



STANDING ORDERS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT



August, 2022



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IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred on the National Youth Parliament by section 29 of its Constitution, these Standing Orders are hereby made.

INTERPRETATION

1. Interpretation

(1) In these Standing Orders, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Parliament” means the National and Regional Parliaments of the National Youth Parliament;

“House” means House of Parliament of the National Youth Parliament

“Bill” means the draft of a statute (or Act of the National Assembly) and includes a Private, a Committee and a Public Bill;

“Chairperson” means the person presiding over a Committee of the Whole House or a Committee;

“Clerk” means the Clerk of the Parliament or the person or office performing the duties of the Clerk;

“Constitution” means the Constitution of the National Youth Parliament;



“Member” means a Member of the National Youth Parliament;
“NYP” means the National Youth Parliament;

“Minister” means a person holding a portfolio in Cabinet which includes the Attorney General;

“Motion” is a means of initiating a Parliament debate, in which a course of action is proposed and/or a Parliament decision sought on a relevant issue. Motions may be tabled by any Member of the National Youth Parliament

“Sergeant-at-Arms” means any person from the Scout Academy for the time being performing the duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms;

“Session” means a series of periodic sittings of the National Youth Parliament commencing when the Parliament first sits after it has been inaugurated

“Sitting” means the day on which the Parliament is sitting continuously without adjournment and includes any day on which the Parliament is in Committee of the Whole House;

“Speaker” includes Deputy Speakers, and any Member, elected to preside in the absence of the Speaker;

“Stranger” means any person other than an elected or nominated Member, who is not directly involved in the parliamentary



business of the sitting or committee meeting in question. It includes those engaged in delivering media services;

“NYP Secretariat” is that administrative office or department of the Parliament which is responsible for the efficient and effective management of both the National and Regional Parliaments as delegated by the Clerk;

“Whips” means Members designated by the Parliament to take responsibility for engagements of businesses in the House.

“IEC” means the Office of the Independent Electoral Commission of The Gambia.

THE SPEAKER

2. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker

The Speaker of the Parliament and the Deputy Speaker whom one shall be female are to be elected among the elected representatives of the National Youth Parliament.

3. Election of Speaker

- (1) On the first sitting day of a new Parliament, or on the first sitting after a vacancy has arisen in the office of Speaker, the Parliament shall proceed to elect a Speaker.
- (2) The IEC shall preside at the election of the Speaker.
- (3) Any Member, addressing himself or herself to the IEC Official, may propose a Member for the office of Speaker and move “That [naming the nominated member] do take the office of Speaker”. If that motion is seconded, the nominated Member will be asked if he or she accepts the nomination.
- (4) Where a nominee is proposed and seconded and has accepted the Nomination, the IEC Official shall ask for any further proposals, and –

- (a) If there is no further proposal, the IEC Official will say “The time for proposals has expired” and will call the nominee to take up the office of Speaker without any question being put.
- (b) If more than one Member is proposed and seconded the IEC Official in charge shall allow the Independent Electoral Commission to conduct an election of Speaker.

4. Election of Deputy Speaker

- (1) On the first sitting day of a new Parliament, or on the first sitting after a vacancy has arisen in the office of Deputy Speaker, the Parliament shall proceed to elect a Deputy Speaker.
- (2) The Speaker shall preside at the election of the Deputy Speaker.
- (3) Any Member, addressing himself or herself to the Speaker, may propose a nominated Member for the office of Deputy Speaker and move “That [naming the nominated member] do take the office of Deputy Speaker. If that motion is seconded, the nominated Member will be asked if he or she accepts the nomination.

- (4) Where a nominee is proposed and seconded and has accepted the nomination, the Speaker shall ask for any further proposals, and –
 - (a) If there is no further proposal, the Speaker will say “The time for proposals has expired” and will call the nominee to take up the office of Deputy Speaker without any question being put;
 - (b) If more than one nominated Member is proposed and seconded the Speaker shall cause the Independent Electoral Commission to conduct an election of Deputy Speaker.

