Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly

Rules of Procedure

&

Conduct of Business, 2017

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Chapter-I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement.— (1) These Rules may be called the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business, 2017.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.— In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:-

(a) "Advisor" means a person appointed under Article-25 of Order;
(b) "Advocate General" means the Advocate General appointed under Article 32 of Order;
(c) "Amendment" means a motion to amend an earlier motion before that earlier motion is put to the Assembly for its decision;
(d) "Article" means Article of the Order;
(e) "Assembly" means the Legislative Assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan;
(f) "Auditor General" means the Auditor General of Gilgit-Baltistan mentioned under Article-83 of Order;
(g) "Bill" means a motion for making a law;
(h) "Budget" means a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure laid before the Assembly under Article 56 of the Order;
(i) "Calling Attention Notice" means a notice given by a Member to call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance;
(j) "Chief Minister" means the Chief Minister elected under Article 23 of Order;
(k) "Committee" means a Committee constituted under these rules and includes a special committee appointed by the Assembly;
(l) "Deputy Speaker" means Deputy Speaker of the Assembly;
(m) "Finance Minister" means the Minister of Finance appointed by the Governor on advice of Chief Minister to perform the functions of Minister of Finance of Government or any other Minister acting as such;
(n) "Gazette" means the official Gazette of Gilgit-Baltistan;
(o) "Government" means the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan;
(p) "Governor" means the Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan;
(q) "House" means the Legislative Assembly of the Gilgit-Baltistan;
(r) "Leader of Opposition" means a member who, in the opinion of the Speaker, is for the time being leader of the majority of the members in the Opposition;
(s) "Leader of the House" means the Chief Minister or any other most senior Minister designated in this behalf;
(t) "Lobby" means the rooms and covered corridors adjourning the chamber and designated as Division Lobbies by the Speaker;
(u) "Law Minister" means a Provincial Minister to whom the business of Law and Parliamentary Affairs has been allotted;
(v) "Meeting" means a Meeting of the Assembly;
(w) "Member" means a Member of the Assembly;
(x) "Member-in-charge" means, in the case of a Government Bill, any Minister acting on behalf of the Provincial Government, and in the case of a private Member's Bill, the Member who has introduced it or any other Member authorised by him, in writing, to assume the charge of the Bill in his absence;
(y) "Minister" means a Provincial Minister appointed under Article 24 of the Order;
(z) "Motion" means a proposal made by a Member relating to any matter which

may be discussed by the Assembly and includes a Resolution and an Amendment;

(aa) “Mover” means the mover of a Bill, a resolution, a motion or an amendment of a Bill, a resolution or a motion and in the case of a Government Bill, a resolution, a motion or an amendment, a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary acting on behalf of the Government;

(bb) "Order" means the Gilgit-Baltistan (Empowerment & Self Governance) Order, 2009;

(cc) "Orders of the Day" means the list of business to be brought before the Assembly for consideration and decision at its sitting on any day;

(dd) "Precincts of the Assembly” Includes the Chamber, the Lobbies, the galleries and such other places as the Speaker may, from time to time, specify;

(ee) "Presiding Officer" means in relation to a sitting of the Assembly, any person who is presiding over that sitting;

(ff) “Private member” means a member who is not a Minister,

(gg) "Resolution" means a motion for the purpose of discussing and expressing an opinion on a matter of general public interest;

(hh) "Rules" means the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business, 2017;

(ii) "Schedule" means a Schedule appended to these rules;

(jj) "Secretary” means the Secretary of the Assembly and includes any person for the time being performing the duties of the Secretary;

(kk) "Session" means the period commencing on the day of the first meeting of the Assembly after having been summoned and ending on the day the Assembly is prorogued or dissolved;

(ll) "Sitting” means the meeting of the Assembly or any of its Committees from the commencement of its business to the termination of the business for the day;

(mm) "Speaker" means speaker of the Assembly;

(nn) "Starred question” means a question for an oral answer, and “un-starred question” means a question for a written answer;

(oo) "Table" means the table of the House;

(pp) "Technocrat" means a person elected under Article-35 (1) (c) of the Order.

(2) Words and expressions used but not defined in these rules and defined in the Order shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meanings assigned to them in the Order.

Chapter-II
SUMMONING, PROROGATION AND QUORUM OF THE ASSEMBLY AND SEATING, OATH AND ROLL OF MEMBERS

3. Summoning of the Assembly.— When the Assembly is summoned, the Secretary shall cause a notification to be published in the Gazette stating the date, time and place of the meeting and shall also cause to be issued to each member a notice intimating these particulars:

Provided that when a session is called at short notice or in an emergency within seventy-two hours, the date, time and place of session shall be published in the Gazette and also announced on the radio, television and through press and the members shall be informed by urgent mail instead of normal notices.

4. Quorum.— (1) If at any time during a sitting of the Assembly, the attention of the Speaker is drawn to the fact that members less than one-third of the total membership of the Assembly are present, he shall suspend the sitting and shall order the bells to be rung for five minutes and if after the said period there is still no quorum, he shall adjourn the Assembly for fifteen to thirty minutes.

(2) If, on a fresh count being taken after the expiry of the said period, it is still found that there is no quorum, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly till the next working day or sine die, as the situation may require:

Provided that if an evening sitting has already been fixed for the transaction of Government business, the Assembly may be adjourned till the time of the evening sitting.

5. Adjournment.— Subject to the provisions of clause (2) of Article-40 of the Order and of these rules, the sitting of the Assembly may be adjourned from time to time by order of the Speaker.

6. Prorogation of the Assembly.— (1) When the Assembly is prorogued, the Secretary shall cause a notification to that effect to be published in the Gazette.

(2) On the prorogation of a session, all pending notices and business shall lapse, except Bills, which have been introduced, and such Bills shall be carried over to the next session from the stage reached in the preceding session.

7. Oath of members.— A person elected as a member of Assembly shall, before taking his seat in the Assembly, make before the Assembly oath in the form set out in the First Schedule of the Order.

8. Roll of Members.— There shall be a Roll of Members which shall be signed in the presence of the Secretary by every Member after making the oath.

9. Seating of members.— (1) The members shall sit in the House in such order as the Speaker may determine.

(2) Before the election of the Speaker, the order shall be determined by the outgoing Speaker or, in his absence, by the Secretary.

Chapter-III
THE SPEAKER, DEPUTY SPEAKER AND PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

10. Election of the Speaker.— (1) At the first meeting of the Assembly, after the members have made oath, the Assembly shall, before the transaction of any other business, proceed to elect the Speaker in accordance with these rules.

(2) The meeting of the Assembly for election of the Speaker shall be presided over by the outgoing Speaker or, if he/her is absent by such member as may be nominated by the Governor Gilgit-Baltistan for the purpose.

(3) At any time before the close of office hours on the day preceding the day on which the election is to be held, any member may propose another member for the office of the Speaker by delivering to the Secretary a nomination paper signed by him and stating in writing that he has ascertained that the member proposed is willing to serve as Speaker, if elected.

(4) A member who has been nominated may, in writing, withdraw his candidature at any time before the Assembly proceeds to elect a Speaker.

(5) Where, after the expiry of the time for withdrawal, there is only one duly nominated candidate for the office of the Speaker such candidate shall be declared by the Presiding Officer to have been elected.

(6) Where there are more than one candidate, the Secretary shall read out to the Assembly the name of each such candidate together with the name of his proposer and the Assembly shall then proceed to elect the Speaker by secret ballot which shall be held in such manner as the Presiding Officer may direct.

(7) Where there are only two candidates, the candidate obtaining the larger number of votes at the ballot shall be declared elected, and in the event of equality of votes, a fresh ballot shall be held between them until one of them secures more votes than the other, and the candidate securing more votes shall be declared to have been elected.

(8) Where there are more than two candidates, the candidate obtaining more votes than the aggregate of votes obtained by the other candidates shall be declared by the Presiding Officer to have been elected. If no candidate obtains such number of votes there shall be a second ballot, or, if necessary, subsequent ballots and at the end of each such ballot, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be excluded from the election. The balloting shall, in like manner, proceed with until one candidate obtains more votes than the remaining candidates in the aggregate and the candidate obtaining such number of votes shall be declared elected.

(9) Where at any ballot any three or more candidates secure an equal number of votes and one of them has to be excluded from the election under sub-rule (8), above the question as to which of the candidates is to be excluded, shall be determined by drawing of lots.

(10) The person so elected shall make an oath before the Assembly, in the form set out in the First Schedule of the Order.

11. Election of the Deputy Speaker.— (1) After election of the Speaker, the Assembly shall proceed further to elect Deputy Speaker. The implementation of the procedure will be same as adopted in election of the Speaker under rule 10 and the word speaker shall be substituted by the word Deputy Speaker. However, the meeting of the Assembly for the election of the Deputy Speaker shall be presided over by the Speaker.

(2) The person so elected shall make an oath before the Assembly, in the form set out in the First Schedule of the Order.

12. Vacancy in the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker.— (1) Whenever the office of Speaker becomes vacant, the Governor shall fix a date for the election of a new Speaker, if the Assembly is in session, as soon as possible during that session, and if the Assembly is not in session, at the commencement of the next session and the election shall be held in accordance with rule 10.

(2) Whenever the office of the Deputy Speaker becomes vacant, the Speaker shall fix a date for the election of a new Deputy Speaker and the election shall be held as soon as possible, if the Assembly is in session, during that session, and if the Assembly is not in session, at the commencement of the next session and the election shall be held in accordance with rule 10.

13. Removal of Speaker or Deputy Speaker.— (1) A member may give notice to the Secretary in writing of a motion for leave to move a resolution under sub-clause 8 (b) Article-42 of the Order, for removal of Speaker or Deputy Speaker as the case may be and the Secretary shall circulate the notice to all the members.

(2) The motion for leave of which notice has been given under sub-rule (1) shall be entered in the name of the member concerned by the Secretary in the Order of the day after the expiry of seven clear days from the date of receipt of the notice.

(3) No other item shall be included in the Order of the day for the day fixed for a motion for leave to move a resolution under sub-rule (1).

(4) After a motion for leave of which notice has been given under sub-rule (1) has been moved, the Assembly shall not be adjourned until that motion or if leave is granted, the resolution is disposed of.

(5) As soon as the motion referred to in sub-rule (1) has been moved, the Presiding Officer shall call such of the members as may be in favour of the leave being granted to rise in their seats and if at least 1/3 of the total members so rise, he shall call upon the member concerned to move the resolution. In case at least 1/3 of the total members do not so rise, the Presiding Officer shall declare that the member concerned has not the leave of the Assembly to move the resolution.

(6) Except with the permission of the Presiding Officer, a speech on the resolution by the mover and by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker for whose removal the resolution has been moved shall not exceed one hour and that by any other member shall not exceed thirty minutes.

(7) Voting on the resolution shall be by secret ballot which shall be held in such manner as the Presiding Officer may direct.

(8) The Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall not preside when a resolution for his removal is under discussion, but he may speak on the resolution and may vote.

(9) If the simple majority of the Assembly cast the vote in favour of resolution then Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall cease to hold the office.

(10) When the removal of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is announced, the Secretary shall cause a notification to be published in the Gazette.

14. Powers and functions of the Speaker.— (1) In addition to the specific functions and powers provided in these rules, the Speaker shall take the Chair at every sitting of the Assembly at the hour to which the Assembly is adjourned at the last sitting or at the hour at which the Assembly has been summoned to meet.

(2) The Speaker shall call the sitting to order.

(3) The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum, shall have all powers necessary for the purpose of enforcing his decisions and in the case of disturbance or disorder in the galleries, have the power to cause them to be cleared.

(4) The Speaker shall decide all points of order.

(5) The Speaker shall have the powers to withdraw his consent already communicated for the presentation of a privilege motion, an adjournment motion or a resolution if some fresh material is furnished to him on account of which he is satisfied that the withdrawal of the consent already granted was necessary to be revoked.

(6) In the absence of the Speaker, the meeting of the Assembly shall be presided in accordance with clause (4) of Article 42 of the Order.

15. Panel of Presiding Officer and temporary Presiding Officer.— (1) The Speaker shall, as soon as may be, after the commencement of every session, nominate, from among the Members a panel of not more than three Presiding Officers, any one of whom may preside at a meeting of the Assembly in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, when so requested by the Speaker, or in his absence, by the Deputy Speaker:

Provided that where no such request has been made either by the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker, any one of them may preside in the order in which their names appear in the panel.

(2) If at any time at a sitting of the Assembly neither the speaker, nor the Deputy Speaker, nor any member of the panel of Presiding Officers is present, the Assembly shall, if there is a quorum, by motion elect one of its Members present to preside and act as Speaker and for this purpose the Secretary shall hold the election.

(3) A Presiding Officer nominated under sub-rule (1), shall hold office until a new panel of Presiding Officers is nominated.

(4) If, at the commencement of a sitting, the Speaker, is unavoidably absent, the Secretary shall inform the Assembly of the fact, before the Deputy Speaker or if he is also absent, a Presiding Officers takes the Chair.

16. Powers of Presiding Officer.— The Deputy Speaker or other Member competent to preside over a sitting of the Assembly under the Order or these rules shall, when so presiding have the same powers as the Speaker when so presiding and all references to the Speaker in these rules shall in that case be deemed to be references to any such person so presiding.

Chapter-IV
CHIEF MINISTER

17. Ascertainment to be without debate.— (1) After the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker following a general election or whenever office of the Chief Minister falls vacant for any reason, the Assembly shall not transact any business unless it has been ascertained which one of the members of the Assembly commands the confidence of the majority of the members of the Assembly.

(2) In the special session summoned for the purpose of Article-23 of the Order, the Assembly to the exclusion of any other business and without debate, shall proceed as follows:-

a) any member may propose or second the name of any member for the ascertainment who commands the confidence of the majority of the members of the Assembly, hereinafter referred to as the candidate;

b) every proposal shall be made by a separate nomination paper in the form set out in the Schedule-II and shall be signed by the proposer and seconder and also by the candidate stating that he has consented to the nomination;

c) more than one nomination papers may propose a candidate but no member shall subscribe to more than one nomination paper either as proposer or as seconder; and

d) the candidate or his proposer or seconder shall deliver every nomination paper to the Secretary by 2:00 p.m. on the day preceding the day on which the ascertainment is to take place.

18. Scrutiny.— (1) The Speaker shall, at 4:00 pm on the same day or at such other time as he may determine, scrutinize the nomination papers received in terms of rule 17, in the presence of such candidates, their proposers or seconders as may wish to be present.

(2) The Speaker may reject a nomination paper if he is satisfied that-

(a) the proposer or the seconder or the candidate is not a member;

or

(b) any provision of rule 17 has not been complied with;

or

(c) the signature of the proposer or the seconder or the candidate is forged.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in sub-rule (2), the Speaker shall not reject a nomination paper on the ground of any defect which is not of substantial nature and may allow any such defect to be rectified at the time of scrutiny.

(4) The Speaker shall endorse on each nomination paper his decision accepting or rejecting the nomination paper and shall, in case of rejection, record brief reasons for the rejection of a nomination paper.

(5) The rejection of a nomination paper of a candidate shall not invalidate the nomination of the candidate through another valid nomination paper.

(6) The decision of the Speaker, accepting or rejecting a nomination paper, shall be final.

19. Withdrawal.— A candidate may withdraw his candidature at any time before the commencement of the election by submitting an application, in writing under his hand, to the Speaker.

20. Election.— (1) Before the commencement of the election, the Speaker shall read out to the Assembly the name or names of the candidates validly nominated in the order in which their nomination papers were received and shall proceed to conduct the election in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Third Schedule.

(2) If there is only one contesting candidate and he secures the votes of the majority of the total membership of the Assembly, the Speaker shall declare him to have been elected as the Chief Minister; but, in case, he does not secure that majority, all proceedings for the election, including nomination of the candidates, shall commence afresh.

(3) If no candidate secures the votes of the majority of the total membership of the Assembly in the first poll, the Speaker shall conduct a second poll between the candidates who secure the two highest numbers of votes in the first poll and shall declare the candidate who secures the majority of votes of the members present and voting to have been elected as Chief Minister:

Provided that if the number of votes secured by two or more candidates securing the highest number of votes is equal, the Speaker shall hold further polls between them until one of them secures the majority of votes of the members present and voting, and shall declare such candidate to have been elected as the Chief Minister.

21. Removal of Chief Minister.— (1) Under clause (1) Article-28 of the Order, 20% of members may give notice to the Secretary in writing of a motion for leave to move a resolution for the removal of the Chief Minister and the Secretary shall forthwith circulate the notice to the members and intimate to the Governor Gilgit-Baltistan.

(2) The motion for leave of which notice has been given under sub rule (1) shall be entered in the name of the member concerned by the Secretary in the order of the day after the expiry of 3 clear days from the date of receipt of the notice.

(3) The motion for leave of which notice has been given under sub rule (1) shall be entered in the name of the member concerned and the Secretary shall include in the order of the day less than 3 days and before 7 days from the date of receipt of the notice. No other item shall be included in the order of the day.

(4) Except with the permission of the Speaker, a speech on the motion by the mover and by the Chief Minister for whose removal the resolution has been moved shall not exceed 45 minutes and that by any other member shall not exceed 20 minutes.

(5) After a motion is moved, the Speaker under Article-28 of the Order, shall fix a day for voting and on that day the Assembly shall not be adjourned until that motion or the resolution is disposed of.

(6) If the majority of total membership of the Assembly passed a resolution against the Chief Minister, he will cease to hold office.

(7) The Speaker shall forthwith intimate the result to the Governor, Gilgit-Baltistan.

