to Members before the commencement of the next sitting.

(3) At the end of each session, the Clerk shall cause to be prepared and placed in the records of the House a bound volume containing the Minutes of proceedings of that session, marked with all such corrections as the Speaker may have directed to be made therein.

(4) The Clerk shall be responsible for preparing from day to day an Order Book showing all business appointed for any future day and any notices of questions or motions which have been set down for a future day whether for a day named or not. The Order Book shall be open for inspection by Members at all reasonable hours.

(5) The Clerk shall be responsible for preparing for each sitting an Order Paper containing the business for that sitting, and shall cause the Order Paper to be circulated to Members at least six days before that sitting except in the case of a sitting of the House under the provisions of standing Order No. 12 (Special Sittings), in which event the Order Paper shall if practicable be circulated at least one day earlier than the day on which the sitting is to be held.

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

(7) It shall be the responsibility of the Clerk to provide every Select Committee of the House with a clerk and, if so required by the Committee, a short-hand writer.

(8) The Clerk, on the authority of the Speaker, shall give to the other officers and staff of the House such other directions as are necessary concerning the performance of their duties pertaining to the House and its Committees.

7. Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms

It shall be the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms, on the authority of the Speaker and under any directions which may be given by the Clerk of the House under the provisions of Standing Order No. 6 (Duties of the Clerk):

- (1) to attend upon the Speaker with the Mace, on entering or leaving the Chamber;
- (2) to remove or cause or ensure the removal of persons directed by the Speaker to withdraw;
- (3) to maintain or cause to be maintained order in the lobby, passages and the precincts of the House.

The Police Orderlies on duty in the House shall be under the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

LANGUAGE

8. Language

(1) The proceedings and debates of the House shall be in the English language.

(2) Every petition shall be in the English language.

QUORUM

9. Quorum

(1) The quorum of the House and of a Committee of the whole House shall consist of five (5) Members excluding the Member in the Chair.

(2) If any Member draws the attention of the Speaker of the House or of the Chairman in Committee of the whole House to the fact that a quorum is not present, the Speaker or Chairman as the case may be shall direct Members to be summoned as if for a division.

(3) When the order to summon Members has been given in the House the Speaker shall, after the expiration of five minutes, count the Members in the House. If a quorum is not present, he shall adjourn the House without question put.

(4) When the order to summon Members has been given in Committee of the whole House the Chairman shall, after the expiration of two minutes, count the Committee. If he ascertains that a quorum is not present, he shall leave the Chair, the House shall resume and the Speaker shall count the House. If a quorum is then present, the House shall again resolve itself into Committee; but if a quorum is not present, the Speaker shall adjourn the House without question put.

(5) If, from the number of Members taking part in a division, including those Members who declined to vote, it appears that a quorum is not present, the division shall be invalid, the business then under consideration shall stand over until the next sitting, and the House or Committee shall be counted in accordance with paragraph (3) or paragraph (4) of this Order.

SITTINGS AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

10. Ordinary Sittings

(1) Subject to the provisions of Standing Order No. 15 (periodic Adjournments), the House shall ordinarily sit during the third Tuesday in each month commencing at the hour of Ten o'clock in the forenoon and shall proceed with business in the order set down in Standing Order No. 16 (Order of Business) and Standing Order No. 24 (Arrangement of Public Business).

(2) If all the business which stands upon the Order Paper has been disposed of before six o'clock in the afternoon and the motion for the adjournment is not moved by a Member, the Speaker shall adjourn the House without putting any question: Provided that if, as soon as the last item of business has been disposed of, a Member rises in his place and moves the adjournment of the House, the Speaker shall not adjourn the House under the provisions of this paragraph until that motion has been disposed of or after the expiration of half an hour after that motion was made, whichever is the earlier.

(3) If at six o'clock in the afternoon all the business which has precedence on that day has been disposed of, the proceedings on any remaining business which may still be under consideration shall be interrupted; and, if the House is in Committee, the Chairman shall leave the Chair and report progress and ask leave to sit again.

(4) After the disposal of any business interrupted at six o'clock under the provisions of paragraph (3) of this Standing Order, no opposed business shall be taken, and the Speaker shall act in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (2) of this Standing Order.

(5) If at six o'clock in the afternoon the business which has precedence on that day has not been disposed of, the Speaker shall interrupt the business (or, if the House is in Committee, the Chairman shall leave the Chair and report progress and ask leave to sit again); and the Speaker shall then suspend the sitting, and the provisions of Standing Order No. 11 (Suspended Sittings) shall apply.

(6) The business shall not be interrupted in the House or in Committee under the provisions of paragraphs (3) or (5) of this Standing Order until the result of any division then in progress has been declared; and on the interruption of business the closure may be claimed, and if moved, or if proceedings under Standing Order No. 41 (Closure of Debate) are then in progress, the proceedings shall not be interrupted until the questions thereon have been decided.

(7) For the purposes of this Standing Order and of Standing Order No. 11 (Suspended Sittings) the term "business which has precedence" shall be taken to mean—

- (a) at any sitting other than the second ordinary sitting each month, Government business; and
- (b) at the second ordinary sitting each month, business other than Government business in the order set out in paragraph (4) of Standing Order No. 24 (Arrangement of Public Business).

11. Suspended Sittings

(1) Any sitting suspended under the provisions of paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 10 (Ordinary Sittings) shall be resumed at ten o'clock on the following morning and the House shall then forthwith resume any suspended proceedings and may thereafter proceed with the remaining business standing upon the Order Paper: Provided that if all the business which had precedence on the previous day is disposed

of before six o'clock in the afternoon, no further business shall be taken unless unopposed, and the Speaker shall act in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 10 (Ordinary Sittings).

(2) If at six o'clock in the afternoon on a day to which a sitting of the House has been suspended the business which had precedence on the previous day has not been disposed of, that business shall be interrupted subject to the provisions of paragraph (6) of Standing Order No. 10 (Ordinary Sittings), and the Speaker shall act in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (2) of that Standing Order.

12. Special Sittings

(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, if at any time when the House stands adjourned the Speaker is satisfied that there is urgent necessity for the House to meet upon some day earlier than the day to which the House stands adjourned, he may, subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this Order, direct the Clerk to summon a sitting of the House for such time, upon such day not being earlier than the day after the day on which the direction is given, as the Speaker may in his absolute discretion determine:

Provided that the Speaker shall issue the direction referred to in this paragraph whenever it is represented to him in writing either by a Minister or by more than half of the Members for the time being elected to the House that the public interest so requires.

(2) Every direction under paragraph (1) of this Order shall be in writing and shall be signed by the Speaker and shall bear the date upon which it is given to the Clerk and shall specify the business to be transacted at the sitting to which it relates.

(3) Forthwith upon receipt of any direction under paragraph (1) of this Order the Clerk shall inform every Member of the House of the day

and time appointed by the Speaker for holding the special sitting of the House and of the business to be transacted at such sitting.

(4) No business other than the business specified in the direction under paragraph (1) of this Order shall be transacted at any special sitting of the House under this Standing Order except by leave of the House.

13. Adjournment

(1) Save as provided elsewhere in these Standing Orders, the House may be adjourned at any time by a vote of the majority of the Members present, or by the Speaker under the provisions of Standing Orders No. 10 (Ordinary Sittings), II (Suspended Sittings) or 44 (Order in the House and in Committee).

(2) On a motion made for the adjournment, and when necessary seconded, the Speaker shall propose the question to the House, and after debate, if any, shall then put the question for the decision of the House.

(3) On a motion for the adjournment of the House, any Member may rise and speak on any matter of public importance up to a limit often (10) minutes.

14. Adjournment of the House on matters of urgent public importance

(1) At any ordinary sitting a Member rising in his place at the commencement of public business may propose to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a specific matter of urgent public importance, stating the specific matter he wants discussed. If the Speaker is satisfied that the matter is proper to be so discussed he shall forthwith put the question whether such motion shall be made.

(2) In determining whether a matter is proper to be discussed under paragraph 1 of this Order, the Speaker shall have regard to the extent

to which it concerns the administrative responsibilities of Ministers or could come within the scope of ministerial action, and the probability of the matter being brought before the House in time by other means.

(3) The Speaker shall state whether or not he is satisfied that a matter is proper to be discussed without giving to the House the reasons for his decision.

15. Periodic Adjournments

A motion, of which notice shall be required, may be made by a Minister for the adjournment of the House from a specified day to another specified day and., if such motion is agreed to, the House shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 10 (Ordinary Sittings), stand adjourned from its rising on the first day so specified until ten o'clock in the morning on the second day so specified.

ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

16. Order of Business

Unless the House otherwise directs, the business of each sitting day shall be transacted in the following order:-

- (a) Formal entry of the Speaker.
- (b) Prayers.
- (c) Oath of allegiance or affirmation of a new Member.
- (d) Confirmation of Minutes.
- (e) Messages from the Governor-General.
- (f) Announcements by the Speaker.

- (g) Presentation of Petitions.
- (h) Presentation of Papers and Reports from Select and Standing Committees.
- (i) Unopposed private business.
- (j) Questions.
- (k) Urgent Questions under the provisions of Standing Order No. 20(1) (Notice of Questions).
- (l) Statements by Ministers.
(Under this provision, a Minister of the Crown may make statements or announcements for not more than ten (10) minutes.)
- (m) Personal explanations.
- (n) Motions.
- (o) Bills.
- (p) Requests for leave to move the adjournment of the House on matters of urgent public importance.
- (q) Public Business.

PETITIONS AND PAPERS

17. Presentation of Petitions

(1) Every Petition intended to be presented to the House shall conclude with a prayer setting forth the general object of the Petition.

(2) A Petition shall not be presented to the House unless it shall have been endorsed by the Clerk as being in accordance with the rules in regard to Petitions.

(3) The Member presenting a Petition may state concisely the purport of the Petition.

(4) All Petitions shall be ordered to lie upon the Table without question put unless a Member presenting a Petition move for it to be read, printed or referred to a Select Committee.

(5) The House will not receive any Petition:

- (a) which is not addressed to the House and which is not properly and respectfully worded;
- (b) which has not at least one signature on the sheet on which the prayer of the Petition appears and which has not at least the prayer at the head of each subsequent sheet of signatures; or
- (c) except on the recommendation of the Governor-General, signified by a Minister, which in the opinion of the Speaker would dispose of or charge any public revenue or public funds or alter any disposition thereof or charge thereon, or impose, alter or repeal any rate, tax or duty.

18. Presentation of Papers

(1) Every paper which is presented shall be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.

(2) A Member presenting a paper may make a short explanatory statement of its contents.

(3) All papers presented to the House shall be ordered to lie upon the Table without question put and any motion for the printing thereof shall be determined without amendment or debate.

QUESTIONS

19. Nature of Questions

Questions may be put to Ministers relating to public affairs for which they are officially responsible. Where there is no Minister in the House who is exclusively responsible for the matter forming the subject of a question, such question may be put to the Prime Minister.

20. Notice of Questions

(1) A question shall not be asked without notice, unless it is of an urgent character or relates to the business of the day and the Member has obtained the leave of the Speaker to ask it.

(2) In giving notice of any question a Member shall state whether he requires an oral answer.

(3) The reply to any question shall be given at the next ordinary sitting of the House provided that the Member asking the question shall have given notice in writing of his intention to ask the same before the adjournment of the House at the ordinary or suspended sitting (as the case may be) preceding the sitting at which the question is to be asked, or at least seven clear days before that sitting, whichever is the later. The reply shall be circulated with the Minutes of Proceedings.

(4) Notice of a question may be handed to the Clerk when the House is sitting, or may be sent to or left at the office of the Clerk at anytime during office hours. Every such notice must be signed by the Member giving it.

21. Contents of Questions

(1) The right to ask a question shall be subject to the following general rules, as to the interpretation of which the Speaker shall be the sole judge:—

- (a) The proper object of a question is to obtain information on a question of fact within the official cognisance of the Minister to whom it is addressed, or to ask for official action.
- (b) A question shall not include the names of persons, or any statements of fact, unless they be necessary to render the question intelligible.
- (c) If a question contains a statement of fact, the Member asking it shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement, and no question shall be based upon a newspaper report or upon an unofficial publication.
- (d) No member shall address the House upon any question, and a question shall not be made the pretext for a debate.
- (e) Not more than one subject shall be referred to in anyone question, and a question shall not be of excessive length.
- (f) A question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets, ironical expressions or hypothetical cases.
- (g) A question shall not be asked—
 - (i) which raises an issue already decided in the House or which has been answered fully during the current session, or to which an answer has been refused;
 - (ii) seeking information about matters which are in their nature secret;

- (iii) regarding proceedings in a Committee which have not been placed before the House by a report from the Committee;
 - (iv) which deals with matters referred to a Committee of Enquiry or within the jurisdiction of the Chairman of a Select Committee;
 - (v) as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity;
 - (vi) about any matter then pending before any Court of Justice or which reflects on the decision of a Court of Justice;
 - (vii) reflecting on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion under Standing Order 38 (Contents of Speeches);
 - (viii) asking whether statements in the Press, or of private individuals, or of unofficial bodies are accurate;
 - (ix) the answer to which can be found by reference to an official publication; or
 - (x) referring discourteously to, or seeking information about, the internal affairs of any country within the Commonwealth or of a friendly foreign country.
- (h) A question shall not solicit the expression of an opinion, or the solution of an abstract legal question, or of a hypothetical proposition.
- (i) A member shall not be permitted to ask more than three (3) questions requiring oral reply at anyone sitting of the House.

(2) If the Speaker is of the opinion that any question of which a Member has given notice to the Clerk complies with the provisions of these Standing Orders, he shall direct that the question be entered in the Order Book.

(3) If the Speaker is of the opinion that any question of which a Member has given notice to the Clerk infringes the provisions of any Standing Order or is in any way an abuse of the right of questioning, he may direct—

- (a) that the Member concerned be informed that the question is out of order, stating the defect in the question, in which case the question shall not be entered in the Order Book; or
- (b) that the question be entered in the Order Book with such alteration as he may direct.

22. Manner of Asking and Answering Questions

(1) At the time appointed for the oral asking and answering of questions under Standing Order No. 16 (Order of Business), the Speaker shall call in turn upon each Member in whose name a question stands upon the Order Paper in the order in which the questions are printed. Each Member so called shall rise in his place and ask the question by reference to its number on the Order Paper, and the Minister questioned shall give his reply, either personally himself or through another Minister deputed by him to do so.

(2) After the answer to a question has been given, supplementary questions may, at the discretion of the Speaker, be put for the purpose of elucidating the answer given orally, but the Speaker may refuse any such question which in his opinion introduces matters not relevant to the original question, or which infringes any of the provisions of Standing Order No. 21 (Contents of Questions), and may in that case direct that such question be not reported in the Official Report.

(3) When all the questions for which an oral answer is required have been called the Speaker may call again any question which has not been asked by reason of the absence of the Member in whose name it stands; in which case a Member can ask a question for another Member if deputed by him to do so. The Speaker shall also call again any question which has not been answered by reason of the absence of the Member to whom it is addressed; in which case the questions may be answered by another Member if deputed to do so by the Member to whom the question is addressed,

(4) A Minister may decline to answer a question, if the publication of the answer would in his opinion be contrary to the public interest.

(5) Not more than three questions requiring an oral answer shall appear on the Order Paper in the name of the same Member for the same sitting.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

23. Non-Controversial Matters

A Member may make a personal explanation at the time appointed under Standing Order No. 16 (Order of Business) although there is no question before the House: but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the explanation.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

24. Arrangement of Public Business

(1) Save as provided for in paragraph (4) below, the order of Public Business at every ordinary sitting shall be as follows:

1. Government Business;
2. Private Members' Motions; and
3. Private Members' Bills,

(2) Government Business shall be set down in such order as the Government thinks fit.

(3) Private Members' Motions shall, save as provided for in paragraph (5) below, be set down in the order in which notice of each motion was given.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Order, the order of public business at the second ordinary sitting each month shall be as follows:

1. Opposition Business;
2. Private Members' Motions;
3. Private Members' Bills and other Orders of the Day; and
4. Government Business.

(5) Opposition Business shall consist of Motions or Bills in the name of the Leader of the Opposition; or Private Members Motions or Bills set down in such order as the Leader of the Opposition thinks fit.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

25. Questions for Debate

(1) Except upon the recommendation of the Governor-General signified by a Minister, the House shall not proceed upon any motion or amendment to a motion the effect of which, in the opinion of the Speaker, is that provision should be made for disposing of or charging any public revenue or public funds; or altering any disposition thereof or charge thereon; or imposing, altering or repealing any tax, rate or duty.

(2) The signification of the recommendation of the Governor-General shall be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.