5. Oath of Allegiance

- (1) No Member of the Parliament shall assume his/her seat until he or she has taken and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance.
- (2) The Oath of the Speaker shall be administered by the IEC Official in Charge.
- (3) The Oath of the Members shall be administered by the Clerk and presided over by the Speaker on the first day of a new Parliament, immediately after the election of the Speaker, or on any other day, immediately after Prayers.

6. Presiding over the House

- (1) The Speaker shall preside at any sitting of the National Youth Parliament.
- (2) In the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker shall preside.
- (3) In the absence of both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, a Member of the Parliament shall be elected for the purpose of that Sitting.
- (4) When either the Deputy Speaker or a Member of the Parliament elected for the purpose takes the Chair, he or she shall be conferred with all the powers of the Speaker until the next sitting of the House or until the Speaker shall again be present.
- (5) The Speaker may at any time ask the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair temporarily without formal communication to the House.

7. Functions of the Speaker

- (1) The Speaker shall act as Chairperson of –
 - (a) Committee of the Whole House including the Committee of Supply;

- (b) The Committee of Selection; and
 - (c) The House Committee.
- (2) When the Parliament moves into Committee of the Whole House, the Speaker shall leave the Chair and shall preside as Chairperson from the table; the Mace shall be removed from the Table.
- (3) The Speaker, Clerk and any Officials from the NYP Secretariat shall be required to wear gowns during the proceedings of each Sitting of the House.

8. Speaker's Rulings

- (1) In all cases where matters are not expressly provided for by these Standing Orders, any questions on procedure or order shall be decided by the Speaker.
- (2) The decisions made in paragraph (1) shall be based on
- (a) the Constitution;
 - (b) Statute Law;
 - (c) the precedents, customs, procedures, traditions and practices of the House; and

- (d) the precedents, customs, procedures, traditions and practices of other jurisdictions to the extent that they are applicable to the Parliament.
- (3) The Speaker's ruling shall be final on all questions of procedure and order.
- (4) The NYP Secretariat shall compile all the Speaker's Rulings at the end of each Session for a bound volume and circulated to members.

9. Vacancies in the Office of Speaker

- (1) Vacancies may arise in the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker if he or she;
 - (a) Ceases to be a member of the National Youth Parliament as per section 10 or 11 of the Constitution; or
 - (b) Is removed from office by a resolution of the House supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all the Members.
- (2) No business shall be transacted in the House other than the election of the Speaker whenever the office is vacant.



- (3) Whenever it is necessary to elect a new Speaker because the office of Speaker has become vacant for any reason, the Chair shall be taken by the IEC Official to preside over the election of a new Speaker.

OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE

10. Sessions

- (1) There shall be two Regular (Ordinary) Sessions of the House each year.
- (2) The duration of each Session shall be determined by the House Committee.
- (3) Extraordinary sessions of the Parliament shall be held at the request of not less than half of all the Members of the National Youth Parliament.
- (4) The House Committee shall dispatch an Agenda for each Regular or Extra Ordinary Session to every Member not less than fourteen days before the date of the commencement of that Session.

11. Sittings

- (1) Subject to the authority of the House Committee to determine the time for commencement of business in plenary, sittings of the House shall commence at 10:00 a.m. and shall continue until 5:00 p.m.

- (2) The allocation of time for business within these sittings shall be determined by the House Committee, except that –
 - (a) On the completion of business at the last sitting of each Session, there shall be a debate on the motion on the adjournment of the Parliament.
- (3) Additional sittings may be –
 - (a) arranged by the House Committee according to the exigencies of the Parliament;
 - (b) on such dates as the Speaker may determine, in consultation with the House Committee to sit
- (4) Sittings of the House shall be open to the public unless otherwise directed for good reasons.
- (5) The Order Paper of a Session, agreed by the House Committee, shall be issued by the Clerk to all Members before the sitting.

12. Quorum

- (1) Two Third of all Members shall be present before the commencement of a sitting. When the Speaker takes the Chair at the appointed time, immediately three

minutes after Prayers, if one half of the Members are not present, the Speaker shall defer until the next sitting day.

- (2) If it is noticed that less than one quarter of the Members are present, excluding the Chairperson, in a Committee of the Whole House the Chairperson shall leave the Chair and the House shall be resumed until such number is reached before going back to committee of the Whole House.