(8) The Assembly shall not be prorogued until the resolution is disposed off or, if leave is granted, the resolution has been voted upon.

22. Power to Appoint Parliamentary Secretaries.— The Chief Minister may appoint parliamentary secretaries in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Article 26 of the Order.

Chapter-V
SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY AND ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

23. Commencement of the sitting.— Every sitting of the Assembly shall commence with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, Urdu translation of the verses and Naat in praise of Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

24. Sitting of the Assembly.— (1) The Assembly shall sit on such days as the Speaker, having regard to the state of business of the Assembly, may from time to time direct.

(2) Unless the Speaker otherwise directs, the Assembly shall meet from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

(3) If the business set down in the List of Business for the day is completed earlier, or if it is not completed at 2.00 P.M. (12.30 P.M. on Friday), the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put, and the proceedings on any business then under consideration shall be interrupted:

Provided that:

a) If at the time of interruption the closure is moved or proceedings under closure are in progress, the proceedings under the closure and on any further motion as is specified in the rule as the closure shall be completed before the Assembly is adjourned.

b) A motion may be made by a Minister at the commencement of the business for the day to be decided without amendment or debate to the following effect:-

"That the proceedings on any specified items of business be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of sub-rule(3) of rule 24".

If such a motion is carried, the business so specified shall not be interrupted and if under discussion when a motion for adjournment under rule 99 is taken up, shall be resumed and proceeded with thereafter.

25. Adjournment of sittings.— Subject to other provisions of these rules the Speaker may:-

(a) adjourn a sitting of the Assembly, sine die or otherwise; and

(b) if he so thinks fit, call a sitting of the Assembly, at a time and date different from that to which it was earlier adjourned and the change shall be intimated to the Members through announcement on radio, television and newspapers.

26. Annual Calendar for sessions of the Assembly.— (1) At the commencement of the first session of each year, the Government in consultation with the Speaker provide a provisional calendar of sessions for the parliamentary year.

(2) The Speaker shall cause the provisional calendar to be circulated amongst the members.

(3) The Assembly shall be summoned on the dates given in the calendar.

Provided that the Governor may summon the Assembly on a date other than that of the calendar.

(4) Nothing contained in this rule shall limit the powers of the Speaker to summon a requisitioned session of the Assembly to meet at any time.

27. Sessions of the Assembly.— There shall be at least three sessions of the Assembly every year, and not more than one hundred and twenty days shall intervene the last sitting of the Assembly in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

Provided that the Assembly shall meet for not less than one hundred and thirty working days in each parliamentary year.

28. Days of sitting.— The Assembly shall sit on such days as the Speaker, having regard to the state of business of the Assembly, may from time to time direct.

Chapter-VI
ARRANGEMENT AND TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS

29. Classes of business.— (1) Business of the Assembly shall be classified as:

(a) Government business; and

(b) Private members' business.

(2) Government business shall include bills, resolutions, amendments and other motions introduced or initiated by a Minister.

(3) Private members' business shall include Bills, resolutions, amendments and other motions introduced or initiated by private members.

30. Allotment of time for transaction of business.— (1) On Tuesday private members' business shall have precedence, and on all other days no business other than Government business shall be transacted except with the consent of the Leader of the House or, in his absence, of the Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs:
Provided that an urgent Government Bill can be introduced on private members' day as a last item of Orders of the Day:

(2) If there is no sitting on Tuesday, private members' business shall have precedence on the next working day.

(3) If any Tuesday is allotted by the Governor for the presentation of the Budget or is allotted by the Speaker for any stage of the Budget, a day in lieu of such Tuesday shall be set apart by the Speaker for private members' business:

31. Arrangement of Business.— (1)The Secretary shall arrange Government business in such order as the Leader of the House or in his absence the Law Minister and in the absence of both of them, any other Minister on Government behalf may intimate.

(2) On days when Private Members' business is to be transacted, such business shall be taken up in the following order:-

(a) Bills to be introduced;

(b) Resolutions on matters of general public interest;

(c) Bills which have been introduced;

(d) any other motion;

(3) The Speaker may direct that Bills and Resolutions may be taken up on separate days and on the day when Bills are to be taken up not more than first half of the day shall be allowed for Bills to be introduced and the rest of the day for Bills, if any, which have advanced beyond the stage of introduction.

32. Relative precedence of private members' Bills.— (1) The relative precedence of private members' Bills shall be determined by ballot.

(2) Unless the House otherwise decides, private members' Bills shall be taken up in the following order–

(a) Bills to be introduced;

(b) Bills in respect of which the next stage is that the Bills be passed;

(c) Bills in respect of which a motion has been carried that the Bill, as reported upon by a Standing or Select Committee, be taken into consideration;

(d) Bills in respect of which the report of the Standing or the Select Committee has been presented;

(e) Bills in respect of which the next stage is the presentation of the report of the Standing or the Select Committee; and

(f) Bills which have been circulated for eliciting public opinion.

(3) The relative precedence of the Bills falling under the same clause of sub-rule (2) shall be determined by ballot.

(4) The ballot under this rule shall be held in accordance with the procedure set out in the First Schedule, on such day, not being less than five days before the day with reference to which the ballot is held:

Provided that the Speaker may, from time to time, make such variations in the procedure as he thinks fit.

33. Precedence of resolutions.— (1) The relative precedence of notices of resolutions on matters of general public interest given by private Members which have been admitted, shall be determined by ballot to be held in accordance with the procedure set out in First Schedule, on such day not being less than five days before the day with reference to which the ballot is held subject to the authority of the Speaker to make minor variations in the procedure from time to time.

(2) A resolution which does not find place in the ballot shall not lapse but shall be included in the subsequent ballot in the same session of the Assembly.

34. Orders of the Day.— (1) The Secretary shall prepare the Orders of the Day and make a copy thereof available for the use of every member and any other person entitled under the Order to speak or otherwise take part in the proceedings of the Assembly.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by these rules,-

(a) the business for the day shall be transacted in the order in which it appears in the Orders of the Day;

(b) business not included in the Orders of the Day shall not be transacted at any sitting without the consent of the Speaker; and

(c) no business without the consent of the Speaker requiring notice shall be set down for a day earlier than the day following the day on which the period of the notice necessary for that class of business expires.

(3) Unless the Speaker otherwise directs, not more than five resolutions excluding any resolution moved on, and outstanding from a previous day shall be set down in the Orders of the Day for any day on which private members' business has precedence.

35. Business outstanding at the end of day.— Notwithstanding anything contained in rule 32 & 33 any private members' business which has been commenced shall be set down for the next day allotted to business of that class and shall have precedence over all other business of that class set down for that day.

Chapter-VII
GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS AND MESSAGE TO AND FROM THE ASSEMBLY

36. Governor's address.— (1) On receipt of an intimation from the Governor of his/her intention to address the Assembly, the Speaker shall cause the item "Address by the Governor" to be included in the List of Business for a date and time to be arranged in consultation with the Governor.

(2) No motion, resolution or debate shall be allowed on the Governor's Address.

37. Communication from the Governor.— When a communication from the Governor to the Assembly is received by the Speaker by written message, the Speaker shall read it out to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity and the Assembly shall consider any matter which it is required by the message to take into consideration.

38. Communications to the Governor.— Communication from the Assembly to the Governor shall be made through the Speaker by formal address after a motion has been made and carried in the Assembly.

39. Discussion of Governor's address.— (1) At the first sitting of the Assembly held after the Governor's Address, a Minister shall lay a copy of the Address on the Table.

(2) The Governor's Address may be discussed by means of a motion of thanks moved by Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs and seconded by any Minister or a member.

Chapter-VIII
QUESTIONS

40. Time of questions.— Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the first hour of every sitting, after the recitation from the Holy Quran and the swearing in of Member, if any, shall be available for asking and answering of questions:
Provided that there shall be no question hour.-

(a) on the day the Budget is presented;
(b) on the first day of the session;
(c) on a holiday, if a sitting of the Assembly is held on such a day;
(d) on a day fixed after a general election for making of oath by Members generally;
(e) on a day fixed for election of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Chief Minister;
(f) on a day fixed for moving of a resolution for vote of confidence in the Chief Minister;
(g) on a day fixed for moving of resolution of no confidence in the--
    (i) Speaker;
    (ii) Deputy Speaker;
    (iii) Chief Minister;
(h) on a day fixed for address by the Governor; and
(i) on a day fixed for consideration or passage of the Finance Bill; and on the days fixed for discussion on the Budget or the Supplementary Budget or for voting on demands for grants relating to the Budget or the Supplementary Budget.

41. Notice of questions.— Not less than ten clear days, notice of a question shall be given unless the Speaker, with the consent of the Minister concerned, allows a question to be asked at shorter notice.

42. Short notice questions.— Questions at short notice shall ordinarily be answered at the commencement of the question hour:

Provided that:

(a) A member may not ask more than one short notice question in a sitting;
(b) A short notice question may not be asked to anticipate a question of which notice has already been given.

43. Form of notice of Question.— (1) A separate notice of every question shall be given in writing to the Secretary and shall specify the official designation of the Minister to whom it is addressed, or if the question is addressed to a private member, the name of that member.

(2) A member, who desires to ask a starred question, shall distinguish it with an asterisk.

(3) If, in the opinion of the Speaker, any Starred Question is of such a nature that a written reply would be more appropriate, he may direct that such question be placed on the list of Unstarred Questions.

44. Notice of admission of questions.— No question shall be placed on the list of questions for answer until ten clear days have expired from the day on which

notice of admission of the question by the Speaker was given by the Secretary to the Minister or the member to whom it is addressed.

45. Number of Questions for a sitting.— (1) Not more than two starred questions including short notice questions and five unstarred questions from the same member shall be placed on the List of Questions for a sitting:
Provided that nothing in this rule shall apply to a question postponed or transferred from an earlier date or to another department.

(2) Not more than twenty starred questions shall be placed on the List of Questions for a sitting and the remaining questions mature for answers, if any, shall be taken over to the next day allotted for the Department concerned.

(3) The questions shall be placed on the List of Questions in the order in which their notices are received, but a member may, by notice in writing given at any time before the sitting for which his question has been placed on the said List, withdraw his question.

46. Allotment of days for questions.— The time available for answering questions shall be allotted on different days in rotation for the answering of questions relating to such Department(s) of the Government as the Speaker may, from time to time, specify and, on such day, unless the Speaker with the consent of the Minister concerned otherwise directs, only questions relating to the Department(s) for which time on that day has been allotted, shall be placed on the list of questions for answers:

Provided that when the question hour is dispensed with owing to the cancellation of sitting of the House or its adjournment without transacting any business, questions entered in both starred and unstarred lists of questions for the day shall be deemed to be unstarred questions for next sitting, and such questions with their answers deemed to have been laid on the Table and shall be taken as included in the proceeding of the next sitting.

47. Subject-matter of questions.— (1) Subject to the provisions of these rules, a question may be asked for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public concern within the special cognizance of the Minister to whom it is addressed.

(2) A question addressed to a Minister must relate to the public affairs with which he is officially connected or to a matter of administration for which he is responsible.

(3) The questions relating to a department for which there is no Minister shall be addressed to the Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs.

48. Admissibility of questions.— In order that a question may be admissible, it shall satisfy the following conditions namely:

(a) It shall not bring in any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible;
(b) If it contains a statement, the Member shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement;
(c) It shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statement;
(d) It shall not ask for an expression of opinion on or the solution of an abstract legal question or a hypothetical proposition;

(e) It shall not refer to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity; nor to the character or conduct which can be challenged only on a substantive motion;
(f) It shall not ordinary exceed 200 words;
(g) It shall not relate to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Provincial Government;
(h) It shall not ask for information on any matter under the control of bodies or persons not primarily responsible to the Provincial Government, except where the Provincial Government has financial interests in such bodies or persons;
(i) It shall not ask for information on matter under the consideration of the Committee of the Assembly; nor shall it ask about the proceedings of any such Committee, unless such proceedings have been placed before the Assembly by a report of the Committee;
(j) It shall not contain references to newspapers by name and shall not ask whether statements in the Press or by private individuals or by non-official bodies are accurate;
(k) It shall not ask for information regarding Cabinet Discussions or any advice given to the Governor or in relation to any matter in respect of which there is obligation under the Order or any other statutory law not to disclose information;
(l) It shall not:
    (i) contain any reflection on the conduct of Governor or any Judge of the Supreme Appellate Court or the Chief Court in the discharge of his duties;
    (ii) contain any criticism of the decisions of the Assembly;
    (iii) seek information about matters which are in their nature secret or sensitive;
    (iv) contain any reflection on a decision of a court of law or statutory tribunal established in Gilgit-Baltistan or such remarks as are likely to prejudice a matter which is sub-judice;
    (v) contain indecent remarks about Pakistan;
    (vi) refer discourteously to a foreign country.
(m) It shall not make or imply a charge of a personal character;
(n) It shall not raise question of policy too large to be dealt with within the limits of an answer to a question;
(o) It shall not repeat in substance questions admitted for the same session or already answered or disallowed by the Speaker or to which an answer was refused in the Assembly during the last two sessions;
(p) It shall not be trivial, vexatious, vague or meaningless;
(q) It shall not ask for information contained in documents accessible to the public or in ordinary works of reference;
(r) It shall not ordinarily ask for information on matters of past history;
(s) It shall not ordinarily ask about matters pending before any statutory tribunal or statutory authority performing any judicial or quasi-judicial functions or any commission or court of inquiry appointed to enquire into or investigate any matter but may refer to matters concerned with procedure or subject or stage of enquiry if it is not likely to prejudice the consideration of the matters by the tribunal or commission or court of enquiry; and

(t) It shall not relate to a matter, except as to a matter of fact, which is, or has been, subject-matter of correspondence between the Federal Government and Provincial Government.

49. Questions relating to the Secretariat of the Assembly.— Questions relating to the Secretariat of the Assembly, including the conduct of its officers, may be asked of the Speaker by means of a private communication and not otherwise.

50. Speaker to decide admissibility of question.— Within five days from the date of receipt of the notice, the Speaker shall decide on the admissibility of a question and shall disallow any question which, in his opinion is in contravention of these rules, or he may in his discretion, amend it in form.

51. List of questions.— Questions which have not been disallowed shall be entered in the list of questions for the day and the answers, if received from the Minister concerned not later than forty eight hours before commencement of the question hour on the day on which the questions are set down in the list shall be entered along with, unless the Speaker changes the order of questions with the leave of the Assembly:

Provided that the Minister concerned shall state, in the House, the reasons for non-supply of answers in case they are not supplied forty-eight hours before the commencement of the relevant question hour.

52. Mode of asking questions.— (1) At the time of asking questions, the Speaker shall call successively each member in whose name a Starred Question appears in the list of questions.

(2) The member so called shall rise in his place and, unless he states that it is not his intention to ask the question standing in his name, he shall ask the question by reference to its serial number on the list of questions.

(3) If, on a question being called, it is not put or the member in whose name it stands is absent, the answer already supplied by the Minister concerned or the member to whom the question is addressed shall be treated as laid on the table and no oral reply shall be required for such question nor shall any supplementary question be asked in respect thereof.

53. Supplementary questions.— When a starred question has been answered, any member may ask such supplementary questions as may be necessary for the elucidation of the answer, but the Speaker shall disallow any supplementary question which, in his opinion, either infringes any provision of these rules relating to the subject matter and admissibility of questions or is irrelevant or is beyond the scope of question or does not arise out of the answer given:

Provided that not more than three supplementary questions shall be asked in respect of any question:

Provided further that the member who has given notice for asking the question shall have the right to ask the first supplementary question:

Provided further that a supplementary question shall be short and precise and shall not be in the form of a speech.

54. Prohibition of discussion on Question or answer.— There shall be no discussion on any question or answer, except as provided by Rule 55.

55. Discussion on a matter of public importance arising out of answer to a question.— (1) Once in a period of seven consecutive working days, the Speaker may, on three clear days' notice being given by a member, allot half an hour for discussion on a matter which in his opinion is of sufficient public importance and has recently been the subject of a question, Starred or Unstarred:

(2) Such notices shall be considered by the Speaker in the order in which they have been received, and when one such notice is admitted all other notices shall lapse.

(3) There shall be no voting nor any formal motion in the course of or at the conclusion of such discussion.

(4) The Speaker shall decide whether the matter is of sufficient public importance to be put down for discussion, but he may not admit a notice which, in his opinion, seeks to revise the policy of the Government.

Chapter-IX
LEAVE OF ABSENCE, RESIGNATION, DEATH AND UNSEATING OF MEMBER

56. Leave of absence from a sitting.— *(*1) A member desirous of obtaining leave of absence from a sitting of the Assembly shall make an application in writing addressed to the Speaker stating reasons for his absence.

(2) On receipt of an application under sub-rule (1) the Speaker shall immediately, after the questions, if any, but before any other business of the day is entered upon, put the question, without debate, that leave be granted.

(3) Where a member is prevented or incapacitated from making such an application, leave of the Assembly may be granted on a motion moved by any other member, or on the basis of an application made *ex-post facto*.

(4) The Secretary shall, as soon as possible, communicate the decision of the Assembly to the member concerned.

(5) If a member who has been granted leave of absence under these rules, attends the session of the Assembly during the period of which leave of absence has been granted to him, the unexpired portion of the leave, from the date of his resumption attendance, shall lapse.

57. Resignation of seat.— (1) A member may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker, resign his seat under Article 38 of the Order.

