

**STANDING ORDERS
OF THE
PARLIAMENT OF SAMOA**

(Brought into force: 25th August 2005)

Amended: 21st June 2006

**2006
(June)**

STANDING ORDERS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SAMOA

Amendments 21/6/2006

1. *Standing Order 5(1): Omit the words “and on the first day of each subsequent session of Parliament” as appeared in (1).*
2. *Standing Order 31(1): Insert the words “provided that sittings on Fridays shall end at 12.00 noon”.*
 - (2) *Omit the expression “1 p.m. or” as appeared in (2).*
3. *Insert 82A, 82B & 82C.*
4. *Insert the words “Deputy Speaker as Deputy Chairman” to Standing Orders 169, 170, 171 & 172.*
5. *Standing Orders 173 & 182: Substitute words & numbers “seven (7)” appearing in (1) in both Orders to “eight (8)”.*
6. *Standing Orders 170 & 184: Insert the words “or another Member of Parliament nominated from time to time by the Prime Minister” and “or another Member of Parliament nominated from time to time by the Leader of the Opposition”.*

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STANDING ORDERS

PART 1 INTRODUCTORY

1. RIGHTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY NOT RESTRICTED:

(1) Nothing provided for in these Standing Orders shall diminish or restrict or be deemed in any way reduce or restrict the rights, privileges, immunities and powers held or enjoyed by the Legislative Assembly or the upholding and exercise thereof.

2. IN CASES NOT PROVIDED FOR SPEAKER TO DECIDE:

(1) In all cases not provided for in these Standing Orders the Speaker shall decide guided by the rules and usages and relevant practice of the House of Representatives of New Zealand and the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in force so far as the same can be applied to the proceedings of this Legislative Assembly.

3. INTERPRETATION:

(1) In these Standing Orders, if not inconsistent with the context -

“Ao o le Malo” means the Head of State holding office pursuant to the terms of Part III of the Constitution:

“Assembly” means the Legislative Assembly constituted pursuant to the terms of the Constitution:

“Chairman” means the Chairman of a Committee of the Whole Assembly, a Select Committee and includes the Deputy Chairman, an Acting Chairman, and a temporary Chairman:

“Clerk” means the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly or, if the Office is vacant or the Clerk is absent from duty means the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly or a person appointed by the Speaker to act as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and includes any person delegated by the Clerk to perform any of the functions or exercise any of the powers of the Clerk under these Standing Orders:

“Constitution” means the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa:

“Deputy Chairman” includes the Acting Deputy Chairman:

“Deputy Clerk” means the Deputy Clerk of the Assembly, or, if he is performing the duties of the Clerk, or if he is absent, or if the Office is vacant, the person for the time being performing the duties of the Deputy Clerk pursuant to these Standing Orders or by direction of Mr Speaker:

“Deputy Speaker” includes an Acting Deputy Speaker:

“Leave” or “Leave of the Assembly” means leave granted without a dissentient voice:

“Meeting” means any sitting or sittings of the Assembly commencing when the Assembly first meets after being summoned at any time and terminating when the Assembly is adjourned *sine die* or at the conclusion of the Session:

“Member” means a member of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa otherwise known as a Member of Parliament:

“Notice” means notice given in accordance with Standing Order 58:

“Notice of motion” means a motion, of which notice was given at least three sitting days as prescribed in Standing Order 66:

“Order of the Day” means a Bill or other matter which the Assembly has appointed or ordered to be taken into consideration or done on a particular day or at a particular time:

“Paper” means any paper, report, account, return, statement or other document which is ordinarily laid on the table at the time for “Presentation of Papers”:

“Private Member’s Bill” means a public bill introduced by a member who is not a Minister:

“Sergeant-at-Arms” means any officer appointed by the Speaker to be the Sergeant-at-Arms to the Assembly, and includes any person performing the functions or exercising the powers of Sergeant-at-Arms by direction of the Speaker:

“Session” means the Sittings of the Legislative Assembly commencing when the Assembly first meets after being constituted under the said Act or after its prorogation or dissolution at any time or the first Meeting of the Assembly summoned in each year, and terminating when the Assembly prorogued or is dissolved without having prorogued or when the last Meeting in each year is adjourned *sine die*.

“Speaker” except in respect of Part III and Part XXXVIII of these Standing Orders include the Deputy Speaker and an Acting Speaker; and, in respect of the control of debate in the Assembly only, includes a temporary Speaker:

“Working day” means any day of the week other than a Saturday, a Sunday and any other day observed as a public holiday:

“Written” and “in writing” means written by hand, type written, duplicated, or printed or partly one and partly one or more of the others.

PART II

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING OF NEW PARLIAMENT

4. FIRST MEETING OF NEW PARLIAMENT:

(1) On the first day of the meeting of a new Parliament for the dispatch of business pursuant to O Le Ao o le Malo’s Proclamation, members having met at the time and place appointed: -

- (a) The Clerk shall read the Proclamation and inform the Assembly that it is the wish of O Le Ao o le Malo that the members of the Assembly shall elect some fit person to be their Speaker and to present such person for the approval of O Le Ao o le Malo at the time and place mentioned;
- (b) A list of the names of the members elected having being read by the Clerk shall be laid on the Table;
- (c) The Assembly shall then proceed to the election of a Speaker in the manner prescribed.

5. PROCEEDINGS ON DAY OF STATE OPENING:

- (1) On the second day of the meeting of a new Parliament -
 - (a) the Speaker shall read the prayers;
 - (b) the Prime Minister informs the Assembly of the time that is shall attend to the Head of State and move for suspension of Proceedings, the Speaker and Members attend accordingly;
 - (c) the Speaker shall report to the Assembly the Head of State's Speech and lays a copy on the Table;
 - (d) the announcement of Presentation of Papers and reports may be made and bills maybe read a first time.

**PART III
ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

6. CLERK TO ACT AS CHAIRMAN FOR ELECTION OF SPEAKER:

(1) For the purpose of the election of a Speaker, the Clerk shall act as Chairman.

(2) Any member, having first ascertained that the member to be proposed is willing to serve if elected, may, addressing himself to the Clerk, propose some other Member for their Speaker, and move "That (naming the Member) do take the Chair of the Assembly as Speaker". The proposal shall require to be seconded, but no debate shall be allowed.

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

(4) If more than one person is so proposed, the Assembly shall proceed to elect a Speaker by ballot. The Clerk shall, after causing the bells to be rung as on a division, order the doors to be locked and shall then state the names of the members proposed for election.

(5) For the purpose of a ballot each member after being called on by the Clerk in alphabetical order shall obtain from the Clerk a ballot paper and then proceed to the table behind the Speaker's chair to cast his vote.

(6) After having indicated his vote the ballot paper shall then be folded so that the name written thereon shall not be seen, and deposited in the ballot

box on the voting table. The ballot papers shall be counted at the table by the Clerk and two persons nominated as scrutineers by the members present.

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

(8) Where at any ballot among three or more candidates two or more obtain an equal number of votes, and one of them has to be excluded from the election under (7) of this Order, the determination of the candidate to be excluded, as between the candidates whose votes are equal, shall be by lot which shall be drawn in such a manner as the Clerk shall decide.

(9) Where at any ballot between two candidates the votes are equal, another ballot shall be held. In the event of the votes still being equal after a second ballot the election shall be determined by lot which shall be drawn in such a manner as the Clerk shall decide.

(10) As the ballot papers are counted they shall be placed in a box, and when a person has been declared elected as Speaker the box shall be sealed in the presence of the Assembly and kept in the custody of the Clerk for one calendar month and then the Clerk shall burn the ballot papers and certify to the Assembly that this has been done.

7. ELECTION OF SPEAKER:

(1) The member declared elect as Speaker, on being called to the Chair may stand up in his or her place and express the sense of honour conferred by the Assembly and submit to the Assembly's judgement.

(2) The member shall be conducted to the Chair by the members who proposed him and seconded the member's election.

(3) Having been conducted to the Chair the member so elected, standing by the side of the Chair may make acknowledgement to the Assembly, and then sit down in the Chair, and the Mace, which before lay under the Table, shall be laid upon the Table.

8. SUSPENSION OF PROCEEDINGS:

(1) The Speaker Elect shall suspend proceedings of the Assembly and shall attend on O Le Ao o Le Malo.

9. SPEAKER PRESENTS HIMSELF TO O LE AO O LE MALO:

(1) As soon as proceedings are suspended, the Speaker Elect, accompanied by the proposer and seconder and other members shall present

himself to O Le Ao o le Malo to seek confirmation of the choice of the Assembly and shall make and subscribe the Oath of Allegiance.

10. SPEAKER LAYS CLAIMS TO PRIVILEGES OF THE ASSEMBLY:

(1) On the Assembly's choice of Speaker being confirmed by O Le Ao o le Malo, the Speaker on behalf of the Assembly lay claim to all its privileges, and especially to freedom of speech in debate and to free access to O Le Ao o le Malo whenever occasion may require it, and the most favourable construction may be put on all its proceedings.

11. SPEAKER REPORTS HAVING ATTENDED ON LE AO O LE MALO:

(1) The Assembly having again resumed proceedings, the Speaker shall report having waited upon O Le Ao o le Malo for confirmation of choice of the Assembly for Speaker and shall report O Le Ao o le Malo's decision. The Speaker shall also inform the Assembly that he has sworn the Oath of Allegiance before O Le Ao o le Malo and claim had been made on behalf of the Assembly to all its privileges, and shall report the reply of O Le Ao o le Malo to such claim.

12. VACANCY IN SPEAKERSHIP:

(1) When the office of Speaker becomes vacant, the vacancy not having been caused by a dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk shall report the vacancy to the Assembly at its next sitting. The Assembly shall then proceed forthwith to the election of a new Speaker in the manner hereinbefore prescribed by these Standing Orders after which it shall adjourn until the next sitting day.

(2) When a Speaker elected under the provisions of this Standing Order presents himself to O Le Ao o le Malo for confirmation of the choice of the Assembly. The Speaker shall not lay claim to the privileges of the Assembly.

**PART IV
OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

13. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE:

(1) The Oath shall be administered before the Assembly by Mr Speaker to each Member, who shall subscribe the same at the first appropriate opportunity after the member's election to the Assembly.

(2) No member of Parliament shall sit or vote therein except for the purposes of Part III hereof until he shall have taken and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance.

(3) The form of the Oath of Allegiance shall be as follows:

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

“I,, swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Independent State of Samoa, and that I will justly and faithfully carry out my duties as a Member of the Parliament of Samoa. So help me God.”

14. CODE OF PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS:

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

It is the personal responsibility of every member of Parliament to maintain the highest standards of ethical behaviour to protect and maintain integrity of Parliament and to make every endeavour to uphold the principles of the Constitution.

The following principles are intended to provide guidance to, and standards against which each Member of Parliament, individually and collectively should discharge their duties and responsibilities.

THE PRINCIPLES:

- (1) Loyalty to the nation and its people:
Every member shall uphold the contents of the Oath of Allegiance at all time and maintain the dignity and integrity of the Independent State of Samoa; its institutions and its people.
- (2) Respect for the Law:
Every member shall uphold the laws of Samoa and safeguard the principles contained in the Constitution.
- (3) Respect for all Persons:
Every member shall treat other members, the public and officials with respect and dignity, honestly, fairly; and acting with integrity at all times.
- (4) Proper Exercise of Power:
Every member shall:-
 - (a) Arrange their private affairs;
 - (b) Use any and all information obtained from their public office;
and
 - (c) Exercise any influence or authority obtained from Public Office.
only to advance the public interest and where any potential and actual conflict of interest arises whether in the member’s private, financial, pecuniary or any interest the member shall be required to declare that

interest and take any steps to remove the conflict or withdraw from the particular process of transaction.

Special Requirements for Ministers and Other Officeholders:

Every member who holds parliamentary office of any kind is required to adhere strictly to the principles outlined above and shall not under any circumstances undertake any decision or exert influence in any form whatsoever in respect of a matter in which the Member will derive personal gain or benefit.

SANCTIONS:

Breaches of this Code may be dealt with by the Privileges and Ethics Committee or as determined by Parliament.

**PART V
DEPUTY SPEAKER**

15. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER:

(1) The Election of Deputy Speaker shall be conducted in a similar manner to the election of the Speaker.

16. VACANCY IN OFFICE OF DEPUTY SPEAKER:

(1) When a vacancy occurs in the office of the Deputy Speaker, a new Deputy Speaker shall be elected in the like manner to the election of the Speaker.

17. POWERS OF DEPUTY SPEAKER:

(1) In the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker may perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker in relation to all proceedings of the Assembly both during a sitting and an adjournment of the Assembly and during any recess of Parliament.

**PART VI
ELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER**

18. ELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER:

(1) Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of Prime Minister (other than a vacancy occurring while the Assembly is dissolved) the Assembly shall within 24 hours of vacancy or 3 days of return of the writs following a general election through a certificate under the hand of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly report to Le Ao o le Malo the Member of Parliament who commands the confidence of a majority of members for the purpose of an

appointment to be made by Le Ao o le Malo pursuant to paragraph (a) of clause (2) of Article 32 of the Constitution.

For the requirement of this order, the Clerk shall refer to the Record of Members kept in pursuant to Standing Order 40 (for vacancies not arising from dissolution of the Legislative Assembly) or from Nomination of Candidates Records kept by the Chief Electoral Officer (for vacancies arising from dissolution of the Legislative Assembly) provided that confirmation from individual members be obtained when required.

(2) When no member commands the confidence of a majority of members as provided for in (1) of this order, the election of Prime Minister shall be conducted by a ballot in a similar manner to the election of Mr Speaker, but with the exclusion of the procedures set out in (8) & (9) of Standing Order 6.

(3) When the Office of Prime Minister becomes vacant while Parliament is dissolved, the Deputy Prime Minister appointed under Article 32(2)(ba) of the Constitution, shall perform the functions and exercise powers of the Office of Prime Minister until appointment is terminated by the Head of State under Article 33(1) of the Constitution.

PART VII LANGUAGE

19. LANGUAGE:

(1) The proceedings of the Assembly shall be conducted in the Samoan and English languages.

PART VIII PARTIES, SEATING, ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS, LEAVE OF ABSENCE

20. RECOGNITION OF PARTIES:

(1) At the commencement of each Parliament any group of members of not less than eight shall be recognised as a party in Parliament on its leader notifying the Speaker.

Provided that the party is registered as a party by the Electoral Commission pursuant to section 15A of the Electoral Act 1963.

- (2) A party must inform the Speaker of:
- (a) the name of the party;
 - (b) the identity of the leader and deputy leader;
 - (c) its Parliamentary membership

Provided that the matters specified in (1) and (2) of this Order are notified before the members take the Oath of Allegiance.