26. Notices of Motions or Amendments

(1) Where under any Standing Order notice is required such notice shall be given in writing, signed by the Member and addressed to the Clerk. Such notice shall be handed to the Clerk, or sent to, or left at the Clerk's office during office hours; and in any event must reach the Clerk at least seven days before the sitting at which it is to be discussed, or before the adjournment of the House at the ordinary or suspended sitting (as the case may be) preceding the sitting at which it is to be discussed, whichever is the later.

(2) Any such notices shall be printed and circulated to Members of the House in the manner prescribed by the Speaker on a day not less than four days before the next sitting of the House.

(3) The Clerk shall indicate the day upon which a notice was handed in, unless it be a notice for the next sitting of the House or an amendment to a bill.

(4) Any such notice shall be printed in the form in which it is handed in or with such modifications or alterations as the Speaker with the consent of the Member concerned shall direct:

Provided that the Speaker shall disallow a notice if it conflicts with the provisions of the Constitution or of these Standing Orders, and in that case it shall be returned by the Clerk to the Member endorsed with a note of the reason why the Speaker disallowed it.

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

(6) A notice given orally in the House shall not have any force after that sitting of the House unless it be supplemented by a notice given in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Order.

(7) Not more than three notices of motions in the name of a Member other than a Minister may be entered on the Order Paper of any sitting.

(8) With the consent of the Speaker, a notice of a Government motion may be placed upon the Order Paper for the sitting on the day following that on which it was given to the Clerk:

Provided that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a motion referred to in Standing Orders Nos. 15 (Periodic Adjournments) or 84 (Amendment of Standing Orders).

27. Exemption from Notice

Unless these Standing Orders otherwise provide, notice shall be given of any motion which it is proposed to make, with the exception of the following:—

- (a) a motion for the amendment of any motion;
- (b) a motion for the adjournment of a debate or of the House (other than a motion under Standing Order No. 15 (Periodic Adjournments»);
- (e) a motion for the election of a temporary presiding officer under paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 5 (Presiding in the House and in Committee);
- (d) a motion for the suspension of any of these Standing Orders made with the leave of the Speaker;

- (e) a motion for the withdrawal of visitors;
- (f) a motion that the House resolve itself into Committee;
- (g) a motion made in Committee of the whole House;
- (h) a motion for the suspension of a Member;
- (i) a motion that a petition do lie upon the Table and be read, printed or referred to a Select Committee;
- (j) a motion for the printing of a paper under paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 18 (Presentation of Papers);
- (k) a motion relating to a matter of privilege;
- (l) a motion arising out of any item of business made immediately after that item is disposed of and before the next item is entered upon;
- (m) a motion to recommit a bill under paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 58 (Recommittal of Bills reported from Committee of the whole House);
- (n) a motion for the withdrawal of a bill under Standing Order No. 65 (Withdrawal of Bills);
- (o) a motion in respect of which notice has been dispensed with under Standing Order No. 28 (Dispensing With Notice);
- (p) a motion that the report of a Select Committee be referred to a Committee of the whole House;
- (q) a motion that the House adopt the report of a Committee of the whole House.

28. Dispensing with Notice

Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a motion or in respect of any proceedings for which notice is required, except with the consent of the Speaker and the assent of the Members.

29. Privilege Motions

(1) A motion directly concerning the privileges of the House shall take precedence over all other public business.

(2) If during a sitting of the House a matter suddenly arises which appears to involve the privileges of the House and which calls for the immediate intervention of the House, the proceedings may be interrupted, save during the progress of a division, by a motion based on such matter.

30. Moving of Motions

(1) Subject to the Constitution and to these Standing Orders, it shall be competent for any Member to propose by way of a motion any matter for debate in the House.

(2) On a motion made, and when necessary seconded, the Speaker shall propose the question to the House, and after debate, if any, shall then put the question for the decision of the House.

(3) If a motion embodies two or more separate propositions, the propositions may be proposed by the Speaker as separate questions.

(4) If a Member desires to vary the terms of a motion standing in his name, he may do so by giving an amended notice of motion:

Provided that such amendment does not, in the opinion of the Speaker, materially alter any principle embodied in the original motion or the scope thereof;

Provided further that such amended notice of motion shall run from the time at which the original notice of motion was given.

31. Seconding of Motions

(1) In the House the question upon a motion or amendment shall not be proposed by the Speaker unless such motion or amendment has been seconded:

Provided that Government Business shall not require seconding.

(2) In Committee a seconder shall not be required.

32. Motions not Moved or Seconded

(1) If a Member does not move a motion or amendment which stands in his name when he is called on, it shall be removed from the Order Paper unless some other Member, duly authorised by him in writing, move it in his stead:

Provided that Government Business may be moved by any Minister.

(2) No question shall be proposed upon a motion or amendment, which under these Standing Orders is required to be seconded, if it is not so seconded, and no record of proceedings upon the motion or amendment shall be entered in the Minutes of Proceedings.

33. Withdrawal of Motions

(1) A motion may be withdrawn, at the request of the mover, after it has been moved, by leave of the House or Committee, before the question is put thereon.

(2) A motion so withdrawn may be made again; provided that notice, as required by these Orders, is given.

(3) If an amendment has been proposed to a question the original motion cannot be withdrawn until the amendment has been disposed of.

34. Amendment of Motions

(1) When any motion is under consideration in the House or in a Committee thereof an amendment may be proposed to the motion if it is relevant thereto.

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

(3) An amendment to a motion may be moved and seconded at any time after the question upon the motion has been proposed by the Speaker or Chairman, and before it has been put by the Speaker or Chairman at the conclusion of the debate upon the motion. When every such amendment has been disposed of, the Speaker or Chairman shall either again propose the question upon the motion as amended, as the case may require, and after any further debate which may arise thereon, shall put the question to the House or Committee for its decision.

- (4) (a) Upon any amendment, the question to be proposed shall be "That the Amendment be made".
- (b) When two or more amendments are proposed to be moved to the same motion, the Speaker shall call upon the movers in the order in which their amendments relate to the text of the motion, or in case of doubt in such order as he shall decide.
- (c) Any amendment may be withdrawn at the request of the mover, by leave of the House before the question is put thereon.
- (5) (a) Any amendment to an amendment which a Member wishes to propose may be moved at any time after the question upon the original amendment has been proposed, and before it has been put at the conclusion of the debate on the original amendment.

- (b) Upon any amendment to a proposed amendment, the question to be proposed shall be “That the amendment to the proposed amendment be made”.
- (c) When every such amendment to an amendment has been disposed of the Speaker shall either again propose the question upon the original amendment, or shall propose the question upon the original amendment as amended, as the case may require.

(6) Any amendment, whether in the House or in Committee of the whole House, shall, if so required by the Speaker or the Chairman, be put into writing by the mover and delivered to the Clerk before the question is proposed thereon.

(7) When the question upon an amendment to a motion has been proposed by the Speaker or Chairman, an earlier part of the motion may not be amended unless the amendment under discussion is withdrawn.

(8) An amendment shall not raise any question which, by these Standing Orders, can only be raised by substantive motion after notice.

RULES OF DEBATE

35. Time and Manner of Speaking

(1) A Member desiring to speak shall rise in his place and if called upon shall address the Chair. No Member shall speak unless called upon by the Speaker or Chairman.

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

(2a) The member introducing the bill shall speak for no more than 30 minutes, and any other member who shall speak on the bill shall speak for a maximum of 15 minutes; the member concluding the debate shall be allowed no more than 30 minutes. In each case the Speaker may allow an additional 5 minutes at his discretion.

- (3) No Member shall speak more than once on any question except—
- (a) in Committee;
 - (b) in the case of a mover of a substantive motion, or the Member in charge of a bill, in reply;
 - (c) on an interruption made in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 37 (Interruptions); or
 - (d) in accordance with paragraph (7) of this Order: Provided that any Member may, without prejudice to his right to speak at a later period of the debate, second a motion or amendment by rising in his place and stating that it is his intention to second the motion or amendment; or
 - (e) in accordance with paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 36. (Right of Reply); or
 - (j) in accordance with subparagraph (v) of paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 40 (Budget Debate).

(4) A Member who has spoken may speak again when a further question has been proposed by the Speaker or Chairman, such as a proposed amendment or motion for the adjournment of the debate.

(5) A Member shall not read his speech but may read extracts from books or papers in support of his argument; provided that such extracts are reasonably short; and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.

(6) No Member may speak on any question after it has been put to the vote by the Speaker or Chairman, that is, after the voices of the Ayes and the Noes have been collected.

(7) A Member who has spoken on a question may again be heard to offer explanation of some material part of his speech which he claims has been misrepresented, but he shall not introduce new matter.