13. Adjournment

- (1) The Speaker may, at any time, suspend a sitting or adjourn the House.
- (2) A motion for the extension of a sitting of the House may be moved by a Member, at least, no later than half an hour before the time fixed for the adjournment, and if carried the sitting shall continue accordingly.
- (3) If the business of the House at any sitting is completed earlier than the time fixed for the adjournment of the House, a Member may move a motion that the House be adjourned.
- (4) On the completion of business at the last sitting of each Session, the Deputy Speaker or in his/her

absence, any other Member, shall move the motion for the adjournment of the Assembly sine-die.

14. Order of Business

- (1) Before a sitting is begun, Prayers shall be said by the Speaker (Appendix A).
- (2) The business at each sitting shall be transacted in the following order –
 - (a) Administration of Oaths;
 - (b) Communication from the Chair;
 - (c) Laying of papers and reports;
 - (d) Statements by Hon. Members of National Assembly, Ministers, Duty Bearers and Other dignitaries;
 - (e) Bills;
 - (f) Motions introduced by Members;
 - (g) Adjournment;
 - (h) Motion for debate on the adjournment.

- (3) The order of business as set out in paragraph (2) may be varied by the Speaker in case of emergency, or with the agreement of the House Committee.
- (4) Members or any person in the Chambers shall be called to order and stand in silence whenever the Speaker enters the Chamber.

15. Voting

- (1) Every decision of the House shall be taken by a simple majority of those voting unless otherwise specified for;
- (2) After putting the question, the Speaker shall judge whether the question be carried or not by taking voices “aye” and “no” and the result shall be declared by the Speaker.
- (3) If any Member calls for a division, the Speaker shall direct that the votes be taken by raising hands –
- (4) The Clerk shall record the votes and submit to the Speaker who shall announce the results to the House.
- (5) The Speaker or the person presiding shall have a deliberative vote as well as a casting vote.

RULES OF ORDER

16. Behaviour of Members

During a sitting –

- (a) all Members shall enter and leave the Chamber with decorum;
- (b) no Member shall cross the floor of the Chamber unnecessarily;
- (c) When the House adjourns, Members shall stand in their places until the Speaker leaves the Chamber;
- (d) Members shall not read newspapers, books, letters or other documents except when making reference to such business of the Assembly and with the permission of the Speaker;
- (e) Members shall not use mobile phones or any other electronic devices in the Chamber or at Committee Meetings except when making reference to such business of the Assembly or Committee and with the permission of the Speaker or Chairperson of the Committee;

- (f) while a Member is speaking, all other Members shall be silent and shall not make inappropriate interruption;
- (g) Clapping shall not be permitted in the Chamber.

17. Point of Order

Any Member deviating from these Standing Orders may be immediately called to order by the Speaker or by any other Member rising on a point of order. A Member rising on a point of order, shall direct attention to the point he or she desires to bring to notice and submit the same to the Speaker for decision.

18. Decision of Speaker

When the question of order has been stated, the Member who raised it shall resume his or her seat and no other Member, except by leave of the Speaker, shall rise until the Speaker has decided the question, after which the Member who was addressing the House at the time the question was raised shall be entitled to proceed with his or her speech, subject to the ruling of the Speaker.

19. Responsibility of Speaker for order

The Speaker in the House and the Chairperson in any Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the House and Committee respectively, and his or her decision

upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House.

20. Discipline and Suspension of Members

- (1) The Speaker or Chairperson may, after having called the attention of the House or Committee to the grossly disorderly conduct of a Member who –
 - (a) wilfully assaults, molests, obstructs or acts in a disorderly manner towards the Speaker or any other Member;
 - (b) continuously and deliberately obstructs the business of the Assembly;
 - (c) uses unacceptable language which he or she refuses to withdraw;
 - (d) persistently or wilfully refuses to conform with the Standing Orders; or
 - (e) persistently or wilfully disregards the authority of the Speaker;

The Member shall be ordered by the Speaker to immediately leave the Chambers during the remainder of the day's sitting.