(2) If–

(a) a member hands over the letter of resignation to the Speaker personally and informs him that the resignation is voluntary and genuine and the Speaker has no information or knowledge to the contrary; or

(b) the Speaker receives the letter of resignation by any other means and he, after such inquiry as he thinks fit, either himself or through the Assembly Secretariat or through any other agency, is satisfied that the resignation is voluntary and genuine,–

(c) the Speaker shall inform the Assembly of the resignation:

Provided that if a member resigns his seat, when the Assembly is not in session, the Speaker shall direct that intimation of his resignation specifying the date of resignation be given to every member immediately.

(3) The Secretary shall, after the Speaker satisfies himself that the letter of resignation is voluntary and genuine, cause to be published in the Gazette a notification to the effect that the member has resigned his seat and forward a copy of the notification to the Chief Election Commissioner.

(4) The date of resignation of a member shall be the date specified in writing by which he has resigned or if no date is specified therein the date of receipt of such writing by the Speaker.

58. Seat becoming vacant.— (1) If a member is absent without leave of the Assembly, for thirty consecutive days of its sittings, the Speaker shall bring the fact to the notice of the Assembly and thereupon any member may move that the seat of the member who has been so absent be declared vacant under clause (1)(b) of Article 38 of the Order.

(2) On consideration of the motion moved under sub-rule (1), the House may defer, reject or accept the motion and if motion is accepted the seat of the member shall be declared vacant:

Provided that no such motion shall be considered before the expiry of seven days from the date on which the motion was moved.

(3) If the seat of the member is declared vacant, the Secretary shall cause a notification to that effect to be published in the Gazette and forward a copy of the notification to the Election Commission for taking steps to fill the vacancy thus caused.

(4) The seat of a member of the Assembly shall become vacant if he fails to make the oath under Article 36 of the Order within a period of ninety days after the date of his election unless the Speaker for good cause shown extends the period.

59. Attendance Register.— The Secretary shall cause a register to be kept showing the attendance of each Member at each sitting and shall make the register available for inspection of the Members.

60. Unseating, disqualification and death of a member.— (1) If a member is unseated as a result of an election dispute or becomes disqualified from being a member, the Chief Election Commissioner shall immediately intimate the fact to the Speaker stating the date on which he has been unseated, or as the case may be, disqualified from being a member and on receipt of such intimation, the Speaker shall, as soon as may be, after the expiry of the period of limitation for appeal, inform the Assembly that such member has been unseated or disqualified by the Chief Election Commissioner.

(2) If the Assembly is not in session, the Speaker shall direct that the aforesaid information be given to the members immediately.

(3) In case of the death of a member, the Deputy Commissioner concerned shall immediately inform the Speaker and the Secretary shall, as soon as may be, after the Speaker has received intimation of the death of a member, cause to be published in the Gazette a notification stating the name of the member who has died and the date of his death and also forward a copy to the Chief Election Commissioner.

(4) If any question arises whether a member of the Assembly has, after his election become disqualified from being a member of the Assembly, the Speaker shall refer the question to the Chief Election Commissioner and, if the Chief Election Commissioner is of the opinion that the member has become disqualified the member shall cease to be a member and the seat shall become vacant.

Chapter-X
PRIVILEGES

61. Question of privilege.— A member may, with the consent of the Speaker, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the Assembly or of a Committee thereof, if based on,-

(i) misconduct in the presence of House or the Committees thereof.;
(ii) disobedience of order of the House or its Committees;
(iii) presenting false, forged or fabricated documents to the House or its Committees;
(iv) tampering with documents presented to the House or its Committees;
(v) speeches or writings reflecting on the House, its Committees or members;
(vi) publication of false or distorted reports of debates;
(vii) publication of Expunged Proceedings;
(viii) publication of proceedings of secret sessions;
(ix) premature publication of proceedings, evidence or report of a Parliamentary Committee;
(x) derogatory reflection on the report of a Parliamentary Committee;
(xii) premature publication of various other matters connected with the business of the House;
(xiii) obstructing members in the discharge of their duties;
(xiv) attempts by improper means to influence members in their parliamentary conduct;
(xv) intimidation of members; obstructing officers of the House;
(xvi) refusal of Government functionary to assist officers of the House when called upon to do so in pursuance of the orders of the House or a Committee thereof as the case may be;
(xvii) obstructing of witnesses;
(xviii) failure of the Government to lay before the House any report or a document required to be laid before the House in pursuance of the provisions of the Order or the law; and
(xix) failure to provide information required by the House or its Committees.

62. Notice of question of privilege.— A Member wishing to raise a question of privilege shall give notice in writing to the Secretary before the commencement of the sitting on the day question is proposed to be raised. If the question raised is based on a document, the notice shall be accompanied by the document or its copy indicating the specific breach of privilege of the member or the House or its Committee.

Provided that the Speaker may, if he is satisfied about the urgency of the matter, allow a question of privilege to be raised at any time during the course of a sitting after the disposal of questions.

63. Conditions of admissibility of Question of Privilege.— (1) The right to raise a question of privilege shall be governed by the following conditions; namely–

(a) the question shall relate to a privilege granted by the Order, the law or the rules made under any law;

(b) not more than one question shall be raised by the same member at the same sitting;

(c) the question shall relate to a specified matter and shall be raised at the earliest opportunity;

(d) the matter shall be such as requires the intervention of the Assembly;

(e) the question shall not reflect on the personal conduct of the Governor;

(f) the matter relating to the question shall adversely affect the member in performance of his duties as the member or enjoyment of any right or privilege admissible to him under any law for the time being in force;

(g) the subject matter of the question is substantially not the same as that of any adjournment or privilege motion that has been moved, discussed or disposed of during the same Session;

(h) the subject matter of the question is neither frivolous nor vexatious nor is of such nature that it will unduly waste the time of the Assembly; and

(i) the subject matter of the question is not sub-judice.

(2) The Speaker shall have the power to disallow, either in Chamber or in the Assembly any question of privilege to be raised, if he is of the opinion that it is hit by any one or more of the clauses (f), (g), (h) and (i) of sub rule (1).

64. Mode of raising a question of Privilege.— The Speaker shall, after disposal of questions and before other business on the Orders of the Day is entered upon, call upon the Member who gave notice and thereupon the Member shall raise the question of privilege and make a short statement relevant thereto:

Provided that where a Member is allowed to raise a question of privilege during the course of sitting under the rule 62, he shall raise question immediately after his being allowed to do so, or at such other time as the Speaker directs.

65. Precedence of question of privilege.— A question of privilege shall precedence over adjournment motions.

66. Consideration by the Assembly or reference to the Committee.— If the Speaker holds the motion to be in order, the Assembly may consider and decide a question of privilege or may on a motion either by the Member who raised the question or by any other Member refer it for report to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges.

67. Examination of the question by the Committee.— (1) The Committee shall examine every question referred to it and determine with reference to the facts of each case whether a breach of privilege is involved and if the nature of the breach and the circumstances leading to it, and make such recommendations as it may deem fit.

(2) The report of the Committee may also state the procedure to be followed by the Assembly in giving effect to the recommendations of the Committee.

68. Report of Committee.— (1) The Committee shall meet as soon as maybe after a question of privilege has been referred to it, and from time to time thereafter until a report is made within the time fixed by the Assembly.

Where the Assembly has not fixed any time for the presentation of the report, the report shall, if the Assembly is in session, be presented to the Assembly within one month of the date on which reference to the Committee was made, or if the Assembly is not in session, at the commencement of its next session. The Assembly may, at any time, on a motion being made, direct that the time for the presentation of the report by the Committee be extended to a date specified in the motion.

(2) Report may either be preliminary or final.

(3) The report of the Committee shall be signed by its Chairman on behalf of the Committee, or in case the Chairman is absent or is not readily available, the Committee may designate another Member to sign the report on behalf of the Committee.

(4) After the report has been presented, any Member may move that the report be taken into consideration whereupon the Speaker may put the question to the Assembly:

Provided that any Member may move as an amendment that the matter be re-committed to Committee, for examination of a point or points which may have been left out of consideration by the Committee.

69. Consideration of the report.— Any Member may move motion within one day notice that the House may agree with the report, with or without amendments, or may disagree with it and may itself decide the question of privilege..

70. Priority for consideration of report of Committee.— A motion that the report of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges be taken into consideration shall be accorded priority on the Orders of the Day after the question hour, as a matter of privilege.

71. Punishment for breach of privilege.— (1) If the House finds any person to be guilty of the breach of privilege of the House or its Committee or any member, the House or the Speaker may direct the Department concerned or the relevant authority to take an appropriate action against the person committing the breach of the privilege of the House, its Committee or a member..

(2) The Department concerned shall report to the Assembly about the action taken on the directions or recommendations made by the Committee within a period of two months from the date of communication.

(3) A report received from the Department concerned shall be circulated amongst the members.

72. Intimation to Speaker by magistrate, etc. of arrest, detention, etc, of a member.— (1) When a member is arrested on a criminal charge or for a criminal offence or is sentenced to imprisonment by a court or is detained under an executive order, the committing judge, magistrate or, as the case may be, executive authority, shall Immediately intimate such fact to the Speaker indicating the reasons for the arrest, detention or imprisonment of the member in the appropriate form set out in the Fourth Schedule.

(2) When a member is summoned by or required to appear before any commission, tribunal, authority, organization, agency or other, for any investigation or inquiry, as

the case may be, the Speaker shall be informed of the same. The concerned authority shall intimate the brief facts/reasons.

73. Intimation to Speaker on release of a Member.— When a Member is arrested and after conviction released on bail pending an appeal or otherwise released such fact shall also be intimated to the Speaker by the authority concerned in appropriate form set in Fourth Schedule.

74. Treatment of communications received from Magistrate etc.— As soon as may be, the Speaker shall, after he has received a communication referred to in Rule 72 or Rule 73, read it out in the Assembly if in session or, if the Assembly is not in session, direct that it may be circulated for the information of the Members.

75. Arrest within the precincts of Assembly.— No Member shall be arrested within the precincts of the Assembly without the permission of the Speaker.

76. Service of legal process.— A legal process issued by any court, tribunal or other authority shall not be served on a member within the precincts of the Assembly without permission of the Speaker.

77. Production of a member in custody for a sitting of the Assembly or meeting of a Committee.— (1) The Speaker or Chairman of a Committee may summon a member in custody on the charge of any offence or under any law relating to preventive detention to attend a sitting or sittings of the Assembly or meeting of a Committee of which he is a member if he considers his presence necessary.

(2) On a Production Order, signed by the Secretary or by any other officer authorized by the Speaker in this behalf, addressed to the Federal Government or, as the case may be, the Provincial Government where the member is held in custody, or to the authority having or holding custody of the member, the Federal Government or the Provincial Government or such other authority shall cause the member in custody to be produced before the Sergeant-at-Arms who shall, after the conclusion of the sitting or the meeting, deliver the member into the custody of the Federal Government or the Provincial Government or other authority, as the case may be.

Chapter-XI
CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES

78. Procedure regarding calling attention.— (1) A member may call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the Minister may make a brief statement or ask for time to make a statement at a later hour or date.

(2) There shall be no debate or voting on such a statement. The member in whose name the item stands shall make a brief statement and the Minister concerned shall make a statement on the subject. The statement by the member shall not exceed ten minutes and the statement by the Minister shall not normally exceed fifteen minutes.

79. Notice of calling attention.— Notice of a calling attention shall be given one day before the day on which the notice is to be considered and it shall be entered in the Orders of the Day:

Provided that if the notice is signed by more than one member then names of first five members who have signed the notice shall be shown in the Orders of the Day:

Provided further that a notice received from an authenticated e-mail address of the Member to the prescribed e-mail address of the Assembly Secretariat shall be deemed to be a proper notice in terms of this rule.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this rule, "authenticated" means an e-mail address duly verified by a Member and "prescribed" means notified by the Assembly Secretariat.

80. Conditions of admissibility.— In order that a notice may be admissible, it shall satisfy the following conditions, namely:-

(i) it shall not refer to a matter which is not the concern of the Government;

(ii) it shall not refer to a matter which has been discussed in the same session or which is substantially identical to the matter already raised by a member under this rule during the session;

(iii) it shall not raise more than one issue and the issue shall not pertain to trivial matters;

(iv) it shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements;

(v) it shall not relate to any matter which is subjudice before a court of law;

(vi) it shall be restricted to a matter of recent occurrence;

(vii) it shall not refer to proceedings of a parliamentary Committee;

(viii) it shall not refer to the conduct or character of persons except in their public capacity; and

(ix) it shall not refer discourteously to a friendly foreign country.

81. Restriction on raising matters.— Not more than two such matters shall be raised at the same sitting.

Provided that the second matter shall not be raised by the same member who has raised the first matter.

82. Priority of the matter.— In the event of more than one matter being presented for the same day, priority shall be given to the matter which is, in the opinion of the Speaker, more urgent and important.

83. Notices to lapse.— (1) Notices on subjects that have not been selected for a particular day shall be carried forward for consideration of the Speaker for the next sitting of the Assembly.

(2) Notices not selected during the week for which they have been given, shall lapse at the end of the week.

(3) Members concerned may revive their notices(s) for the following week if they so desire by giving a fresh notice.

84. Requisition.— (a) One third of the members of the Assembly, to look into any important matter, may request the Speaker to call the Assembly session.

(b) On receipt of any requisition the Speaker shall select/schedule the date and time for meeting, and which shall be held within 21 days.

Chapter-XII
ADJOUNMENT MOTIONS

85. Adjournment motions.— A motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of recent and urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the Speaker.

86. Method of giving notice.— Notice of motion under Rule 85 shall be given in writing in triplicate to the Secretary not less than one hour before the commencement of the sitting in which it is proposed to be moved, and the Secretary shall thereupon bring the notice to the knowledge of the Speaker and the Minister concerned.

87. Conditions of admissibility of a motion.— A motion shall not be admissible unless it satisfies the following conditions, namely:-

(a) It shall raise an issue of urgent public importance;
(b) it shall relate substantially to one definite issue;
(c) it shall be restricted to a matter of recent occurrence;
(d) it shall not repeat in substance motions for which consent has been refused by the Speaker or which have been found to be inadmissible or for which leave has been refused by the House or which have already been discussed by the Assembly;
(e) it shall not revive discussion on a matter or a motion, including the discussion of an adjournment motion which has been discussed in the Assembly within last four months;
(f) it shall not anticipate a matter for the consideration of which a date has been previously appointed;
(g) it shall relate to a matter which is primarily the concern of the Government or to a matter inwhich the Government have substantial financial interest;
(h) it shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions or defamatory statements;
(i) it shall not refer to the conduct or character of a person except in his official or public capacity;
(j) it shall not raise discussion which is detrimental to public interest;
(k) it shall not relate to matter of privilege;
(l) it shall not deal with a hypothetical case;
(m) it shall not relate to a matter which can only be remedied by legislation;
(n) it shall not be moved on any day fixed for general discussion of the Budget or the Supplementary Budget; or
(o) it shall not relate to a matter pending before any court or other authority performing judicial or quasi-judicial functions:

Provided that the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow such matter being raised in the Assembly as is concerned with the procedure or subject or stage of enquiry if he is satisfied that it is not likely to prejudice the consideration of the matter by such court or authority.

88. Asking leave for a Motion.— The leave to make a motion for adjournment shall be asked for, only by the member who has given notice thereof after questions hour and privilege motions, if any, and before the List of Business is entered upon.

89. Procedure.— (1) If the Speaker is of the opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, he shall read the statement to the Assembly and ask whether the member has the leave of the Assembly to make the adjournment motion and if objection is taken, he shall request such of the members as may be in favour of leave being granted to rise in their seats.

(2) If members less than one-fourth of the total membership of the Assembly rise in their seats, the Speaker shall inform the member that he has not the leave of the Assembly.

(3) If members not less than one-fourth of the total membership of the Assembly so rise, the Speaker shall announce that leave is granted and the motion shall be taken up for discussion in the same session for not more than two hours on such day, as soon as possible, within three days after the leave is granted, as the Speaker may fix:

Provided that the Speaker may of his own or on a motion made by a member extend the sitting of the Assembly on such day by two hours.

90. Time limit for determination of admissibility.— In a sitting, the aggregate time for the asking of leave under rule 88 and the granting or withholding of leave under rule 89, shall not exceed half an hour.

91. Limitation of Time of discussion.— On a motion to adjourn for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of recent and urgent public importance the only question that may be put shall be “that the Assembly do now adjourn” but no such question shall be put after the time for the discussion of the motion has expired.

92. Time limit for speeches.— A discussion on the adjournment motion shall not exceed more than two hours and the time shall not exceed ten minutes in duration for each member:

Provided that the mover or Minister concerned may speak more than ten minutes.

Chapter-XIII
LEGISLATION

93. Notice of private members' Bills.— (1) A private member may move for leave to introduce a Bill after giving to the Secretary ten working days' written notice of his intention to do so.

(2) Three copies of the Bill together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons signed by the member shall accompany the notice.

(3) The Speaker shall decide the question whether the Bill does or does not require the consent of the Government or Governor.

(4) If the Bill requires the consent of the Government, the Secretary shall cause a copy of the Bill to be transmitted to the Law Department for obtaining orders of the Government thereon, the law department will be liable to report back to Assembly Secretariat within in a period of one month from the time of receiving the copy of bill and Assembly Secretariat shall on receipt of such orders from that Department intimate the same to the member concerned.

(5) The Assembly shall render possible assistance to the member so that Bill is not rejected on technical grounds.

(6) The Speaker may disallow a bill if in his opinion it cannot be introduced in the Assembly or is otherwise not in order.

94. Introduction of private members' Bills.— (1) Motion for leave to introduce private members' Bill shall be set down in the Orders of the Day for a day meant for private members' business and copies of the Bill shall be circulated along with the Orders of the Day.