(3) The Speaker must be informed of any change in matters specified in (2) of this Order.

(4) A coalition between two or more parties must be notified to the Speaker but each party to the coalition remains a separate party for the purposes of the Standing Orders.

(5) A party that has been recognised as a party in Parliament shall lose its recognition if its membership falls below eight members of Parliament.

(6) For parliamentary purposes:

(a) any member who takes the Oath of Allegiance before he is notified under a party as required by (2)(c) of this Order shall be recognised as an independent member for the duration of the parliamentary term;

(b) any member who ceases to be a member of a party under which he was notified as required by (2)(c) shall be recognised as an independent member for the rest of the parliamentary term.

(7) In the period between a general election and the Assembly electing a Speaker, the matters specified in (1) and (2) of this Order may be notified to the Clerk.

21. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION:

(1) The Leader of the largest party in terms of its parliamentary membership which is not in Government or in coalition with a Government party is entitled to be recognised as a Leader of the Opposition.

22. SEATS OF MEMBERS:

(1) As far as practicable, each party occupies a block of seats in the Chamber, provided the Speaker decides any dispute as to the seats to be occupied.

(2) A member must only speak from the seat allocated to him.

(3) Seats allocated to the Ministers and Deputy Speaker shall not be allocated individually.

23. MEMBERS TO ATTEND SERVICE OF THE ASSEMBLY:

(1) No member shall be absent from the Assembly for 3 consecutive sitting days without obtaining leave of absence from the Speaker.

(2) Any member who is absent from the Assembly in contravention of this Order shall be disqualified from holding his seat.

(3) Subject to this Order a member is considered absent if he fails to occupy his seat for at least 2 consecutive hours in any sitting day.

(4) Where the Assembly sits for less than 3 hours in any one day a member shall be considered absent if he fails to occupy his seat for at least half of the period the Assembly sits on that day.

24. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

(1) Subject to Standing Order 23 leave of absence for any member may be granted by the Speaker.

(2) Leave may be granted on the ground that the member's absence from the Assembly is a result of illness or other family cause of a personal nature or on the ground that the member's absence is justified to enable the member to attend to other public business or constituency business whether in Samoa or overseas.

(3) Any member having leave of absence shall forfeit the same if he attends the service of the Assembly before the expiration of such leave.

(4) A member having forfeited leave of absence under (3) of this Order shall be considered as absent from the Assembly if he fails to then occupy his seat in the manner prescribed under Standing Order 23.

PART IX PRESIDING IN THE ASSEMBLY

25. PRESIDING IN THE ASSEMBLY:

(1) Whenever there is a vacancy in the Office of Speaker, the Clerk shall act as Presiding Officer until the Speaker has been elected and made and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance.

26. ABSENCE OF SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER:

(1) Whenever Mr Speaker's absence is announced by the Clerk, the Deputy Speaker shall take the Chair.

(2) If at any time both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are absent or if the Speaker is absent and there is no Deputy Speaker, the Assembly on being informed by the Clerk may on motion of a Minister thereupon call on any member to take the Chair as Acting Speaker during the absence of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

(3) Notwithstanding (1), the Assembly may, by resolution appoint a member to be Acting Speaker or Acting Deputy Speaker in the absence of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker. An Acting Speaker or Deputy Speaker appointed by such resolution may, during the continuance of the appointment perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker in relation to all proceedings of the Assembly both during sitting and an adjournment of the Assembly and during any recess of Parliament.

27. DEPUTY SPEAKER MAY TAKE CHAIR WHEN REQUESTED:

(1) At any time during the sitting of the Assembly and without any formal announcement, the Deputy Speaker at the request of the Speaker takes the Chair as temporary Speaker.

28. ACTS OF DEPUTY SPEAKER AND ACTING SPEAKERS:

(1) When the Deputy Speaker or Acting Speaker takes the Chair pursuant to these Standing Orders or performs the duties or exercises the authority of the Speaker every act done and proceeding taken in or by the Assembly or by the Deputy Speaker or Acting Speaker shall be as valid and effectual as if the Speaker had been in the Chair or had performed the duties or exercised the authority as the case may be.

PART X SESSIONS, MEETINGS AND SITTINGS

29. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS:

(1) Sessions of the Legislative Assembly shall commence in the manner prescribed by Article 52 of the Constitution and shall be prorogued or dissolved in the manner prescribed by Article 63 of the Constitution.

(2) During any one Session, Sittings of the Legislative Assembly shall be in accordance with the Annual Sitting Programme adopted by the Assembly as prescribed in Standing Order 169 and may adjourn on days set out in the sitting programme.

(3) When the Assembly is adjourned and it appears to the Prime Minister desirable in the public interest that the Assembly should sit at an earlier date than that adjourned to, the Prime Minister after consulting with the other party leaders, and informing the Speaker that the Assembly should sit at an earlier date, advises Le Ao o le Malo to summon the Assembly.

30. NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

(1) Before the commencement of a new Meeting the Clerk shall send to each member not less than fourteen days written notice directing attention to the summoning of the Assembly.

Provided that in cases of emergency, O Le Ao o le Malo may summon a Meeting on such shorter notice as the circumstances require in which event notification shall be given to members either in writing or by any other means which will ensure that members are duly informed.

(2) Where the Assembly is to be reassembled after an adjournment of more than fourteen days, the Clerk shall send to each Member a written notice of the day appointed for the next Meeting and shall, if practicable, attach thereto a copy of the Business Paper.

31. SITTINGS:

(1) Subject to the provisions of Standing Order 29 (Sessions and Meetings) the Assembly shall sit on such days as it shall decide, and each Sitting, unless the Assembly otherwise decides, shall commence at 9 a.m. and, unless the Assembly has previously adjourned and subject to the provisions of

Standing Order 32 (Adjournment on a Definite Matter of Public Business), end at 1 p.m. provided that sittings on Fridays shall end at 12.00 noon.

(2) At five minutes before the appointed time to end the sitting Mr Speaker shall interrupt the business under discussion. If the Assembly is then in Committee the Chairman shall interrupt the business and declare the Assembly resumed Mr Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without the question put.

(3) Every adjournment of the Assembly shall, unless the Assembly otherwise orders, be to the next day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday.

(4) Mr Speaker may at any time suspend a Sitting.

32. ADJOURNMENT ON A DEFINITE MATTER OF PUBLIC BUSINESS:

(1) A Motion "That the Assembly do now adjourn" for the purposes of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be moved only after the presentation of Papers and Reports and before the next business of the day is entered upon.

(2) A Member proposing to move such Motion shall submit to Mr Speaker at least one hour (or such less time as may be allowed by Mr Speaker) before the time fixed for the commencement of the sitting of the Assembly a brief written statement of the subject matter proposed to be discussed.

(3) Mr Speaker, if he be of the opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is one contemplated by this Standing Order, shall read the written statement thereof to the Assembly and shall then desire members who approve of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and if not less than five members, including the mover, rise accordingly, the motion stands over until eleven o'clock or until the conclusion of the business before that time.

(4) The right to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance is subject to the following restrictions:

- (i) Not more than one such motion can be made at the same sitting.
- (ii) Not more than one matter can be discussed on the same motion.
- (iii) The motion must not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same Meeting.
- (iv) The motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration by the Assembly or with reference to which a Notice of Motion has been previously given.
- (v) The motion must not raise a question of privilege.

(5) No member other than the mover of the motion and the Minister first speaking thereto (each of whom may speak for twenty minutes) shall speak for more than ten minutes, and the debate shall be strictly relevant to the particular matter raised.

33. QUORUM:

(1) No business shall be transacted at any sitting if objection is taken by any member of Parliament present that the number of members present is (besides the Speaker or other member presiding) fewer than one-half of the total number of members of Parliament, excluding vacancies.

(2) If the attention of Mr Speaker is directed to the fact that a quorum is not present he shall direct members to be summoned, and if at the expiration of five minutes a quorum is not present he shall adjourn the Assembly without question put.

(3) If the absence of a quorum is noticed in Committee the Chairman shall direct members to be summoned, and if at the expiration of five minutes a quorum is not present, the Assembly shall be resumed and Mr Speaker shall forthwith count the Assembly. If a quorum is then present the Assembly shall forthwith again resolve itself into Committee, but if a quorum is not present the Assembly shall be adjourned as provided in (2) of this Order.

PART XI DUTIES OF THE CLERK

34. BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

(1) At every sitting of the Assembly (except the first day of the meeting of a new Parliament) the Assembly shall proceed with its business in the order set out in Standing Order 44.

35. ORDER PAPER TO BE PREPARED AND CIRCULATED:

(1) An Order Paper shall be prepared by the Clerk showing the business to be placed before or taken by the Assembly in the order in which it is to be taken together with information on progress of Bills and Papers and such Order Paper shall be circulated on every sitting day (except the first day of the meeting of a new Parliament) as early as possible before the Assembly meets.

36. ORDER BOOK:

(1) The Clerk shall keep a book to be called the Order Book in which he shall enter all matters intended for discussion at each Meeting. The Order Book shall be open to the inspection of members at all reasonable hours.

37. CUSTODY OF JOURNALS AND RECORDS:

(1) The custody of the Journals and records, and of all papers and accounts whatsoever presented to or belonging to the Assembly, shall be in the Clerk, who shall neither take, nor permit to be taken, any of such Journals, records, papers, or accounts from the Assembly or offices without any order of the Assembly or by leave or order of the Speaker.

38. JOURNALS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

(1) All proceedings of the Assembly shall be noted by the Clerk, and shall constitute the Journals of the Assembly.

(2) The Journals for each session of the Assembly shall be distributed to all members in the Samoan language and when requested in the English language not less than one month, before the commencement of the next ensuing session.

39. AUTHORITY OF CLERK TO DISPOSE OF OLD RECORDS:

(1) The Clerk shall have authority at the end of every session to destroy or otherwise dispose of the following records of the Assembly -

(a) Petitions presented to the Assembly 20 years previously; and

(b) Records more than 5 years old being -

(i) Papers laid upon the Table which have been printed in the Appendices of the Journals of the Assembly.

(ii) Clerk's and other notes (including notice of motion) taken at the Table and elaborated in the Journals.

(iii) Manuscripts of division lists.

(iv) Minutes of proceedings and papers of Select Committees which have appeared in print in the Appendices.

(v) Reports of Select Committees which have been printed in the Journal or Appendices.

(vi) Record copies of Order Papers with the Clerk's original notes.

(vii) Messages from Le Ao o le Malo which have been printed in the Journals.

(viii) Manuscript note and other books which are of no further use.

40. RECORD OF MEMBERS:

(1) A record of the Members of Parliament shall be kept by the Clerk, in which shall be entered the name of each member, Party, the date of his election, the date of his taking his seat, and, on his ceasing to be a Member, the date and the cause thereof.

**PART XII
OFFICIAL REPORT**

41. OFFICIAL REPORT:

(1) An official Report of the proceedings of the Assembly which shall be as nearly as possible verbatim shall be prepared under the supervision of the Clerk in both the Samoan and English languages.

(2) The Report shall be published in such form as Mr Speaker may direct, and a copy thereof shall be sent to each member as soon as practicable after the conclusion of each Meeting.

(3) A copy of the record of each member's speech shall be sent to him for correction before it is published. If the Member does not return the copy to the Clerk within four days from the date upon which it was despatched the speech may be published without correction.

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

(5) The Official Report of each Session of the Legislative Assembly shall be distributed to all Members of Parliament in the Samoan language and, when requested, in the English language not less than one month before the commencement of the next ensuing session.

PART XIII THE MACE

42. THE MACE:

(1) The Mace shall be the symbol of the authority of the Assembly entrusted by it to Mr Speaker.

(2) The Mace shall lie upon the Table during all Sittings of the Assembly, but when the Assembly is in Committee the Mace shall be removed from the Table and placed under it.

(3) When the Assembly is dissolved the Mace shall be returned to the custody of Le Ao o le Malo.

PART XIV SERGEANT AT ARMS

43. SERGEANT AT ARMS:

(1) Mr Speaker may appoint a person to hold office as Sergeant at Arms.

PART XV ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

44. ORDER OF BUSINESS:

(1) The business of each Sitting shall be set out in the Order Paper and whenever possible, shall be transacted in the following order -

(a) Formal entry of the Speaker;

- (b) Prayer;
- (c) Swearing in of new members;
- (d) Message from Le Ao o le Malo;
- (e) Other announcements by the Speaker;
- (f) Obituary speeches;
- (g) Presentation of Papers and Reports;
- (h) Questions for oral answers;
- (i) Statements by Ministers;
- (j) Personal explanations;
- (k) Motions by Ministers and Chairmen of Select Committees;
- (l) Motion for adjournment on matters of urgent public importance;
- (m) Petitions;
- (n) Reading of Government Bills;
- (o) Consideration of Select Committee Reports;
- (p) Considerations of Papers and Reports;
- (q) (Motions) Public Business and Orders of the Day;
- (r) Motions for the adjournment of the Assembly other than in (l).

Provided that Private Members' questions for written answers, motions for which notices have been given and reading of Private Member's Bills shall follow questions for oral answers on Thursday sittings only.

(2) By leave of the Speaker, the Order of Business set out in the Order Paper may be altered on any particular day.

45. ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS:

(1) On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Government business shall have precedence of Private Members' business. On such days the Government may arrange its business in such order as it thinks fit.

(2) On Thursday Private Members' business shall have precedence of Government business, excepting Committee of Supply, and Private Members' Motions shall have precedence of Private Members' Bills.

46. BUSINESS MAY BE CARRIED FORWARD:

(1) A motion carrying business forward to the next session of Parliament may be moved by the Chairman of the Business Committee without notice.

(2) Where the Assembly resolves to carry business forward to the next session of Parliament, that business is resumed in that next session at the stage it had reached in the preceding session.

47. ORDERS OF THE DAY:

(1) Government Orders of the Day shall have precedence over all Orders of the Day, and Government Notices of Motion over all other Notices of Motion at every sitting of the Assembly, except on Thursdays when Private

Members' Notices of Motion take precedence over all Government Notices of Motion.

(2) Orders of the Day and Notices of Motion shall be disposed of in the order in which they stand on the Order Paper, provided that the Government shall have the right to have Government Orders of the Day and Government Notices of Motion placed upon the Order Paper in the rotation in which they are to be taken.

(3) Orders of the Day not reached before the end of a sitting or appointed for a day on which the Assembly does not sit shall be set down for the next sitting of the Assembly.