RULES OF DEBATE

21. Attendance of Hon. Ministers, Hon. Members, Duty Bearers and Other Dignitaries

- (1) As prescribed by the Constitution, the Parliament shall have persuasive authority over Hon. Ministers, Hon. Members of the National Assembly, Duty bearers and other Dignitaries, and as such may allow them time to speak whenever any matter concerning the rights and welfare of the youths is committed to his or her charge.
- (2) The Hon. Ministers, Hon. Members, duty bearers and other Dignitaries attending debates shall be seated in the Ministers' Gallery but shall be required to come to the front bench when participating in a debate.

22. Speaking in debate

- (1) No Member except the Speaker or Chairperson may speak unless called upon to do so by the Speaker or Chairperson. In deciding who should be called, the Speaker or Chairperson shall have regard to the nature of the business under consideration.
- (2) A Member shall speak standing and shall address his or her observations to the Speaker or Chairperson.

Subject to the approval of the Speaker or Chairperson, a Member unable to stand conveniently by reason of sickness or illness may be permitted to speak while seated.

- (3) When the Speaker or Chairperson intervenes during proceedings in the House, or in Committee of the Whole Assembly, every other Member shall be seated.
- (4) The Speaker shall not take part in any debate before the Assembly.
- (5) In the event that the Speaker wishes to take part in any debate, he or she shall vacate the Chair for the Deputy Speaker or any other Member elected as Speaker for that purpose.
- (6) If two or more Members indicate at the same time that they wish to speak, the Member called upon by the Speaker or Chairperson shall be entitled to speak.
- (7) When the Member has finished his or her observations he or she shall resume his or her seat and any other Member wishing to address the House shall indicate in the established way that they wish to speak.
- (8) No Member may speak in a debate once the question has been put by the Speaker.

23. Speeches not to be read

- (1) A Member shall not read his or her speech, but he or she may read extracts from books or papers in support of his or her arguments, and may refresh his or her memory by reference to notes.
- (2) The Speaker may allow a Member to read a speech in particular cases where the Speaker is satisfied that it is necessary for accuracy in statement of facts.

24. Content of Speeches

- (1) Every Member shall restrict his or her observations to the subject under discussion.
- (2) It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.
- (3) The business of both the National and Regional Youth Parliaments shall be conducted in English Language, sign language and any other national language.

25. Occasions when a Member may speak more than once

- (1) No member may speak more than once on any proposition except

- (a) in Committee;
 - (b) the mover of a substantive motion in the Assembly, in reply at the end of a debate thereon;
- (2) Any Member may second a motion or amendment by rising in his or her place and saying, “I beg to second”; and this shall not prejudice his or her right to speak later in the debate on that motion or amendment.

26. Permissible Interruptions

- (1) No Member, except the Speaker, shall interrupt another Member except –
- (a) by rising to question, on a Point of Order, whether proper procedures have been, or are being followed; or
 - (b) to explain, on a point of clarification, some matter raised by another Member in the course of his or her speech, provided that the Member speaking is willing to give way and resume his or her seat.
- (2) The Member who has the floor when a Point of Order is raised shall resume his or her seat immediately and the Member raising the point of order shall resume his



or her seat as soon as the point has been made until the Speaker take a decision on the matter.

27. Closure of debate

- (1) After thorough debate, the Speaker may call upon the mover to reply to some of the concerns before putting the question to the House.

LAYING OF PAPERS

28. Laying of Papers

- (1) Conventions, Treaties, Protocols, Papers or Accounts to be laid or presented to the House shall be delivered to the Clerk on any day that the Clerk's office is open and the Parliament is not dissolved.
- (2) Documents so delivered shall be deemed for all purposes to be laid or presented.
- (3) Members laying or presenting a paper may make a short statement in the House on its contents, at the conclusion of which no questions shall be asked.
- (4) A copy of documents laid or presented to the House shall be provided to the relevant Committee and the House for records.

STATEMENTS

29. Statements by Hon. Ministers, Hon. Members of the National Assembly, Duty Bearers and Other Dignitaries

- (1) The Parliament may from time to time invite and allow Hon. Ministers, Members of the National Assembly, Duty Bearers and Other Dignitaries make statements to the House on matters relating to the rights and welfare of youths, which may be either –
 - (a) oral statements; or
 - (b) Written statements.

