

**THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF
THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

CHAPTER 1

Provisional Office and Duty

Principle 1:

The National Assembly convenes simply two sessions a year .
Each session lasts for at least three months.

Principle 2:

In the first meeting of each session, the National Assembly will be presided over by the oldest elected provisional president who has not been involved in any complaints, and has five elected youngest members who have not been involved in any complaints either, as secretaries to help work.

Under the leadership of the above president, the National Assembly has to proceed as follows:

- a. declaring the appointment of full-rights MPs.
- b. electing the president and the two Vice-presidents of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly can not discuss under the presidency of the Doyen of the National Assembly.

CHAPTER 2

VALIDITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Principle 3:

During the above meetings, the president of The National assembly declares:

- the names of the elected candidates sent by the Election's Committee;
- The names of the elected candidates who are implicated in complaints but the Constitution Council has denied such complaints.

In order to determine the validity, these names of the full-rights MPs are announced by sticking at the National Assembly and publicized after the meeting.

Principle 4:

The rank and privilege of MPs are as equal as the highest ranking officers of exceptional class of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

CHAPTER 3

**THE COMMISSIONS AND PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Principle 5:

After the King and Queen have conducted the opening session already and at least 7/10 of the National Assembly's members are present, then the National Assembly can hold the exclusive elections, based on 2/3 majority, for its President and two Vice-Presidents.

Principle 6:

Under the auspices of the President of the National Assembly, the National Assembly, can hold elections for members of the Commissions of the National Assembly.

The Commissions of the National Assembly consist of :

1. Commission of Human Rights and Complaints;
2. Commission of Finance and Bank;
3. Commission of Economics, Planning, Investment, Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment;
4. Commission of Interior, National Defense, Investigation and Anti-corruption;
5. Commission of foreign Affairs, International Co-operation, Propaganda and Information;
6. Commission of Legislation;
7. Commission of Education, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism;
8. Commission of Health Care, Social Affairs, Work and Women's Affairs; and
9. Commission of Public Work, Transportation, Telecommunication, Post, Industry, Energy and Commerce.

Principle 7:

The Permanent Committee of the National Assembly consists of :

1. President of the National Assembly
2. Two Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly
3. Presidents of all Commissions of the National Assembly

President of the National Assembly is the President of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly.

The Permanent Committee of the National Assembly has as equal mandate as the National Assembly.

Principle 8.

The President of the National Assembly has the following duties :

- a. Guarantees that the National Assembly acts appropriately depending upon the Constitution;
- b. Leads meetings of the National Assembly;
- c. Opens and adjourns any meeting of the National Assembly;
- d. Organizes discussion and signs on minute of the meetings of the National Assembly;
- e. Reinforces the implementation of the Internal Regulations of the National Assembly.
- f. Maintains and protects law and order within the National Assembly;
- g. Represents the National Assembly in contacting the King and public authorities;

Principle 9:

The two Vice-Presidents help work for the President. When the President is absent or fails to come to work, the Vice-Presidents work instead of the President.

Principle 10:

Each Commission has to select one president, one vice-president, and one secretary by elections means.

Each Commission consists of at least seven (7)members.

The Quorum for the meeting of the Permanent Committee or Commissions must consists of more than half of their members respectively.

Principle 11:

The National Assembly can appoint a special Commission with more or less members as requiring.

Principle 12:

Each Commission can ask the President of the National Assembly to direct a non-Parliamentarian experts to help work. The experts have no right to make any decision in the Commissions.

Principle 13:

Members of the Permanent Committee and the Commissions of the National Assembly who fail to come to meetings without information have to get the discipline sanctions stipulated in the principles of 68, 69, 70, 71 and 72.

CHAPTER 4

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Principle 14:

The National Assembly has got one General Secretariat responsible for taking records for the National Assembly and all Commissions. This General Secretariat is also in charge of all administrative affairs as well as of all contacts outside the Assembly.

Principle 15:

The General Secretariat is led by one General Secretary who has one Deputy General Secretary as the Assistant.

The General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary must be chosen from senior officers, with at least 10-year administrative experience, who are not members of the the National Assembly nor leaders of any political party.

Principle 16:

The General Secretary and Deputy-general Secretary must be appointed by the Royal Decree proposed by the President of the National Assembly after consulting with the First and Second Deputy Presidents of the National Assembly.

The General Secretary and Deputy-General Secretary have got as equal rank as State Secretary and Deputy State Secretary respectively.

Principle 17:

All staff of the General Secretary must be appointed by the President of the National Assembly on the proposition of the General Secretary.

Principle 18:

All records and documents of the National Assembly must be kept in the General Secretariat and must not be exploded to public without permission from the President of the National Assembly.

CHAPTER 5

AGENDA

Principle 19:

The Permanent Committee is the organizer of the agenda for each meeting. Just before the end of each meeting, the President reads the agenda for the next meetings.