PART XVI PAPERS

48. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS:

(1) Papers may be presented to the Assembly by a Minister delivering them to the Clerk before the Assembly meets on any sitting day. Papers delivered to the Clerk by Ministers shall be deemed to be tabled the moment the Assembly meets.

(2) The Clerk shall at the time for presentation of papers read out to the Assembly a list of such papers.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in this Standing Order, the Speaker may also present papers to the Assembly at the time for presentation of papers.

(4) Any paper desired by a member to be presented to the Assembly shall be obtained only by a resolution of the Assembly.

(5) A record shall be made on the Order Paper of all papers presented to the Assembly.

(6) Papers shall be classified by the Clerk and distributed to the most appropriate Select Committee appointed under Standing Order 143.

49. QUOTING DOCUMENTS:

Whenever a Minister quotes from a document relating to public affairs a member may, on a point of order, require the Minister to lay the document on the Table. The Minister must then lay the document on the Table unless it is of a confidential matter.

50. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT:

Any annual report or other report to the Legislative Assembly from the Komesina o Sulufaiga or the Controller and Chief Auditor and the Department of the Legislative Assembly shall stand referred to the Officers of Parliament Committee for consideration.

51. PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEES REPORTS:

(1) Each Select Committee to which a paper was referred to except a bill, petition or question of privilege shall report to the Assembly within 3 months from the date on which the paper was referred under Standing Order 48.

(2) Each Select Committee to which a bill, petition or question of privilege was referred to shall report to the Assembly in accordance with the Instruction given.

(3) A report of a Select Committee is presented by delivering it to the Clerk on any working day.

(4) A report is published under the authority of the Legislative Assembly once it is presented.

(5) The Clerk shall read out the list of reports at the time appointed for Presentation of Select Committee Reports.

52. CONSIDERATION OF PAPERS:

(1) Papers tabled on motion for consideration shall be listed under "Papers for Consideration".

(2) When such papers are called the Speaker shall call the Number and Title of each Paper in the order under which each paper appears in the Order Paper and the Speaker shall call upon the member who had moved the motion for tabling of such paper to speak first.

53. CONSIDERATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(1) Select Committee Reports presented shall be listed under "Select Committee Reports for Consideration".

(2) When each report is reached for consideration, the Speaker shall call the Number and the Title of the Report. When a report is called, the chairperson of the Select Committee who presented the report shall move a motion to take note of the report. In the absence of the chairperson, any other member of the Committee may move the motion.

54. GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(1) The Government must, not more than 90 days after a Select Committee Report has been adopted by the Assembly present a paper to the Legislative Assembly responding to any recommendations contained in the report which are addressed to it.

(2) No response under this Standing Order is required in respect of Select Committee Reports on Bills, Supplementary Order Papers, questions of privilege, Estimates, and Supplementary Estimates.

55. CONSIDERATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS ON BILLS:

(1) Each Select Committee to which a bill has been referred to for consideration, shall consider the bill and report thereupon to the Assembly on instruction specific to that Bill.

(2) Where a Select Committee is unable to report on a Bill as instructed, the Select Committee may on motion extend the time specified in the instruction by leave of the Assembly.

(3) When a Select Committee Report on a Bill is presented, the Title of that Bill specified for Consideration of Select Committee Report shall appear under Government Orders of the Day.

**PART XVII
PETITIONS**

56. PETITIONS:

(1) A Petition may be presented to the Assembly only by a Member, who shall affix his name in the beginning thereof.

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

(3) Any member may move that the Petition be read. No debate shall be permitted, on such motion, and if it is seconded the question shall be put forthwith. If the motion is agreed to the Clerk shall read the Petition.

(4) All Petitions shall be ordered, without Question put, to lie upon the Table. Such Petitions shall stand referred to a Select Committee to be appointed by the Assembly.

(5) No member may present to the Assembly a Petition signed by himself, except as representative of a publicly incorporated body.

(6) No Petition shall be presented to the Assembly unless it shall have been endorsed by the Clerk as being in accordance with the following rules:

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

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

(iii) If signatures are affixed to sheets other than that containing the Petition itself, such sheets shall carry at their head the prayer of the Petition.

(iv) Signatures or marks will not be counted unless in the case of signatures they are in the handwriting of the person signing, and in the case of marks they are witnessed, and unless in both cases they are followed by the addresses of the persons

signing or making a mark. Such signatures must be written upon, and not pasted or otherwise attached to each of the sheets on which the Petition itself is written.

(v) The Petition of a Corporation shall be under its common seal, if it has one.

(vi) Every Petition shall be in the Samoan or English language, and be accompanied by a translation.

(vii) No letters, affidavits, or other documents may be attached to a Petition.

(viii) No erasures or interlineations may be made in any Petition.

(ix) No reference shall be made in a Petition to any debate in the Assembly.

(7) Except with the consent of Le Ao o le Malo, the Assembly will not receive any Petition which asks for a grant of Public funds but Petitions praying for a grant of money by Bill may be received without the consent of Le Ao o le Malo.

(8) The Assembly or Public Petitions Committee will not consider any Petition on any matter for which there is a judicial remedy for which no application has been made.

(9) The style in which a Petition to the Assembly shall be drawn up shall be as follows:

“TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SAMOA:

“The Humble Petition of [here insert the names or description of the petitioner or petitioners].

“SHEWETH:

“That [here set forth the case or circumstances to be brought to the notice of the Assembly]. Wherefore your Petitioner (or Petitioners) prays (or pray) that [here set forth the particular object of the petitioner or the nature of the relief asked for]. And your Petitioner(s), as in duty bound, will ever pray, et cetera.

“Signatures, with addresses to follow.”

PART XVIII QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS AND OTHER MEMBERS

57. SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS:

- (1) Questions may be put to Ministers relating to:
 - (a) Affairs within their official functions; or
 - (b) Bills, motions, or other public matters connected with the business of the Assembly for which they are responsible.

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

58. NOTICE OF QUESTIONS:

(1) Notices of questions (specifying whether an oral or written reply is desired) shall be given by members in writing to the Clerk.

(2) Notices of questions for oral answers shall be given 2 days before the date on which the answer is required.

(3) The Clerk shall place on the Order Paper the notices of questions for oral answers received by the time specified.

(4) Notices of questions for written answers shall be given five days before the date on which the answer is required.

59. URGENT QUESTIONS:

(1) Notwithstanding Standing Order 58 any member desiring to ask an urgent question in the public interest shall give the Clerk a copy of such proposed question marked "urgent question" and shall also furnish a copy to the Minister to whom it is intended to address such question at least 1 day before the date on which the answer is required.

(2) After questions for oral answers addressed to Ministers have been taken, the Speaker (if the proposed question is one which the Speaker considers is in the public interest and therefore should be answered immediately) shall state its nature to the Assembly, whereupon such member may forthwith ask such question.

60. CONTENTS OF QUESTIONS:

(1) Every Question shall conform to the following rules:

- (a) A Question shall not include the names of persons or statements not strictly necessary to render the question intelligible;
- (b) A Question shall not contain statements which the Member who asks the question is not prepared to substantiate;
- (c) A Question shall not contain argument, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets, or contentious, ironical, or offensive expressions;
- (d) A Question shall not refer to debates or answers to Questions in the current session;
- (e) A Question shall not refer to proceedings in a Committee which have not been reported to the Assembly;
- (f) A Question shall not seek information about any matter which is of its nature secret;
- (g) A Question shall not reflect on a decision of a court of law and no Question shall be asked on any matter which is *sub judice*;

- (h) A Question shall not be asked for the purpose of obtaining an expression or opinion, the solution of an abstract legal case, or the answer to a hypothetical proposition;
 - (i) A Question shall not be asked as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity;
 - (j) A Question shall not be asked seeking information readily available in official publications or ordinary works of reference;
 - (k) A Question fully answered shall not be asked again during the same meeting.
- (2) If the presiding Member is of opinion that any Question of which a Member has given notice to the Clerk or which a Member has sought leave to ask without notice, infringes any of the provisions of this Order, he may direct:
- (a) That it be printed or asked with such alteration as he may direct;
or
 - (b) That the Member concerned be informed that the Question is inadmissible.

61. MANNER OF ASKING AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS:

(1) Questions for oral answers shall be taken on each day after Presentation of Papers.

(2) When a question for oral answer is called by the Speaker, the member in whose name it stands upon the Order Paper shall when rising to ask it indicate the Minister or member to whom it is addressed and shall read the question to the Assembly, whereupon the Speaker shall call upon the Minister or member to give the reply.

(3) In the absence of the member seeking to ask the question, any other member may, subject to notifying the Speaker before the commencement of the sitting, ask the question on behalf of the absent member, and any other Minister or the Under-Secretary may answer a question on behalf of a Minister who is not present when a question addressed to that Minister is called.

(4) A reply to a question for written answer shall be given by delivering it to the Clerk together with a copy to be supplied to the member who asked the question.

(5) The reply to a question for written answer shall be furnished to the Clerk for delivery to the member not later than the fifth working day following the first appearance of the notice of question on the Order Paper.

(6) The question and reply to a question for written answer shall be printed by the Clerk in the Order Paper and Hansard.

(7) The reply to any question shall be concise and confined to the subject matter of the question asked, and shall not contain -

- (a) Statements and the names of any persons unless they are strictly necessary to answer the question;

- (b) Arguments, inferences, imputations, epithets or ironical expressions;
- (c) Discreditable references to the Assembly or any member or any offensive or unparliamentary expression;
- (d) References to Debates in the current session, proceedings in committee not open to the public that have not been reported to the Assembly or to a case pending adjudication by any court, unless such reference is strictly necessary to answer the question.

PART XIX MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

62. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS:

(1) Statements may be made by Ministers on behalf of the Government relating to the decision of the Government on any matter.

(2) The debate upon any Question before the Assembly may be interrupted by leave of Mr Speaker to enable a Ministerial Statement to be made.

(3) No debate on a Ministerial Statement shall be permitted at the time when it is made, but any member may move that such Statement be printed and laid on the Table as a Paper for Consideration.

PART XX PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

63. PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS:

(1) By the indulgence of the Assembly and the leave of Mr Speaker a Member may, at the time appointed for Personal Explanations under the provisions of Standing Order 44 (Order of Business), explain matters of a personal nature although there is no Question before the Assembly, but such matters shall not be debated and the Member shall confine himself strictly to the vindication of his own conduct. The terms of the proposed statement shall first be submitted to Mr Speaker.

(2) Points of order concerning the accuracy of the Minutes may also be raised at the time appointed for Personal Explanations.

PART XXI MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

64. NOTICES OF MOTIONS:

(1) Unless any of these orders otherwise directs, notice shall be given of any motion which it is proposed to make, with the exception of the following:

- (a) A motion relating to a matter of privilege;
- (b) A motion for the adjournment of the Assembly or of a debate;

- (c) A motion that a petition be read or referred to a Select Committee;
- (d) A motion to amend a motion of which no notice is required or which is debated twenty-four hours after notice has been given;
- (e) A motion that a Member be no longer heard;
- (f) A motion for the suspension of a Member under Standing Order 91 (Order in the Assembly);
- (g) A motion for the reference of a Bill to a Select Committee;
- (h) A motion that the Assembly do resolve itself into Committee on a Bill;
- (i) A motion to report progress;
- (j) A motion for any Reading of a Bill;
- (k) A motion for the withdrawal of a Bill;
- (l) At the discretion of Mr Speaker or the Chairman in Committee, a motion for amendment of a grammatical or printer's error or other form of minor amendment;
- (m) A motion for the withdrawal of strangers;
- (n) A motion for the election of a Member under Standing Order 25 (Presiding in the Assembly);
- (o) Any motion the urgency of which is admitted by Mr Speaker;
- (p) A motion that a Ministerial Statement be printed and laid on the Table as a Paper for Consideration;
- (q) A motion carrying business forward.

65. MANNER OF GIVING NOTICE:

(1) All notices shall be given by being handed in at the Table when the Assembly is sitting, or by being transmitted to the Office of the Clerk so as to be receivable within the hours prescribed for the purpose.

(2) All notices shall be signed by the Member proposing the motion or amendment.

(3) Every notice shall be submitted to Mr Speaker who shall direct that it be printed in its original terms or with such amendment as he shall direct, or that it be returned to the Member submitting it as being inadmissible.

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

(5) No notice shall be given orally in the Assembly, but a Member may so inform the Assembly of his intention to raise a matter on the adjournment.

66. LENGTH OF NOTICE REQUIRED:

(1) Except as provided in the next succeeding paragraph no motion shall be debated until at least three days have elapsed (exclusive of any Sunday or

public holiday) after notice as prescribed in Standing Order 64 (Notices of Motions) has been given.

(2) A motion requiring notice and which is proposed by a Minister or a motion to amend a motion requiring notice or a motion for the amendment of a Bill may be debated twenty-four hours after notice has been given:

Provided that when a motion is debated twenty-four hours after notice has been given, amendments may be proposed to it without notice.

67. TERMS OF NOTICE MAY BE ALTERED:

(1) After a Notice of Motion has been given the terms thereof may be altered by the Member who shall deliver to the Clerk an amended Notice. The Clerk shall submit such amended Notice to Mr Speaker who shall direct that it be printed in its amended form or that it be returned to the Member submitting it as being inadmissible.

68. PRECEDENCE OF MOTIONS:

(1) Motions shall have precedence on each sitting day according to the order in which the Notices are received by the Clerk and entered on the Order Paper.

Provided that by leave of Mr Speaker and with the agreement of the Member whose motion is due for consideration the order of precedence may be altered.

69. MOTIONS TO BE SECONDED:

(1) Unless it is otherwise expressly provided in any of these Orders, every motion, unless made in Committee, must be seconded and if not seconded shall not be debated or entered in the Minutes.

(2) The mover of any motion may speak on the principle and merits of his motion before formally moving but if it is not then seconded it shall lapse forthwith.

70. WITHDRAWAL OF MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS:

(1) A Member who has proposed a motion or amendment may withdraw it, but if the motion or amendment has been seconded he may do so only by assent of the Assembly given on simple majority.

(2) A motion or amendment to which an amendment has been moved may not be withdrawn until the later amendment has either been disposed of or withdrawn.

71. MOTIONS TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS:

(1) The notice of any motion for the amendment of any of these Orders shall be accompanied by a draft of the proposed amendments. When the motion has been proposed and seconded the question shall be put forthwith. No debate shall be permitted on such motion. If the motion is agreed to the proposed amendment shall stand referred to the Standing Orders Committee and no further proceedings shall be taken upon it until the Standing Orders Committee has reported upon it which it shall do at its earliest convenience.

72. PUTTING THE QUESTION:

(1) Mr Speaker when putting the question shall state whether, in his opinion, the "Ayes" or the "Noes" have it, and, unless his opinion be acquiesced in by the minority, the Question shall be determined by a Division.