(2) When the item is called, the member-in-charge may move for leave to introduce the Bill.

(3) If the motion for leave to introduce the Bill is not opposed, the Bill shall stand introduced and referred to the Standing Committee or Select Committee concerned with the subject matter of the Bill.

(4) If leave to introduce the Bill is opposed, the Speaker shall allow the mover and the Minister or the member who raised the objection to make a brief statement and thereafter shall put the motion to the vote of the House. If the majority of the members present vote in favour of the leave, the Speaker shall announce that the leave is granted.

(5) After leave is granted, the member-in-charge shall introduce the Bill which after introduction shall stand referred to the Standing Committee or Select Committee concerned. If the leave is refused, the Bill shall stand rejected:

Provided that when the item is called and the member-in-charge is absent, the Bill shall be treated as dropped.

95. Notice of Government Bills.— (1) A Minister may introduce a Bill after giving to the Secretary a written notice of his intention to do so.

(2) The notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the Bill together with a statement of objects and reasons, signed by the Minister.

(3) The introduction of a Bill, other than the Bill which stands introduced under clause (3) of Article 59 of the Order, shall ordinarily be included in the List of Business for a day meant for Government business.

(4) When the item is called, the member-in-charge shall move to introduce the Bill and on the motion being made, the Bill shall stand introduced.

(5) An Ordinance laid before the Assembly under clause (2) of Article 59 of the Order shall be deemed to be a Bill introduced in the Assembly on the day it is so laid.

(6) A statement of objects and reasons shall not be required for a Bill which stands introduced under clause (3) of Article 59 of the Order.

(7) The Secretary shall make such adaptations in an Ordinance as are necessary to convert it into a Bill and shall, unless otherwise required by the member-in-charge, include in the Ordinance so adapted, a clause repealing the Ordinance.

PART - II PUBLICATION OF BILLS

96. Publication of Bills.— (1) The Secretary shall cause every Bill that has been introduced to be published in the Gazette as early as possible.

(2) The Speaker may order the publication of any Bill together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying it before its introduction and, if it is so published, it shall not be necessary to publish it again after its introduction.

PART III – CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

97. Reference of Bills to Standing Committees.— Upon introduction, a Bill other than a Finance Bill, shall be referred by the Speaker to the appropriate Standing Committee with directions to submit its report by a date fixed by him in this behalf:

Provided that the member-in-charge may move that the requirements of this rule may be dispensed with, and if the motion is carried, the provisions of rule 98 shall apply to the Bill as if the report of the Standing Committee on the Bill were presented on the day on which the motion is carried but it shall not be necessary again to supply copies of such Bills to the members.

Explanation.– In this sub-rule, 'Finance Bill' means the Bill introduced each year to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government for the next following financial year and includes a Bill to give effect to the supplementary financial proposals for any period during the financial year.

98. Time of consideration of Bills.— (1) After the report of the Standing Committee on the Bill has been presented to the House or the report is deemed to have been presented as a result of suspension of the requirement of rule 97, the Secretary shall–

(a) cause the copies of the Bill as introduced, together with modifications, if any, recommended by the Standing Committee, to be supplied to each member, as soon as may be, after the receipt of the report; and

(b) shall set down the Bill on the List of Business for a day meant for Government business or on a day meant for private members' business, as the case may be, if the notice of a motion under rule 99 has been received.

(2) If a Standing Committee does not make a report or an interim report within the prescribed time in respect of a Bill, the Secretary shall, as soon as may be, intimate the fact to the members.

(3) The day on which a motion under rule 99 has been included in the List of Business shall be such that at least three clear days shall intervene between the issue of copies of the Bill to members and the consideration of a motion under rule 99.

99. Motions to be made by member-in-charge.— On the day appointed under rule 98 or on any subsequent day to which the matter might have been adjourned, the member-in-charge may make any of the following motions in regard to his Bill–

(a) that it be taken into consideration at once; or

(b) that it be taken into consideration on a date to be fixed forthwith; or

(c) that it be referred to a Select Committee; or

(d) that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.

100. Bills repugnant to the Injunctions of Islam.— (1) After a motion under rule 99 has been made and before the discussion of the principles of a Bill starts, a member may move that the Bill be referred to the Council of Islamic Ideology for advice whether or not the Bill or any part thereof is repugnant to the injunctions of Islam and if one-third of the total membership of the Assembly support and vote for the motion, the question shall be referred to the Council of Islamic Ideology for advice.

(2) Notwithstanding a reference under sub-rule (1), the Assembly may, at any time, proceed with the Bill, if it considers that, in the public interest, the passage of the Bill should not be postponed until the advice is furnished.

(3) The advice of the Council of Islamic Ideology on a question referred to it under sub-rule (1) shall, on receipt, be immediately laid on the Table by a Minister and if the Assembly is not in session at that time, it shall be laid on the Table on the first day of its next session.

(4) The member who was incharge of the Bill before it became a law, may give notice of a motion for reconsideration of the law so made and may also propose amendments to bring the law in conformity with the advice of the Council of Islamic Ideology or to make it in accordance with the Injunctions of Islam.

(5) If no notice is given by the member-in-charge in accordance with sub-rule (4) within thirty days of the circulation of the advice, any member may give such a notice along with the proposed amendments.

(6) After the expiry of seven days in the case of notice under sub-rule (4) and fifteen days in the case of notice under sub-rule (5), the motion shall be included in the List of Business for a day meant for Government business or for a day meant for private members' business, as the case may be, and the law shall be reconsidered as if it were a Bill in respect of which a motion that the Bill be taken into consideration at once has been carried.

(7) Nothing in this rule shall prevent the member-in-charge from giving notice of a fresh Bill seeking to replace the law so made.

101. Discussion of Principles of Bills.— (1) On the day on which any of the motions referred to in rule 99 is made or on any subsequent day to which the discussion thereof is postponed, the principles of the Bill and its provisions may be

discussed generally but the details of the Bill shall not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principles.

(2) At this stage no amendments to the Bill may be moved; but-

(a) if the Member-in-Charge moves that his Bill be taken into consideration, any Member may move as an amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee or be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by a date to be specified in the motion; or

(b) if the Member-in-Charge moves that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, any Member may move as an amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by a date to be specified in the motion.

(3) Where a motion that a Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon is carried out, and the Bill is circulated in accordance with that direction and opinions are received thereon, the Member-in-Charge may, if he wishes to proceed with the Bill thereafter, move that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee concerned or to a Select Committee or that it be taken into consideration.

102. Person by whom motions in respect of Bills may be made.— A motion that the Bill be taken into consideration shall not be made by any member other than the member-in-charge of the Bill and a motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee or be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon shall not be made by any member other than the member-in-charge except by way of amendment to a motion made by the member-in-charge.

103. Procedure after presentation of report.— (1) Where a Bill has been referred to a Select Committee, the member-in-charge may, after the presentation of the final report by the Select Committee, move–

(a) that the Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration; or

(b) that the Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, be referred to the same Committee again either–

(i) as a whole; or

(ii) with respect to particular clauses or amendments only; or

(iii) with instructions to the Select Committee to make some particular or additional provisions in the Bill; or

(c) that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be circulated or re-circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion or further opinion thereon.

(2) If the member-in-charge moves that the Bill be taken into consideration under paragraph (a) of sub-rule (1), a member may object to its being so taken into consideration, if a copy of the report of the Select Committee has not been made available to members at least three days before the motion is made and the objection shall prevail unless the Speaker allows the report to be taken into consideration.

(3) If the member-in-charge moves that the Bill, as reported upon by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration, any member may move an amendment that the Bill be referred to the same Committee again or be circulated or re-circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion or further opinion thereon.

104. Consideration of a Bill Clause by Clause.— (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, but subject to sub-rule (3), the Speaker shall, when a motion that a Bill be taken into consideration has been carried, submit the Bill, or any part of the Bill, to the Assembly clause by clause.

(2) The Speaker may call each clause separately and when the amendments relating to it have been dealt with, he shall put the question: "That this clause (or, as the case may be, that this clause as amended) do stand part of the Bill".

(3) Subject to sub-rule (4), the Speaker may, if he thinks fit, put as one question; a group of clauses in which no notice of amendment has been received or the amendments have been withdrawn and in such an eventuality, the Speaker shall put the question: "That the group of clauses does stand part of the Bill".

(4) If a member requests that question regarding any clause be put separately, the Speaker shall put the question regarding that clause separately.

105. Postponement of clause.— The Speaker may, if he thinks fit, postpone the consideration of a clause.

106. Schedule.— The consideration of the schedule or schedules, if any, shall follow the consideration of clauses. Schedules shall be put from the Chair, and may be amended, in the same manner as clauses, and the consideration of new schedules shall follow the consideration of the original schedules. The question shall then be put: "That this schedule (or, as the case may be, that this schedule as amended) do stand part of the Bill".

107. Clause one, preamble and title of the Bill.— Clause one, the preamble, if any, and the title of a Bill shall stand postponed until the other clauses and schedules (including new clauses and new schedules) have been disposed of and the Speaker shall then put the question: "That clause one, or the preamble or the title (or, as the case may be that clause one or the preamble or the title as amended) do stand part of the Bill".

108. Moving of amendments.— When a motion that a Bill be taken into consideration has been carried, any Member may move an amendment in the Bill.

109. Notice of amendments.— (1) When a motion that a Bill be taken into consideration is carried, any member may propose an amendment to the Bill. If notice of an amendment has not been given one clear day before the day on which the relevant clause of or Schedule to the Bill is to be considered any member may object to the moving of the amendment and such objection shall prevail unless the Speaker allows the amendment to be moved.

(2) If the amendment is an amendment which under the Order requires the consent of the Government before it is moved, the notice shall be accompanied by a request that such consent may be obtained and the Secretary shall cause a copy of the amendment to be transmitted to the Department concerned for obtaining orders of the Government thereon and on receipt of such order from the Department, communicate the same to the member concerned.

(3) The Speaker shall decide the question whether an amendment does or does not require the consent of the Government.

(4) The Secretary shall, as far as practicable, cause a list of admitted amendments of which notices have been received to be made available for the use of every member.

110. Conditions of admissibility of amendments.— The following conditions shall govern the admissibility of amendments:-

(i) An amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates.

(ii) An amendment shall not be inconsistent with any previous decision of the Assembly on the same question.

(iii) An amendment shall not be such as to make the clause which it proposes to amend unintelligible or ungrammatical.

(iv) If an amendment refers to, or is not intelligible without, a subsequent amendment or schedule, notice of the subsequent amendment or schedule shall be given before the first amendment is moved, so as to make the series of amendments intelligible as a whole:
Provided that in order to save time and repetition of arguments a single discussion may be allowed to cover a series of interdependent or identical amendments.

(v) The Speaker shall determine the place at which an amendment shall be moved;

(vi) The Speaker may refuse to propose an amendment, which is, in his opinion, frivolous or meaningless;

(vii) An amendment may be moved to an amendment, which has been already proposed by the Speaker;

(viii) An amendment shall not be moved which has merely the effect of a negative vote; and

(ix) In respect of any amendment of the Bill under consideration of the Assembly, the Speaker shall have the power to select one of the several identical or substantially identical amendments to be proposed or may club together the identical amendments.

111. Order of amendments.— Amendments shall ordinarily be considered in the following order, namely:-

(a) new clauses are offered first, priority being given to the clauses moved by the Member-in-Charge of the Bill;

(b) amendments to clause in the order in which, if agreed to, they will stand in the amended Bill, provided that if a proposed amendment be withdrawn, a prior amendment may be moved, and provided further that it shall be in the discretion of the Speaker to allow an amendment to a clause although the Assembly has passed to the subsequent clause of the Bill;

(c) new schedules, if any;

(d) original schedules;

(e) amendments in the preamble, if any; and

(f) amendments in the title, if necessary.

112. Withdrawal of amendments.— An amendment moved may, by leave of the Assembly, but not otherwise, be withdrawn at the request of the member moving it. If an amendment has been proposed to an amendment, the original amendment shall not be withdrawn until the amendment proposed to it has been disposed of.

PART IV-PASSING OF BILL

113. Passing of Bills.— (1) When a motion that a Bill be taken into consideration has been carried and the Bill has been considered clause by clause and no amendment of the Bill is made, the member-in-charge may at once move that the Bill be passed.

(2) If amendments have been made in a Bill, the Speaker, on his own motion may, and on the request of any member shall, direct that the Bill be examined with a view to report what amendments of a formal or consequential character should be made in the Bill as a matter of drafting by a Committee consisting of the Minister of whose Department the Bill relates, the member who introduced the Bill, Advocate-General and member of the panel of Presiding Officers nominated by the Speaker and such report shall be presented within such period as the Assembly may direct.

(3) When the report has been presented and the decision of the Assembly on the amendments proposed has been made, the member-in-charge may at once move that the Bill be passed.

114. Scope of debate on the motion for passing of the Bill.— The discussion on a motion that the Bill be passed shall be confined to the submission of arguments either in support of the Bill or for rejection of the Bill. In making his speech a member shall not refer to the details of the Bill further than is necessary for the purpose of his arguments which shall be of a general character.

115. Withdrawal and rejection of Bills.— (1) The Member-in-Charge of a Bill may, at any stage of the Bill move for leave to withdraw the Bill; and, if such leave is granted, no further motion may be made, with reference to the Bill.

(2) Where any of the following motions made by the Member-in-Charge in regard to a Bill under these rules is rejected by the Assembly, no
further motion shall be made with reference to the Bill within a period of six months from the date of rejection;

(a) that leave be granted to introduce the Bill;
(b) that the Bill be referred to the appropriate Standing Committee or a Select Committee;
(c) that the Bill be taken into consideration;
(d) that the Bill as reported by the Standing Committee or the Select Committee, as the case may be, betaken into consideration; and
(e) that the Bill (or as the case may be, that the Bill as amended) be passed.

116. Corrections of formal nature in the Bill.— When a Bill is passed, with or without amendment, the Secretary may, if necessary,-

(a) correct punctuations or grammatical or printing errors; or
(b) make incidental, consequential or verbal alterations; or

(c) re-number or re-letter the provisions of the Bill.

117. Submission of Bill to the Governor.— When a Bill is passed by the Assembly, an authenticated copy thereof signed by the Speaker shall be transmitted to the Governor by the Secretary, for assent under Article 53 of the Order.

118. Bill assented to by the Governor.— (1) When a Bill passed by the Assembly is assented to, or is deem to have been assented to, by the Governor under Article 53 of the Order, the Secretary shall immediately cause it to be published in the Gazette as an Act of Provincial Legislature.

(2) When a Bill passed by the Assembly is returned by the Governor to the Assembly with a message requesting that the Bill, or any specified provision thereof, be reconsidered and that any amendment specified in the message, the Secretary shall circulate the message to the Members and shall also send an intimation to that effect to the Minister for Law and to the Minister in-charge.

(3) The Minister-in-charge or a Member may give notice in writing to the Secretary for reconsideration of the Bill or any provision thereof or any amendments suggested therein on the basis of the message

(4) The Secretary shall, as soon as may be, include the item of reconsideration or consideration as the case may be: in the Orders of Day.

(5) The Minister-in-charge or the Member concerned shall, on the day for which such motion is fixed, shall move that the message shall be taken into consideration by the Assembly at once.

(6) When after reconsideration or consideration, as the case may be, the Bill is again passed by the Assembly; it shall be dealt with in accordance with the rule.

Chapter-XIV
RAISING OF MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE UNDER CHIEF MINISTER ZERO HOUR

119 (1) Last half an hour of a sitting shall be utilized as Chief Minister's Zero Hour to take up matters of urgent public importance.

(2) A member may raise a matter after giving a notice, in writing, to the Secretary, one hour before the commencement of sitting of the Assembly to be taken up in Chief Minister's Zero Hour.

Provided that not more than one such notice shall be given by a member for the same sitting.

(3) The Chief Minister shall whenever possible personally respond to points raised by members whenever he is present in the House. However, the Chief Minister shall attend the Chief Minister's Zero Hour at least once in each week when the Legislative assembly is in session:

(4) The matter shall relate to the Government, requiring intervention of the Legislative Assembly

(5) The member shall not speak for more than two minutes while raising the matter.

Chapter-XV
RESOLUTIONS

120. Right to move resolution.— Subject to the provisions of these rules, any Member may move resolution relating to a matter of general public interest:-
Explanation.- General public interest means a matter of interest at Provincial level and does not include development projects for which resources, feasibility reports and other technical requirements are prerequisite.

121. Notice of Resolution.— (1) A private member who wishes to move a resolution shall give seven days' notice and shall submit together with the notice a copy of the resolution which he intends to move.

(2) A Minister who wishes to move a resolution shall give three days' notice and shall submit together with the notice a copy of the resolution which he intends to move; provided that a resolution shall not be moved on private members' day.

(3) The names of all members from whom such notices are received, shall be balloted and those members who succeed to secure more than one Resolution in the ballot, the Resolution of a Member drawn at first instance shall have precedence over his other Resolutions

122. Form and contents of the resolution.— (1) A resolution may be in the form of a declaration of opinion, or a recommendation, or convey a message, or commend, urge or request an action, or calling attention to a matter or situation for consideration by the Government, or in such other form as the Speaker may consider appropriate.

(2) It shall relate to a matter which is primarily the concern of the Government or to a matter in which the Government has substantial financial interest.

(3) It shall be clearly and precisely expressed and shall raise substantially one definite issue.

