



Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders are the rules of procedure for Parliament and its committees. Section 71 of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji gives Parliament the power to make Standing Orders and rules for the order and conduct of business and proceedings in Parliament and its committees and for the way in which its powers, privileges and immunities may be exercised and upheld.

The current Standing Orders were formulated based on the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives adopted by the House on 24th February, 1999. Past traditions and customs, Constitution, and Westminster Parliament standards and international best practices were also considered.

The Standing Orders were adopted by Parliament as an interim document at its inaugural sitting then later amended by the Parliament on the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee and a new amended version was adopted on 1st December, 2014.

Content

The Standing Orders include details about:

- ★ the election of the Speaker who presides over the sitting in Parliament
- ★ the conduct of parliamentary business
- ★ procedures for debates and deliberations in Parliament
- ★ voting procedures and rules of debate
- ★ the committees, their functions and powers, composition and details about their deliberations.

Any Member of Parliament can raise a 'point of order' during Parliament sittings if they believe that there has been a deviation from the Standing Orders or wish to raise a question of procedure or privilege. A point of order becomes priority over all other business, whenever it is raised.

The Speaker's ruling on a point of order is not open for debate or challenge in Parliament. The Secretary-General to Parliament and Deputy Secretary-General to Parliament assist and advise the Speaker in the process.

A Standing Order may be suspended in whole or in part only by permission adopted in Parliament. To avoid doubt, the suspension of any Standing Order does not permit the transaction of any business in breach of the Constitution or any other law.

It is the ongoing duty of the Standing Orders Committee to consider and review the practices and procedures of Parliament and to make recommendations for their improvement or change or for the development of new practices and procedures.



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