(2) A Question being put is resolved in the Affirmative or passed in the Negative by the majority of voices, "Aye" or "No".

(3) Mr Speaker may divide a complicated question to avoid any confusion.

73. AMENDMENTS:

(1) No amendment may be proposed to be made to any words which the Assembly has resolved shall stand part of a Question or which have been inserted in or added to a Question, except that it be the addition of other words thereto.

(2) An amendment proposed shall be disposed of before another amendment to the original Question may be moved.

(3) Amendments may be proposed to a proposed amendment whenever it comes to a Question whether the Assembly shall agree to such proposed amendment.

74. METHOD OF PUTTING THE QUESTIONS ON AMENDMENTS:

(1) Upon any amendment to leave out any of the words of a motion, the question to be proposed by Mr Speaker shall be "That those words be omitted".

(2) Upon any amendment to insert words in, or add words at the end of motion, the question to be proposed by Mr Speaker shall be "That those words be there inserted (or added)".

(3) Upon an amendment to leave out words and insert or add other words instead a question shall first be proposed "That those words be left out of the question", and if the question is agreed to, the question shall then be proposed "That those words be there inserted (or added)". If the first question is negative, no further amendment may be proposed to the words which the Assembly has so decided shall not be omitted.

(4) If Mr Speaker, before putting a question to leave out words, is informed that a Member wishes to move an amendment to leave out parts only

of those words, and if he is of opinion that the proposed amendment of which he is so informed is substantially a new amendment, he shall, if possible, put the question to leave out words in such form as will enable the subsequent amendment to be moved.

(5) When two or more amendments are proposed to be moved to the same motion, Mr Speaker shall call upon the movers in the order in which their amendments relate to the text of the motion, or in cases of doubt, in such order as he shall decide:

Provided that no amendment may be moved which relates to any words which the Assembly has decided shall not be omitted.

(6) If an amendment is moved to an amendment upon which Mr Speaker has proposed the question, the last mentioned amendment shall be dealt with as if it were the original motion until all amendments to it have been disposed of.

(7) When amendments have been made Mr Speaker shall put the question on the main Question as amended.

(8) When amendments have been proposed but not made, Mr Speaker shall put the question on the original Question as proposed.

PART XXII MESSAGES FROM O LE AO O LE MALO

75. MESSAGES FROM O LE AO O LE MALO:

(1) Mr Speaker shall immediately after Prayers, or as soon as any new Members have been sworn, read to the Assembly any Message addressed to the Assembly by O Le Ao o le Malo.

(2) Any message from Le Ao o le Malo approving an appropriation of public money for the purpose of an amendment to be moved to an Appropriation Bill required under Standing Order 134(6) shall be announced by the Speaker before the amendment is moved.

(3) Mr Speaker shall, unless a previous Message be then under consideration, immediately read the Message to the Assembly and if necessary, a time shall be fixed for taking the same into consideration, or, if no further consideration be necessary, the Message may then be laid upon the Table.

PART XXIII ADDRESSES TO LE AO O LE MALO

76. ADDRESSES TO LE AO O LE MALO:

(1) Addresses to Le Ao o le Malo shall be presented by the Speaker.

(2) The answer of Le Ao o le Malo to any address presented by the Speaker shall be reported to the Assembly by the Speaker.

**PART XXIV
RULES OF DEBATE**

77. TIME AND MANNER OF SPEAKING:

(1) A Member desiring to speak shall rise in his place and address the Chair.

Provided that general permission be granted to a member who is unable to stand because of infirmity of body to remain seated and such permission to take effect notwithstanding any other order contained in these Standing Orders.

(2) If two or more members rise at the same time, Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall decide which of them shall first speak.

(3) A Minister shall be referred to by the designation of the office held by him, e.g., Prime Minister, Minister of Education.

(3a) A member shall not be referred to by name but by respective constituency.

(4) Where convenient any member may be referred to as the *Honourable Member*:

Provided that this Order shall not be taken as authorising the use of the style *Honourable* in relation to a Member in any other context or outside the Assembly, except in relation to Minister and Mr Speaker.

(5) No member shall speak more than once to any question except -

(a) In Committee, or

(b) In explanation, as prescribed in the next succeeding paragraph, or

(c) In the case of the mover of a substantive motion wishing to reply.

Provided that if at any time Mr Speaker shall inquire who seconds a motion or an amendment, a Member may do so by rising in his place and bowing his acquiescence without speaking, and such member shall thereby reserve to himself the same rights of speech as he would have had if some other member had seconded such motion or amendment, save that he may not move or second any amendment or further amendment to the same motion of amendment.

(6) A Member who has spoken to a question may again be heard for the purpose of explaining some material part of his speech which has been misunderstood, or vindicating his character or conduct if it has been impugned, but he must not introduce new matter.

(7) A mover of a motion or amendment may speak in support thereof, but no further debate shall be allowed until the motion or amendment has been seconded.

(8) No member may speak on any question after the same has been finally put by Mr Speaker or the Chairman, that is to say after the voices of both Ayes and Noes have been given thereon.

(9) A Member shall not read his speech, but may read extracts from written or printed documents in support of his argument and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.

(10) A Member who has spoken to a question may speak again to any other new question which may arise, but may not speak again to the same question, except in Committee of the Whole Assembly.

(11) A Member who has spoken on the main question may not again enter upon it when speaking to an amendment, unless such amendment involves consideration and decision of the main question.

(12) When an amendment is moved the debate shall be confined to the amendment, unless it be of such a nature as to involve the consideration and decision of the main question in which case both the main question and the amendment are open for discussion.

(13) A right of reply shall be allowed only to the mover of a substantive Motion, and the reply shall be confined to matters raised during the debate; and in all cases the reply of the Mover of the original question shall close the debate.

78. MEMBERS LEAVING THEIR SEATS:

(1) A Member when passing between Mr Speaker's chair and any member who is speaking shall do so in such a way as not to interrupt Mr Speaker's view of the Member speaking, and no member may pass between the Chair and the Table and behind Mr Speaker's Chair while the House is sitting.

79. MEMBERS TO BE SEATED:

(1) Every member when in the Chamber shall be seated (except when participating in a division) and shall not at any time stand in any of the passages or gangways.

80. MEMBERS TO STAND AS SPEAKER LEAVES CHAMBER:

(1) When the Speaker is about to leave the Chamber at the conclusion of a sitting members rise in their places and remain standing until the Speaker has left the Chamber.

81. INTERRUPTIONS:

(1) No member shall interrupt any other member except-

(a) By rising to a point of order, whereupon the Member speaking shall resume his seat and the Member interrupting shall simply direct attention to the point which he desires to bring to notice and submit it to Mr Speaker or the Chairman for decision. When the point of order has been stated, the Member, except by leave of Mr Speaker or the Chairman, shall rise until Mr Speaker or the Chairman has decided the matter. When effect has been given to the decision, where necessary, the Member who was speaking

shall be entitle to proceed with his speech unless the decision so prevents him; or

- (b) To elucidate some matter raised by the Member speaking 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 Mr Speaker or the Chairman.

82. CONTENTS OF SPEECHES:

(1) Reference shall not be made to any matter on which judicial decision is pending in such a way as may, in the opinion of Mr Speaker or the Chairman, prejudice the interests of parties thereto.

(2) It shall be out of order to use offensive, blasphemous or unbecoming words or to impute improper motives to any other member or to make personal allusions.

(3) The name of Le Ao o le Malo shall not be used to influence the Assembly.

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

(5) The conduct of Le Ao o le Malo, Mr Speaker, Ministers, Members and Judges, or other persons engaged in the administration of justice shall not be raised, except upon a substantive motion, and in any amendment, question to a Minister or Member, or remarks in a debate on a motion dealing with any other subject, any reference to the conduct of the persons aforesaid shall be out of order.

(6) A Member shall be responsible for the accuracy of any facts which he alleges to be true and may be required to substantiate any such facts or to withdraw his allegation.

82A. APPLICATION FOR RESPONSE:

(1) Any person (not a member) who has been referred to in the Assembly by name, or in such a way as to be readily identifiable may make a submission to the Speaker in writing –

- (a) Claiming to have been adversely affected or have suffered damage to his reputation as a result of the reference;
- (b) Submitting a response to the reference; and
- (c) Requesting that the response be incorporated in the parliamentary records.

(2) A submission must be made within 30 days of the reference having been made.

(3) Any response must be precise and strictly relevant to the reference that was made. It must not contain anything offensive.

82B. CONSIDERATION BY SPEAKER:

(1) The Speaker shall consider whether in all circumstances of the case the response should be incorporated in the records.

(2) In that consideration the Speaker –

(a) May confer with the person who made the submission and the member who referred to that person in the Assembly;

(b) Shall take account of the extent to which the reference is capable of adversely affecting or damaging the reputation of the person making the submission.

(3) The Speaker is not to consider or judge the truth of the reference made in the Assembly or of the response to it.

82C. SPEAKER'S DECISION:

(1) If the Speaker decides against incorporation of the response in the parliamentary records, the Speaker must inform the person concerned that no further action will be taken.

(2) A response which the Speaker determines should be incorporated in the parliamentary records is presented to the Assembly for publication by order of the Assembly.

(3) The Speaker may decide that a response should be incorporated in the parliamentary record after the person has amended it in a manner approved by the Speaker.”

83. RELEVANCY IN DEBATE:

(1) Debate upon any motion, Bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, Bill, or amendment, except in the case of a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly under the provisions of Standing Order 31 (Sittings) and Standing Order 32 (Adjournment on Definite Matter of Public Business).

(2) Where an amendment proposes to leave out words and insert words instead, debate upon the first question proposed on the amendment may include both the words proposed to be left out and those proposed to be inserted.

(3) Upon an amendment proposing to leave out words or to insert or add words, the debate shall be confined to the omission or insertion or addition of such words, as the case may be.

84. MOTION THAT MEMBER BE NO LONGER HEARD:

(1) If a Member uses objectionable words and on being called to order fails to retract or explain such words and offer an apology to the satisfaction of Mr Speaker or the Chairman, any Member may with the consent of Mr Speaker or the Chairman, move that the Member using the objectionable words be no longer heard, and the question on that motion shall be put forthwith without amendment or debate.

85. ANTICIPATION:

(1) It shall be out of order to anticipate a Bill by discussion of a motion dealing with the subject matter of the Bill on a day prior to that appointed for the consideration of the Bill.

(2) It shall be out of order to anticipate a Bill or a motion by discussion upon an amendment or a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly.

(3) In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, regard shall be had by the Chair to the probability of the matter in anticipation being brought before the Assembly within a reasonable time.

86. CLOSURE OF DEBATE:

(1) After a question has been proposed, a Member may claim to move "That the question be now put", and unless it shall appear to Mr Speaker or the Chairman that such a motion is an abuse of the rules of the Assembly or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question. "That the question be now put", shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

(2) When the motion, "That the question be now put", has been carried and the matter 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) When a Clause of a Bill is under consideration, a motion may be made that the question that certain words of the Clause defined in the motion stand part of the Clause, or that the Clause stand part of, or be added to, the Bill, be now put, and if the assent of the Chair is given, such question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 25 (Presiding in the Assembly), this Order shall be put in force only when in the Assembly Mr Speaker, or in Committee the Chairman, is in the Chair.

(5) A question for the closure of debate shall not be considered to have been decided in the affirmative upon a division, notwithstanding that the Ayes have it, unless it appears, by the numbers declared from the Chair, that not less than twenty members voted in the majority in support of the motion.

87. ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE:

(1) A Debate may upon motion be adjourned either to a later hour on the same day or to any other day. The question for the adjournment of the debate shall be put forthwith and determined without amendment or debate.

(2) The Member upon whose motion any debate shall be adjourned shall be entitled, if he claims the right to speak first on the resumption of the debate.

(3) If the motion for the adjournment of the debate upon any question is negative, the Member moving the motion for such adjournment may address the Assembly at a later period during the debate.

88. LIMITATION OF DEBATE:

(1) The Assembly may impose a limit in respect of the debate on any particular motion by allotting a limited period of time for such debate or by limiting the time during which members may speak in such debate or by imposing both such limitations. The debate on any such motion if the question is not put and decided, shall lapse upon the expiry of the time limit or the adjournment of the sitting.

(2) No such motion shall be made except by a member of the Business Committee and on the direction of that Committee.

(3) Such motion may be made without notice: provided that such motion shall not be made in the course of the debate to which it refers unless it is moved after adjournment of such debate and before the debate is resumed.

(4) The debate on a Private Member's motion shall not exceed two hours duration and shall lapse upon the adjournment of the sitting.

**PART XXV
RULES OF ORDER**

89. CHAIR TO BE HEARD IN SILENCE:

(1) When Mr Speaker or the Chairman is addressing the Assembly any member then standing shall immediately resume his seat.

(2) When Mr Speaker or the Chairman addresses the Assembly there shall be silence in the Assembly.

90. DECISION OF CHAIR FINAL:

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

91. ORDER IN THE ASSEMBLY:

(1) Any member deviating from these Orders may be immediately called to order by Mr Speaker or the Chairman, or by any other member rising to a point of order as prescribed by Standing Order 81 (Interruptions).

(2) Mr Speaker or the Chairman, having called the attention of the Assembly or 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 the Member to discontinue his speech.

(3) Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall order Members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Assembly during the remainder of that day's Sitting, and the Sergeant at Arms shall act on such orders as he may receive from the Chair in pursuance of the provisions of this paragraph. But if, on any occasion, Mr Speaker or the Chairman deems that his powers under the previous provisions of this paragraph are inadequate, he may name such member or members, in which event the same procedure shall be followed as is prescribed in (4) to (8) of this Order.

(4) Whenever a Member shall have been named by Mr Speaker or the Chairman immediately after the commission of the offence of disregarding the authority of the Chair, or of persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the Assembly by abusing the rules of the Assembly or otherwise, then, if the offence has been committed by such member in the Assembly, a motion shall forthwith be proposed and seconded by two Ministers "That such member be suspended from the service of the Assembly", and Mr Speaker shall forthwith put the question on that motion, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed; and, if the offence has been committed in a Committee of the Whole Assembly, the Chairman shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee and report the circumstance to the Assembly; and Mr Speaker shall on a motion being made forthwith put the same question, no amendment, adjournment, or debate being allowed, as if the offence had been committed in the Assembly itself.

(5) If a Member is suspended under this Order, his suspension on the first occasion in any Session shall be for the remainder of that sitting day; on the second occasion in any Session for seven days, including the day of suspension, and on the third or any subsequent occasion during the same Session for twenty-eight days, including the day of suspension.