(4) It shall not:

(a) Contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions or defamatory statements;

(b) be vague, trivial or vexatious in form or content;

(c) refer to the conduct or character of a person except in his official or public capacity;

(d) raise discussion which is detrimental to public interest;

(e) contain reflection on the Governor or a Judge of the Supreme Appellate Court or of a Chief Court; or

(f) raise discussion on a matter which in its nature is secret or sensitive; and

(g) relate to any matter which is pending before any court or other authority performing judicial or quasi-judicial functions in any part of Gilgit-Baltistan:

Provided that the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow such matter being raised in the Assembly as is concerned with the procedure or subject or stage of enquiry if he is satisfied that it is not likely to prejudice the consideration of the matter by such court or authority and is not inconsistent with any other rule.

123. Raising discussion on matters before Tribunals, Commissions, etc.— A resolution which seeks to raise discussion in respect of a matter pending before any statutory tribunal or statutory authority performing any judicial or quasi-judicial functions or any Commission or Court of inquiry appointed to enquire into or investigate any matter shall not be permitted to be moved.

124. Admissibility of resolution.— (1) The Speaker shall decide the admissibility of a resolution and disallow any resolution, which in his opinion, it is in contravention of these rules:

Provided that he may, in his discretion amend it or give the Member concerned an opportunity of amending it with a view to bringing it in conformity with the provisions of these rules.

(2) The Secretary shall give intimation to the Member that his resolution has been admitted or admitted as amended or disallowed for a specific reason, as the case may be.

125. Moving of resolution or its withdrawal.— (1) A member or a Minister in whose name a resolution stands in the Orders of the Day may, if not withdrawn earlier**,** when called upon, either:-

(i) move the resolution, in which case he shall commence his speech by a formal motion in the terms appearing in the Orders of the Day; or

(ii) not move the resolution, but may make a brief statement.

(2) In the absence of the mover, the resolution shall be dropped and the member shall not repeat the notice raising substantially the same issue within a period of six months from the date the earlier resolution is dropped.

126. Amendment of a resolution.— (1) After a resolution has been moved, any member may, subject to these rules, move an amendment to the resolution.

(2) An amendment shall be within the scope of and relevant to the subject matter of the resolution to which it is proposed.

127. Notice of amendment.— (1) Ordinarily, the notice of an amendment shall be given two working days before the day on which the resolution is to be taken up for consideration. If notice of an amendment has not been given two clear days before the day on which it is moved, any member may object to the moving of the amendment, and thereupon the objection shall prevail, unless the Speaker in his discretion allows the amendment to be moved.

(2) The Secretary shall, if time permits, cause a copy of each amendment to be made available for the use of every member.

128. Withdrawal of resolution or amendment after having been moved.— A member or a Minister who has moved a resolution, or an amendment to a resolution, shall not withdraw the resolution, or as the case may be, the amendment, except by leave of the Assembly.

129. Repetition of resolution.— (1) When a resolution has been moved, no resolution or amendment raising substantially the same question shall be moved within six months from the date of the moving of the earlier resolution.

(2) When a resolution has been withdrawn with the leave of the Assembly, no resolution raising substantially the same question shall be moved within six months from the date of the moving of the earlier resolution

130. Time-limit for speeches.— Except with the permission of the Speaker a speech on a resolution shall not exceed ten minutes:

Provided that the mover of a resolution, when moving the same, and the Minister concerned may each speak for twenty minutes.

131. Scope of discussion.— The discussion on a resolution shall be strictly limited to the subject matter of the resolution:

Provided that there shall be no discussion on a resolution, which has not been opposed.

132. Copy to Department concerned.— (1) On the conclusion of the discussion, the Speaker shall put the resolution or, as the case may be, the resolution as amended, to the vote of the House and if passed by the House, a copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Department concerned.

(2) The Department concerned shall apprise the Assembly the action taken on the resolution within a period of three months from the date of communication by the Assembly Secretariat.

(3) The Speaker may, on the receipt of the written request of the Department concerned, extend the period mentioned in sub-rule (2) for another ninety days.

(4) It the Department disagrees to the resolution, it shall submit a detailed report containing reasons to the Assembly and the Assembly may take appropriate action in the matter.

Chapter-XVI
PRE-BUDGET AND POST BUDGET DISCUSSION

133. Pre-Budget discussion.— (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, in consultation with the Finance Minister, shall include, in the list of business, the general discussion seeking proposals of the Members for the next budget in a session of the Assembly which is to be held during the months of January to March each year.

(2) The general discussion on budget proposals shall take place for at least four days during the session.

(3) The Assembly may recommend the proposals to the Government for the next budget on a resolution moved by the Finance Minister after the conclusion of the discussion.

134. Post Budget discussion.— Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, in consultation with the Finance Minister, shall include, in the list of business, the general discussion on releases and utilization of budget, on quarterly basis.

Chapter-XVII
PROCEDURE IN FINANCIAL MATTERS

135. Budget.— (1) The budget shall be presented to the Assembly on such day at such time as the Government may appoint.

(2) The budget shall not be referred to a Standing Committee or to a Select Committee and no other motion shall be made with reference to it except as provided in the rules contained in this chapter.

136. Demands for grants.— (1) A separate demand shall be made in respect of the grant proposed for each department:

Provided that the Government may cause to be included in one demand grants proposed for two or more departments or a demand to be made in respect of expenditure which cannot readily be classified under a particular department.

(2) Each demand shall contain a statement of the total grant proposed and a statement of the detailed estimate under each grant divided into items.

137. Presentation of the budget.— The budget shall be presented by the Minister for Finance or, in this absence, by a Minister acting on his behalf.

138. Budget not to be discussed on presentation.— The only proceeding with reference to the budget on the day which the budget is presented shall be the speech of the Minister for Finance when presenting it and no discussion on the budget shall take place on the day of the presentation.

139. Stages of discussion of the budget.— The budget shall be dealt with by the Assembly in the following stages:-

(a) General discussion on the budget as a whole including discussion on expenditure charged upon the Provincial Consolidated Fund; and

(b) Discussion and voting on demands for grants (in respect of expenditure other than charged expenditure), including voting on motions for reduction, if any.

140. Allotment of days.— The Speaker shall, in consultation with the Minister for Finance, allot days for the different stages of the budget referred to in rule 138:

Provided that at least three days shall elapse between the day the budget is presented and the first day allotted for the general discussion on the budget:

Provided further that not less than two days shall be allotted for the general discussion on the budget.

141. General discussion on the budget.— (1) On the days allotted for general discussion on the budget, the Assembly may discuss the budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein, but no motion shall be moved at that stage nor shall the budget be submitted to the vote of the Assembly.

(2) The Minister for Finance shall have a general right of reply at the end of the discussion.

(3) The Speaker may if he deems fit, prescribe a time-limit for speeches.

142. Cut motion.— A member may move a cut motion to reduce the amount of a demand in any of the following ways—

(a) "That the amount of the demand be reduced to Rs. 1.00" representing disapproval of the policy under lying the demand. Such a motion shall be known as "disapproval of policy cut". A member giving notice of a such motion shall indicate in precise terms the particulars of the policy which he proposes to discuss. The discussion shall be confined to specific point or points mentioned in the notice & it shall be open to members to advocate an alternative policy.

(b) "That the amount of the demand be reduced by a specified amount" representing the economy that can be affected. Such specified amount may be either a lump sum reduction in the demand or omission or reduction of an item in the demand. The motion shall be known as "Economy Cut". The notice shall indicate briefly and precisely the particular matter on which discussion is sought to be raised and speeches shall be confined to the discussion as to how economy can be affected.

(c) "That the amount of the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.00" in order to ventilate a specific grievance which is within the sphere of the responsibility of the Government. Such a motion shall be known as "Token Cut" and discussion thereon shall be confined to the particular grievance specified in the motion.

143. Notice of cut motion.— If notice of a motion for reduction in any grant has not been given two clear days before the day on which the demand is taken up for consideration, a member may object to the moving of the motion and the objection shall prevail unless the Speaker suspends the rule and allows the motion to be made.

144. Conditions for admissibility of cut motions.— In order that a notice of motion for reduction of the amount of demand may be admissible, it shall satisfy the following conditions; namely–

(a) it shall relate to one demand only;

(b) it shall not seek to increase a grant or alter the destination of a grant;

(c) it shall not relate to expenditure charged on the Provincial Consolidated Fund;

(d) it shall be clearly expressed and shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements;

(e) it shall be confined to one specific matter which shall be stated in precise terms;

(f) it shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion;

(g) it shall not make suggestions for the amendment or repeal of any existing law;

(h) it shall not refer to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Government;

(i) it shall not relate to a matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of Pakistan;

(j) it shall not raise a question of privilege;

(k) it shall not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session and on which a decision has been taken;

(l) it shall not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration in the same session; nor shall it relate to a trifling matter; and

(m) it shall not relate to any matter which is pending before any court or other authority performing judicial or quasi-judicial functions:

Provided that the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow such matter being raised in the Assembly as is concerned with the procedure or subject or stage of enquiry if he is satisfied that it is not likely to prejudice the consideration of the matter by such court or authority.

145. Admissibility of cut motion.— (1) The Speaker shall decide whether a cut motion is admissible under these rules and may disallow any cut motion when, in his opinion, it is an abuse of the right of moving cut motions or is calculated to abstract or prejudicially affect the procedure of the Assembly or is in contravention of these rules.

(2) When notices of several cut motions relating to the same demand are given, the motions shall be discussed in the order in which the heads to which they relate appear in the budget.

146. Voting on demands for grants.— (1) Before questions are put in respect of a demand for grant, all cut motions in respect of that demand shall be discussed and voted upon.

(2) When notices of several cut motions relating to the same demand are given the motions shall be discussed in the order, in which the heads to which they relate, appear in the budget.

(3) On the last day of the days allotted under rule 139 for stages (ii) mentioned in rule 138 at the time when the sitting is to terminate, the Speaker shall forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of all the outstanding matters in connection with the demands for grants.

147. Cut motions in respect of expenditure.— If a motion for reduction in respect of any expenditure is adapted by the Assembly, the Secretary shall inform the government in writing of the fact of the reduction.

148. Vote on Account.— (1) A motion for vote on account shall state the total sum required to be voted and the various amounts needed for each Department or item of expenditure which compose that sum shall be stated in a schedule appended to the motion.

(2) Amendment may be moved for the reduction of the whole demand for grant or for the reduction or omission of the items of which the demand is composed.

(3) Discussion of a general character may be allowed on the motion or any amendments moved thereto but the details of the grant shall not be discussed further than is necessary to develop the general points.

(4) In other respects, a motion for vote on account shall be dealt with in the same way as if it were a demand for grant.

(5) The schedule referred to in sub-rule (1) shall also separately specify the several sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the Provincial Consolidated Fund.

149. Supplementary budget.— The procedure for dealing with supplementary estimates of expenditure and excess demands shall, as far as possible, be the same as prescribed for the budget, except that if on a demand for a supplementary grant, funds to meet the proposed expenditure on a new purpose are available by re-appropriation, a demand for the grant of a token sum may be submitted to the vote of the Assembly and if the Assembly assents to the demand, funds may be made available:

Provided not more than one day shall be allotted for general discussion of the supplementary budget.

Chapter-XVIII
COMMITTEES

Section-A:
STANDING COMMITTEES AND GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING STANDING COMMITTEES

150. Standing Committee.— There shall be a Standing Committee for each Department of the Government;

Provided that the Speaker may in consultation with the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs direct that two or more Departments may be combined for the purposes of a Standing Committee.

(2) Each Committee shall deal with the subjects assigned to the department concerned under the Rules of Business of the Government or any other matter referred to it by the Assembly:

Provided that any subject not so assigned or the subjects assigned to any Department for which a Standing Committee has not been constituted shall be dealt with by the Standing Committee for Law and Parliamentary Affairs.

(3) Whenever there is any change in the composition of the departments or their nomenclature, the Speaker shall issue suitable direction in regard to the reallocation of the existing Standing Committees or, as the case may be, the modification in their nomenclature and election of the new Standing Committees.

151. Composition of the committee.— (1) Each committee shall consist of not more than five members to be elected by the Assembly within thirty days of election of Speaker.

(2) One of the members of the Committee shall be elected by the members as its Chairman:

Provided that the Minister-in-charge shall be ex-officio member of the Committee but the Minister shall have no right of vote unless he is an elected Member of the Committee:

Provided further that in case of a Department, which is in the charge of the Chief Minister or for which no Minister has been appointed, the Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs shall act as ex-officio member of the Committee.

(3) If the Chairman is not present at any sitting, the Committee shall choose one of its members to act as Chairman for that sitting.

(4) The member-in-charge other than a Minister or a member on whose motion any subject or matter was referred to the Standing Committee may attend the meetings of the Committee, but shall not vote unless he is a member of the Committee.

The Secretary of the Department concerned or an officer nominated by him in this behalf (not below the rank of Deputy Secretary) and the Secretary, Law Department or his nominee, shall also attend the meetings of the Committee for expert opinion.

152. Functions of Standing Committees.— (1) A Committee shall review and evaluate the performance of the department and formulate recommendations for introducing improvements and increasing efficiency of the concerned department.

(2) A Committee shall examine a Bill or other matter referred to it by the Speaker or by the Assembly, as the case may be, and shall submit its report to the

Assembly with such recommendations, including suggestions for legislation, if any, as it may deem necessary. In the case of a Bill, the Committee shall also examine whether the Bill violates, disregards or is otherwise not in accordance with the Order and Fundamental Rights.

(3) The Committee may propose amendments, which will be shown in its report alongside the original provisions of the Bill, but the Committee shall have no power of preventing the Bill from coming to the Assembly.

(4) A Committee may, with the approval of the Speaker, appoint a sub-committee, for a specified function arising out of the matter referred to the Committee.

(5) if a Committee does not present its report within the period prescribed, or the time allowed, the Bill, subject or matter referred to it, may be considered by the Assembly, without waiting for the report, upon a motion by any member or by the Minister concerned.

(6) Public petitions may be presented on a Bill which has been introduced, or any matter connected with the business pending before the House, or any matter of general public interest which is primarily the concern of the Government, provided that it is not one which falls within the cognizance of a court of law or tribunal, nor shall it relate to a matter pending before any court or other authority performing judicial or quasi-judicial functions.

153. Reference to Standing Committees.— Except as otherwise provided in these rules , the Assembly or the Speaker may, remit to the Standing Committee any subject or matter with which it is concerned and the Standing Committee shall study such subject or matter with a view to suggest legislation or making recommendations to the Assembly.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

154. Composition of the Committee.—The Standing Committee on Public Accounts shall consist minimum five members elected by the Assembly, in addition to Minister for Finance shall be its member ex-officio.

155. Functions.— (1) The Committee shall deal with the Appropriation Accounts of the Government and the report of the Auditor-General thereon and such other matters as the Assembly or the Speaker or the Finance Minister may refer to the Committee.

(2) Subject to sub-rule (1), the Committee shall deal with the business assigned to them by the Speaker out of the business referred to the Committee under the said sub-rule.

(3) In scrutinizing the Appropriation Accounts of the Government and the report of the Auditor-General thereon, it shall be the duty of the Committee to satisfy themselves that–

(a) the moneys shown in the accounts as having been disbursed were legally available for, and applicable to, the service or purpose to which they have been applied or charged;

(b) the expenditure conforms to the authority which governs it; and

(c) every re-appropriation had been made in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed by the Government.

(4) It shall also be the duty of the Committee to–

(a) examine the statement of accounts showing the income and expenditure of state corporations, trading and manufacturing schemes, concerns and projects together with the balance sheets and statements of profit and loss accounts which the Governor may have required to be prepared or are prepared under the provisions of the statutory rules regulating the financing of a particular corporation, a trading concern or project, and the report of the Auditor-General thereon;

(b) examine the statements of Accounts showing the income and expenditure of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies the audit of which may be conducted by the Auditor-General under the directions of the Governor or under any law; and

(c) consider the report of the Auditor-General in case where the Governor may have required him to conduct the audit of any receipts or to examine the accounts of stores and stocks.

(5) If any money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted by the Assembly for that purpose, the Committee shall examine with reference to the facts of each case the circumstances leading to such an excess and make such recommendations as it may deem fit.

(6) Without prejudice to the generality of foregoing paragraphs, an annual report of any autonomous or semi-autonomous body when laid on the Table of the Assembly under any existing Law, shall be referred to the Committee for examination, scrutiny and report thereon.

(7) The report of the Committee shall be presented within a period of one year from the date on which reference was made to it by the Assembly unless the Assembly, on a motion being made, directs that the time for the presentation of the report be extended to a date specified in the motion.

Provided that extension in the time for the presentation of the report shall be asked from House before expiry of the time allowed under the rule.

156. Unfinished work of the Committee.— Any report, memorandum or note that the Committee may have prepared, or any evidence that the Committee may have taken before the dissolution of the Assembly, shall be made available to the new Committee.

157. Continuity of the proceedings.— Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the Public Accounts Committee may proceed from the stage where the previous Committee left the proceedings before the dissolution of the Assembly.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

158. Composition of the Committee.— (1) There shall be a Finance Committee for the duration of the Assembly.

(2) The Finance Committee shall consist of Speaker, Minister for Finance and five other Members to be elected by the Assembly

(3) Until the Finance Committee is constituted under sub-rule (2), the Speaker, in consultation with the Minister for Finance, shall exercise the powers and perform functions of the Committee.

(4) The Speaker shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

(5) If the Chairman is absent from any sitting the committee shall choose one of its member present to act as Chairman for that sitting.

(6) A member may resign his membership of the Committee by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker.

(7) Casual vacancies in the committee shall be filled by election.