36. Right of Reply

(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this Order, the mover of a motion may reply after all the other Members present have had an opportunity of addressing the House and before the question is put, and after such reply no other Member may speak, except as provided in paragraph (2) of this Order.

(2) A Minister may conclude any debate in which any contribution is critical of the Government, or reflects adversely on or is calculated to bring discredit upon the Government or a Government Officer:

Provided that under this paragraph a Minister may speak more than once.

37. Interruptions

No Member shall interrupt another Member except:—

- (a) by rising on a point of order, when the Member speaking shall resume his seat and the Member interrupting shall simply direct attention to the point which he desires to bring to notice and submit to the Speaker or Chairman for decision; or
- (b) to elucidate some matter raised by that Member in the course 'of his speech: provided that the Member speaking is willing to give way and resume his seat and that the Member wishing to interrupt is called by the Chair.

38. Contents of Speeches

(1) References shall not be made to any matter which is *sub judice*, in such a way as might in the opinion of the Chair prejudice the interests of the parties thereto.

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

(3) It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House or members of the Senate.

(4) A Member shall be referred to by the names of the Constituency which he has been elected to represent in the House.

(5) No Member shall impute improper motives to any Member of the House, or any member of the Senate.

(6) Neither Her Majesty's nor the Governor-General's name shall be used to influence the House.

(7) The conduct of Her Majesty and Members of the Royal Family shall not be called in question.

(8) The conduct of the Governor-General or Acting or Deputy Governor-General, the Speaker, Members of the House, Members of the Senate or Judges of the Supreme Court and other persons engaged in the administration of justice shall not be raised except upon substantive motion moved for the purpose.

39. Scope of Debate

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

(2) On an amendment proposing only to leave out words or to add or insert words, debate shall be confined to the omission or addition or insertion of such words respectively.

(3) Debate upon any motion "That the debate be now adjourned," or "That this House do now adjourn", if moved during any debate, or in

Committee upon any motion “That the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again,” shall be confined to the matter of such motion; and a Member who has made or seconded such motion shall not be entitled to move or second any similar motion during the same debate.

- (4) (i) It shall be out of order to anticipate a bill by discussion upon a motion dealing with the subject matter of the bill.
- (ii) It shall be out of order to anticipate a bill or a notice of motion by discussion upon an amendment or a motion for the adjournment of the House.
- (iii) In determining whether discussion is out of order on the grounds of anticipation, regard shall be had by the Chair to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time.

40. Budget Debate

(1) On the presentation of and debate on the annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure (the Budget) in the House, the following roles shall apply:

- i) the Minister of Finance in presenting the said Estimates in his Budget Speech may speak as long as he wishes;
- ii) the Leader of the Opposition or any other Member of the Opposition designated by the Leader of the Opposition in replying to the Minister of Finance may speak as long as the Minister of Finance spoke under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, or for two hours, whichever is the greater;
- iii) the Prime Minister, if different from the Minister of Finance, may speak as long as the Minister of Finance spoke under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, or for two hours, whichever is the greater;
- iv) all other Members, including Ministers, may speak for one hour;

- v) the Minister finally concluding the debate, whether the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance or any other Minister designated by the Prime Minister, may speak for one and a half hours in addition to his earlier speech on the Budget if he had already so spoken.

(2) In every case the Speaker may allow a Member an extended period of time not exceeding fifteen minutes in the discretion of the Speaker.

41. Closure of Debate

(1) After a question has been proposed any Member may at any time during the course of debate rise in his place and claim to move “That the question be now put” and unless it appears to the Chair that the motion is an abuse of the rules of the House or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question “That the question be now put” shall be forthwith put. No debate on that motion shall be allowed, and if the motion is carried, the debate then before the House shall cease and the question before the House shall be put forthwith.

(2) When the motion “That the question be now put” has been carried, and the question consequent thereon has been decided, any Member may claim that any other question already proposed from the Chair be now put and if the assent of the Chair is given such question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

(3) The provision of this Order shall apply only when, in the House, the Speaker, or in Committee the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is in the Chair.

42. Rules for Members not Speaking

A Member present in the House during a debate—

- (a) shall enter or leave the House with decorum;
- (b) shall not read books, newspapers, letters or other documents save such as relate to the business before the House;

- (c) shall maintain silence while another Member is speaking, and shall not interrupt, except in accordance with these Standing Orders; and
- (d) shall otherwise conduct himself in a fit and proper manner.

RULES OF ORDER

43. Responsibility for Order in the House and in Committee

(1) The Speaker in the House and the Chairman in Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the House and Committee respectively and their decisions upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a substantive motion made after notice.

(2) When the Speaker or Chairman rises, any Member then speaking or wishing to speak shall immediately resume his seat and the House, or the Committee, shall be silent.

44. Order in the House and in Committee

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

(2) The Speaker or the Chairman shall order any Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's sitting and may direct such steps to be taken as are required to enforce this Standing Order. But if, on any occasion, the Speaker or the Chairman considers that his powers to order such Member to withdraw are inadequate, the Speaker, or Chairman as the case may be, may name such Member for disregarding the authority of the Chair under this Standing Order, in which event the procedure prescribed in the next succeeding paragraph should be followed.

(3) Whenever a Member has been named by the Speaker or by the Chairman, then:—

- (a) if the offence has been committed in the House, the Speaker shall call upon a Minister to move “That the Honourable Member for ... be suspended from the service of the House.” The Speaker shall put the question on such motion forthwith, no seconder being required, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed;
- (b) if the offence has been committed in Committee, the Chairman shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee and, as soon as the House has resumed, shall report the circumstances, whereupon the procedure provided for in the preceding subparagraph shall be followed;
- (c) if any such motion is carried, and the Member is suspended, his suspension on the first occasion shall continue until the next sitting of the House, and on the second occasion until the expiration of two sittings and on the third or any subsequent occasion until the House resolve that such suspension be terminated;
- (d) any remuneration to which a Member is entitled as a Member of the House shall cease for the period of his suspension;
- (e) a Member who is ordered to withdraw or who is suspended under this Standing Order shall, during the period of such withdrawal or suspension, forfeit all rights and privileges of membership including the right of access to the Chamber.

(4) Not more than one Member shall be named at the same time, unless several Members present together have jointly committed the offence.

(5) A Member who is ordered to withdraw or who is suspended under this Standing Order shall forthwith leave the House and its precincts.

(6) If any Member who has been ordered to withdraw or who has been suspended under this Standing Order refuses at any time to obey the order of the Speaker to withdraw from the House and its precincts, the Speaker shall call attention of the House to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his order, and the Member named by him as having so refused his order shall thereupon without further question be suspended from the service of the House during the remainder of the session.

(7) If resort to force is necessary, the Speaker may cause such force as is necessary for removing the Members to be used and may suspend the sitting during the removal of the Member.

(8) A Member who is ordered to withdraw or who is suspended under this Standing Order shall not be entitled to attend the sitting from which he was ordered to withdraw or in a case of suspension to attend any sitting or enter the precincts of the House until the termination of his suspension.

(9) In the case of grave disorder arising in the House, the Speaker may, if he thinks it necessary to do so, adjourn the House without question put, or suspend the sitting for a time to be named by him.

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

(11) For the purposes of this Order in the terms “the precincts of the House” and “the House and its precincts”, the word “precincts” shall be taken to mean any room in York House, or any other building, in which the House may from time to time be sitting, which is allocated for the use of the House and any lobby or corridor leading exclusively to any such room.

VOTING

45. Decisions on Questions

(1) Save as otherwise provided in the Constitution or in these Standing Orders, all questions proposed for decision in the House or in Committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of those present and voting.

(2) Save as provided in the proviso to section 43(2) of the Constitution, neither the Speaker nor any other Member presiding shall vote, unless on any question the votes are equally divided, in which case, except as provided in paragraph (3) of this Standing Order, he shall have and exercise a casting vote.

(3) In accordance with section 43(3) of the Constitution, a Speaker who is elected from among persons who are not Members of the House of Representatives shall have neither an original nor a casting vote, and if, upon any question before the House when such Speaker is presiding, the votes of the Members are equally divided, the motion shall be lost.

46. Collection of Voices

(1) At the conclusion of a debate upon any question the Speaker or Chairman shall put that question for the decision of the House, and shall collect the voices of the Ayes and the Noes, after which no further debate may take place upon that question.

(2) The result shall be declared by the Speaker or Chairman stating “I think the Ayes have it” or “I think the Noes have it” as the case maybe, but any Member may challenge the opinion of the Chair by claiming a division.