(6) Not more than one member shall be named at the same time, unless two or more members, present together, have jointly disregarded the authority of the Chair.

(7) If a Member, or two or more members acting jointly who have been suspended under this Order from the service of the Assembly shall refuse to obey the direction of Mr Speaker when severally summoned under Mr Speaker's orders by the Sergeant at Arms to obey the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience such direction Mr Speaker shall call the attention of the Assembly to his direction, and the Member or members named by him as having refused to obey his direction shall thereupon and without any further question being put be suspended from the service of the Assembly during the remainder of the Meeting.

(8) Nothing in this Order shall be deemed to prevent the Assembly from proceeding against any member for any of the offence specified herein in any other way the Assembly thinks fit, or from proceeding against him for any offence not specified herein.

(9) Mr Speaker or the Chairman, when acting under (3) or (4) of this Order, may direct such steps to be taken as are require to enforce this Order.

(10) Members who are ordered to withdraw under (3) of this Order or who are suspended from the service of the Assembly under (4) of this Order shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the House.

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

(12) Suspension from the service of the Assembly shall not exempt a member from serving on any Select Committee to which he may have been appointed prior to his suspension.

PART XXVI DIVISIONS

92. VOTING OF MEMBERS:

(1) All questions shall be decided by a majority of votes of all members present.

(2) The Speaker, or the Deputy Speaker (or any other member of Parliament while presiding over a sitting of the Legislative Assembly in the absence of the Speaker), or in Committee the Chairman, shall not have a deliberative vote but, in the case of an equality of votes shall have a casting vote.

(3) When the question has been put by Mr Speaker or the Chairman at the conclusion of the debate, the votes shall be taken by voices, Aye and No, and provided that no member then claims a division, the result shall be declared by Mr Speaker or the Chairman.

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

(5) A Member must vote according to his voice.

(6) A Member may not vote on any question in which he has a direct pecuniary interest and if he votes on such a question his vote may on motion be disallowed. Subject to the provisions of this paragraph all members present within the confines of the Chamber when a division is taken must vote in the division.

93. PROCEDURE ON DIVISIONS:

(1) When a division has been requested by any member, Mr Speaker shall ask the Clerk to ring the Bell for two minutes and call in the Members. The Clerk shall then ensure that the Members in the buildings adjacent to the Chamber are notified that a division is to take place. After the expiration of three minutes Mr Speaker shall put the question again to the Assembly or Committee of the Whole Assembly and shall call upon those Members who are of the Affirmative opinion to rise in their places. The Clerk shall then call

the name of each member standing commencing with the Ministers and shall record their votes on a printed list. A Member may resume his seat when his name has been distinctly called by the Clerk. When the votes of all the AYES have been recorded Mr Speaker shall call upon those members who are of the negative opinion to rise in their places whereupon a similar procedure shall be followed. When all the votes, both affirmative and negative, have been recorded, the Clerk shall hand the division lists to Mr Speaker who shall declare the result.

(2) The names of the Members who have voted on a division shall be printed in the records of the Minutes and Official Report of the Assembly showing separately those who were of the affirmative opinion and those who were of the negative opinion.

(3) If a Member states that he voted in error he may, immediately after Mr Speaker has announced the figures and before he declares the result of the division, claim to have his vote correctly recorded.

(4) Mr Speaker shall direct that a second division be called in case of confusion or error unless the same can be otherwise corrected.

(5) Mr Speaker on being informed after a division that the numbers have been inaccurately reported shall direct the Clerk to correct the minutes.

(6) Mr Speaker may refuse to call a division unnecessarily claimed.

(7) No member shall be entitled to speak while a division is being taken except on a point of order, which, if raised, shall forthwith be decided by Mr Speaker without debate.

PART XXVII BILLS

94. CERTAIN RULES REGARDING BILLS:

(1) No Bill shall be submitted to Le Ao o le Malo for its assent until it has been read three times.

(2) Every Bill shall be accompanied by an Explanatory Memorandum, signed by the Minister or Member introducing the Bill, stating fully the objects and reasons for the Bill.

(3) All Bills shall be distinguished by titles and shall be divided into successive Clauses consecutively numbered, and to every Clause there shall be an introductory note giving a short indication of its contents.

(4) Matters which in the opinion of Mr Speaker have no proper relation to each other shall not be provided by the same Bill without the consent of Le Ao o le Malo.

(5) No Bill shall contain anything foreign to what its long Title imports.

95. INITIATION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS:

(1) A government Bill may be presented to the Assembly on a message from Le Ao o le Malo on any sitting day.

96. INITIATION OF A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL:

(1) A Private Member's Bill shall be initiated by a motion for leave to introduce the Bill on a Thursday sitting only.

(2) A Private Bill shall not contain any clause that would dispose or change any public revenue or alter any rate, tax or duty.

97. FAIR COPY OF PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO BE DELIVERED TO THE CLERK FOR PRINTING AND CIRCULATION:

(1) A fair copy of every Private Member's Bill shall be delivered to the Clerk no later than the time prescribed under Standing Order 99(4).

(2) The Clerk shall arrange for the bill to be printed and for copies to be circulated to the members benches on the day on which the motion for leave to introduce it is to be moved.

98. DEBATE ON MOTION FOR LEAVE TO INTRODUCE:

(1) The debate on any motion for leave to introduce any Private Member's Bill shall not exceed 2 hours. The speech of the member moving the motion shall not exceed 15 minutes. The speech of other members (including the speech of the mover in reply to the debate) shall not exceed ten minutes each.

(2) Ten minutes before the expiration of the total time allowed for the debate the Speaker shall interrupt the member then speaking, and call upon the mover of the motion to speak in reply.

99. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF BILLS:

(1) Except as provided in the next succeeding paragraph, no Bill shall be introduced unless the Short Title of the Bill has been published either in the Samoa Gazette or the Savali or a local newspaper or by broadcast over the Government Broadcasting Service and as far possible copies of such Bill have been distributed to members before the commencement of the sitting at which the Bill is to be introduced, or the motion for introduction is to be moved.

(2) Whenever Mr Speaker receive a Certificate of Urgency signed by Le Ao o le Malo he shall as soon as possible lay such certificate on the Table. Any Bill mentioned in such certificate may be introduced without prior publication or distribution to members.

(3) Any member may move to introduce a Bill of which he has given notice, but a Bill may be introduced on behalf of the Government, after notice, without an order of the Assembly.

(4) At least one day's notice shall be given of the introduction of a Bill on behalf of the Government and at least seven days' notice of a motion for introduction of any other Bill.

(5) When any Bill has been introduced into the Assembly the Question “That this Bill be now read a first time” shall be decided without amendment or debate. On a motion being carried the Clerk shall read aloud the Title of the Bill, which shall then deemed to be read the first time.

100. SECOND READING OF BILLS:

(1) After the first reading the bill is set down for second reading on the third sitting day following.

Provided that a bill presented under a certificate of urgency signed by Le Ao o le Malo maybe set down for second reading on the same day the bill was read a first time.

(2) On a motion being made and seconded “That the Bill be now read a second time”, a debate may arise covering the principles and general merits of the Bill.

(3) If the motion is carried, the Clerk shall read aloud the Title of the Bill, which shall then be deemed to have been read a second time.

(4) On the Second Reading of a Bill, an amendment may be proposed to the question, “That the Bill be now read a second time”, to leave out the word “now” and add, at the end of the question, 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 principles of the Bill and not deal with its details. If the Assembly agrees to an amendment in either of such forms, the Second Reading of the Bill shall be considered to have been negative.

101. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS:

(1) When a Bill has been read a second time, it shall stand referred to the Select Committee identified by the Speaker.

(2) Notwithstanding (1) of this Order, a bill presented under a certificate of urgency signed by Le Ao o le Malo, or a bill which is proved to the satisfaction of the Speaker to be urgently needed for the interest of the people maybe considered in detail by the Assembly without referral to a Select Committee.

(3) When a Bill has been referred to a Select Committee no further proceedings shall be taken thereon until the Select Committee has reported to the Assembly.

102. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS IN DETAIL:

(1) On the order for consideration of a Bill in detail, the Assembly shall not discuss principles of the Bill but only its details.

(2) Amendments may be made to a Bill provided the amendments (including new Clauses and new Schedules) comply with the following conditions:

- (a) They must be relevant to both the subject matter of the Bill and to the subject matter of the Clause to which they relate;
- (b) They must not be inconsistent with any Clause already agreed to or any decision already reached;
- (c) If they refer to, or are not intelligible without a subsequent amendment, or schedule notice of the subsequent amendment or schedule, unless the Speaker permits otherwise, must be given before or when the first amendment is moved, so as to make the series of amendments intelligible;
- (d) If an amendment is not within the title of the Bill, the Title shall be amended accordingly;
- (e) The provision of Standing Order 74 (Method of putting the question on Amendments) shall apply to the consideration of amendments to Bills, and any amendments proposed to an amendment shall be dealt with before a decision is taken on the original amendment.

103. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF BILLS IN DETAIL:

- (a) The Speaker shall call the number of each Clause in succession and shall read the introductory note to each Clause and if no amendment is offered the Speaker shall, after a convenient number of Clauses has been called, put the question “That Clausesto stand part of the Bill”;
- (b) If any Member announces, while the Clauses are being called, that he wishes to move an amendment to, or make some comment on a Clause, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question with regard to all the Clauses which have been called but not yet agreed to, excluding the Clause indicated by the Member which shall then be considered:
- (c) After the Clause has been so considered, and after any proposed amendment thereto has been agreed to or negatived, the Speaker shall put the question “That clause(or clause..... as amendedstand part of the Bill”;
- (d) The following order shall be observed in considering a Bill in Assembly:-
 - (i) Clauses as printed.
 - (ii) Postponed clauses.
 - (iii) New clauses (including those substituted for others disagreed to).
 - (iv) Schedules.
 - (v) New Schedules.
 - (vi) Preamble.
 - (vii) Amendment to Title (where necessary) and in considering the Bill upon recommittal the following order shall be followed:

- (e) A clause in the Bill as printed may be postponed unless upon an amendment thereto a question shall have been put from the Chair;
- (f) New Clauses may be considered at their appropriate places in the Bill, or they may be deferred for consideration until after the Clauses in the Bill as printed have been disposed of;
- (g) On the title of any new Clause being read by the Speaker the Clause shall be deemed to have been read the first time. The question shall then be proposed "That the Clause be read a second time", and if it 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".
- (h) New Schedules shall be considered and treated in the same way as new Clauses;
- (i) When a new Clause or Schedule has been agreed to by the Assembly or amended and agreed to, it shall not be competent for the Assembly to resume consideration thereof.

104. PROCEDURE IN SELECT COMMITTEE ON BILLS:

(1) A Select Committee on a Bill shall be subject to all the provisions of the Standing Orders relating to procedure in Select Committees but before reporting the Bill to the Assembly the Committee shall go through the Bill as provided in paragraphs (a) to (i) of Standing Order 103 (Procedure for Consideration of Bills in Detail) and (2) of Standing Order 102 (Consideration of Bills in Detail).

105. SPEECHES IN CONSIDERATION OF BILLS IN DETAIL:

(1) No member shall speak for more than fifteen minutes at any one time or more than two times on the Short Title, Clause or Schedule of a Bill or any amendment thereto:

Provided that this rule shall not apply to -

- (i) A Minister or Member In-Charge of a Bill.
- (ii) A Minister In-Charge of a class of Estimates in regard to the number of his speeches.

106. PROCEDURE ON BILLS REPORTED FROM SELECT COMMITTEE:

(1) When a Bill has been reported from a Select Committee the Assembly shall proceed to consider the bill, as reported from the Select Committee, upon a motion "That the report from the Select Committee be approved."

(2) If the motion is agreed to without amendment the Assembly may proceed to consideration of the Bill in detail.

(3) Upon a motion to approve the report from a Select Committee on a Bill, any member may propose an amendment to add at the end of the motion

the words “subject to reconsideration of the report by the Assembly” (either wholly or in respect to some part of the report) and if that motion is agreed to the Assembly shall consider the report as proposed.

107. THIRD READING OF BILLS:

(1) Upon a motion being made and seconded “That this Bill be now read the third time”, amendments for the correction of errors or oversights may, with Mr Speaker’s permission, be made, but no amendment of a material character shall be proposed.

(2) When the question is put “That this Bill be now read the third time”, it shall be competent for any member to move an amendment for deferment or otherwise as prescribed by (4) of Standing Order 100 (Second Reading of Bills).

(3) If the motion is carried, the Clerk shall read aloud the Title of the Bill, which shall then be deemed to have been read the third time.

(4) A motion for the Third Reading of a Bill shall not be made on the same day as the Bill is reported from a Committee of the Whole Assembly or the report from the Select Committee on the Bill is approved, except in the case of an Imprest Supply or Appropriation Bill or a Bill presented upon a Certificate of Urgency.

108. BILL PASSED:

(1) After the third reading no further Questions shall be put and the Bill shall have passed the Assembly.

109. BILLS PASSED TO BE PRINTED FAIR, AUTHENTICATED AND PRESENT FOR ASSENT OF LE AO O LE MALO:

When a bill has been passed it is printed fair by direction of the Clerk, who authenticates five prints and presents them for assent of Le Ao o le Malo.

110. FORMAL AMENDMENTS:

(1) In preparing the bill for assent by Le Ao o le Malo, amendments of formal nature maybe made and clerical or typographical errors maybe corrected in any part of the bill by the Clerk.

(2) Amendments and corrections made must be recorded in the “Certificate for Amendments to the Bill”.

111. AFTER LE AO O LE MALO’S ASSENT GIVEN:

When Le Ao o le Malo’s assent to a bill has been given, the Clerk shall deposit one of the fair prints of the bill with the Secretary to Le Ao o le Malo, the second to the Attorney General, the third with the Registrar of the Supreme Court, the forth to the Minister responsible for the bill and retains the fifth.

112. BILLS ASSENTED TO BECOME ACTS OF PARLIAMENT:

(1) No Bill shall become a law until O le Ao o le Malo has given his assent thereto.

(2) Whenever a Bill which has been passed by the Legislative Assembly is presented to O Le Ao o le Malo for his assent, he shall, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, declare that the assents to the Bill or that he refuses his assent to the Bill.

(3) A law assented to by O Le Ao o le Malo as herein provided shall be known as an Act of Parliament and shall come into force either on the day on which it is assented to, or on any date (whether earlier or later than the date on which it is assented to) specified in that behalf in the Act.

113. WITHDRAWAL OF BILLS:

(1) Either before the commencement of public business or at the commencement of any stage of a Bill, the Minister or Member in charge of a Bill may make a motion, without notice, for its withdrawal and discharge from the Order Paper.