MOTIONS

30. Motions for debate on the adjournment of a Session

- (1) On the completion of business at the last sitting of each Session, the Deputy Speaker, or in his/her absence any other Member, shall move the motion for debate on the adjournment.
- (2) The debate on the motion on the adjournment of a Session may continue without limit beyond the time

fixed for the adjournment of the House.

- (3) During the debate on the motion on the adjournment of a session no Member shall speak for more than five minutes except that the Speaker may at his or her discretion allow the mover of the motion extra time for his or her reply.

31. Seconding of motions

- (1) In the House the question upon a motion shall not be proposed by the Speaker unless such motion or amendment has been seconded.
- (2) In Committee, a seconder shall not be required.

32. Debate of Motions

- (1) When the motion has been moved and seconded in the House, the Speaker shall put the question thereon to the Assembly in the same terms as the motion;
- (2) Debate may then take place upon that question and may continue so long as any Member wishes to speak who is entitled to do so, subject to any time allocations applied by the House Committee.

- (3) When he or she is satisfied that no more Members wish to speak, the Speaker shall call upon the mover to reply and immediately the mover has concluded his or her reply, the motion shall either stand refer to an appropriate committee for further considerations; or the Speaker shall put the question to the Assembly for adoption.

BILLS

33. Bills:

- (1) The Deputy Speaker or in his/her absence any Member shall present before the House any Bill that is under the scrutiny of the National Assembly affecting the rights and welfare of youths for consideration.
- (2) The Deputy Speaker or any Member after presenting a Bill to the House and seconded shall stand refer to the Committee (s) appropriate for further scrutiny
- (3) The Committee (s) shall report back their findings to plenary for consideration and adoption.
- (4) Concerns and opinion (s) of the National Youth Parliament concerning any bill shall be communicated as form of a Resolution to Authorities and Bodies concern to act upon thereto.

34. Committee stage: Committee of the Whole House

- (1) A Committee of the Whole House shall have power to propose amendments to a bill at committee stage provided that the amendments, including new clauses and new schedules, are relevant to the subject matter of the bill.

35. Resumption of the House

- (1) At the conclusion of proceedings on a bill in Committee of the Whole House, the Chairperson shall announce that “The House will now resume”, and subsequently, the Speaker shall put the question for the House to pass it with or without the proposed amendments made.

CONVENTIONS, TREATIES & PROTOCOLS

36. Conventions, Treaties & Protocols

- (5) The Deputy Speaker or in his/her absence any Member shall present before the House any Convention, Treaty or Protocol that is under the scrutiny of the National Assembly affecting the rights and welfare of youths for consideration.

- (6) The Deputy Speaker or any Member after presenting the Motion to the House and seconded shall stand refer to the Committee (s) appropriate for further scrutiny
- (7) The Committee (s) shall report back their findings to plenary for consideration and ratification.
- (8) Concerns and opinion (s) of the National Youth Parliament concerning any Convention, Treaty or Protocol shall be communicated as form of a Resolution to Authorities and Bodies concern to act upon thereto.

DRAFT BUDGET AND ACTIVITY REPORT

37. The draft budget

- (1) Every year, towards the end, an Annual draft budget shall be submitted to the Parliament by the Clerk in consultation with the NYP Secretariat
- (2) The draft budget shall include, for the next financial year –
 - (a) an assessment of the current state of the Parliament’s financial outlook;

- (b) the total resources to be allocated to the Parliament including the sources of such resources, the outputs expected within the period and the links to the development of the National Youth Parliament.

38. Committee of Supply

- (1) There shall be a Committee of the Whole House to be called the Committee of Supply. The Committee shall –
 - (a) scrutinize, consider and, as the case may be, amend the draft budget
- (2) The Chairperson of the Committee of Supply shall be the Speaker.

39. Procedure in Committee of Supply

- (1) On the moving of a motion to approve the draft budget, the Chairperson shall propose a question on each of the allocations in turn.
- (2) Amendments shall be taken at the appropriate point in the Estimates, and any question on an amendment after the question is made shall not be accepted.