Principle 20:

In the agenda there are sequences as follows:

1. All matters which are considered urgent by the National Assembly; and

2. All matters which are submitted to the National Assembly by the Royal Government.

CHAPTER 6

DRAFTING LAW AND PROPOSING LAW

Principle 21:

Drafting law of the Royal Government has to be submitted to the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly. The Drafting Law must be a written text and, accompanied by "Statement of Cause", distributed to all MPs.

The Permanent Committee of the National Assembly sends that drafting to a specific Commission expertising on that drafting to check.. After already examining it, the President of the Commission has to convey the opinions of the Commission to the National Assembly.

Principle 22:

Proposing law, made by the MPs, must be written and divided into articles, and attached with the above "Statement of Cause"

Principle 23:

Legislators of the Proposing law have the right to report to the Commission that checks that Proposing law.

Principle 24:

The Commission can assume that:

- Requesting the National Assembly not to consider :
- Requesting the National Assembly to express first opinions whether it should consider or not; and
- Requesting the National Assembly to consider and regard as an emergency

Principle 25:

The legislators of the Proposing law can withdraw that proposing even though the National Assembly has started a discussion. Other members can ask the National Assembly to re-discuss that withdrawn-Proposing law.

CHAPTER 7

DISCUSSION ON DRAFTING LAW AND PROPOSING LAW

Principle 26:

All MPs can propose an amendment of the Drafting law or Proposing law. The Application for Amendment must be written and submitted to any specific, expert Commission or the National Assembly during the plenary meeting.

Principle 27:

The National Assembly makes a decision whether it agrees or disagrees to accept that Application for a discussion.

Principle 28:

The National Assembly does not adopt the amendment on the day it gets the Application unless it is urgent.

Principle 29:

The discussion on the Drafting law or Proposing law must first start focusing on the whole contents, then on its each article, unless the Drafting law or Proposing law is involved in national budget, opening new credit, addition or formation of new revenue items.

CHAPTER 8

SPECIAL NOTIFICATION FOR NATIONAL BUDGET AND BUDGET FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Principle 30:

The Drafting Financial law must be divided into very explicit details by following the determination in the law on Currency Control and Financial System stipulated in the Article 57 of the Constitution.

Principle 31:

The Proposing law for the Budget of the National Assembly must be adopted by the National Assembly and sent to the Ministry of Finance to put it in the National Budget.

CHAPTER 9

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Principle 32:

All MPs have the rights to raise questions to the Royal Government. These questions must be written and submitted through the President of the National Assembly.

The answers could be responded by one minister or several ministers according to the questions related to the responsibility of one or several ministers. If the questions are concerned with the general politics of the Royal Government, the Prime Minister(s) have to answer by themselves.

The answers of the Prime Ministers or ministers can be either verbal or written.

The above answers must be responded during 7 days after receiving the questions.

For the verbal answers, the President of the National Assembly can or can not allow any debate. If there is no permission of debate, the answers of the Prime Ministers or ministers will end the questions.

Principle 33:

MPs, who raised the questions to any ministers, can withdraw their questions.

Other MPs can get that withdrawn-questions' sheet and then submit it to the National Assembly if understanding that it is necessary.

If there is permission of debate, the owners of the questions, other speakers, Prime Minister or ministers involved can debate for not more than the period of one meeting.

The National Assembly fixes one day a week for answering the questions.

Nevertheless, the meeting for answering the above questions has no possibilities of holding any kind of voting.

Principle 34:

All commissions of the National Assembly can invite any minister or figure to light any matter related to specific domains under their responsibilities.

Principle 35:

The National Assembly can dismiss any minister or the Royal Government from office by adopting "Blaming Notification" based on 2/3 majority.

The Blaming Notification on the Royal Government must be raised to the National Assembly by at least 30 MPs so that the National Assembly can discuss it.

CHAPTER 10

EXPRESSION OF OPINIONS

Principle 36:

Any matter that the National Assembly is examining, the National Assembly can express the opinions by three ways: raising hand, open voting or secret voting.

Principle 37:

For the expression of opinion by raising hand, the president and secretaries are the counters of members who raise their hands. If the President and Secretaries see that the expression of opinions has no clear result, the latter must be re-done and re-counted.

Principle 38:

If the expression of opinions by raising hand has been done for two times, but still there is no clear result, open voting must be used.

The mechanic of how to conduct the open voting is as follows:

The Parliamentary Emissary holds a ballot box and collects ballot papers from MPs. The MPs must write their names on those ballot papers. The ballot papers have three types: Blue ballot paper means disagreement, White ballot paper means agreement and White ballot paper with blue stripe means abstention.

After voting, the Secretaries count the ballot papers. After counting them, the President of the National Assembly has to announce the result to the National Assembly.