159. Functions of the Committee.— (1) The committee shall be responsible for:-

(a) The preparation of Budget and supplementary estimates and demands for excess relating to the Assembly and its Secretariat;

(b) appropriation and re-appropriation; and

(c) all financial matters relating to expenditure of the Assembly and its Secretariat within authorized appropriation.

(d) Approve the annual and Supplementary Estimates of the Assembly and its Secretariat which shall respectively be included in the Annual Budget Statement and the Supplementary Budget Statement by Government.

(2) The Committee may, from time to time, approve incurring of additional or new expenditure in anticipation of provision of funds, for the Assembly or its Secretariat and the amount or amounts so approved shall be included in the Supplementary Budget.

(3) The Committee may make recommendations in regard to any financial matter relating to the Assembly or its Secretariat referred to it by the Assembly or the Speaker.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the procedure of the Committee shall be regulated by the rules made by the Committee and until such rules are made, the business of the Committee shall be conducted in such manner as the Speaker may direct.

160. Procedure.— The Committee may make rules for regulating its procedure: Provided that the rules framed by the Finance Committee, shall remain enforce unless altered, amended or substituted by a succeeding Finance Committee.

COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE & CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AND PRIVILEGES

161. Composition of the committee.— The committee on Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business rules and the Privileges shall consist of the five other members to be elected by the Assembly in addition to, the Minister for Law and Parliamentary affairs, shall be its ex-officio member.

162. Functions of the Committee.— The Committee:-

(a) Shall consider matters of procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly and recommend such amendments to these rules as may be deemed necessary;

(b) May suggest a procedure to be followed by the Assembly to give effect to its recommendations; and

(c) Shall examine every question of privilege referred to it by the Assembly or the Speaker and determine with reference to the facts of each case whether a breach of privilege is involved and, if so, the nature of the breach

and the circumstances leading to it; and make such recommendations as it may deem fit.

COMMITTEE ON LAW REFORMS AND CONTROL ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

163. Composition of the committee.— (1) There shall be a committee for law reforms and control on subordinate legislation and Government assurances which review the assurance and promises made by the Ministers from time to time, and it shall submit comprehensive report for its preventive measures.

(2) The committee comprises of five members, preferably having law background and women who are members of the Assembly.

164. Powers and functions of the committee.— (1) The functions of the Committee shall be:-

(a) To review all laws, to suggest improvements, amendments, additions or deletions in the same, to bring the old laws in conformity with the present social order of the Gilgit-Baltistan.

(b) To suggest new legislation, within the competency of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislature in the larger interest of the public in general;

(c) To suggest ways and means for the implementation of the resolutions of the Islamic Ideology Council and assist the Legislature in the Islamization of the laws according to the injunctions of Islam on the advice of the Islamic Ideology Council or the decision of the Federal Shariat Court or Supreme Court (Shariat Bench), Gilgit-Baltistan Supreme Appellate Court or Chief Court, Gilgit-Baltistan;

(d) To review the existing rules framed under various laws and to suggest improvements, amendments, additions or deletions in the rules to the Government, as will of the legislature through a resolution of the legislature;

(e) To review the subordinate legislation framed by any authority under the delegated powers of the legislature or any executive orders issued under any delegated authority of the legislature to see that the same are in conformity with the guide lines and policy framed by the legislature and formulate suitable suggestions for improvements, modifications or even suggesting for the withdrawal of the same as the Committee may deem appropriate; and

(f) Any matter incidental, auxiliary and consequential to the aforesaid terms of reference.

(2) The Secretary to Gilgit-Baltistan Services and General Administration Department, the Secretary to Gilgit-Baltistan Finance Department, the Secretary Law Department, the Advocate General and the Secretary of the department concerned may be associated with the proceedings of the Committee for expert opinion.

(3) The Committee shall have powers to invite eminent lawyers, Ulemah, Parliamentarians and subject experts to assist the Committee and may also make suggestions regarding the payment of TA/DA or honoraria to the invitees for the assistance rendered, if the occasion so required.

(4) Details of committee on control on subordinate legislation:

(a) Regarding subordinate legislation a committee shall be constituted, which shall review the assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers from time to time and shall furnish a report on the matters which are in its disposal. Committee will consist of five members and it shall function whole duration of the Assembly.

(b) If a member feels, that any Minister who is promised or taken responsibility and Minister fails to accomplish, in considerable time, the member can suggest in a written form to the Speaker that matter should refer to committee. If the Speaker feels that time has passed and matter should bring in committee on subordinate legislation. So he will refer the matter to the committee.

(c) The committee will scrutinize only those undertakings promises, assurances and responsibilities, which have been done during the tenure of the Assembly.

HOUSE & LIBRARY COMMITTEE

165. Composition and functions.— (1) There shall be a Library Committee consisting of the Deputy Speaker and five other members to be appointed by the Speaker for the duration of the Assembly.

(2) The Deputy Speaker shall be the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.

(3) Casual vacancies in the Committee shall be filled by nomination by the Speaker.

(4) The Committee shall consider and advice on such matters concerning the Library of the Assembly as may, from time to time, be referred to it by the Speaker.

166. Function of the Committee.— the committee will be responsible:-

(1) To deal with matters related to issuance of admission cards to the galleries and such questions related to the accommodation of the members as may be referred to the speaker from time to time.

(2) To exercise supervision over facilities pertaining to accommodation, catering and other amenities provided to the members during the session in government hostels and lodges.

(3) To develop the Library, it's Reading Room, Automation and Research Centre with a view to help members of the Legislative Assembly in the discharge of the duties.

(4) To consider suggestions for improvement of the Library and help in its further expansion.

(5) To advise on reciprocal arrangements for exchange of debates and other publication of the Assembly with provincial assemblies.

(6) To consider matters incidental and ancillary to the above functions.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

167. Composition and functions.— (1) At the commencement of the Assembly or from time to time, as the case may be, the Speaker may, in consultation with the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, nominate a Business Advisory Committee consisting of not more than twelve members including the Speaker who shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

(2) It shall be the function of the Committee to recommend the time that should be allocated for the discussion of the stage or stages of such Government Bills and other business as the Speaker, in consultation with the Leader of the House, may direct for being referred to the Committee.

(3) The Committee shall have the power to indicate in the proposed time table, the different hours at which the various stages of the Bill or other business shall be completed.

(4) The Committee shall have such other functions as may, from time to time, be assigned to it by the Speaker.

GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING STANDING COMMITTEES

168. Membership of Committees.— A member shall not be a member of more than three Standing Committees at the same time.

169. Appointment of Standing Committees by the Speaker.— For the period till elections to the Standing Committees are held, the Speaker may appoint the Standing Committees and may nominate their Chairmen.

170. Chairman of a Committee.— (1) The Chairman of each Committee shall be elected by the Committee from amongst its members within thirty days after the election of the Committee and the Secretary shall cause the notification to be published in the Gazette:

Provided that a Minister shall not be elected as its Chairman.

Provided further that if the Chairman is appointed as Minister he shall cease to be the Chairman.

(2) If the Chairman is not present at any sitting, the Committee shall choose one of its members present to act as Chairman for that sitting.

(3) A member may not serve as Chairman of more than one Standing Committee except Select/Special Committee formed by the House or appointed by the Speaker.

171. Quorum of a meeting.— The quorum to constitute a sitting of a Committee shall be three members.

Provided that the quorum for the Public Accounts Committee and Assurance Committee will be four members.

172. Resignation of members from a Committee.— A member may resign his membership of a Committee by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker.

173. Casual vacancies.— (1) Casual vacancies in a Committee shall be filled, as soon as possible after such vacancies occur, by election.

(2) Subject to the requirement of a quorum, a Committee shall have power to act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership.

174. Adjournment, etc., of Committee.— (1) If, at the time fixed for any sitting of a Committee or at any time during any such sitting, the number of members present is less than the quorum, the Chairman of the Committee shall either suspend the sitting for a time not exceeding one hour or adjourn the sitting.

(2) If the sitting of the Committee adjourns continuously, the Chairman of the Committee shall inform the Speaker about the fact.

175. Discharge of members absent from sittings of Committee.— If a member is absent from three or more consecutive sittings of a committee without the permission of its chairman, such member shall be cease to be the member of the committee and he shall be informed accordingly by the chairman.

176. Voting in Committee.— All questions at a sitting of a Committee shall be determined by a majority of the members present and voting.

177. Casting vote of Chairman.— The Chairman of a committee or the person presiding in his absence shall in the event of equality of votes, has a casting vote.

Provided that the chairman of the committee or the member presiding in his absence shall not cast his vote in the event of the equality of votes in case he is a mover of a matter under consideration of the committee.

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178. Power to appoint Sub-Committees.— (1) A Committee may appoint one or more Sub-Committees, each having the powers of the whole Committee, to examine any matter that may be referred to them.

(2) The order of reference to a Sub-Committee shall clearly state the point or points for investigation. The report of the Sub-Committee shall be considered by the whole Committee and when approved by the whole Committee, be deemed to be the report of that Committee.

179. Sittings of Committees.— (1) A Committee shall sit on such day and at such hour as the Chairman may, in consultation with the Secretary fix:

Provided that the Secretary in consultation with the Speaker shall fix the meeting of a Committee for election of its Chairman.

(2) The sittings of a committee shall be held within the precincts of the assembly provided that the chairman of the committee shall seek approval of the speaker GBLA for holding a meeting outside precincts of the assembly, for justifiable reasons, as an exception to this sub rule.

(3) If a Committee is sitting while the Assembly is also sitting, the Chairman of the Committee shall, if a Department is being called in the Assembly, suspend the proceedings of the Committee for such time as will, in his opinion, enable the members to vote in the Department.

(4) Subject to sub-rule (1), on a requisition made by not less than two members of a Committee, the Chairman of the Committee shall call a meeting of the Committee within fourteen days from the date of the requisition.

(5) If a notice of requisition for the meeting of a Committee is received when the Chairman is unable to convene the meeting of the Committee, it shall be submitted to the Speaker who may order to call the meeting of the Committee.

180. Meetings in camera.— The sittings of a Committee may be held in camera if so determined by the Committee.

181. Powers to take evidence or call for papers, records or documents.— (1) A Committee shall have power to require the attendance of persons or the production of papers or records if such course is considered necessary for the discharge of its duties:

Provided that if any question arises whether the evidence of a person or the production of a document is relevant for the purposes of the Committee, the question shall be referred to the Speaker whose decision shall be final:

Provided further that Government may decline to produce a document on the ground that its disclosure would be prejudicial to the defence, security or external relations of Pakistan, and, if the question arises whether the disclosure of a document would be prejudicial as aforesaid, the question shall be referred to the Speaker who shall, after perusing the document, decide whether or not the document should be produced before the Committee.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this rule, a witness may be summoned by an order signed by the Secretary and shall appear before the Committee and produce such documents as are required for the use of the Committee.

(3) A Committee may hold Public Hearing for seeking input from the public at large or any relevant stakeholder and may also invite or summon any person or member having special knowledge to give an expert opinion or give evidence in relation to any matter under its consideration

(4) A Committee shall have powers vested in civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act V of 1908) for enforcing the attendance of any person and compelling the production of documents.

182. Evidence on oath.— (1) A Committee may administer oath or affirmation to a witness examined before it.

(2) The form of the oath or affirmation shall be as follows:

I, A.B., swear in the name of ALLAH/solemnly affirm, that the evidence which I shall give in this case shall be true, that I will conceal nothing, and that no part of my evidence shall be false'.

183. Examination of witnesses.— The examination of witness before a Committee shall be conducted as follows:-

(a) the Committee shall, before a witness is called for examination, decide the mode of procedure and the nature of questions that may be asked of the witness.

(b) the Chairman of the Committee may first ask the witness such question or questions as he may consider necessary with reference to the subject matter under consideration or any subject connected therewith according to the mode of procedure mentioned in clause (a) of this rule.

(c) the Chairman may call other members of the Committee one by one to ask any other questions.

(d) a witness may be asked to place before the Committee any other relevant points that have not been covered and which a witness thinks are essential to be placed before the Committee.

(e) a verbatim record of proceedings of the Committee shall, when a witness is summoned to give evidence, be kept.

(f) the evidence given before the Committee may be made available to all members of the Committee.

184. Evidence or information to be kept confidential or secret.— Any evidence produced or information tendered before a Committee shall be treated as confidential or secret, unless the Committee, in the public interest decides otherwise.

185. Request for views of Department(s) on Private Members' Bills.— In case of Private Member's Bill, the Secretary shall transmit a copy thereof to the Department(s) concerned with a request to furnish its views on the Bill for consideration by the Committee.

186. Record of proceedings of Committees.— A summary of the record of the proceedings of each Committee shall be maintained by the Secretary.

187. Restriction on publications etc. of proceedings.— (1) A Committee may direct that the whole or any part of its proceedings or a summary thereof may be laid on the Table.

(2) The report of a Committee required to be presented before the Assembly and which has not been presented to the Assembly or the proceedings of a Committee or any part or summary thereof which has not been laid on the Table shall be treated as confidential and shall not be open to inspection except with the permission of the Committee:

(3) The Speaker may direct that any part of the proceedings may be communicated to the members of the Assembly confidentially before it is laid on the Table.

(4) A Committee may, with the permission of the Speaker, make available to Government its report or a part thereof before presentation to the Assembly and such

report or part shall be treated as confidential by Government until presented to the Assembly.

188. Special reports.— A Committee may, if it thinks fit, make a special report on any matter that arises or comes to light in the course of its work which it may consider necessary to bring to the notice of the Speaker or the Assembly.

189. Submission of Periodical Report.— Each Committee shall submit report of its performance to the Assembly after every six months.

190. Reports of Committees.— (1) Where the Assembly has not fixed any time for the presentation of a report, the report of a Committee shall be presented within thirty days from the date on which reference was made to it by the Assembly, unless the Assembly, on a motion being made, directs that the time for presentation of the report be extended to a date specified in the motion:

Provided that in reckoning the period, the days when the Assembly is not in Session shall be excluded.

(2) Reports may be either preliminary or final.

(3) The report shall,-

(a) incorporate the views, if any, of the Minister concerned with the matter;

(b) set forth the recommendations of the Committee together with the minutes of dissent, if any; and

(c) be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee or, if the Chairman is absent or not readily available, by another member chosen by the Committee.

(4) The Secretary shall cause a copy of every report of a Committee together with minutes of dissent, if any, to be made available for the use of every member of the Assembly. The report shall, if it relates to a Bill, be published in the Gazette together with the views of the minority, if any.

191. Presentation of report.— (1) The report of a Committee required to be presented to the Assembly shall be presented by the Chairman or, in his absence, by another member of the Committee authorized by the Chairman in this behalf.

(2) In presenting the report, the Chairman or in his absence the member presenting the report shall, if he makes any remarks, confine himself to a brief statement of facts, but there shall be no debate on that statement at this stage.

192. Discussion on reports.— (1) Save as otherwise provided by these rules, after a report has been presented to the Assembly, the Chairman or any member of the Committee or any other member may move that the report be taken into consideration whereupon the Speaker may put the question to the House.

(2) Before putting the question to the House, the Speaker may permit a debate on the motion, not exceeding half an hour in duration, and such debate shall not refer to

the details of the report further than is necessary to make out a case for the consideration of the report by the House.

(3) After the motion made under sub-rule (1) is carried the Speaker may allot one or more days for discussion on the report.

(4) After the motion is carried the decisions of the House shall be communicated to the Department concerned for implementation. In case the Department is unable to implement decisions of the House it shall inform the House within two months of the reasons thereof, and if the Department fails to do so the decision of the House shall be binding.

193. Printing, publication or circulation of report before its presentation to the Assembly.— The Speaker may, on a request being made to him when the Assembly is not in session, order the printing, publication or circulation of a report of a Committee, although it has not been presented to the Assembly. In that case the report shall be presented to the Assembly during its next session at the first convenient opportunity.

194. Agenda and notices of meetings of Committees.— (1) The time table of business of a Committee and the agenda for each meeting of the Committee shall be determined by the Chairman in consultation with the Minister concerned.

(2) Notices of all meetings of a Committee shall be sent to the members of the Committee and to the Advocate General and the official concerned.

195. Supplementary rules.— A Committee may, with the approval of the Speaker, make supplementary rules of its procedure not inconsistent with these rules.

196. Application of general rules of the Assembly.— Subject to the rules in this Chapter and the supplementary rules of the Committee, if any, the general rules of the Assembly shall apply to the proceedings in each Committee.

197. Removal of doubt and interpretation of rules.— If any doubt arises on any point of procedure or interpretation of these rules in this Chapter, the Chairman may refer the point to the Speaker whose decision shall be final thereon.

198. Business before Committees not to lapse on prorogation.— Any business pending before a Committee shall not lapse by reason only of the prorogation of the Assembly and the Committee shall continue to function notwithstanding such prorogation.

SECTION B: OTHER COMMITTEES

1: SELECT COMMITTEE

199. Composition of select committee for Bill.— (1) The Minister incharge of the Department to which the Bill relates, the Chairman of the Committee concerned with the Bill, the member-in-charge and the Minister for Law and Parliamentary

Affairs shall be included in a Select Committee and it shall not be necessary to include their names in any motion for election of such a Committee.

(2) The other members of the Committee shall be nominated by the Assembly from amongst its members when a motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee is adopted.

(3) The Chairman of the Committee concerned with the Bill shall be the Chairman of the Select Committee.

(4) If the Chairman is not present at any sitting, the members of the Committee present shall elect one of its members to act as Chairman for that sitting.

(5) The Chairman, or the member presiding in his absence, shall not vote except in the event of equality of votes.

(6) A Select Committee may hear expert evidence and representatives of special interests affected by the Bill.