40. Activity Report

- (1) Every year, towards the end, an Annual Activity Report shall be submitted to the Parliament by the Clerk in consultation with the NYP Secretariat for the consideration and adoption by the House
- (2) The Activity Report shall include,
 - (a) an assessment of activities embarked upon the previous year under review, gains registered, short falls and provide a forecast of activities for the next year.
 - (b) After the report is adopted by the House, the office of the Clerk with the NYP Secretariat shall share the report with the National Assembly, Ministries, duty bearers and all its development partners.

COMMITTEES

41. Standing, Select and Special Select Committees

- (1) Committees shall be of three classes, that is to say, Standing Committees, Select Committees and Special Select Committees.

- (2) Committees shall be appointed in accordance with section 31 of the Constitution of the National Youth Parliament, and shall include the following Standing Committees –
- (a) Standing Committee on Good Governance;
 - (b) Standing Committee on Human Rights and Democracy;
 - (c) Standing Committee on Climate Change and the Environment;
 - (d) Standing Committee on Education and Skills;
 - (e) Standing Committee on Youth Employment and Enterprises
 - (f) Standing Committee on Peace Building
 - (g) Standing Committee on Tolerance and Non-discrimination
 - (h) Standing Committee on Women, Children and Disability
 - (i) Standing Committee on Arts and Entertainment

- (j) Standing Committee on Youth Migration, Health and Road Safety
 - (k) Standing Committee on Selection
- (3) Select Committees, as many as may be necessary, shall be established on a motion, tabled by the Committee of Selection.
 - (4) The mandate of a Standing Committee established under paragraph (2) shall expire on the dissolution of the Parliament.
 - (5) Special Select Committees may be established to deal with any specific time-bounded matters, on a motion setting out the terms of reference thereof, and tabled by the Committee of Selection.

42. Membership of Committees

- (1) Subject to the requirement that all Members are offered at least one Committee place, the membership of committees shall be as follows –
 - (a) a Standing Committee shall normally consist of a Chairperson and Fourteen other Members and, in any event, not more than Fifteen Members in total;

- (b) the membership of a Select Committee shall normally consist of a Chairperson and Nineteen Members and, in any event, not more than Twenty Members in total; and
 - (c) the membership of a Special Select Committee shall normally consist of a Chairperson and 14 other Members and, in any event, not more than Fifteen Members in total.
- (2) Committees shall consist of such Members as may be nominated by the Committee of Selection, and approved by the House on a motion tabled by the Committee of Selection.

43. Responsibility of all Committees

- (1) A Committee shall examine such matters within its responsibility as it may determine appropriate or as may be referred to it by the House or another Committee, and shall report to the House (or, where the matter has been referred to it by another Committee, to that committee) on any such matter.
- (2) A Committee may look into –
- (a) the activities of ministries, departments or agencies of the government dealing with the

rights and welfare of youths and all policy making or service delivery institutions and submit their reports for consideration

- (3) In particular, each Committee may–
 - (a) Review draft policies, programmes and bills affecting youths and convey opinions and concerns to the National Assembly, the Executive, duty bearers and other Stakeholders in order to mainstream the concern of youths into policies, programmes and legislations.
 - (b) Promote awareness of youths issue among all sectors of society.
 - (c) Serve as focal point for the commemoration of Days set aside to promote the rights and general welfare of youths
 - (d) Shall reserve all rights to seek or invite technical and expert opinions onto any matter before its scrutiny

44. Powers of Committees

- (1) For the purpose of effectively performing its functions, each of the Committees shall have all the rights and

privileges to lobby, advocate, and promote for the rights and welfare of youths.

45. Operations of Committees

- (1) A Committee shall be convened by a notice of meeting given to its Members.
- (2) A notice of a meeting of a Committee shall be given by the Clerk to all Members of the Committee, showing the date, time, venue and agenda of the meeting.
- (3) A meeting of a Committee shall be held at such place, date and time as shall be determined by the Chairperson or on a petition to the Clerk made by a quorum of Members of that Committee.
- (4) The quorum of every Committee shall, unless the Parliament otherwise directs, consist of seven Members.
- (5) Decisions in Committees shall be by majority vote and in the case of an equality of votes, the proposition falls.
- (6) Minutes of the proceedings of every meeting shall be recorded by the Clerk and, once approved by the Committee, shall be published.