47. Divisions

(1) A division shall be taken by the Clerk calling each Member’s name and asking each Member separately how he desires to vote and recording

the vote accordingly. The Clerk shall then announce the number of those who have voted for and of those who have voted against the proposal and the Speaker or Chairman shall declare the result of the division.

(2) Every Member present, unless he expressly says that he abstains from voting, shall record his vote either for the Ayes or the Noes. The Clerk shall enter in the Minutes of Proceedings the record of each Member's vote and shall add a statement of the names of Members who abstained from voting.

(3) If a Member states that he voted in error or that his vote has been counted wrongly, he may claim to have his vote altered:

Provided that the claim is made as soon as the Clerk has announced the numbers and before the Chair has declared the result of the division;

Provided further that upon the claim being made, the Speaker or Chairman at his discretion shall either direct the Clerk to alter that Member's vote or direct that a fresh division be held.

PROCEDURE ON BILLS

48. Introduction and First Reading

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this Order any Member may move for leave to introduce a bill of which he has given notice; but a bill may be presented to the House on behalf of the Government after notice without an order of the House for its introduction.

(2) Except upon the recommendation of the Governor-General signified by a Minister and recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings. the House shall not receive any bill and shall not proceed upon any motion for leave to introduce any bill which, in the opinion of the Speaker, would make provision for disposing of or charging any public revenue or public funds; or altering any disposition thereof or charge thereon; or imposing, altering or repealing any tax, rate, or duty.

(3) A bill, whether presented in pursuance of an order of the House after leave is given or without such order, shall be handed to the Clerk at the Table by the Member who gave notice of the bill, if not previously lodged with the Clerk. The Clerk shall then read aloud the short title of the bill, which shall then be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings as having been read a first time and ordered to be printed.

(4) When a bill has been brought from the Senate and a Member has signified to the Clerk his willingness to take charge of the bill, that bill shall be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings as having been read a first time and ordered to be printed, if not yet printed, and shall be read a second time at that sitting or at the next sitting or at such subsequent sitting as the Member in charge of the bill may name.

49. Money Bills

(1) The Speaker shall examine every bill introduced in the House to determine whether the bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of section 49(1) of the Constitution. In determining whether a bill is a Money Bill the Speaker may consult the Attorney-General.

(2) Whenever the Speaker, after consultation with the Attorney-General, determines that a bill is a Money Bill he shall so certify in writing, and shall cause to be endorsed with his certificate the printed copy of the bill sent to the Senate.

50. Appointment of days for stages of Bills

(1) Subject to this Order, at the conclusion of the proceedings on any stage of a bill, the Member in charge of the bill may either name a day to be appointed for the next stage of the bill or move that the next stage be taken forthwith.

(2) An interval of not less than five days must elapse between the first and second reading of a bill, unless the House on motion made and question put; agrees to proceed with the bill at an earlier date, or forthwith.

(3) No bill shall be read a second time unless it has been printed and circulated to Members.

51. Printing and circulation of Bills

(1) The Clerk shall be responsible for the printing of bills from the draft handed to him by the Member in charge of the bill and before any bill is printed, he shall satisfy himself that—

- (a) the bill is divided into successive clauses numbered consecutively;
- (b) the bill has in the margin a short summary of each clause; and
- (c) the provisions of the bill do not go beyond its title.

(2) As soon as possible after the printing of a bill the Clerk shall circulate a copy to every Member. The bill may be accompanied by a short explanatory statement of its objects.

(3) The Clerk shall as soon as possible forward every bill to the Government Printer for publishing and shall use his best efforts to cause every such bill to be published in the *Gazette*.

52. Second Reading of Bills

(1) On the second reading of a bill a debate may arise covering the general merits and principles of the bill.

(2) To the question “That the bill be now read a second time” an amendment may be proposed to leave out the word “now” and add at the end of the question “upon this day six months”, or an amendment may be moved to leave out all the words after the word “that” in order to add words stating the object and motive on which the opposition to the bill

is based, but such words must be strictly relevant to the bill and not deal with its details.

53. Committal of Bills

(1) When a bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to a Committee of the whole House unless the House on motion made commits it to a Select Committee. Such motion shall not require notice and shall be made immediately after the bill has been read a second time, and the question thereon shall be put without amendment or debate.

(2) When a bill has been committed to a Select Committee, no further proceedings shall be taken thereon until the Select Committee has presented its report to the House.

54. Function of Committees on Bills

(1) Any Committee to which a bill is committed shall not discuss the principles of the bill but only its details.

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

55. Procedure in Committee of the whole House on a Bill

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

(2) Any proposed amendments of which notice has not been given may be handed to the Chairman in writing.

(3) The following provisions shall apply to amendments relating to bills:—

- (a) An amendment must be relevant to the subject matter of the bill and to the subject matter of the clause or the part to which it relates.
- (b) An amendment must not be inconsistent with any clause already agreed to or with any previous decision of the Committee.
- (c) An amendment must not be such as to make the clause which it proposes to amend unintelligible or ungrammatical.
- (d) If any amendment refers to, or is not intelligible without, a subsequent amendment or schedule, notice of the subsequent amendment or schedule must be given before or when the first amendment is moved so as to make the series of amendments intelligible as a whole.
- (e) In order to save time and repetition of arguments, the Chairman may allow a single discussion to cover a series of interdependent amendments.
- (f) The Chairman may refuse to allow an amendment which is, in his opinion, frivolous or meaningless.
- (g) Except upon the recommendation of the Governor-General, signified by a Minister and recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings, the Committee shall not proceed upon an amendment which, in the opinion of the

Chairman, would have effect in any of the ways described in paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 48 (Introduction and First Reading).

- (h) The Chairman may at any time during the discussion on a proposed amendment withdraw it from the consideration of the Committee if, in his opinion, the discussion shall have shown that the amendment violates the provisions of this Standing Order.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs (4) and (5) of Standing Order No. 34 (Amendment of Motions) shall apply to the discussion of amendment to bills with the substitution where appropriate of the word “clause” for the word “motion” or the word “question” and of the word “Chairman” for the word “Speaker” and of the word “Committee” for the word “House” throughout.

(5) A clause may be postponed, unless a decision has already been taken upon an amendment thereto. Postponed clauses shall be considered after the remaining clauses of the bill have been considered and before new clauses are brought up.

(6) Any proposed new clause shall be considered after the clauses of the bill have been disposed of and before consideration of any schedule to the bill:

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

(7) On the title of any new clause being read by the Clerk the clause shall be deemed to have been read a first time. The question shall then be proposed “That the clause be read a second time”; if this is agreed to, amendments may then be proposed to the new clause. The final question to be proposed shall be “That the clause (or the clause as amended) be added to the bill”.

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

(9) When every clause and schedule and proposed new clause or schedule has been dealt with, the preamble, if there is one, shall be considered and the question put “That this be the preamble to the bill”. No amendment to the preamble shall be considered which is not made necessary by a previous amendment to the bill.

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

(11) At the conclusion of the proceedings in Committee on a bill, the Chairman shall put the question “That the bill (or the bill as amended) be reported to the House” which question shall be decided without amendment or debate.

(12) If any Member, before the conclusion of proceedings on a bill, moves to report progress and such motion is carried, or if the proceedings in a Committee of the House have not been finished at the moment of interruption, the Chairman shall leave the Chair of the Committee and the Member in charge of the bill shall report progress in the House and ask leave to sit again, and name a day for resumption of the proceedings.

(13) A Committee having met to consider a bill shall proceed with its consideration, except that during the proceedings on a bill the Member in charge of the bill may, subject to the discretion of the Chairman, move a motion “That the Committee do not proceed further with the bill.” If the motion is carried the Committee shall then report the bill to the House as so far amended or without amendments as the case may be and make a special report explaining its proceedings on the bill, and the special report and the bill shall be ordered to lie upon the Table without question put.

56. Procedure in Select Committees on Bills

A Select Committee on a bill shall be subject to Standing Order No. 73 (Procedure in Select Committees), but before reporting the bill to the House it shall go through the bill as provided in Standing Order No. 55 (Procedure in Committee of the whole House on a bill).

57. Procedure on Reporting of Bills from Committee of the whole House

(1) As soon as a Committee of the whole House has agreed that a bill be reported to the House, the House shall resume and the Chairman of the Committee shall report it to the House.

(2) When a bill has been reported from a Committee of the whole House, the House may proceed to consider the bill as reported upon a Motion “That the report of the Committee on the ... bill be adopted”.

(3) When the report of a Committee on a bill has been adopted under the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Member in charge may either name a future day for third reading or move that it be read the third time forthwith.