2: SPECIAL COMMITTEE

200. Special Committee.— The Assembly may, by motion, appoint a Special Committee which shall have such composition and functions as may be specified in the motion.

201. Provisions relating to Standing Committees to apply to other Committee.— In the absence of special provisions relating to a Special Committee, the provision relating to the Standing Committee shall mutatis-mutandis, apply to a Special Committee.

Chapter-XIX
REPORTS TO BE LAID BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY

202. Report on observance of Principle's Policy.— The report on the observance and implementation of the Principles of Policy in relation to the affairs of the Gilgit-Baltistan Government, when received, shall be laid before the Assembly.

203. Report of Auditor-General.— The annual reports of the Auditor-General relating to the accounts of the Gilgit-Baltistan, when received, shall be laid before the Assembly.

204. Reports of Council of Islamic Ideology.— The report, whether interim or final, of the Council of Islamic Ideology when received, shall be laid before Assembly.

205. Discussion, etc. on reports.— (1) After a report referred to in rules 202, 203, is laid before the Assembly, the Speaker shall fix a date for its discussion.

(2) On the date fixed under sub-rule (1), the Minister concerned may move that the report be discussed by the Assembly and may make a brief statement explaining the salient features of the report.

(3) The Assembly may, by a resolution, express its opinion or makes any observation or recommendation on the report.

Chapter-XX
GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Section-A: NOTICE

206. Notice by members.— (1) Save as otherwise provided in these rules, every notice required by the rules shall be given in writing addressed to the Secretary and signed by the member giving notice and shall be delivered at the Notice Office of the Assembly Secretariat which shall be kept open on every working day, between such hours as may be notified from time to time.
(2) A notice delivered when the Notice Office is closed shall be treated as given on the next working day.

207. Circulation of notices.— (1) The Secretary shall circulate to each member and any other person entitled, under the Order, to take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, a copy of every notice or any other paper which is required by these rules to be made available for their use.

(2) A notice or any other paper shall be deemed to have been thus made available–

(a) if it is delivered by hand at the local address given by the member when the Assembly is in session and for two days before the commencement of the session, unless otherwise requested by the member, or if it is placed in the seat allotted to the member in the Assembly Chamber when the Assembly is in session; or

(b) if it is sent by post to the members' permanent address as registered in the Assembly Secretariat, at other times.

Section-B: MOTIONS

208. Decisions by motions.— A matter requiring the decision of the Assembly shall be brought forward by means of a question put by the Speaker on a motion moved by a Member.

209. Notice of motion or amendment.— Save as otherwise provided in these rules a Member who wishes to move a motion, shall give, in the case of a substantive motion, at least seven clear days' notice and in the case of an amendment, at least two clear days' notice in writing of his intention to the Secretary:
Provided that the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow a motion or amendment to be moved at shorter notice or without notice.

Explanation.— A substantive motion is a self-contained proposal submitted for the approval of the Assembly and drafted in such a way as to
be capable of expressing a decision of the Assembly thereon

210. Moving of motions.— (1) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, a motion or amendment which requires notice may be moved only by the Member giving notice.

(2) If a motion or amendment is not moved, it shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

(3) A motion or amendment may not be moved in a form different from that in which it appears on the notice paper, unless the Speaker permits it to be moved in an altered form.

211. Repetition of motion.— (1) Except as otherwise provided by these rules, a motion shall not raise a question substantially identical with one on which the Assembly has given a decision in the same session.

(2) The provisions of sub-rule (1) shall not be deemed to prevent the making of any of the following motions; namely–

(a) a motion for taking into consideration, or reference to a Select Committee of a Bill where an amendment has been carried on a previous motion of the same kind to the effect that the Bill be circulated or recirculated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon; or

(b) a motion for the amendment of a Bill which has been recommitted to a Select Committee or recirculated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon; or

(c) a motion for the amendment of a Bill which is consequential or is designed merely to alter the drafting of another amendment which has been carried; or

(d) a motion which has to be or may be made within a period determined by or under these rules.

212. Anticipation of a matter before the Assembly.— A motion or amendment must not anticipate a matter already appointed for consideration of the Assembly, and in determining whether a motion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, the Speaker shall have regard to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the Assembly within a reasonable time.

213. Proposal of question.— When a motion has been moved, the Speaker may propose the question for the consideration of the Assembly, and if a motion embodies two or more separate propositions, each of those propositions may be proposed as a separate question.

214. Withdrawal of motion.— At any time, after a question on a motion has been proposed from the Chair and before the voices, both of "Ayes" and "Noes", have been collected, the motion may, with the leave of the Assembly and not otherwise, be withdrawn by the Member who moved it.

Provided that-

(a) if an amendment has been proposed to the question, the original motion cannot be withdrawn until the amendment has been disposed off;

(b) if any Member dissents, the Speaker shall proceed to put the question on the motion;

(c) no discussion shall be permitted on a request for leave to withdraw a motion except with the leave of the Speaker.

Section-C: AMENDMENT

215. Rules as to amendment.— (1) An amendment shall be relevant to, and within the scope of the motion, to which it pertains.

(2) An amendment shall not raise a question which, by these rules can only be raised by a substantive motion after notice.

(3) An amendment shall not be moved, which has merely the effect of a negative vote.

(4) After a decision has been given on an amendment to any part of question an earlier part cannot be amended and where an amendment to any part of a question has been proposed from the Chair, an earlier part cannot be amended, unless the amendment so proposed is withdrawn.

(5) An amendment on a question shall not be inconsistent with a previous decision on the same question given at the same stage of Bill or matter.

(6) The Speaker may direct that an amendment, which is grossly out of order be not put on the notice paper.

(7) To an amendment, when proposed from the Chair an amendment may be moved.

(8) In respect of any motion, or in respect of any Bill under consideration in the Assembly, the Speaker shall have the power to select one of the several identical or substantially identical amendments to be proposed and, if he thinks fit, call upon the Member, who has given notice of an amendment, to give such explanation of the object of the amendment as may enable him to form a judgment upon it.

216. Putting of amendments.— The Speaker may put amendments in such order as he may think fit:

Provided that the Speaker may refuse to put an amendment which in his opinion is frivolous, inconsistent or meaningless.

Section-D: DEBATE

217. Mode of address.— A member desiring to speak on any matter before the Assembly or to raise a point of order or a point of privilege shall speak only when called upon by the Speaker to do so, shall speak from his place, shall rise when he speaks and shall address the Speaker:

Provided that a member disabled by sickness or infirmity may be permitted to speak while sitting:

Provided further that the speech of a member who speaks without the permission of the Speaker shall not be recorded and it shall not form part of the proceedings of the Assembly.

218. Rules against reading.— Except with the permission of the Speaker a Member may not read his speech but may refresh his memory by reference to his notes.

219. Rules to be observed while speaking.— (1) The subject matter of every speech shall be relevant to the matter before the Assembly.

(2) Except with the permission of the Speaker, a member may not read his speech but may refresh his memory by reference to his notes.

(3) A member while speaking shall not –

(a) discuss any matter which is sub-judice;
(b) reflect upon the Governor in his personal capacity:
Provided that nothing in this clause shall preclude any reference, subject to the provisions of the Order, to the President or the Governor in relation to any act done by him in his official capacity;
(c) discuss the conduct of any judge of the Supreme Appellate Court or of a Chief Court in the discharge of his duties;
(d) make a personal charge against a member, a Minister or the holder of a public office, except in so far as it may be relevant in regard to the matter before the Assembly;
(e) use his right of speech for the purpose of wilfully and persistently obstructing the business of the Assembly;
(f) use offensive expressions about the conduct of proceedings in the National Assembly, the Senate or the Provincial Assemblies;
(g) reflect on any determination of the Assembly except on a motion for rescinding it;
(h) use the name of the President or the Governor for the purpose of influencing the debate;
(i) utter treasonable, seditious or defamatory words or make use of offensive or unparliamentary expression;
Explanation.— In this clause, 'unparliamentary expression' means any expression which imputes false motives to a member or charges him with falsehood or is couched in abusive or indecent or undignified language; and
(j) criticise the working of the Assembly Secretariat.

220. Irrelevance or repetition.— The Speaker, after having called the attention of the member who persists in irrelevance or in tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech.

221. Order of speeches and right of reply.— (1) After the member who has made a motion has spoken, other members may speak on the motion in the order in which the Speaker may call upon them. If any member who is so called upon does not speak, he shall not be entitled, except with the permission of the Speaker, to speak on the motion at any later stage of the debate.

(2) Except in the exercise of a right of reply or as otherwise provided by these rules, a member shall not speak more than once on any motion, except, with the permission of the Speaker, for the purpose of making a personal explanation, but in that case no debatable matter may be brought forward.

(3) A member who has made a motion may speak by way of reply, and if a private member has made the motion, the Minister concerned may speak after the mover has replied.

(4) Nothing in sub-rule (3) shall be deemed to give any right of reply to the mover of an amendment to a Bill, resolution or motion, save with the permission of the Speaker.

Section-E: LIMITATION ON DEBATE AND CLOSURE

222. Time limit for speeches.— A speech during the debate on a motion for adjournment shall not exceed fifteen minutes in duration:-
Provided that the mover and the Minister concerned may speak for thirty minutes each.

223. Closure.— (1) At any time after a motion has been made, any member may move "That the question be now put" and, unless it appears to the Speaker that the motion is an abuse of these rules or an infringement of the right of reasonable debate, the Speaker shall put the motion "That the question be now put".

(2) Where a motion made under sub-rule (1) is carried, the question shall be put without amendment or debate, unless the Speaker allows a member such right of reply as he may have under these rules.

Section-F: VOTING

224. Voting.— (1) Except as otherwise provided, the votes of members on any question put by the Speaker may be taken by voice in the first instance. On the conclusion of a debate, the Speaker shall put the question and invite those who are in favour of the motion to say "Aye" and those against the motion to say "No".

(2) The Speaker shall then say: " I think the Ayes or, as the case may be, the Noes have it" and the question before the Assembly shall be determined accordingly.

(3) If the opinion of the Speaker as to the decision of a question is challenged, he shall order that the Lobbies be cleared.

(4) After the lapse of two minutes, he shall put the question a second time and declare whether in his opinion the "Ayes" or the "Noes" have it.

(5) If the opinion so declared is again challenged, he shall direct that the votes be recorded either by division in the manner set out in the Fifth Schedule or by operating the automatic vote recorder:

Provided that, if in the opinion of the Speaker, the division is unnecessarily claimed, he may ask the members who are for "Aye" and those for "No" respectively to rise in their places and, on a count being taken, he may declare the determination of the Assembly. In such a case the names of the voters shall not be recorded.

(6) The result of a voting by a division shall be announced by the Speaker and shall not be challenged.

(7) A member may not vote on any question in which he has a pecuniary interest. If he votes on such a question, the vote shall, on a substantive motion carried by the Assembly, be disallowed.

Explanation.—The pecuniary interest contemplated in this sub-rule shall be direct and personal and not remote or general.

Section-G: POINTS OF ORDER

225. Decision on points of order.— (1) A point of order shall relate to the interpretation or enforcement of these rules or such Articles of the Order as regulate

the business of the Assembly and shall raise a question which is within the cognizance of the Speaker.

(2) A point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the Assembly at the moment:

Provided that the Speaker may permit a member to raise a point of order during the interval between the termination of one item of business and the commencement of another if it relates to maintenance of order in, or arrangement of business before, the Assembly.

(3) A point of order may not be raised before the Speaker has disposed of the earlier point of order.

(4) Subject to the provisions of sub-rules (1), (2) and (3), a member may formulate a point of order and the Speaker shall decide whether the point raised is a point of order and, if so, give his decision thereon, and his decision shall be final.

(5) No debate shall be allowed on a point of order, but the Speaker may, if he thinks fit, hear the members before giving his decision.

(6) A point of order is not a point of privilege.

(7) A member shall not raise a point of order –

(a) to ask for information; or

(b) to explain his position; or

(c) when a question on any motion is being put to the Assembly; or

(d) which may be hypothetical; or

(e) that Division Bells did not ring or were not heard.

(8) There shall be no discussion on a decision on a point of order.

Section-H: MAINTENANCE OF ORDER

226. Power to order withdrawal of members or suspend sitting.— (1) The Speaker shall preserve order and shall have all powers necessary for the purpose of enforcing his orders.

(2) The Speaker may direct any member whose conduct is, in his opinion, grossly disorderly, to withdraw immediately from the Assembly, and any member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall absent himself during the remainder of the sitting.

(3) If any member is ordered to withdraw a second or subsequent time in the same session, the Speaker may direct the member to absent himself from the sittings of the Assembly for any period not exceeding fifteen days and the member so directed shall absent himself accordingly.

(4) The Speaker may, in the case of grave disorder in the Assembly, suspend a sitting for a time to be named by him or adjourn the Assembly.

(5) The Speaker or, before his election, the outgoing Speaker or, in his absence, the Secretary may appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms and such other officers as he may consider necessary to assist the Sergeant-at-Arms in carrying out the orders of the Speaker.

(6) If a member who has been ordered by the Speaker to withdraw from the Assembly refuses to do so, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall himself or with the assistance of such other officers as are appointed under sub-rule (5) carry out such orders as he may receive from the Speaker.

227. Galleries.— (1) The admission to the Galleries of the Assembly during its sittings shall be regulated in accordance with the directions given by the Speaker.

(2) The Speaker may, whenever he thinks fit, order the Galleries to be cleared or any stranger to be removed.

228. Removal of strangers.— An officer authorised in this behalf by the Speaker shall remove from the precincts of the Assembly any stranger whom he may see, or who may be reported to him to be in any portion of the precincts of the Assembly reserved for the exclusive use of members, or who having been admitted into any portion of the precincts of the Assembly, misconducts himself or wilfully infringes the directions given by the Speaker under sub-rule (1) of rule 226 or does not withdraw when directed under sub-rule (2) of rule 226 and may also remove a stranger who had previously misbehaved and apprehension of his doing so again exists.

Section-I: SECRET SITTINGS

229. Secret sitting.— (1) On a request made by the Leader of the House or a Minister acting on his behalf, the Speaker may, in his discretion, fix a day or part thereof for sitting of the Assembly in secret.

(2) When the Assembly sits in secret, no stranger shall be permitted to be present in the Chamber, Lobby or Galleries, except the Secretary and such other officers of the Assembly or other persons as the Speaker may direct.

230. Report of the proceedings.— The Speaker may cause a report of the proceedings of a secret sitting to be kept in such manner as he thinks fit, but no other person shall keep a note or record of any proceedings or decisions of a secret sitting, whether in part or full, or issue any report of, or divulge or describe, such proceedings.

231. Procedure in other respects.— Subject to these rules, the procedure in all other respects in connection with a secret sitting shall be in accordance with such directions as the Speaker may give.

232. Lifting ban of secrecy.— (1) When it is considered that the necessity for maintaining secrecy in regard to the proceedings of a sitting has ceased to exist, a motion may, subject to the consent of the Speaker, be moved by the Leader of the House or any member authorized by him in this behalf that the proceedings be no longer treated as secret.

(2) On adoption of a motion under sub-rule (1), the Secretary shall cause to be prepared a report of the proceedings of the secret sitting, and shall, as soon as practicable, publish it in such form and manner as the Speaker may direct.

233. Disclosure of proceedings or decisions.— Save as provided in rule 231, the disclosure of the proceedings or decisions of a secret sitting by any person in any manner shall be treated as a gross breach of privilege of the Assembly.

Section-J: REPORT AND RECORDS

234. Language of the Assembly.— (1) The Members shall ordinarily address the Assembly in Urdu, but a Member who cannot adequately express himself in Urdu may, with the permission of the Speaker, address the Assembly in English or in his mother tongue.

(2) If a Member desires that a summary in Urdu of his speech delivered in a language other than Urdu or English be read out to the Assembly, he shall supply a copy of the summary to the Speaker who may, in his discretion, allow it to be read to the Assembly. Such summary shall be included in the record of the proceedings of the Assembly.

(3) The official records of the proceedings of the Assembly shall be kept in Urdu and where necessary in English.

235. Report of proceedings.— (1) The Secretary shall cause a report of the proceedings of the Assembly be prepared at each of its sittings, and shall, as soon as practicable, publish it in such form and manner as the Speaker may, from time to time, direct.

(2) The report so published shall be the authentic record of the proceedings of the Assembly and shall not be questioned or challenged on any ground whatsoever.

(3) The proceedings of the Assembly may be directly broadcasted or telecasted, as the case may be, with the permission of the Speaker.

236. Custody of documents and records.— The Secretary shall have the custody of all records, documents, including the original documents notified in the Gazette, and papers belonging to the Assembly or any of its Committees or the Secretariat of the Assembly, and he shall not permit any such records, documents or papers to be taken out of the Secretariat without the permission, in writing, of the Speaker.

237. Expunction of words from debates.— If the Speaker is of opinion that words have been used in debates which are defamatory, indecent, un-parliamentary or undignified, he may, in his discretion, either during the debate or subsequently, order that such words be expunged from the proceedings of the Assembly.

238. Indication in printed debates of expunged proceedings.— The portion of the proceedings of the Assembly so expunged shall be marked by asterisk and an explanatory footnote shall be inserted in the proceedings as “Expunged as ordered by the Speaker”.