46. Sub-Committees

- (1) A Committee may resolve to establish one or more sub-Committees. A resolution to establish a sub-Committee shall set out its membership, Chairperson, responsibility and duration.
- (2) A sub-Committee shall report only to the Committee which established it, and shall not take any decision on behalf of the committee by which it was established.

47. Matters of joint concern

- (1) Where a matter may be of concern to two or more Committees, Members can come together and work towards addressing the matter.

48. The Standing Committee of Selection

- (1) The Standing Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as Chairperson, Deputy Speaker, a Member from each Region, the Clerk as Secretary and two other Representatives from the NYP Secretariat shall perform the functions allotted to it by these Standing Orders, and any other functions as the House may from time to time confer upon it.

- (2) It shall be duty of the ‘Standing Committee of Selection’ to nominate Members to the various Committees of the Parliament subject to the consideration and approval of the House
- (3) The Committee of Selection shall report its decisions to the House for approval.

49. The Standing Committee on Good Governance, Human Rights and Democracy

- (1) The Standing Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and such other Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection, as provided for in Standing Order 42 [Membership of Committees]
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee on good governance, human rights and democracy to promote accountability, transparency and youth participation in the democratization processes of the state and to examine and advocate for all matter of youths in relation to human rights and democratic values and principles.

50. The House Committee

- (1) The House Committee shall consist of the Speaker as Chairperson and Clerk as Secretary, and such other

Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection, as provided for in Standing Order 42 [Membership of Committees].

- (2) It shall be the duty of the House Committee to;
 - a) prepare and, if necessary, from time to time adjust the House agenda with the approval of the House;
 - b) determine the business of each sitting and the order in which it shall be taken, subject to Standing Order 14 [Order of Business];
 - c) Perform such other duties as these Standing Orders shall require, the Speaker may request or the House determines.
 - d) The House Committee shall meet in private.

51. The Standing Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

- (1) The Standing Committee on Climate Change and the Environment shall consist of a Chairperson and such other Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection, as provided for in Standing Order 42 [Membership of Committees].

- (2) It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee on Climate Change and the Environment to play critical roles in addressing climate-related risks by promoting youth participation in environmentally sustainable lifestyles, and a change agent for societies. The Committee shall also scrutinize and consider all matters of climate change and the environment been referred or committed to its charge.

52. Standing Committee on Education and Skills

- (1) The Standing Committee on Education and Skills shall consist of a Chairperson and such other Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection, as provided for in Standing Order 42 [Membership of Committees].
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee on Education and Skills to securitize and review educational policies of the society and contribute meaningful inputs into legislations and policies and ensure the country's education system benefits all. The Committee shall also identify and advocate for accurate training priorities regarding the development of youths of The Gambia.

53. Standing Committee on Youth Employment and Enterprises

- (1) The Standing Committee on Youth Employment and Enterprises shall consist of a Chairperson and such other Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection, as provided for in Standing Order 42 [Membership of Committees].
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee on Youth Employment and Enterprises to ensure that decent and productive jobs are available to youths and address obstacles and discriminations that exists within the job market. The Committee shall also advocate by harnessing the force of globalization to exploit new technologies to create new employment opportunities for youths.

54. Standing Committee on Peace Building, Standing Committee on Tolerance and Non-discrimination

- (1) The Standing Committee on Peace Building shall consist of a Chairperson and such other Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection, as provided for in Standing Order 42 [Membership of Committees].
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee on Peace Building, Tolerance and Discrimination to

advocate by employing range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening youth capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and sustainable development.

- (3) It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee on Peacebuilding, Tolerance and Non-discrimination to work with religious leaders, young people and school officials to promote tolerance, inter-faith dialogue and acceptance of diversity; Advising institutions to improve and implement anti-discrimination policies. The Committee shall also advocate by ensuring that through its efforts, foster a stronger sense of security in the minds of youths of the country by being tolerant.

55. Standing Committee on Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities

- (1) The Standing Committee on Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities shall consist of a Chairperson and such other Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection, as provided for in Standing Order 42 [Membership of Committees].
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee on Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities to advocate for issues concerning women, children

and people living with disabilities and promote gender equality. The Committee shall also scrutinize government policies relating to activities of women, children and people living with disabilities and ensure that its concerns and recommendations are mainstreamed into policies, programmes and activities of the government.