58. Recommittal of Bills reported from Committee of the whole House

(1) If any Member desires to delete or amend any provision contained in a bill as reported from a Committee of the whole House to introduce any new provision therein he may, as an amendment to the motion “That the report of the Committee on the ... bill be adopted”, or thereafter at any time before a Member rises to move the third reading of the bill, move that the bill be recommitted either wholly or in respect only of some particular part or parts of the bill or some proposed new clause or new schedule, no notice of such motion being required, and if the motion is agreed to, the bill shall stand so recommitted. The House may then, upon motion made, resolve itself into Committee to consider the business so recommitted either forthwith or upon a later day.

(2) When the whole bill has been recommitted the Committee shall go through the bill as provided in Standing Order No. 55 (procedure in Committee of the whole House on a bill).

(3) When the bill has been recommitted in respect only of some particular part or parts or of some proposed new clause or new schedule, the Committee shall consider only the matter so recommitted and any amendment which may be moved thereto.

(4) At the conclusion of the proceedings in Committee on a bill recommitted under the provisions of this Order, the Chairman shall put the question “That the bill (or the bill as amended on recommitment) be reported to the House”, and this question shall be decided without amendment or debate.

(5) When a bill recommitted under the provisions of this Order has been reported, the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order No. 57 (Procedure on Reporting of Bills from Committee of the whole House) shall apply.

59. Procedure on Bills reported from Select Committee

(1) When a bill has been reported to the House from a Select Committee, the House may proceed to consider the bill as reported from the Select Committee upon a motion “That the report of the Select Committee on the ... bill be adopted”.

(2) If that motion is agreed to without amendment, the House may proceed to the third reading of the bill as reported from the Select Committee.

(3) Upon a motion to adopt the report of the Select Committee on a bill, any Member may propose an amendment to add, at the end of the motion, the words “subject to the recommitment of the bill (either wholly or in respect only of some particular part or parts of the bill or of some proposed new clause or new schedule) to a Committee of the whole

House” and if that motion is agreed to with such amendment, the bill shall stand so recommitted. The House may then, upon motion made, resolve itself into a Committee to consider the business so recommitted.

(4) A Committee of the whole House upon a bill recommitted under the provisions of this Order shall proceed in accordance with paragraph (2) or paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 58 (Recommittal of Bills reported from Committee of the whole House), and the conclusion of its proceedings and the remaining proceedings on the bill shall be subject to paragraphs (4) and (5) of that Order.

60. Third Reading

(1) On the third reading of a bill amendments may be proposed to the question “That the bill be now read the third time”, similar to those which may be proposed under the provisions of Standing Order No. 52 (Second Reading of Bills); but the debate shall be confined to the contents of the bill.

(2) Amendments for the corrections of errors or oversights may, with the Speaker’s permission, be made before the question for the third reading of the bill is put from the Chair, but no amendments of a material character shall be proposed and on this point the Speaker’s decision shall be final.

61. Recommittal and Third Reading

(1) When a bill has been reported to the House from a Committee of the whole House or from a Select Committee, and that report has been adopted by the House, that bill shall be ordered to be read the third time.

(2) When a bill has been ordered for third reading, any Member who wishes to amend or delete any provisions contained in the bill or to introduce any fresh provisions may give notice of his intention on

third reading to move “That the bill be re-committed”. If such motion be agreed to, the House shall resolve itself into Committee immediately, or upon such day as the Member in charge of the bill may appoint. When the bill has been reported, the House shall then proceed with the third reading of the bill unless the Member in charge of the bill signifies his desire to postpone this stage to a later day.

(3) Amendments for the corrections of error or over-sight may, with the Speaker’s permission, be made before the question for the third reading of the bill is put from the Chair, but no amendments of a material character shall be proposed and on this point the Speaker’s decision shall be final.

62. Procedure after Third Reading

(1) When a bill originating in the House has been read a third time, a printed copy of the bill shall be signed by the Clerk and endorsed by the Speaker, and shall be forwarded to the Senate by the Clerk of the House, together with a message desiring the concurrence of the Senate.

(2) When a bill which originated in the Senate has been read a third time, the Clerk shall either–

- (a) return the bill to the Senate together with a message “That the House of Representatives has agreed to the ... bill, without amendment”; or
- (b) cause any amendment or amendments which may have been made to it by the House to be entered in the original copy of the bill received from the Senate, which copy, signed by the Clerk and endorsed by the Speaker, shall then be returned to the Senate together with a message desiring the concurrence of the Senate to the amendment or amendments made by the House.

63. Procedure on Senate Amendments

(1) When a bill is returned from the Senate with amendments, the consideration of such amendments shall be put down for such future sitting as the Member in charge of the bill shall appoint or forthwith.

(2) Upon a motion being made, “That the Senate amendments to the bill be now considered”, an amendment may be proposed to that question, to leave out the word “now”, and to add at the end of the question the words “upon this day six months”.

(3) When the House proceeds to the consideration of Senate amendments, each amendment shall be read by the Clerk and may be agreed to, with or without amendment, or disagreed to. Upon any such amendment from the Senate being disagreed to, an amendment may be made to the bill in lieu thereof.

(4) When the House has concluded the consideration of Senate amendments, the Clerk shall—

- (a) if such amendments have been agreed to, return the bill to the Senate, together with a message, “That the House has agreed to the amendment made by the Senate to the bill, without amendment”; or
- (b) if such amendments have been amended or disagreed to, make the appropriate entries in the original copy of the bill and return it to the Senate, together with the appropriate message.

(5) When the House has disagreed to a Senate amendment, if the Senate returns the bill with a message that it insists on the amendment the House may—

- (a) agree, with or without amendment, to the said amendment and make, if necessary, a consequential amendment to the bill, in which case the Clerk shall return the bill to the Senate, together with an appropriate message; or

- (b) postpone the consideration of the Senate amendment for six months or order the withdrawal of the bill; or
- (c) cause the bill to be presented to the Governor-General for his assent under and in accordance with the provisions of sections 47 or 48 of the Constitution as the case may be.

(6) When a bill returned from the Senate with amendments is proceeded with under paragraph (4) or paragraph (5) (a) the House may, in order to process such amendments from the Senate or its own consequential amendments, proceed to the third reading of the bill or to proceedings in Committee of the whole House as the case may be.

64. Submission of Bills for Assent

(1) Unless the House otherwise resolves, the Clerk, shall submit to the Governor-General for his assent on behalf of Her Majesty a printed copy of the following:

- (a) any bill originating in the House which has been certified by the Speaker under the provisions of Standing Order No. 49 (Money Bills) as a Money Bill within the meaning of section 49(1) of the Constitution, which has been read the third time in the House, but which has not been agreed to by the Senate within one month after it has been sent to the Senate in accordance with section 47 of the Constitution.
- (b) any bill which has been read the third time in the House in two successive sessions and rejected by the Senate in each of those sessions and to which the provisions of section 48 of the Constitution apply.

(2) Subject to paragraph (1) of this Order, when a bill has been duly passed by the House and by the Senate, a printed copy of the bill shall be submitted by the Clerk to the Governor-General for his assent on behalf of Her Majesty.

(3) If it shall have been communicated to the House that the Governor-General is prepared to assent to a bill subject to certain amendments, those amendments may be considered by the House on that day or on a future day. On the order for their consideration being read, a question shall be proposed that the amendments shall be considered seriatim. Debate shall be relevant to the amendment under consideration. In the proceedings under this paragraph, no amendment shall be proposed to the bill unless it arises strictly from the acceptance of any of the Governor-General's amendments.

65. Withdrawal of Bills

The Member in charge of a bill standing on the Order Paper may, without notice, either before the commencement of public business or on the Orders of the Day or at any stage of the proceedings on the bill, make a motion for the withdrawal of the bill or any part of the bill.

66. Bills containing substantially the same provisions

Once the second reading of any bill has been agreed to or negatived, no question shall be proposed during the same session for the second reading of any bill containing substantially the same provisions except where the latter bill is amending, repealing or replacing the former bill.

67. Private Bills

(1) Every bill (not being a Government measure) intended to effect or benefit some particular person, association, or corporate body, herein called a "Private Bill", shall contain a clause saving the rights of Her Majesty the Queen, her Heirs and Successors, all bodies politic and corporate and all others except such as are mentioned in the bill and those claiming by, from or under them, and shall be introduced into the House under the provisions of this Order.

(2) Any Bill (not being a Government measure) which in the opinion of the Speaker, appears to affect directly private rights or property, shall

be introduced into the House as a Private Bill under the provisions of this Order.