Section-K: RULES TO BE OBSERVED BY MEMBERS

239. Rules to be observed by members while present in the Assembly.— Whilst the Assembly is sitting, a member—

i. shall not speak except with the permission of the Speaker;
ii. shall not read any book, newspaper or a document except in connection with the business of the Assembly;
iii. shall not interrupt any member during his speech by disorderly or objectionable gesture, expression, noise or any other manner whatsoever;
iv. shall not pass between the Speaker and any member who is speaking;
v. shall not sit or stand with his back towards the Speaker;
vi. shall not obstruct proceedings and shall avoid making running commentaries when speeches are being made in the Assembly or engage in cross talk;

vii. shall not chant slogans, display banners, placards, throw and tear Table documents and reports, etc.;
viii. shall not indulge in rowdy behaviour;
ix. shall not approach the dais of the Speaker in a threatening manner;
x. shall not act to erode the sanctity of the House or act in a manner which lowers the dignity of the House;
xi. shall not act in any manner detrimental to the order, decorum and dignity of the House;
xii. shall not applaud or make a reference to, when a stranger enters any of the galleries or the Special Box except when a foreign dignitary is specially invited to address the Assembly or witness the proceedings of the Assembly;
xiii. shall not occupy a seat in the galleries nor while in the Chamber engage himself in conversation with any visitor in a gallery;
xiv. shall not use a mobile phone or a camera;
xv. shall not chew or drink or smoke;
xvi. shall not carry any walking stick unless permitted by the Speaker under exceptional circumstances;
xvii. shall bow to the Speaker when taking or leaving his seat;
xviii. shall always address the Speaker and shall do so in a respectful and decent manner;
xix. shall keep to his usual seat while addressing the Speaker; and
xx. shall maintain silence when not speaking in the Assembly.

240. Procedure when Speaker addresses.— (1) Whenever the Speaker addresses the Assembly, he shall be heard in silence and any member who is then speaking or offering to speak shall immediately resume his seat.

(2) No member shall leave his seat while the Speaker is addressing the Assembly.

Section-L: LAPSE OF BUSINESS

241. Lapse of pending notices on prorogation of session.— (1) On the prorogation of a session all notices other than notices of intention to introduce a Bill, shall lapse and fresh notices shall be given for the next session.

(2) Bills which have been introduced shall be carried over to the pending Orders of the Day of the next session. If the Member in-charge makes no motion in regard to the Bill during two consecutive sessions, the Bill shall lapse, unless the Assembly, on a motion by the Member-in-charge in the next session, makes a special order for the continuance of the Bill.

242. Motion, resolution or amendment moved not to lapse.— The motion, the resolution or the amendment which has been moved and is pending in the Assembly, shall not lapse by reason only of the prorogation of the Assembly.

243. Effect of dissolution of Assembly.— Subject to rule 156, on the dissolution of the Assembly, all pending business shall lapse.

Section-M: MISCELLANEOUS

244. Secretary to be ex- officio Secretary of Committees.— The Secretary shall be ex-officio Secretary to every Committee of the Assembly.

245. Secretary may authorise any officer.— The Secretary may authorize any officer of the Assembly Secretariat to perform such duties as he may direct.

246. Speaker to amend notices and motions.— If in the opinion of the Speaker, any notice or motion contains words, phrases or expressions which are argumentative, un-parliamentary, ironical, irrelevant, verbose or otherwise inappropriate, he may, in his discretion, amend such notice or motion before it is circulated.

247. Procedure in case of joint notice.— (1) In case a joint notice of an amendment, a motion or resolution is given by two or more members, the Speaker may, in order to avoid repetition and to save the time of the House, call the name of the primary mover of the amendment, motion or resolution.

(2) The names of all the signatory members of an amendment, a motion or resolution shall be printed on the documents relating to the proceedings of the House.

248. No speech after question is put.— A member shall not speak on a question after the Speaker has put the question to the Assembly.

249. Casting vote.— The Speaker shall not vote except in the event of an equality of votes.

250. Validity of proceedings.— (1) The validity of the proceedings of the Assembly shall not be called in question on the ground of any irregularity of procedure.

(2) The Assembly shall have power to act notwithstanding any vacancy in the membership thereof and no proceedings in the Assembly shall be invalid by reason only that a person who was disqualified for being or continuing as member, or a person who was otherwise not entitled to do so, was present at or voted or otherwise took part in the proceedings.

251. Suspension of rules.— Whenever any inconsistency or difficulty arises in the application of these rules, any member may, with the consent of the Speaker, move that any rule may be suspended in its application to a particular motion before the Assembly, and if the motion is carried the rule in question shall stand so suspended.

252. Residuary powers of the Speaker.— (1) All matters not specifically provided for in these rules and all questions relating to the detail working of these rules shall be regulated in such manner as the Speaker may time to time direct.

(2) No person shall comment upon or make any statement in Print or Electronic Media or any other source of communication or otherwise in respect of any ruling given or direction issued by the Speaker.

253. Decision and Ruling of the Speaker.— Whenever the speaker decides or give his ruling on any matter on the floor of the house or in office in the file as the case may be, it shall not be called in question and that shall be final except on a motion for rescinding it

254. Withdrawal of Member.— The speaker may direct any member whose conduct is, in his/her opinion, grossly disorder to withdraw immediate from the assembly and any member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall absent him during the remainder of the day's sitting

255. Suspension of Member.— The speaker may, if he deems it necessary, name a member who disregards the authority of the speaker or abuses these rules by consistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the assembly.

(2) If a member is so named by the speaker, he shall forthwith put the question that the member (naming him/her) be suspended from the service of the assembly for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session, provided that the assembly may, at time, on a motion made, resolve that such suspension be terminated.

(3) A member suspended under the rule shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the assembly

256. Papers to be laid on the Table.— If a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary quotes in the House a dispatch or other State paper which has not been presented to the House, he shall lay the relevant paper on the Table:

Provided that this rule shall not apply to any documents which are stated by a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary to be of such nature that their production would be against the public interest:

Provided further that where a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary gives in his own words a summary or gist of such dispatch or State paper, it shall not be necessary to lay the relevant paper on the Table.

257. Treatment of papers laid on the Table.— (1) A paper or document to be laid on the Table shall be duly authenticated by the member or the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary by whom it is so laid.

(2) All papers and documents laid on the Table shall be considered public.

258. Procedure when a Minister discloses source of advice or opinion given to him.— If, in answer to a question or during debate, a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary discloses the advice or opinion given to him by any officer of the Government or by any other person or authority, he shall ordinarily lay the relevant document or parts of documents containing that opinion or advice or a summary thereof on the Table.

259. Statements on matters of public importance.— A Minister may, with the consent of the Speaker, make a statement on a matter of public importance but no question shall be asked nor discussion take place thereon at the time the statement is made.

260. Use of Assembly Chamber.— Except with the permission of the Speaker or of the House, the Chamber shall not be used for any purpose other than the sittings of the Assembly.

261. Transitional provisions.— If there be no Speaker at the time of the dissolution of the Assembly or if the Speaker continuing after the dissolution of the Assembly under clause (9) of Article 42 of the Order resigns or dies or is otherwise absent, the Secretary shall take such actions, till the election of Speaker, as are necessary for the running of the day to day affairs of the Assembly, the convening of the first sitting of the Assembly after general elections and for the conduct of business by the Assembly.

262. Council of Chairmen.— There shall be a Council of Chairmen consisting of the Chairmen of the Standing Committees headed by the Speaker to consider and coordinate in the matters relating to the Standing Committees.

263. Parliamentary Secretary may answer question and supplementary question.— A member, appointed as Parliamentary Secretary, may answer questions and supplementary questions on behalf of the Minister concerned and perform such other functions in the Assembly as may be assigned to him by the Minister.

264. Questions to be asked through the Speaker.— When, for the purpose of explanation during discussion or for any other sufficient reason, a member has occasion to ask a question of another member on the matter then under consideration of the Assembly, he shall ask the question through the Speaker.

265. Procedure for Submission of Public Petition.— (1) Subject to the provisions of these rules, any person may submit a petition to the speaker GBLA containing clear suggestion relating to the business before the House, business before a Standing Committee or issue of public importance concerning the provincial Government. The petitioner shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the matter raised by him. The petition will be submitted by post or by delivering it by hand to the assembly secretariat. Every petition will be allotted a tracking number and updated record of each petition shall be maintained by the Secretariat. A consolidated statement of the petitions received and disposed of will be made by the Secretary in the House in each session.

(2) Unless the Speaker directs otherwise, the following will be the procedure for processing and disposal of petitions:

a) On every Monday and Thursday, the petitions, received during the intervening period, will be submitted to the Speaker for appropriate decision. The Speaker will decide the admissibility of petitions and mode of action thereon;
b) A petition admitted by the Speaker for referral to Committee shall be transmitted to the Committee concerned which shall present its report within thirty working days;
c) The petitions admitted by the Speaker for taking up in the House and those received back from the Committees concerned requiring discussion in the House will be taken up in the forthcoming session of the Senate;

d) If the House makes any recommendation or the Speaker gives any direction or the Minister gives any understanding on a petition, the Ministry/Division/Authority concerned shall report to the Senate Secretariat about the action taken thereon within twenty working days. The response of the Ministry/Division/Authority concerned shall be submitted to the Speaker for appropriate orders; and
e) The petitioner concerned shall be informed of the action taken on his petition within three working days after completion of action thereon.

Chapter-XXI
LEADER OF OPPOISITION

266. Declaration of leader of the Opposition.— (1) After the forthcoming general election and at any time, thereafter, the Speaker shall, declare leader of the opposition as early as possible after the ascertainment of the leader of the house.

(2) After the Ascertainment of the leader of the house, the Speaker shall inform the members about the date, time and place for submission of a name for the leader of the opposition under their signatures.

(3) The Speaker shall declare a member as Leader of the Opposition having the greatest numerical strength after verification of the signature of the members;

Provided that any member who is not signatory to the proposal, if he presents himself, the count, and signs the proposal, shall be included in the count.

267. Removal of Leader of the Opposition.— (1) A notice signed by a majority of the members of the Opposition may be given to the Secretary showing that the Leader of the Opposition has lost the support of the majority of the members of the Opposition.

(2) Such notice shall be accompanied by the nomination of a proposed new Leader of the Opposition signed by a majority of the members of the Opposition.

(3) After verification of the signatures of the members, if the Speaker is satisfied that the Leader of the Opposition has lost the support of the majority of the members of the Opposition, he shall declare him to be removed from office.

(4) When the Leader of the Opposition is removed, the Speaker shall immediately declare the member who has been nominated in sub-rule (2) as Leader of the Opposition..

268. Vacancy in the Office of Leader of the Opposition.— Whenever the office of the Leader of the Opposition becomes vacant, it shall be filled in the manner as provided in rule 266.

Chapter-XXII
AMENDMENTS OF RULES

269. Procedure for amendment.— (1) Unless the Speaker otherwise directs, not less than fifteen clear days' notice of a motion for leave to amend these rules shall be given to the Secretary along with the proposed amendment.

(2) The Secretary shall, as soon as may be, circulate the notice to the members.

(3) The motion shall be included in the List of Business, if the Assembly is in session, within seven days of the expiry of the period of notice given under sub-rule (1) or if the Assembly is not in session, within seven days of the commencement of the next session.

(4) When the motion is reached, the Speaker shall read out the proposed amendment to the Assembly and ask whether the member has the leave of the Assembly. If objection is taken, the Speaker shall call such of the members as may be in favour of leave being granted to rise in their seats, and, if the majority of the members present does not so rise, he shall declare that the member has not the leave of the Assembly, or if no objection is taken or such membership so rises, the Speaker shall declare that the member has the leave of the Assembly.

(5) When a member has the leave of the Assembly under sub-rule (4), he may move that the proposed amendment be taken into consideration and to such a motion any other member may move an amendment that the proposed amendment be referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Parliamentary Affairs.

(6) If the motion for consideration is carried, the proposed amendment will be put to the Assembly immediately for decision. If the amendment to refer the proposed amendment to the Committee is carried, the matter shall be referred to the Committee.

(7) After the proposed amendment has been referred to the Committee, the procedure in regard to a Bill similarly committed shall be, as far as may be, followed with such variations as the Speaker may consider necessary.

(8) Unless otherwise decided by the Assembly, the rule or the amendment of a rule that has been passed by the Assembly shall come into force on the day the same is notified in the Official Gazette.

270. Repeal.— (1) The Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly's Procedure and Conduct of Business Rule, 2010 are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Rules referred to in sub rule (1), anything done, action taken, powers exercised, proceedings commenced and appointment made under the aforesaid Rules shall be deemed to have been validly done, taken, exercised, commenced and made under the corresponding provisions of these rules.

Secretary
Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly

(FIDA MUHAMMAD NASHAD)
SPEAKER
Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly

Governor
Gilgit Baltistan

FIRST SCHEDULE

[See rule 31]

BALLOT PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING THE RELATIVE PRECEDENCE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS, BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Not less than seven days before each day on which private members' business is to be transacted, the Secretary will cause to be placed in the Notice Office a numbered list. This list will be kept open for two days, and during these days and at hours when the Office is open, any member who wishes to give or has given notice of a resolution or has given notice of a Bill, as the case may be, may have his name entered in the case of a ballot for resolutions, against one number only, or in the case of a ballot for Bills against one number for each Bill of which he has given notice up to the number of three.

2. The ballot shall be held in the Committee Room before the Secretary and any member who wishes to attend, may do so.

3. Paper with numbers corresponding to those against which entries have been made on the number list will be separately placed in a box.

4. A clerk shall take out a hazard from the box one of the papers and the Secretary shall call out from the list the corresponding name which shall then be entered on a priority list. This procedure shall be carried out till all the numbers or in the case of a ballot for resolutions five have been drawn.

5. Priority on the list shall entitle the member to have set down, in the order of his priority for the day with reference to which the ballot is held, any Bill or any resolution, as the case may be, of which he has given the notice required by the rules:

Provided that he shall there and then specify such Bill or Bills or such resolution

GILGIT-BALTISTAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SECOND SCHEDULE
NOMINATION PAPER TO ASCERTAIN TO OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER / DEPUTY SPEAKER

[SEE RULES-10(3) and (11)]

I ..... Member of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly hereby propose the name of Speaker/Deputy Speaker for the ascertainment as the Speaker/Deputy Speaker.

I hereby declare that Mr. ..... Member of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly is willing to perform the duties in case of his success as Speaker or Deputy Speaker.

..... Member of Assembly .....proposer ..... member Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly.

Date:.....

Time:.....

Signature of Candidate

SECRETARY
Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly
Gilgit

GILGIT-BALTISTAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SCHEDULE
NOMINATION PAPER TO ASCERTAIN TO OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER GILGIT-BALTISTAN

[SEE RULE-17]

To be filled by the proposer

I .....

Member of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly elected from constituency No..... do hereby propose the name of .....a Member of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly elected from constituency No..... as Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan.

I hereby declare that I have not subscribed to any other proposal as proposer or seconder.

Signature of Proposer
Date:.....

To be filled by the Seconder

I ....
Member of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly elected from constituency No..... do hereby propose the name of ..... a Member of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly elected from constituency No..... as Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan.

I hereby declare that I have not subscribed to any other proposal as proposer or seconder.

Date:..... Signature of Seconder

GILGIT-BALTISTAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOURTH SCHEDULE
FORM OF COMMUNICATION REGARDING ARREST, DETENTION, CONVICTION OR RELEASE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, OF A MEMBER

[SEE RULES: 27-73 &75-76]

Place .....

Date .....

To

The Speaker,
Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly,
Gilgit.

Sir,

(A)

I have the honour to inform you that I have found it my duty, in the exercise of my powers under section..... of the ..... (Act) to direct that Mr. ..... member of the of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly Gilgit, be arrested/detained for (reason for the arrest or detention as the case may be).

Mr……....., member, Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly was accordingly arrested/taken into custody at time…..... on..... (date) and is at present lodged in the ..... (Jail) ..... (Place).

(B)

I have the honour to inform you that Mr.....member, Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly, was tried at the ..... Court before me on a charge (or charges) of ..... (nature of offence charged).

On ..... (date) after trial lasting for..... days, I found him guilty of ..... and sentenced him to imprisonment for..... (period).

(his application for leave to appeal ..... is pending consideration).

Name of the Court

(C)

I have the honour to inform you that Mr..... member, Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly, who was convicted on ..... (date), and imprisoned for ..... (nature of offence for which convicted) was released on bail pending appeal (or, as the case may be) released on the sentence being set aside is on an appeal on the ..... (date).

Yours Obedient Servant,
(Judge, Magistrate or Executive Authority)

FIFTH SCHEDULE

[SEE RULES:20 & 21]

PROCEDURE FOR RECORDING OF VOTES

1. Before voting commences, the Speaker shall direct that the bells be rung for five minutes to enable members not present in the Chamber to be present. Immediately after the bells stop ringing, all the entrances to entrance shall not allow any entry or exit through those entrances until the voting has concluded.

2. The Speaker shall then read out the resolution before the Assembly and ask the members who wish to vote in favour of the resolution to pass in single file through the entrance where tellers shall be posted to record the votes. On reaching the desk of the tellers, each member shall, in turn, call out the division number allotted to him under the rules. The tellers shall then mark off his number on the division list simultaneously calling out the name of the member. In order to ensure that his vote has been properly recorded, the member shall not move of until he has clearly heard the teller call out his name. After a member has recorded his vote, he shall not return to the Chamber until bells are rung under paragraph 3.

3. When the Speaker finds that all the members who wished to vote have recorded their votes, he shall announce that the voting has concluded. Thereupon the Secretary shall cause the division list to be collected, count the recorded votes and present the result of the count to the Speaker. The Speaker shall then direct that the bells be rung for two minutes to enable the members to return to the Chamber. After the bells stop ringing, the Speaker shall announce the result to the Assembly.