


# Amendament to the Draft Law on the Standing Orders of the National People's Assembly with the Purpose of Modernization and Simplification of Parliamentary Procedures and Language

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**Supported by:**
**Proposed in:** Commission of Parliamentary Procedure

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## PREAMBLE

Recognizing the need to improve the clarity, accessibility, and efficiency of the National People's Assembly proceedings, this Amendment modifies the Draft Law on the Standing Orders of the National People's Assembly to simplify procedural rules, update language, and standardize respectful forms of address that promote equality and inclusiveness without elitism.

## CONTENTS:

I. Amendments to Definitions and Terminology
II. Rules of Order
III. Language and Style
IV. Miscellaneous

**SECTION 1: AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY** (Adds Article 2a - “Language” in Section 1)

- *Adds Article 2a - “Language” in Section 1:*

1. Archaic, Latin, and overly formal terms shall be removed from official language and replaced with plain alternatives.
    a. *- Example: “sine die” → “indefinitely”*
    b. *- Example: “inter alia” → “among other things”*
    c. *- Example: “ad hoc” → “temporary” or “for this specific purpose”*

    2. Elitist or hierarchical titles such as “Honorable” shall be removed from all official and spoken forms of address. Introduce exclusively these forms of address:
    a. *- “Comrade” (e.g., Comrade President of the Assembly, Comrade Member)*
    b. *- “Dear” (e.g., Dear Colleagues)*
    c. *- “Mister/Madam” (e.g, Mister President of the Assembly, Madam Deputy)*
    d. *- Other respectful, neutral terms as agreed upon by the President of the Assembly*
    e. 1.4 Retain necessary technical terms such as “quorum,” “amendment,” “motion,” “bill,” and “vote” for legislative clarity.

**SECTION 2: RULES OF ORDER**

- *Adds Article 6a - “Parliamentary Procedures” in Section 2:*

1. The Assembly adopts clear, simple, and fair rules of order designed to ensure orderly debate and efficient decision-making, drawing inspiration from commonly used parliamentary rules but adapted to suit the cultural and political context of the Assembly.
2. The motion must be seconded by another member before debate.
3. The motion shall be recorded before debate begins.

4. Any member may propose a motion by clearly stating its purpose.

***Example:***

*Member A: "I move that the Assembly discuss the Education Reform Bill."*

*Member B: "I second the motion."*

*President of the Assembly: "The motion is recognised. The Assembly will now debate this matter."*

5. The President of the Assembly recognizes members before they speak.
6. Each member may speak once on a motion, unless the President of the Assembly grants permission to speak again.
7. Debate must focus on the topic under discussion and be conducted respectfully.
8. The President of the Assembly may impose reasonable time limits on speeches to maintain fairness and efficiency.

- *The following point is added to Article 6 - "Debates" in Section 2:*

5. The President of the Assembly's rulings on procedural matters are final unless overturned by a simple majority vote.

- *Adds Article 10a - "Points of order" in Section 4:*

1. Members may raise points of order to question compliance with the Standing Orders.
2. The President of the Assembly must address points of order immediately.
3. Disagreements with the President of the Assembly's rulings can be appealed to the Assembly, decided by a simple majority vote.

- *The following points are added to Article 12 - "Amendament proposals" in Section 4:*

5. Amendments may be proposed by members clearly stating the modification..
6. Only one amendment is debated at a time.

## SECTION 3: LANGUAGE AND STYLE

- *Adds article 6b - "Parliamentary language" in Section 2:*

1. Parliamentary language shall be clear, concise, and accessible to the general public.
2. Archaic and overly formal expressions shall be replaced with plain language.

***Examples***:

*Replace "The Assembly shall deliberate forthwith" with "The Assembly will discuss this matter now."*

*Replace "It is incumbent upon members to deliberate" with "Members must discuss."*

*Replace "Ad hoc committee" with "Temporary committee."*

3. Respectful, non-elitist forms of address shall be used consistently, as described in Section 1.2.
4. Technical terms essential to legislative clarity shall be retained and clearly defined where necessary.

5. The following forms of address shall be used exclusively in all Assembly proceedings and documents:

- *"Comrade" (e.g., Comrade President of the Assembly, Comrade Member)*

- *"Dear" (e.g., Dear Colleagues)*

- *Other neutral, respectful forms agreed by the President of the Assembly*

6. Titles implying hierarchy or elitism such as "Honorable," or "Illustrious" are expressly prohibited.

## SECTION 4: MISCELLANEOUS

- *Adds Article 13a - “Election and removal of the President of the Assembly of the National People’s Assembly*

1. The election and removal procedures for the President of the Assembly of the National People's Assembly remain governed solely by the Socialist Constitution (Article 38) and are excluded from this Amendment.