(3) A Private Bill shall be introduced by a Member only-

- (a) on petition from the promoters, stating the objects of and reasons for the bill, and,
- (b) after notice of the bill has been given by not less than three successive publications of the bill in the *Gazette* and in addition to such notice in the *Gazette* after three notices have been inserted in different issues of a newspaper circulating in the State, containing a statement of the object of and the reasons for the bill.

(4) The petition shall be presented by being lodged with the Clerk and shall be read at the first ordinary sitting of the House after it is so lodged and thereupon the Speaker shall put the question that the promoters be allowed to proceed.

- (5) (a) When leave to proceed has been granted, a copy of the bill shall be lodged with the Clerk within six months next after such leave has been granted.
- (b) On lodging such bill, the promoters shall produce a certificate under the hand of the Accountant General certifying that the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars or such less sum as he may in writing approve, to meet the expenses of printing, has been deposited with him together with a bond executed by two sufficient persons obliging them to pay on demand to the Clerk any excess over the deposited sum required for such expenses.
- (c) The Clerk shall cause the bill lodged with him to be printed as early as possible, and, at the first ordinary sitting of the House after the printing is completed the Speaker, if he is satisfied that the notices required by paragraph (3) hereof

have been published, shall announce that he is so satisfied and the bill shall be deemed to have been read the first time. The bill shall thereafter stand upon the notice paper for second reading at the next ordinary sitting of the House and the promoters may propose any amendments, which they think fit, but the Speaker, if he considers such amendments beyond the scope of the bill, shall report his opinion to the House.

(6) Upon the day ordered for second reading the Speaker shall, unless the House otherwise orders, propose the question that the bill be read a second time.

(7) When the bill has been read a second time it shall be referred to a Select Committee to be chosen by the House.

- (8) (a) Every Select Committee on such a bill shall require proof of the facts and other allegations set forth in the bill as showing that it is expedient that the bill should be passed, and may take such oral or other evidence as it may think requisite; and thereafter If the Select Committee finds that the said facts and allegations are not proved it shall report to the House accordingly, and thereupon no further proceedings shall be taken with reference to the bill, unless the House makes a special order to the contrary.
- (b) If the Select Committee finds that the said facts and allegations have been proved, the Committee shall consider the several clauses of the bill, and may strike out clauses, add new clauses, and make any other amendments which it shall deem necessary, and in respect of such new clauses and other amendment shall describe their purpose in a Special Report to the House. No new clauses or amendments shall be allowed in such a bill which are foreign to the objects of and reasons for the bill or which are beyond its scope.

(9) No person, other than a Member of the House shall be heard in opposition to any Private Bill, unless he has previously lodged a petition with the Clerk showing the nature of his objections to the bill, and stating whether his objections extend to the whole or some part of the preamble, if any, or to the clauses of the said bill, and praying that he may be heard by himself or his counsel against the bill.

(10) Subject to the provisions of this Order, all petitions against a bill containing a prayer that the petitioners be heard by themselves or Counsel shall stand referred to the Select Committee, and the Select Committee shall hear all such opposers who appear to have a *locus standi*.

(11) The Select Committee shall examine the bill and make such amendments thereto as it thinks proper and shall report to the House that it has examined the bill, and if the fact be so, made amendments thereto, and shall make to the house such recommendations, if any, as it thinks fit.

(12) After the report of the Select Committee has been presented to the House, if such report is adopted by the House, the Speaker shall put the question, without amendment or debate, that the bill be read a third time.

(13) As soon as practicable after any Private Bill is passed, rejected, dropped or abandoned, the Clerk shall make out an account showing the expenses of printing, and shall transmit the same signed by him to the Accountant General who thereupon shall, if the amount of the account is less than the amount deposited, transfer such amount from the deposited sum of two hundred and fifty dollars to the general revenue of the State and pay the balance to the depositor, their executors or administrators.

(14) If the account for the expenses of printing exceeds the amount deposited, the Accountant General shall transfer the whole of the deposited sum to the credit of the general revenue of the State and the Attorney-General shall in the event of the promoters failing to pay the balance, take proceedings to enforce payment of such balance.

(15) The provisions of Standing Orders No. 62 (procedure after Third Reading), 63 (Procedure on Senate Amendments) and 64 (Submission of Bills for Assent) shall apply in the case of a Private Bill as if it were a Public Bill.

COMMITTEES

68. Standing Committee on Finance

(1) There shall be a Standing Committee on Finance whose Members shall be all the Members of the House except the Speaker if the Speaker is not an elected Member of the House. The Minister of Finance shall be the Chairman of this Committee.

(2) The Standing Committee on Finance shall sit at such times as may be determined by the Chairman, not less than forty-eight hours notice of each meeting being given to the Members but in cases of urgency the Minister of Finance may dispense with the necessity for notice.

(3) The Chairman and not less than four Members of the Standing Committee on Finance shall constitute a quorum.

(4) All votes entailing expenditure from public funds for which the sanction of the House of Representatives is necessary shall be considered by the Standing Committee on Finance before they are submitted to the House for its acceptance.

(5) At each meeting of the House, following a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, it shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance to present to the House the Minutes of the Committee.

(6) Each item of expenditure that has been approved by the Committee shall be specifically submitted for the approval of the House. No item of expenditure which has not been approved by the Committee shall be submitted for the consideration of the House unless a motion to that effect be made otherwise.

69. Public Accounts Committee

- (1) (i) There shall be a Public Accounts Committee which shall consist of not less than three (3) Members and not more than five (5) members. None of the members shall be a member of Cabinet, a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary.
- (ii) The Committee shall be elected by the House of Representatives at the first sitting of each Session at which business of the House other than the reading of the Throne Speech is transacted.
- (iii) It shall be the duty of the Clerk to include an item for the election of the Committee on the Order Paper for the sitting referred to in the subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph.
- (iv) It shall be the duty of the person presiding at the meeting at which the Committee is to be elected to invite nominations and conduct an election for each of the Members.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee to examine the Audited Accounts of the State as well as the accounts of Corporations, Boards and other Bodies appointed by Government, and report thereon to the House.

- (3) (i) A quorum of the Committee shall consist of two-thirds of its total membership.
- (ii) (a) The Chairman of the Committee shall be the Leader of the Opposition in the House, if any, and if willing to serve. The Public Accounts Committee may comprise of a Chairman and other Members of the

House of Representatives and the Senate as the House of Representatives may determine.

- (b) Where there are no Members of the Opposition in the House of Representatives, one of the Senators appointed by the Governor-General under section 62 (2) of the Constitution of Grenada shall be appointed by the House of Representatives as Chairman.
- (c) If the Senator so named declines, the House may name any other Senator, not appointed pursuant to section 24 (2) (a).

- (iii) Vacancies in the Committee shall be filled by the House at an election at the first sitting of the House after the vacancy occurs.

(4) The Committee shall meet at such times as the Chairman shall decide, but not less than forty-eight (48) hours notice of a meeting shall be given.

(5) The Committee shall have the power to summon persons to give evidence; it shall also have the power to send for papers and records.

(6) The provisions of paragraphs (2) to (4) and (6) to (9) of Standing Order No. 73 (Procedure in Select Committee) shall apply to the proceedings of the Committee.

70. Sessional Select Committees

Standing Orders Committee

- (1) (a) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Standing Orders Committee, to consist of a Chairman, and two

Members to be nominated by order of the House as soon as may be after the beginning of each session. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider from time to time and report on all matters relating to the Standing Orders which are referred to it by the House.

- (b) The Committee shall not have power to send for persons, papers and records unless the House so resolves.
- (c) A quorum of the Committee shall consist of two Members, one of whom shall be the Chairman.

House Committee

- (2) (a) There shall be a Committee to be known as the House Committee, to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and four Members to be nominated by order of the House as soon as may be after the beginning of each session, to consider and advise the Speaker on all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of Members.
- (b) The Committee shall not have power to send for persons, papers and records unless the House so resolves.

Committee of Privileges

- (3) (a) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Committee of Privileges, to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and four Members to be nominated by order of the House as soon as may be after the beginning of each session. There shall be referred to this Committee any matter which appears to affect the powers and privileges of the House. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider any such matter so referred, and to report on them to the House.

- (b) The Committee shall not have power to send for persons, papers and records unless the House so resolves.

71(A) Special Select Committees

(1) A Select Committee other than a Sessional Select Committee shall be known as a Special Select Committee. It shall be appointed by order of the House and shall consist of such Members as may be nominated by order of the House.

