



**RULES OF PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT)
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
BHUTAN 2015**

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PREAMBLE

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 10 (11) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and Section 322 of the National Assembly Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, the National Assembly hereby amends its Rules of Procedure as follows:

1. PRELIMINARY Short Title and Commencement

This procedure shall:

- a) Be called the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan, 2014; and
- b) Come into force on the 02 Day of the 10 Month of the wood female sheep Year of the Bhutanese Calendar corresponding to the 13th Day of November 2015, upon endorsement by two third majorities of the Members of the National Assembly.

2. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 40 is amended as

The Oath or Affirmation of Secrecy of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker shall be administered by the Chief Justice of Bhutan.

3. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 45 is amended as

The Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the House Committee shall preside over the sitting in the event that the

motion is for the removal of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker at the same time.

4. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 51 is amended as

Members shall endeavor to complete visit to their constituencies one month prior to the start of a session.

5. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 71 is amended as

Members shall refer to other members by constituency and not by name.

6. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 76 is amended as

The notice of motion shall be submitted to the Secretary General in writing 48 hours prior to the sitting and Secretary General shall table a signed copy of the motion in the House.

7. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 98 is amended as

When a question has been answered, such supplementary questions may be asked by any Member with preference given to questioner.

8. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 118 is amended as

Amended in Dzongkha text

9. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 121 is amended as

A member/Committee may move a resolution relating to any matter of general public interest.

10. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, new section is inserted as Section 150 (a)

Ratification of international legal instruments

As per the article 10(25) of the constitution, all international treaties, conventions, covenants, agreements and protocols shall be ratified by the Parliament prior to their execution as a domestic law in the country.

11. In the Rules of Procedure, new section is inserted after section 150 as Section 150 (b)

International treaties, conventions, covenants, agreements and protocols bind a nation to the provisions of an international law; therefore, the procedures for ratification in the Parliament shall be as rigorous as a domestic Bill.

12. In the Rules of Procedure, new section is inserted after section 150 as Section 150 (c)

The agency through which the treaty, convention, covenant, agreement or protocol is proposed must categorically state that the provisions of the international legal instrument are consistent with the provisions of the constitution.

13. In the Rules of Procedure, new section is inserted after 150 as Section 150 (d)

The ratification shall go through first and second Reading.

14. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 224 is amended as

The budget, Appropriation Bill and Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall be referred to a relevant Committee by the Speaker after presentation to the House by the Finance Minister.

15. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 304 is amended as

A Member of Parliament shall be entitled to casual, earned, maternity, paternity and medical leave and bereavement leave.

16. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 313 is amended as

A committee shall comprise of minimum five members.

17. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 314 is amended as

A Member shall serve in minimum two and maximum three Committees.

18. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 325 is amended as

If a Member, without the permission of Chairperson is absent from:

- a. three Committee meetings the House Committee shall submit an official reprimand letter to Hon. Speaker with explanations.
- b. four Committee Meetings, a motion may be moved from the Committee and such removal shall be reported to the House.

19. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 350 is amended as

To enable the Committees to discharge their functions efficiently and effectively, each committee shall be provided with a committee secretary, a legal Assistant and a Draftsperson with adequate equipment and befitting office space.

20. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 359 is amended as

There shall be a Legislative committee consisting of minimum five members. Committee's recommendation adopted.

21. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 361 is amended as

There shall be a Social and Cultural committee consisting of minimum five members.

22. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 362 (a) is

Amended in Dzongkha Text

23. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 362 (e) is amended as

Promotion awareness amongst the public on the stakeholders' initiatives towards reducing poverty;

24. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 362 (j) is

Amended in Dzongkha Text

25. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 362 (k) is amended as

Review and recommend acting on issues related to Education, Health, Sports and Cultural development which is detrimental to the general public.

26. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 363 is amended as

There shall be a Human Rights committee consisting of minimum five members.

27. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 365 is amended as

There shall be an Economic Development and Private Sector committee consisting of minimum five members.

28. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 366 (a) is amended as

Review and recommend amendments of the existing laws and policies relating to Economic Development and Private Sector and also propose new legislations;

29. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 367 is amended as

There shall be an Environment and Urban Development committee consisting of minimum five members.

30. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 369 is amended as

There shall be a Women and Children committee consisting of minimum five members.

31. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 371 is amended as

There shall be a Foreign Relations committee consisting of minimum five members.

32. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 373 is amended as

There shall be a Good Governance Committee consisting of minimum five Members.

33. In the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2015 hereinafter referred to as the ROP, Section 374 (g) is

Amended in Dzongkha Text

34. In the Rules of Procedure, new section is inserted after section 374 as Section 374 (a)

There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of minimum five Members.

35. In the Rules of Procedure, new section is inserted after section 374 as Section 374(b)

The Terms of Reference of the Committee shall be:

- i. The Committee shall confine its functions to matters relating to the Budget, Finance and Taxation measures;
- ii. The Committee shall deliberate, review, recommend and draw attention to any matter of national importance in Money Bill;
- iii. While the Committee may not propose any increase to the overall total budget limits indicated in the Budget Bill in order to maintain the principles of fiscal sustainability applied for formulation of the Budget Appropriation Bill, the National Assembly may review and reallocate the budget to achieve balanced development as per Article 9 (8) of the Constitution;
- iv. Finance Committee may study debt ratio to ensure healthy economy of the country as per Article 14 (5) of the Constitution and report to the National Assembly on the Government's domestic and international borrowings;

- v. Finance Committee may study on Reserve Management on convertible currency of the country as per Article 14 (7) of the Constitution;
- vi. Review, inquire and investigate any matter that is brought to the notice of the Committee; and
- vii. Interact with relevant national, regional and international organizations and stake holders.

The House adopted Committee's recommendation after repealing sub section (vi).

36. In the Rules of Procedure Section 375 is repealed.

37. In the Rules of Procedure Section 376 is repealed.

38. In the Rules of Procedure Section 377 is repealed.