56. Standing Committee on Arts and Entertainment

- (1) The Standing Committee on Arts and Entertainment shall consist of a Chairperson and such other Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection, as provided for in Standing Order 42 [Membership of Committees].
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee on Arts and Entertainment to work with organizations supporting artistic endeavors that strive for excellence in contributing to the cultural vibrancy of communities. The Committee shall also advocate and closely work with the Recreation Centers to ensure that interests of all age groups are considered.

57. Standing Committee on Youth Migration, Health and Road Safety

- (1) The Standing Committee on Youth Migration, Health and Road Safety shall consist of a Chairperson and

such other Members, appointed by the Committee of Selection, as provided for in Standing Order 42 [Membership of Committees].

- (2) It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee on Youth Migration, Health and Road Safety to advocate by raising awareness on the challenges and opportunities youth face in the context of migration and contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, SDGs 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing), 8 (Employment) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities). The Committee shall also ensure that youth migration policies are mainstreamed into all development programmes and activities and promote youth empowerment to enable them become actors of change.

58. Freedom of speech

There shall be freedom of speech and debate in the Parliament and that freedom shall not be impeached or questioned in any court or place outside the Parliament.

59. Sanctions

- (1) Where it appears to the Hon. Speaker that a Member has failed to comply with any provision of the Standing Orders, the Speaker through the House Committee

may make a report to the Parliament. The report may include a recommendation that a sanction be imposed upon the Member.

- (2) Sanctions may include, but are not limited to –
 - (a) a requirement that the Member apologises to the Parliament;
 - (b) exclusion of the Member from proceedings of the Parliament for a specified period;

OTHER ORDERS

60. Duties of the Clerk

- (1) The Clerk shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution to Members of the daily Order Paper
- (2) The Clerk shall have the custody over all journals, papers, and records of all kinds belonging to the Parliament.
- (3) The Clerk shall, with the assistance of the Sergeant-at-Arms, be responsible for the execution of any orders of the Speaker.

61. Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms

- (1) There shall be a Sergeant-at-Arms in the Parliament who shall be appointed by NYP Secretariat
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms –
 - (a) to attend upon the Speaker with the Mace;
 - (b) to obey all orders and directions for the preservation of order and proper conduct in the Parliament which the Speaker may give him or her.

62. Security checks

- (1) A Member and all other persons shall be subject to a security check or screening before entering the Chamber.
- (2) No Member or a person shall bring a firearm or any offensive weapon into the Chamber.
- (3) A Member or a person shall be allowed into the Chamber with a handbag of reasonable size.

63. Admission of strangers to the Parliament

- (1) Strangers may be admitted to the Parliament under such rules or directions as the Speaker may make from time to time for the purpose.
- (2) Strangers shall conduct themselves in a way that maintains the dignity of the Chamber during a sitting and shall withdraw from the Assembly or any part of it when called upon to do so by the Speaker or, in Committee of the Whole House by the Chairperson.
- (3) Strangers shall not communicate with the Speaker, Ministers, Hon. Members of the National Assembly or other Officials in the Chamber and unless otherwise permitted to do so by the Speaker, shall remain in the public galleries while in the Chamber.

64. Visiting dignitaries

- (1) The Speaker may, in consultation with the House Committee, allow a visiting Head of State or other such visiting dignitary, to address the Parliament.
- (2) The Speaker or Deputy Speaker, or in their absence a Member who has been elected for the purpose, shall remain in the Chair during addresses by visiting dignitaries.



65. Transitional Provisions

- (1) These Standing Orders shall come into operation on the date of the commencement of the First Normal (Ordinary) Session in the 2022/2023 Legislative Year.



Appendix A

Opening Prayer –

Almighty God, who, in Thy wisdom and goodness has established a Parliament for the Youths of this great country to advocate and promote for the welfare of Youths and the society.

Let Thy blessing descend upon us, here in this House assembled. Grant us that we may treat, and consider all matters that shall come under our deliberation in so just and faithful a manner

To promote Thy Honour and Glory. To advance the peace, prosperity and welfare of this country. And of those whose interests, Thou has committed to our charge.
Ameen.



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