114. RESUMPTION OF LAPSED BILL

(1) When the progress of a Public Bill has been interrupted when the last meeting in each year is adjourned *sine die* or by prorogation (but not by dissolution) such Bill may, on motion be revived in the following session.

(2) The revived Bill may be proceeded with at the commencement of the stage which it had reached during the previous session, unless the motion otherwise provides.

**PART XXVIII
BILLS AFFECTING PRIVATE PERSONS**

115. BILLS AFFECTING PRIVATE PERSONS:

(1) No motion for the introduction of a Bill, other than a Government Bill, intended to affect or benefit some particular person, association, or corporate body shall be made unless at least one month's notice incorporating a statement of the general nature and objects of the Bill has been published in the *Samoa Gazette*, and a newspaper circulating. Every such Bill shall contain a clause saving the rights of the Independent State of Samoa, all bodies politic and corporate and all others except such as are mentioned in the Bill and those claiming by, from or under them.

(2) The cost of preparation and printing of all such Bills shall not be a charge upon the Government if the Bill is rejected by the Assembly.

(3) When such Bill has been read a second time, it shall be referred to the Internal Affairs and Environment Committee.

(4) No Member shall be allowed to sit on such Select Committee until he has made and signed a declaration:

- (a) That he has no personal pecuniary interest in the Bill, and;
- (b) That he will not vote on any question that may arise and in respect of which evidence may be given, without having duly heard and attended to the evidence relating thereto.

(5) When a Bill has been referred to the Internal Affairs and Environment Committee under (3) of this Order, any party affected by the Bill may be heard before the Committee upon application, either in person or by Counsel, together with any witnesses. The Committee may take such oral or other evidence as it may think requisite.

(6) No new Clause shall be allowed in such Bill which is foreign to the import of the statement required by (1) of this Order.

(7) A Private Member's Bill shall be automatically withdrawn if the Member either ceases to be a Member of Parliament or becomes a Minister.

(8) The Government may, with the consent of the Member in charge of the Bill, adopt the same, but before the said Bill shall be dealt with as a Government Bill the Minister adopting the Bill shall notify Mr Speaker in writing that such Bill has been adopted by the Government and Mr Speaker shall inform the Assembly accordingly.

PART XXIX COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY

116. ASSEMBLY RESOLVES ITSELF INTO A COMMITTEE:

- (1) The Assembly resolves itself into Committee by:
 - (a) A motion "That this Assembly resolves itself into Committee of the Whole Assembly" for a purpose specified in the motion; or
 - (b) On order of the day set out in the Order Paper.
- (2) On the order being called for going into Committee for any purpose, the Speaker declares the Assembly in Committee.

117. MACE PLACED ACROSS THE TABLE:

- (1) The Mace shall be placed across the Table when the Assembly is in Committee of the Whole.

118. COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ONLY MATTERS REFERRED:

(1) A Committee of the Whole Assembly may only consider such matters as shall have been referred to it by the Assembly. (See also Standing Order 141).

119. TIME-LIMIT OF SPEECHES:

(1) In Committee of the Whole Assembly no member shall speak for more than fifteen minutes at any one time or more than two times on any other Question before the Committee:

Provided that this rule shall not apply to -

(i) A Minister or Member In-Charge of a motion or other matter.

120. MOTION NOT REQUIRED TO BE SECONDED:

(1) A Motion or amendment proposed in Committee of the Whole Assembly shall not require to be seconded.

121. MEMBERS MAY SPEAK MORE THAN ONCE:

(1) In Committee of the Whole Assembly Members may speak more than once to the same Question; but when more than one member rises to speak the Chairman shall give preference to a Member who has not previously spoken on the same Question.

122. DISORDER ARISING:

(1) If any sudden disorder should arise in Committee of the Whole Assembly Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall declare the Assembly resumed without any Question being put.

123. COMMITTEE OF WHOLE ASSEMBLY MAY NOT ADJOURN:

(1) A Committee of the Whole Assembly may not adjourn its own sitting, or the consideration of any matter, to a future sitting.

124. MOTIONS TO REPORT PROGRESS:

(1) A member may move, "That the committee report progress". On the report being agreed to by the Assembly, the bill or other matter is set down for further consideration in committee on the next sitting day.

(2) There shall be no amendment or debate on a question to report progress.

125. REPORT:

(1) When all the matters referred to a Committee of the Whole Assembly have been considered, the chairperson reports them to the Assembly.

(2) When all such matters have not been considered the chairperson reports progress, or no progress, as the case maybe.

126. MOTION TO REPORT PROGRESS AND ASK LEAVE TO SIT AGAIN:

(1) A Motion may be made during the proceedings of a Committee of the Whole Assembly “That the Committee of the Whole Assembly report progress, and ask leave to sit again”, and such question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

127. ADOPTION OF REPORT:

In reporting to the Assembly, the chairperson moves, “That the report be adopted”. There is no amendment or debate on the question.

128. RULES OF DEBATE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN COMMITTEE:

(1) Except as otherwise provided by these Standing Orders, the same rules for order in the Assembly and putting Question, dealing with amendments, taking divisions, and for regulating debate and the general conduct of business shall be observed in Committee as in the Assembly itself; but disorder in a Committee may only be censured by the Assembly on receiving a report.

129. POWER TO SEND FOR PERSONS, PAPERS AND RECORDS:

(1) The Committee of the Whole Assembly may upon Motion require any government department concerned to submit a report explaining any Bill, motion, or other matter which may be under consideration or to depute a representative to appear as a witness for the purpose of explaining such Bill, motion, or other matter.

**PART XXX
ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE**

130. ESTIMATES:

(1) The Estimates of Expenditure shall be introduced into the Assembly upon Message from Le Ao o le Malo.

131. APPROPRIATION BILL:

(1) During each year there shall be introduced into the Legislative Assembly an Appropriation Bill which shall contain the estimated financial requirements for expenditure on revenue account on all the services of the Government for the succeeding financial year. The details of these financial requirements shall be contained in the draft Estimates of Expenditure and the Financial Statement which shall be laid on the Table by the Minister of Finance following the first reading of the Bill.

(2) The Minister of Finance shall then move the Second Reading of the Bill and read the Financial Statement.

132. REFERENCE TO FINANCE & EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE:

(1) After the motion for the Second Reading of the Bill has been made and seconded, the Debate thereon shall be adjourned for not less than fourteen days and the draft Estimates of Expenditure then stand referred to the Finance & Expenditure Committee for consideration and a report thereon. When the debate is resumed it shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Samoa and the Government's financial policy.

133. CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATION BILL AND ESTIMATES IN DETAIL:

(1) When the Appropriation Bill has been read a second time, the Assembly shall proceed to consider the Appropriation Bill together with the draft Estimates in detail and shall refer to the Report of the Public Accounts Committee during consideration.

(2) There shall be allotted a maximum of 14 days for consideration of the Appropriation Bill and the draft estimates and the hours of sitting of any day or days be arranged by the Business Committee to complete the consideration by the required date.

134. CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENTAL VOTES:

(1) The Business Committee may select the order in which the Department Votes of the draft Estimates shall be considered and such time limit may be imposed upon the consideration of any Departmental Vote as the Business Committee may stipulate. Where a time limit has been imposed upon the consideration of any Departmental Vote then at the expiration of such period if that Departmental Vote has not been disposed of, the Speaker shall forthwith put any question necessary to dispose of such Departmental Vote. On the last of the days allotted under the provisions of (2) of Standing Order 133 Mr Speaker shall, at 12.45 p.m. at the latest, forthwith put successively, without debate, the question on every Departmental Vote not yet disposed of.

(2) The clauses of an Appropriation Bill shall stand postponed until after the consideration of any schedule or schedules which there may be to such Bill.

(3) On consideration of the first schedule Mr Speaker shall call the title of each Departmental Vote in turn and shall propose the Question that the sum of tala for the Departmental Vote stand part of the schedule.

(4) Any member may move an amendment to reduce by tala the sum to be allotted for any item in a Departmental Vote. At least three clear days notice of any amendment shall be required.

(5) When several such amendments are proposed to reduce any items in a Departmental Vote they shall be called in the order in which they appear on the Order Paper and such amendment shall be disposed of before the next is called and debate on each amendment shall be confined to the item which is sought to be reduced. The amendments proposed shall be placed on the Order Paper in numerical order of vote items and where notice is given of more than one amendment to the same item, the larger amount shall be put first.

(6) An increase in the sum allocated for any item in a Departmental Vote may only be moved by the Minister of Finance provided the prior approval of O le Ao o le Malo has been obtained and transmitted to the Assembly pursuant to Standing Order 139 (Money Grants and Taxation). At least three clear days notice of any amendment shall be required.

(7) An amendment to increase shall take precedence of any amendment to decrease any item in a Departmental Vote to which the said amendment to increase relates and if carried no amendment to decrease the item in a Departmental Vote concerned shall be called.

Provided that (a) any amendment to increase must if possible be moved to the item which it is desired to increase; and (b) an amendment to increase an item if carried shall not prevent the Departmental Vote concerned being reduced below the agreed increase in respect of items other than the item which has been increased.

(8) After an amendment to an item has been disposed of no amendment or debate on a previous item of that Departmental Vote shall be permitted.

(9) When all amendments standing on the Order Paper in respect of any particular Departmental Vote have been disposed of the Speaker shall propose the Question that the sum (or reduced or increased sum) of tala for Departmental Vote stand part of the Schedule.

(10) On the question that the sum (or reduced or increased sum) of tala for Departmental Vote stand part of the Schedule, debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is being provided including the Revenue for which that service is responsible.

135. DILATORY MOTION:

(1) On the day upon which any proceedings upon an Appropriation Bill are to be brought to a conclusion no dilatory motion shall be moved upon such

proceedings and the proceedings shall not be interrupted or postponed under any Standing Order.

136. THIRD READING OF APPROPRIATION BILL:

(1) When the Appropriation Bill has passed Consideration in detail, the Minister of Finance shall move the third reading forthwith. No debate shall be permitted on the motion for the third reading.

137. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILLS:

(1) If at any time a Supplementary Appropriation Bill is introduced into the Assembly, the provisions of Standing Order 131 (Appropriation Bill) to Standing Order 136 (Third Reading of Appropriation Bill) shall apply to the stages and the proceedings upon a Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

138. APPROPRIATION BILL TAKES PRECEDENCE:

(1) An appropriation Bill shall take precedence of all other business and until disposed of shall be set down each day as an order of the Day as at the commencement of the next sitting day.

**PART XXXI
MONEY GRANTS AND TAXATION**

139. MONEY GRANTS AND TAXATION:

(1) The Assembly shall not proceed upon any Bill, Motion, Petition, or other matter which in the opinion of Mr Speaker would dispose of or charge any public revenue or public funds or revoke or alter any disposition thereof or charge thereon or impose, alter, or repeal any rate, tax, or duty, unless the consent of Le Ao o le Malo signified in writing to such Bill Motion, Petition or other matter has been communicated to Mr Speaker.

(2) The Assembly shall not proceed upon any Bill or Motion which, in the opinion of Mr Speaker (after seeking, if he so desires, the advice of the Attorney General) would effect any alteration in the salary, allowance, or conditions of service of any public officer, or in law, regulations, or practice governing the grant of leave, passages, or promotion applicable to any officer or the payment of pensions, gratuities, or other like allowances applicable to any such officer or his widow, children, dependants, or personal representatives, unless the consent of Le Ao o le Malo signified in writing to such Bill or Motion has been communicated to Mr Speaker.

(3) The Assembly shall not proceed upon any Bill or Motion which, in the opinion of Mr Speaker (after seeking if he so desires, the advice of the Attorney General) relates to or affects any subjects the responsibility for which is vested in Le Ao o le Malo or any matter the responsibility for which

is vested in the Attorney General unless the recommendation or consent of Le Ao o le Malo signified in writing to such Bill or Motion has been communicated to Mr Speaker.

(4) The Assembly shall not proceed upon any Motion or Bill for granting any money, or for releasing or compounding any sum of money owing to the Independent State of Samoa except in a Committee of the Whole Assembly.

(5) If any Motion be made in the Assembly for any Public aid or charge upon the people, it shall be referred to a Committee of the Whole Assembly before any resolution or vote of the Assembly do pass thereon.

PART XXXII INSTRUCTION TO COMMITTEE

140. EFFECT OF AN INSTRUCTION:

(1) An Instruction to a Committee shall extend or restrict the Order of Reference.

141. EFFECT OF AN INSTRUCTION TO A COMMITTEE:

(1) A Committee of the Whole Assembly or a Select Committee may consider only those matters referred to it by the Assembly, and where it is desired that the Committee shall also consider other matters, an Instruction shall be given by the Assembly to enable the Committee to entertain them.

142. DEBATE ON MOTION FOR AN INSTRUCTION RESTRICTED:

(1) Any debate on a Motion for an Instruction shall be restricted to the subject matter of the Motion and shall not extend to the general objects of the Bill or other matter to which the Instruction relates.

PART XXXIII SELECT COMMITTEES

143. APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEES:

(1) Select Committees are appointed by the Assembly.

(2) The Business Committee may recommend the appointment of a select committee and the members to serve on the committee.

144. COMMITTEE TO CONSIST OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE OR MORE THAN TEN MEMBERS:

(1) No Select Committee shall consist of less than five or of more than ten members, without leave from the Assembly, on Motion with Notice.

(2) Every member intending to move for the appointment of a Select Committee shall, after having previously ascertained their acceptance, state in his notice the names of the Members intended to be proposed by him to be members of such Committee. Notice shall be required to add any other members to such Committee or to substitute a Member for another whose name has been given notice of.

145. DISCHARGING AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS:

(1) Any member appointed to a Select Committee may, at any time afterwards, upon Motion with Notice, be discharged by the Assembly from attending the Committees, and another member appointed.

(2) If in the interval between any two meetings of the Legislative Assembly during the currency of its term any member of a Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly has absented himself without Leave of Absence or in the opinion of the Assembly without good cause from more than three consecutive meetings of such Committee that member shall be deemed to have forfeited his seat on the Committee and an election to the vacancy so created may be held at the ensuing meeting of the Assembly.

146. LISTS OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES TO BE POSTED:

(1) Lists of Members serving on each Select Committee shall be posted in such place or places as Mr Speaker may direct.

147. MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEES:

(1) The first meeting of each Select Committee shall be at a time appointed by the Speaker.

(2) Subsequent meetings of a Select Committee shall be held at any time that the Chairman of the Committee may appoint.

(3) If there is no chairman, or if the chairman is absent from Samoa, the vice-Chairman, may exercise the chairman's powers to appoint a time for the Committee to meet.