(2) A Special Select Committee shall have power to elect its own Chairman unless the House otherwise orders.

71(B) Joint Select Committees

(1) The House of Representatives may for the purposes of any Select Committee appoint not more than five members to sit with members of the Senate as a Joint Select Committee.

(2) The quorum of a Joint Select Committee shall be such as the Committee may decide.

(3) A Joint Select Committee shall elect its own Chairman unless otherwise provided.

(4) A Joint Select Committee may be appointed at the request of either the House of Representatives or the Senate with the approval of the other.

72. Constitution of Select Committees

(1) Every Select Committee, whether Sessional or Special, shall be so constituted as to ensure, so far as is possible, that the balance of parties in the House is reflected in such Committee.

(2) In the event of the death of a Member nominated to a Committee, or if his seat becomes vacant for any other reason, the House shall nominate another Member in his place, and in so doing shall observe the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Order.

73. Procedure in Select Committees

(1) Three members shall be quorum of a Select Committee unless otherwise provided; and the Committee shall elect its own Chairman, unless these orders otherwise provide or the House otherwise directs. In ascertaining whether there is a quorum present the Member in the chair shall not be excluded.

(2) If the Chairman is unable to be present at any meeting, the Committee shall elect another Chairman whose tenure of office shall be for the day of his election.

(3) A Select Committee shall not have the power to send for persons, papers and records, unless these orders otherwise provide or the House otherwise directs and shall have leave to report to the House its opinion and observations together with the minutes of evidence taken before it.

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

(5) The first meeting of a Select Committee shall be held at such time and place as the Chairman shall appoint. Subsequent meetings shall be held at such time and place as the Committee may determine:

Provided that if the Committee fail to do so the Chairman shall, in consultation with the Clerk of the House, appoint such time and place.

(6) Except by leave of the House no Select Committee may sit while the House is sitting, but a Select Committee may sit at any time when the House is adjourned.

(7) (a) When it is intended to examine any witnesses the Member requiring such witnesses shall deliver to the Clerk of the Committee the name, residence, and occupation of any witnesses he desires to examine.

(b) If the Committee desires to summon any witnesses, the Chairman shall supply the name, residence and occupation of every such witness to the Clerk of the House at least seven days before his evidence is required. The Clerk shall then summon every such witness.

(8) The evidence of every witness shall be taken down verbatim and sent in proof to the witness. The witness shall be at liberty within fourteen days from that on which the Clerks sent out the proof to suggest corrections due to inaccurate reporting and the evidence shall be printed with such of the corrections as may be approved by the Chairman.

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

- (b) The Committee shall then proceed to go through the report paragraph by paragraph or part by part and paragraphs (1) to (7) of Standing Order No. 55 (Procedure in Committee of the whole House on a Bill) shall apply to such considerations as if the report were a bill and the paragraphs thereof the clauses of the bill.
- (c) Upon the conclusion of the consideration of the report paragraph by paragraph or part by part and when all proposed new paragraphs have been considered the Chairman shall put the question ‘That this report be the report of the Committee to the House’.

(10) This Order applies to both Sessional and Special Select Committees.

74. Voting in Select Committees

The provisions of Standing Orders Nos. 45 (Decisions on Questions), 46 (Collection of Voices) and 47 (Divisions) shall, where applicable, be applied to voting in Select Committees, whether Sessional or Special.

75. Premature Publication of Evidence

The evidence taken before any Select Committee, whether Sessional or Special, and any documents presented to such Committee shall not be published by any member of such Committee or by any other person before the Committee has presented its Report to the House. Nor in any event shall such evidence be published without the consent of the House.

76. Reports from Select Committees

(1) Every Select Committee shall make a report to the House upon the matters referred to it before the end of the session in which the Committee was appointed, but if a Committee is unable to conclude its investigations before the end of the session, it may so report to the House.

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

(3) A report or special report together with the minutes of proceedings of a Select Committee and the minutes of any evidence taken before it shall be presented to the House by the Chairman or other Member deputed by the Committee and shall be ordered to lie upon the Table and to be printed without question put.

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

(5) The report of a Select Committee may be taken into consideration on a motion "That the report of the Select Committee be adopted". Such a motion may be moved by any Member after one clear day's notice.

(6) This Order applies to both Sessional and Special Select Committees.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

77. Absence of Members

(1) Any Member who is unable to attend a sitting of the House shall, prior to the sitting, acquaint the Clerk as early as possible of his inability to attend.

(2) Any Member who intends to leave the State shall in advance so inform the Speaker.

(3) If without the leave of the Speaker obtained in writing, any member absents himself from the sittings of the House for a continuous period

of more than two calendar months exclusive of any period over which the House has been adjourned under Standing Order No. 15 (Periodic Adjournments) he shall vacate his seat in the House under section 33(2) (a) of the Constitution:

Provided that there were not less than three sittings of the House within the said period.

78. Employment of Members in professional capacity

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

79. Report of Debates

(1) An official report of all speeches made in the House shall be prepared under the supervision of the Clerk, acting under such instructions as the Speaker may give.

(2) The report shall be published in such form as the Speaker may direct, and a copy thereof shall be sent to each Member as soon as practicable.

80. Visitors

(1) Visitors may be present in the House of Representatives in the places set apart for them under such instructions as the Speaker may give for that purpose.

(2) If at any sitting of the House, any Member shall move that visitors be ordered to withdraw, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question “That visitors be ordered to withdraw” without permitting any debate or amendment.

(3) The Speaker may, whenever he thinks fit, order the withdrawal of visitors from any part of the House, and its precincts, and may order the doors of the House to be closed.

(4) Visitors must preserve silence, must conduct themselves in a fit and proper manner during a sitting and must not show approval or disapproval of anything said by the Speaker or any Member of the House during a sitting.

(5) Visitors must withdraw from the House and its precincts when called upon to do so by the Speaker.

(6) The word “precincts” in this Standing Order shall bear the same meaning as it does in Standing Order No. 44 (11).

81. Press

(1) The Speaker may grant a general permission to the representative or representatives of any journal, newspaper, radio, television or other electronic mass communication or broadcasting organisation to attend the sittings of the House and sit in such part of the Chamber as may be allotted by the Speaker for this purpose.

(2) Such permission may be revoked by the Speaker if the journal, newspaper, radio, television or other electronic mass communication or broadcasting organisation publish a report of the proceedings of the House which the Speaker considers unfair or misleading, or if the representative or representatives otherwise offend against the decorum of the House.

82. Practice of Parliament

(1) In cases of doubt the Standing Orders of this House shall be interpreted in the light of the relevant practice of the House of Commons of the Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(2) In any matter for which these Standing Orders do not provide the said practice referred to in paragraph (1) shall be followed, but no restrictions which the House of Commons has introduced by Standing Orders shall be extended to the House of Representatives or its Members until this House has provided by Standing Orders for such restriction.

SUSPENSION, AMENDMENT AND REVOCATION

83. Suspension of Standing Orders

A question the object or effect of which may be to suspend any Standing Order of the House shall not be proposed except with the consent of the Speaker, either after notice given or after the expression of the assent of the House.

84. Amendment of Standing Orders

(1) Unless the Speaker otherwise directs, and notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 26 (Notices of Motions or Amendments), notice of a motion to amend these Standing Orders shall be given to the Clerk not less than twelve days before the sitting at which it is proposed to be discussed and shall be printed and circulated to Members not less than seven days before that sitting.

(2) Any such notice of motion shall be accompanied by a draft of the proposed amendments.

(3) When the motion is reached, and before a Member rises to move the motion, any Member may move, "That the proposed amendments be referred to the Standing Orders Committee", and no notice of such a motion shall be required.

(4) If a motion that the proposed amendments be referred to the Standing Orders Committee, is agreed to, no further proceedings on the original motion to amend the Standing Orders shall be taken until the Standing Orders Committee has reported thereon.

85. Revocation

The Standing Orders of the House of Representatives made by the House of Representatives on the 18th day of September, 1967 are hereby revoked.

APPENDIX

[Order 2 (1)]
[Schedule 3 to
the Constitution of Grenada]

Forms of Oaths and Affirmations

1. Oath of Allegiance.

1..... do swear that I will faithfully bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen ELIZABETH THE SECOND, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God.

2. Affirmation of Allegiance.

1..... do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen ELIZABETH THE SECOND, Her Heirs and Successors, according to law.

Made by the House of Representatives pursuant to Section 50 (1) of the Constitution of Grenada on 14th day of April, 1993 and includes amendments approved on 7th July, 2002 and 6th June, 2003.

GRENADA

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