

## **CHAPTER VII**

### **Rules of Order**

#### **49. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORDER IN THE HOUSE AND IN COMMITTEE**

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

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

#### **50. ORDER IN THE HOUSE AND IN COMMITTEE**

1) The Speaker or the Chairman after having called the attention of the House or of the Committee to the conduct of a Member who—

- a. has used objectionable, abusive, insulting or offensive word or language or unparliamentary expressions and on being called to order has refused to withdraw such words or language or expressions and has not offered an apology for the use thereof; or
- b. persists in irrelevant or tedious repetition either of his own arguments, or of the arguments used by other Members in debate; or engages in excessive cross talk or converses noisily with another Member or otherwise disturb the proceedings,

and after having first warned the Member, may direct that Member to discontinue his speech and to resume his seat, or direct that the Member withdraw from the Chamber for a specified period of time as the case may require.

2) Any Member may, after the Speaker or Chairman has under paragraph (1) of this Standing Order once called the attention of the House or Committee to the said conduct of a Member in a debate, move that the Member be no longer heard and such motion shall be put without amendment or debate.

3) A Member, referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Standing Order, shall immediately take his seat, or withdraw from the Chamber as the case requires.

#### ***GROSS DISORDER***

4) Conduct shall be deemed to be grossly disorderly, if during proceedings, the Member concerned—

- a. creates actual disorder;
- b. uses or threatens violence against a Member or other person;
- c. acts in a manner that displays flagrant disobedience to rulings of the Chair; or
- d. acts in any other way to the serious detriment of the dignity or orderly procedure of the House.

5) The Speaker may order any Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's sitting.

6) The Speaker may direct such steps to be taken as are required to enforce an order made by him pursuant to paragraph (5) of this Standing Order.

### ***SUSPENSION FROM THE SERVICE OF THE HOUSE***

7) If on any occasion the Speaker considers that his powers under the previous provision of this Standing Order are inadequate, the Speaker may name such Member under this Standing Order, by mentioning the name of the Member concerned. In such circumstances, the procedure prescribed in the next succeeding paragraphs shall be followed:

- the Speaker shall mention the Member by name;
- Immediately following the naming, a Member shall move a motion that “(Mr/Mrs/Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_” be suspended from the service of the House; the Speaker shall put the question “that \_\_\_\_\_ be suspended from the service of the House”;
- This question must be resolved without amendment, adjournment or debate;
- If the offence has been committed in Committee of the Whole House, the Chairman shall immediately suspend the proceedings of the Committee, resume the House and report the circumstances and the procedure provided for in the preceding subparagraphs of this Standing Order shall be followed;
- and the Member so named must immediately leave the Chamber and its precincts and shall stand suspended from the service of the House.

### ***DURATION OF SUSPENSION***

8) If a Member is suspended pursuant to paragraph (7) of this Standing Order–

- a. for a first time in a session, the suspension will be for three (3) Sittings;
- b. for a second time in a session, the suspension will be for six (6) Sittings; and
- c. on any subsequent occasion within the same session, for a period to last until the House orders that the Member’s suspension shall terminate or, in default of such order, for the remainder of the session.

9) Any personal remuneration or allowance to which a Member is entitled as a Member of the House of Representatives shall cease in respect of the period of his suspension.

10) Not more than one (1) Member shall be named at the same time unless several Members present together have jointly committed the offence.

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

12) If resort to force is necessary, the Speaker may suspend the sitting during the removal of the Member. The Speaker may request the assistance of any police officer in ejecting the offending Member.

13) A Member who is directed to withdraw or who is suspended under this Standing Order shall not be entitled to attend the sitting from which he was directed to withdraw or in a case

of suspension to attend any sitting or Committee or enter the precincts of the House until the termination of his suspension.

14) In the case of grave disorder arising in the House, the Speaker may, if he thinks it necessary to do so, suspend the sitting for a specified period or adjourn the House without question put.

15) A Member suspended under this Standing Order shall not enter the Chamber, vote or serve on a Committee or lodge questions or notices of motion, during the period of his suspension.

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