(4) In the absence of both the chairman and vice-Chairman, the Speaker appoints a time for the Committee to meet.

(5) The names of members present in each sitting of any Select Committee shall be entered on the Minutes of the proceedings of the Committee.

148. PLACE OF MEETING:

(1) A Select Committee may meet at any place within Samoa. It must be authorised by the Assembly before it can meet outside Samoa.

(2) A Select Committee may meet outside the precincts of the Legislative Assembly only if the Speaker has agreed to the place of its meeting.

149. SUBCOMMITTEES:

(1) Select Committees may appoint subcommittees. Any subcommittee to consider a bill shall be appointed by leave of the Committee only.

(2) Rules for the conduct of proceedings in a Select Committee shall apply to proceedings in a Subcommittee.

150. NOT TO SIT DURING SITTING OF ASSEMBLY:

(1) Unless the Assembly otherwise directs, no Select Committee shall sit during the sitting of the Assembly.

151. SELECT COMMITTEE ELECT CHAIRMAN:

(1) Every Select Committee, before proceeding to any other business shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman who shall hold office during the life of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman the Committee shall elect a Member to act as Chairman *pro tempore*.

(2) The Chairman of a Select Committee shall have a deliberative as well as a casting vote.

152. QUORUM OF SELECT COMMITTEE:

(1) The quorum of a Select Committee shall, unless otherwise ordered, consist of half the Members appointed to such Select Committee.

(2) If after the lapse of fifteen minutes from the time appointed for the meeting of a Select Committee there shall not be a quorum present, the Clerk of the Committee shall enter on the Minutes the names of the Members present who may then retire, and the Committee shall stand adjourned until its next meeting to be convened by the Clerk of the Committee, subject to the direction of the Chairman.

(3) If at any time during the sitting of a Select Committee a quorum be not present, the proceedings of the Committee shall be suspended until a quorum be present, and if no quorum be present within such time as the Members present may think reasonable, or in any case at the expiration of fifteen minutes, the Committee shall stand adjourned until some future time to be fixed by the Chairman.

153. MOTION OR AMENDMENT DOES NOT REQUIRE TO BE SECONDED:

(1) A Motion or amendment proposed in a Select Committee shall not require to be seconded.

154. POWER TO SEND FOR PERSONS, PAPERS AND RECORDS:

(1) All Select Committees have power to send for persons, papers and records.

(2) The chairperson of a Select Committee may on behalf of the committee request any person to attend and give evidence before the committee.

(3) A committee may direct that any person be summoned to attend and be examined and give evidence before the committee. The chairperson shall sign the summons served upon that person.

(4) The chairperson may, on behalf of the committee, request that papers and records relevant to its proceedings be produced.

(5) A committee may direct that any person be summoned to produce papers and records in his possession, custody or control that are relevant to the committees proceedings. Such summons shall be signed by the chairperson and served upon that person.

(6) If any person summoned by the committee to attend before a select committee or produced papers and records does not comply with the summons, the committee may report the fact to the Assembly.

(7) The rate of allowance to be paid for the expenses of any person appearing as a witness before a Select Committee shall be the same as would be payable to such person if he were a witness attending a Court of Law.

155. MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY MAY BE PRESENT:

(1) Any member of the Assembly (not being a member of the Committee) may attend any of the proceedings of a Select Committee but shall take no part therein except with the leave of the Committee. Any such member who is guilty of disorderly conduct may be ordered to withdraw from the meeting.

(2) A Select Committee may invite a Minister to be present at meetings of the Committee for clarification of a bill, regulation, paper, report or other issue for which the Minister is responsible for. When present at such a meeting, the Minister may take part in the proceedings but may not vote on any question put to the Committee.

156. ASSISTANCE:

A Select Committee may seek the assistance of persons as advisers to the Committee and may invite any person to be present at any meeting of the Committee to assist it in its consideration of any matter.

157. ADMISSION OF STRANGERS:

(1) The proceedings of all Select Committees during the hearing of evidence on a Bill or other matter which is the subject of investigation by the Committee shall be open to the public and in accordance with the provisions of this Standing Order.

(i) any stranger, who is guilty of disorderly conduct maybe ordered to withdraw from the meeting by the Chairman.

(ii) all strangers, may with leave of the Committee, be excluded from the meeting on the ground that it is desirable that some or all of the evidence to be given should be heard in private.

158. EVIDENCE BEFORE SECRET COMMITTEES:

(1) No strangers, or members not being Members of the Committee, shall be admitted at any time to a Secret Committee, except such witnesses and other persons necessary to the proceedings of such Committee.

(2) The evidence has taken before any Secret Committee or any other document presented to such Committee shall not be published or divulged by any member of the Committee or by any other persons before the Committee has presented its report to the Assembly.

159. EVIDENCE MAY BE RECORDED AND REPORTED:

(1) The evidence of any witness may be taken down and if recorded verbatim shall be sent in proof to the witness. The witness shall be at liberty within seven days from that on which the Clerk to the Committee sent out the proof to suggest corrections due to inaccurate reporting and the evidence shall be printed with such corrections as may be approved by the chairman.

(2) The Select Committee may of its discretion refuse to hear any irrelevant evidence or any recalcitrant witness.

(3) The evidence given before a Select Committee may, by resolution of the Committee, be recorded verbatim and reported to the Assembly when the Report of the Committee is brought up.

160. NAMES OF MEMBERS EXAMINING WITNESS TO BE ENTERED ON:

(1) To every question asked of a witness under examination in the proceedings of any Select Committee the name of the Member asking such question shall be prefixed in the minutes of the evidence, when such evidence is recorded.

161. EVIDENCE NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR GIVEN ELSEWHERE:

(1) The proceedings of, or the evidence taken by, or the Report of, any Select Committee; or any summary of such proceedings, evidence, or Report, shall not be published by any member of the Committee or by any other person, until the Report of such Committee has been presented to the Assembly.

Provided that an officer of the Public Service who has given evidence on behalf of his department may communicate the text of such evidence to other officers of that department.

162. DIVULGING PROCEEDINGS OR EVIDENCE BREACH OF PRIVILEGE:

(1) Any person committing a breach of Standing Orders 158 and 161 shall be deemed guilty of a breach of privilege, and may be dealt with by the Assembly accordingly.

163. PROOF COPIES OF EVIDENCE TO MEMBERS ONLY:

(1) Proof copies of the evidence given before a Select Committee may only be distributed to Members of the Committee.

(2) Proof copies of evidence distributed to members of the Committee shall not be published or divulged before the Committee has presented its report to the Assembly.

(3) Any member who commits a breach of this order shall be deemed guilty of a breach of Standing Orders 158 and may be dealt with by the Assembly accordingly.

164. CHARGES AGAINST MEMBERS:

(1) No select committee (except Privileges and Ethics Committee) shall enquire into, or make findings into the private conduct of any member of Parliament unless specifically directed by the Assembly.

(2) If any information comes before a select committee or any allegation is made before a select committee (except the Privileges and Ethics Committee) charging any member of Parliament with reprehensible conduct, the committee shall inform the member concerned of the details of the charge and give the member an opportunity to make any statement on the matter but shall not proceed any further on that information or allegation without being specifically directed by the Assembly to do so.

165. COMMITTEE MAY REPORT FROM TIME TO TIME:

(1) If the Assembly shall so direct, a Committee may report its opinions or observations from time to time or report the Minutes of evidence only, or proceedings, from time to time.

(2) When, on the appointment of a Select Committee or the reference of any matter to a Select Committee, a day shall be fixed for the presentation of

their Report to the Assembly, the final Report shall be presented on or before that day, unless further time be moved for and granted.

(3) The Report of a Select Committee as agreed to shall be signed by the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, or, in the absence by the Vice Chairman; and shall be presented to the Assembly by the Chairman or some other Member of the Committee authorised by the Chairman or the Committee in that behalf.

(4) It shall not be competent for a Select Committee to submit a minority Report.

(5) Select Committees have only power to report their opinions to the Assembly, but in any debate thereon the Chairman of the Select Committee reporting shall be answerable to the Assembly. If a Committee desires that O Le Ao o le Malo should take action in any matter connected with their proceedings or on their Report, the Committee shall instruct the Chairman to move in the Assembly to that effect.

166. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDING OF A SELECT COMMITTEE:

(1) In cases not provided for in these Standing Orders the proceedings of a Select Committee shall be conducted as nearly as possible in the same manner as the proceedings of a Committee of the Whole Assembly.

167. DIVISIONS TO BE ENTERED ON MINUTES:

(1) In the event of any division taking place in any Select Committee the Question proposed, the name of the proposer, and the respective votes thereupon of each member present shall be entered on the Minutes of the proceedings of the Committee and such minutes shall, when the Assembly orders or the Committee so directs, be reported to the Assembly on the Report of such Committee.

168. CLERKSHIP OF SELECT COMMITTEE:

(1) The Clerk shall appoint an officer from his office to be Clerk of every Select Committee.

(2) The Clerk to a Select Committee shall transmit a written notice of each meeting addressed to each member, together with a copy of the Agenda Paper.

Provided that in cases where it is impracticable to transmit written notice notification shall be given by any other means which will ensure the Members are duly informed.

**PART XXXIV
STANDING SELECT COMMITTEES**

169. BUSINESS COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Business Committee to be convened by the Speaker at the beginning of each Parliament.

(2) Membership of the Committee shall consist of:

- (a) Mr Speaker as Chairman;
- (b) Deputy Speaker as Deputy Chairman;
- (c) The Prime Minister or another member of Parliament nominated from time to time by the Prime Minister;
- (d) The Leader of Opposition or another member of Parliament nominated from time to time by the Leader of Opposition;
- (e) Two members from each party nominated by its leader;
- (f) One member nominated by Independent Members to represent them.

(3) The Business Committee may determine:-

- (i) the order of business to be transacted in the Assembly;
- (ii) the time to be spent on an item of business;
- (iii) how time on an item of business is to be allocated among the parties represented in the Assembly; and
- (iv) the speaking times of individual members on an item of business.

Provided that the powers of the Committee shall without prejudice to the power of Mr Speaker to determine which matters may properly be introduced into the Assembly.

(4) A determination of the Business Committee takes effect by its publication and circulation to all members and a determination of the Business Committee applies notwithstanding any other Standing Order to the contrary.

(5) The Business Committee must recommend to the Assembly a programme of sittings for each calendar year:-

- (i) the recommended programme of sittings is to be made to the Assembly not later than the 3rd sitting day of February.
- (ii) the recommended programme must require the Assembly to sit first no later than the first week of February and to sit in no less than 60 days in each year.
- (iii) on being adopted by the Assembly the sitting programme operates subject to any decision by the Assembly to the contrary.

(6) It shall be the first duty of the Committee at the commencement of each Parliament to nominate members for the other Standing Committees.

(7) The Business Committee shall be responsible for:

- (i) reviewing the Broadcasting of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly by television and radio and make recommendation to maintain standards of fairness.
- (ii) making recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on the rules for the coverage of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

(iii) considering any question of disorder which may arise from time to time from the broadcast of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly by television or radio.

(iv) considering any complaint made concerning the broadcast of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly by television or radio.

170. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Standing Orders Committee to consist of -

- (a) Mr Speaker as Chairman;
- (b) Deputy Speaker as Deputy Chairman;
- (c) The Prime Minister or another member of Parliament nominated from time to time by the Prime Minister;
- (d) One (1) Minister;
- (e) Four (4) other members of Parliament (not being Ministers);

Four (4) shall be a quorum.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider from time to time and report to the Assembly on any proposal for the amendment of those Standing Orders which may be referred to it under the provisions of Standing Order 71 (Motion to Amend Standing Orders), and on all matters relating to these Orders which may be referred to it by the Assembly.

(3) The committee shall conduct a review of Standing Orders towards the end of each Parliament and such report to be approved by the Assembly before dissolution of Parliament.

171. HOUSE COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the House Committee, to consist of:

- (a) Mr Speaker as Chairman;
- (b) Deputy Speaker as Deputy Chairman;
- (c) The Minister for Finance
- (d) Five (5) other Members (not being Ministers) of whom two (2) shall be members of the Opposition which shall be appointed upon Motion as soon as may be after the commencement of each Parliament.

Four (4) shall be a quorum.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider and advise Mr Speaker upon all matters connected with official functions concerning the Legislative Assembly, the Parliamentary Pension Scheme, the comfort and convenience of members of Parliament, including the Library.

(3) The Committee shall from time to time report the record of its proceedings to the Assembly.

172. OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Officers of Parliament Committee, to consist of:

- (a) Mr Speaker as Chairman;
- (b) Deputy Speaker as Deputy Chairman;
- (c) Seven (7) other members;

(2) The Committee shall consider the Reports of the Komesina o Sulufaiga and the Reports of the Controller and Chief Auditor.

173. FINANCE & EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Finance & Expenditure Committee to consist of eight (8) members who shall be appointed upon motion as soon as may be after the commencement of each Parliament. Four (4) shall be a quorum. The Committee shall have power to elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee to:

- (a) Consider any bill, petition or other matter referred by the Assembly pursuant to these Standing Orders; and any Estimates or review of ministerial and departmental performance;
- (b) To allocate to any Select Committee the examination of any Estimates and of any review of departmental performance;
- (c) To examine the policy, administration and expenditure of ministries and government bodies related to government finance, insurance, superannuation, national provident fund, taxation, auditing of public accounts and Ministerial financial statements;
- (d) To have responsibility for the overall review of financial management in all government ministries and public bodies;
- (e) To examine and report on the public account and the report of the Controller and Chief Auditor on the annual financial statements.

174. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES, INTERNAL AFFAIRS, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Health & Social Services, Internal Affairs, Community and Social Development Committee.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee:

- (a) To consider any bill, petition or other matter referred by the Assembly or pursuant to these Standing Orders; and such Estimates or review of ministerial performance as maybe referred by the Finance and Expenditure Committee;
- (b) To examine the policy, administration and expenditure of the ministries and associated government organisations related to health, housing and social services, internal affairs, community and social development.

175. EDUCATION, SCIENCE, COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Education, Science, Communication & Information Technology Committee.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee:

- (a) To consider any bill, petition or other matter referred by the Assembly or pursuant to these Standing Orders; and such Estimates or review of ministerial performance as maybe referred by the Finance & Expenditure Committee;
- (b) To examine the policy, administration and expenditure of the ministries and associated government organisations related to Education, Sports, Youth & Culture, Science, Communications and Information Technology.

176. JUSTICE, POLICE & PRISONS AND LAND & TITLES COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Justice, Police & Prisons and Land & Titles Committee to consist of seven (7) members who shall be appointed upon motion as soon as maybe after the commencement of each Parliament. Four (4) shall be a quorum. The Committee shall have power to select its own Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee:

- (a) To consider any bill, petition or other matter referred by the Assembly or pursuant to these Standing Orders; and such Estimates or review of ministerial performance as maybe referred by the Finance & Expenditure Committee;
- (b) To consider private bills;
- (c) To examine the policy, administration and expenditure of ministries and associated government organisations related to Official information, information privacy corrections, courts, legal services, justice, police, privacy, serious fraud, lands and titles.

177. PRIMARY PRODUCTION, COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Primary Production, Commerce, Industry and Labour Committee.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee:

- (a) To consider any bill, petition or other matter referred by the Assembly or pursuant to these Standing Orders; and such Estimates or review of ministerial performance as maybe referred by the Finance & Expenditure Committee;

- (b) To examine the policy, administration and expenditure of the ministries and associated government organizations related to primary production, commerce, industry, labour and tourism.

178. GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Government Administration Committee.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee:

- (a) To consider any bill, petition or other matter referred by the Assembly or pursuant to these Standing Orders; and such Estimates or review of ministerial performance as maybe referred by the Finance & Expenditure Committee;
- (b) To examine the policy, administration and expenditure of the ministries and associated government organisations related to central government advisory services, security intelligence, statistics and services to Parliament.

179. WORKS, TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Works, Transport & Environment Committee.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee:

- (a) To consider any bill, petition or any other matter referred by the Assembly or pursuant to these Standing Orders; and such Estimates or review of ministerial performance as maybe referred by the Finance & Expenditure Committee;
- (b) To examine the policy, administration and expenditure of ministries and associated government organisations related to construction and development, transport and transport safety, energy, conservation, environment, land information and surveying.

180. FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND REVENUE COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Revenue Committee.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee:

- (a) To consider any bill, petition or other matter referred by the Assembly or pursuant to these Standing Orders; and such Estimates or review of ministerial performance as maybe referred by the Finance & Expenditure Committee;
- (b) To examine the policy, administration and expenditure of ministries and associated government organisations related to external relations, defence, trade, customs and immigration.

181. ELECTORAL COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Electoral Committee to consist of the following members:

- (a) The Speaker who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) Deputy Speaker as Deputy Chairman;
 - (c) The Prime Minister or another member of Parliament nominated from time to time by the Prime Minister;
 - (d) The Leader of the Opposition or another member of Parliament nominated from time to time by the Leader of the Opposition;
 - (d) Four (4) other members of Parliament to be appointed from time to time by the Legislative Assembly, of whom at least two (2) shall be members of the Opposition.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Committee:
- (a) To consider any bill, petition, report or other matter referred by the Assembly or pursuant to these Standing Orders.
 - (b) To conduct a review of the Electoral Act once during the 18 months period preceding the expiry of Parliament and to report to the Assembly at least 12 months before the date of expiry of the Parliamentary Term.
 - (c) To examine the administration and expenditure of the Electoral Commission Office.

182. REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as the Regulations Review Committee which shall consist of eight (8) members. Four (4) shall be a quorum. The Committee shall have the power to select its own chairman and vice-Chairman.

- (2) The Committee examines all regulations.
- (3) The Committee may consider any regulation making power in a bill before another committee and report on it to the committee.
- (4) The Committee may consider any matter relating to regulations and report to the Assembly.
- (5) The Committee examines the regulation and reports to the Assembly on the following grounds:
- (i) is not in accordance with the general objects and intentions of the statute under which it is made;
 - (ii) trespasses unduly on personal rights and liberties;
 - (iii) appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the statute under which it is made;
 - (iv) unduly makes the rights and liberties of persons dependent upon administrative decisions which are not subject to review on their merits by judicial or other independent tribunal;
 - (v) contains matter more appropriate for Parliamentary enactment;

(vi) is retrospective where this is not expressly authorized by the empowering statute;

(vii) was not made in compliance with particular notice and consultation procedures prescribed by statutes;

(viii) when a complaint is made to the Committee on a regulation, the Committee is to consider whether the complaint relates to one or more of the grounds on which the Committee reports to the Assembly.

PART XXXV MEMBERS AND STRANGERS

183. ADMISSION OF STRANGERS INTO ASSEMBLY:

(1) No stranger shall be admitted into the Assembly without the authority of Mr Speaker exercised through the Sergeant at Arms.

(2) If at a Sitting of the Assembly or in a Committee of the Whole Assembly, any Member brings to the notice of the Assembly or Committee the desirability for the exclusion of all strangers; Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall forthwith put the question "That strangers do withdraw", without permitting any debate or amendment.

(3) Mr Speaker or the Chairman may, at any time, order the withdrawal of strangers from any part of the Assembly.

(4) The Broadcasting of proceedings shall be discontinued during every period for which strangers are excluded in accordance with (2) of this Order.

(5) No Member of the Assembly shall presume to bring any strangers into any part of the Assembly or gallery appropriated to the Members of Parliament while the Assembly or a Committee of the Whole Assembly is sitting.

(6) The representative of any newspaper or journal may receive a general permission from Mr Speaker to attend the Sittings of the Assembly:

Provided that if the newspaper or journal publishes a report of the proceedings which Mr Speaker considers inaccurate, unfair, or improper or, if in the opinion of Mr Speaker the representative behaves in an unseemly manner within the precincts of the Assembly such permission may be revoked.

PART XXXVI PRIVILEGES AND ETHICS

184. APPOINTMENT OF PRIVILEGES AND ETHICS COMMITTEE:

(1) There shall be a Committee of Privileges and Ethics to consist of the Prime Minister or another Member of Parliament nominated from time to time

by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition or another Member of Parliament nominated from time to time by the Leader of the Opposition and seven (7) other members not being ministers appointed by motion as soon as maybe after the commencement of each Parliament. Five (5) shall be a quorum. The Committee shall have the power to elect its own Chairman and Vice Chairman from amongst the seven members. The Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition shall not be appointed Chairman.

185. RAISING OF MATTER OF PRIVILEGE:

(1) Any member wishing to raise a matter of privilege shall refer it to the Speaker in writing at the earliest opportunity before the next sitting of the Assembly, or if the matter occurs in the Assembly, it may be referred to the Speaker in writing forthwith. Provided that matters of privilege relating to the conduct of strangers present within the precincts of the House may be raised forthwith in the House and dealt with in such way as the Speaker may determine.

(2) The Speaker shall consider the nature of the complaint or alleged breach and determine whether a question of privilege is involved.

186. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE:

(1) In considering whether or not a matter raised constitutes a question of privilege, the Speaker shall reject matters which are trivial in nature and does not warrant further attention of the Assembly.

187. MEMBERS TO BE INFORMED OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THEM:

(1) Any member raising a matter of privilege which involves another member shall as soon as after raising the matter, fully inform the other member of the matter of privilege raised.

(2) The Speaker shall not report that a matter involving another Member involves a question of privilege without first informing that Member that this is intended.

188. PROCEDURE WHEN SPEAKERS RULING GIVEN:

(1) If the Speaker considers that any matter raised by a Member involves a question of privilege, this shall be reported to the Assembly at the first opportunity.

(2) Any matter reported to the House by the Speaker as involving a question of privilege shall stand referred to the Privileges and Ethics Committee.

(3) If the Speaker rules that such matter does not involve a question of privilege, no motion in relation thereto shall be accorded precedence.

189. PRECEDENCE TO REPORT OF PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE:

(1) Precedence over other business shall be given to the consideration of any report of the Privileges and Ethics Committee on a question of privilege. No member may speak for more than 10 minutes in any discussion of a report from the Privileges and Ethics Committee.

190. MATTER OF PRIVILEGE FOUNDED ON DOCUMENT:

(1) Any member raising a matter of privilege concerning a statement in a newspaper, book or other publication shall produce a copy of the newspaper, book or other publication containing the statement in question, and shall be prepared to give the name of the printer or publisher.

191. MAKER OF ALLEGATION MAY NOT SERVE ON INQUIRY:

(1) A Member who makes an allegation of breach of privilege or of contempt may not serve on an inquiry into that allegation.

192. CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT:

- (1) Parliament may treat as a contempt any act or omission which -
- (a) Obstructs or hinders Parliament in performance of its function, or
 - (b) Interferes with, resists or obstructs any member or officer of Parliament in the discharge of the members or officers duty, or
 - (c) Has a tendency, directly or indirectly, to produce such a result.

193. EXAMPLES OF CONTEMPTS:

- (1) Without limiting the generality of Standing Order 192, Parliament may treat as a contempt any of the following -
- (a) The breach of one of the privileges of Parliament;
 - (b) Deliberately attempting to mislead the Assembly or a Committee by way of statement, evidence or petition;
 - (c) Serving legal process or causing legal process to be served within the precincts of Parliament without the authority of the Speaker, on any day on which the Assembly sits or a committee meets;
 - (d) Removing without authority any papers or records belonging to Parliament;
 - (e) Falsifying or altering any papers or records belonging to Parliament;
 - (f) As a member, receiving or soliciting a bribe to influence the members conduct in respect of proceedings in the Assembly or at a Committee;

- (g) Offering or attempting to bribe a member to influence the member's conduct in respect of proceedings in the Assembly or at a committee;
- (h) Assaulting, threatening or intimidating a member or an officer of the Assembly acting in the discharge in the members or the officers duty;
- (i) Obstructing or molesting a member or an officer of the Assembly in the discharge of the member or the officers duty;
- (j) Reflecting on the character or conduct of the Assembly or a member in the members capacity as a member of Parliament;
- (k) Misconducting oneself in the presence of the Assembly or a Committee;
- (l) Divulging the proceedings or the report of a Select committee contrary to Standing Orders;
- (m) Publishing a false misleading account of proceedings before the Assembly or a committee;
- (n) Failing to attend before the Assembly or a committee after being summoned to do so by the Assembly or the committee;
- (o) Intimidating, preventing or hindering a witness from giving evidence to the Assembly or a Committee;
- (p) Refusing to answer a question or provide information required by the Assembly or a Committee;
- (q) Assaulting or threatening a member on account of the members conduct in Parliament;
- (r) Assaulting, threatening or disadvantaging a person on account of evidence given by that person to the House or Committee;
- (s) A member participating in consideration of a business, fails to declare any pecuniary interest which the member has in that business.

PART XXXVII BROADCASTING OF PROCEEDINGS

194. BROADCASTING OF PROCEEDINGS:

(1) The Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly shall be broadcasted on radio during all hours of sitting and shall be available for television coverage.

(2) Any broadcast of the televised proceedings of the Legislative Assembly shall maintain such standard of fairness as is determined, from time to time, by the Assembly.

195. EMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS IN PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY:

(1) No member of the Assembly shall appear before the Assembly or any Committee thereof as Counsel for any party or in any capacity for which he is

to receive a fee or reward in any matter to be deliberated by the Assembly or Committee.

196. ASSEMBLY MAY ADJUDGE PERSON DISOBEYING ORDER GUILTY OF CONTEMPT:

(1) The Assembly may, on Motion without notice, adjudge guilty of contempt any person, whether a Member or not, who wilfully disobeys any lawful order of the Assembly, or who commits any breach of the privileges of the Assembly, whether or not such privileges be set out in the Standing Orders of the Assembly held according to the law and usage of Parliament or otherwise howsoever.

**PART XXXVIII
CONTROL AND ADMINISTRATION**

197. CONTROL AND ADMINISTRATION OF LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT, PARLIAMENT HOUSE AND GROUNDS:

(1) Subject to the right of the Government to control the expenditure with respect to the Legislative Department and the Estimates relating thereto, and to the provisions of any Act of Parliament, -

- (a) The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall each be appointed by the Head of State for a term of three (3) years on the recommendation of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly after consultation with -
 - (a) The Prime Minister; and,
 - (b) The Leader of the Opposition.
 - (b) Other officers of the House shall be appointed by Mr Speaker on the recommendation of the Clerk;
 - (c) The salaries and other remuneration of the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk shall be fixed and determined by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of Mr Speaker;
 - (d) The salaries and other remuneration of the other officers shall be fixed and determined by Mr Speaker on the recommendation of the Clerk;
 - (e) The control and administration of the whole of the parliamentary grounds and the buildings and other erections thereon shall be vested in Mr Speaker on behalf of the House, whether the House be in session or otherwise.
- (2) Further to duties of the Clerk itemised in Parts XI and XII of these Standing Orders, and those prescribed by Act, the Clerk shall be responsible for translation and printing of the Journals, the Official Report of Proceedings, Select Committee Reports and any other Papers presented to the Assembly. The Clerk shall also be responsible for the translation and printing of Bills for introduction to the Assembly and Bills certified for assent by the Ao o le

Malo and Acts passed by Parliament and assented to by O le Ao o le Malo and shall have the general direction and control of the Legislative Department and all officers employed therein.

PART XXXIX TIME-LIMIT OF SPEECHES

198. TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES IN ASSEMBLY AND IN COMMITTEE:

(1) The time-limit of speeches on proceedings in the Assembly and in Committees of the Whole Assembly except as provided by Standing Order 88 (Limitation of Debate) shall be in accordance with the limitations set out in the following Table:

	H	M
On the Financial Statement (Appropriation Bill)	0	30
On Second Reading Debate of a Bill (except Appropriation)....	0	20
On the Short Title, Clause, or Schedule of a Bill, or any amendment thereto:	0	15
On any Motion or any amendment	0	20
On a Motion to adjourn the Assembly on a definite matter of Public Business:	0	20
Mover	0	20
Minister first speaking.....	0	20
Any other Member	0	10
On the Report of a Select Committee	0	15
On consideration of any "Paper" under Standing Order 52.....	0	15
On election of Speaker or Deputy Speaker	0	10

IN COMMITTEE OF WHOLE ASSEMBLY

	h	m
Any question before the Committee	0	15

EXCEPTIONS: THESE LIMITATIONS IN THE ASSEMBLY AND IN COMMITTEE SHALL NOT APPLY TO.

- (a) A Minister or Member in Charge of a Bill, Motion, or other matter;

- (b) A Minister when delivering the Financial Statement;
- (c) A Minister in charge of a class of the Estimates in regard to the number of his speeches.

**PART XXXX
STANDING ORDERS**

199. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

Any member with the prior consent of Mr Speaker may move a Motion with or without notice that any Standing Order or other Order of the Assembly may be suspended wholly or in part:

Provided that such Motion shall not be moved without notice unless there be thirty members present at the time of moving the Motion.

**PART XXXXI
REPEAL**

200. REPEAL:

The Standing Orders heretofore in force are hereby repealed.

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