Principle 39:

The open voting on the stage goes as follows:

Each member of the National Assembly bring a ballot paper and cast it into a ballot box placed on the stage.

Such way will be used unless there are at least 10 MPs proposing to do so.

Principle 40:

The secret voting must be used for the Appointment, Expression of Confidence and Adoption of Blaming Notification.

The adoption of law for the amendment of the Constitution can be conducted through the secret voting, too.

Principle 41:

All adoption must be based on the majority determined in the Constitution. Besides this, the absolute majority of overall MPs must be considered reliable.

Principle 42:

If the opinions for agreement and the opinions for disagreement are equal, the voting must be re-done. If the result of the second voting is still equal, it is considered that the National Assembly does not agree.

Principle 43:

After getting the result from the expression of opinions, the President of the National Assembly has to announce whether the National Assembly adopts to agree or disagree.

CHAPTER 11

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Principle 44:

Any Drafting law, Proposing law or motion which is declared urgent must be written down in the discussion Agenda first and above all else.

Principle 45:

This emergency can be proposed by the Royal Government, the owners of the Proposing law or Motion.

The National Assembly has to make a decision on the things stipulated in the mentioned-above principles.

Principle 46:

Those who announce the emergency have to bring along the statement of cause. The President of the National Assembly will convey this message to the National Assembly and the latter decides to consider it urgent or not.

CHAPTER 12

MEETING

Principle 47:

The quorum for meeting must consists of 7/10 of MPs.

Principle 48:

Seating precedence of the MPs is arranged according to the age order.

Principle 49:

The fixing of the meeting date must be done in a written form and then is sent to MPs. If the fixing of other meeting date during a specific meeting is verbal, this fixing must be done in a written form and then is sent to those MPs who failed to come to the meeting.

Usually, meeting date is fixed 2 days in advance unless urgent.

Principle 50:

Invitation letter to meeting must be attached with the agenda of the meeting unless urgent.

Principle 51:

At a meeting, if the President and Deputy-Presidents of the National Assembly are absent because of any special incident, the National Assembly can choose a temporary President to lead the meeting.

Principle 52:

If there is any matter to address to the National Assembly, the President of the National Assembly can address before working according to the agenda.

Principle 53:

Usually, the meeting goes ahead according to the agenda, unless at some meetings the National Assembly decides differently.

Before the meeting the National Assembly adopts the agenda and elects the meeting secretaries.

Principle 54:

The President of the National Assembly can adjourn a meeting if the President thinks that it is useful or essential or if there are 10 MPs proposing to do so.

Principle 55:

All MPs have to ask for and get the permission from the President of the National Assembly first, then they can speak.

Principle 56:

Usually, the Secretaries have to write down in order the names of the MPs according to who ask to speak first and later.

Principle 57:

In the debate, speakers have to speak alternately. The speakers of pro-debate speak first, then the speakers of counter-debate speak.

Principle 58:

In principle, the time for speaking of each MP must be determined. Any MP who is permitted to speak, must speak only about the subject which the argument is about.

If speaking far beyond the said subject, the President of the National Assembly has to remind him/her to come back to the subject.

Principle 59:

Any MP who registers to speak, can do so for only 20 minutes, the longest. Any MP who just asks to respond can speak for only 5 minutes.

If the President of the National Assembly thinks that it is necessary or useful for the debate, he can allow 10 more minutes for the speaking time. This addition can only be allowed to continue for three times for the same subject.

Principle 60:

Rules for the registration to orderly speak and the limitation of time to speak can only be used for the MPs, but not be used for members or representatives of the Royal Government.

Principle 61:

If there is any disorderliness or turbulence during a meeting and the President of the National Assembly can not stop this, he can call off the meeting by leaving the meeting hall.

Principle 62:

It is forbidden for interruption others, humiliating individuals and expressing any action that leads to disorderliness.

CHAPTER 13

MAINTENANCE OF SAFETY DURING THE MEETING

Principle 63:

The President of the National Assembly is responsible for protecting the National Assembly from hostility arising either from inside or outside the National Assembly. In order to accomplish this task, the President of the National Assembly can use police forces or asks for military intervention.

Principle 64:

The maintenance of safety for the National Assembly must be conducted by the President on behalf of the National Assembly. In principle, the President can allow the public to enter the meeting hall according to the available seats. If any one makes by all means any disruption to the discussion of the National Assembly, the President can give an order to dismiss him/her.

Principle 65:

When the National Assembly decides to hold a secret meeting, before opening the meeting, the President and Secretaries have to thoroughly check and ensure that there is no outsider in the meeting room.

CHAPTER 14

ABSENCE TO MEETING

Principle 66:

In each meeting, Secretaries have to take notes of any MP who is absent and affirming the cause of the absence.

Principle 67:

MPs can not be absent without the permission from the President of the National Assembly.

Principle 68:

The President can allow MPs to take the longest leave of 15 days during each session. Taking a leave of more than 15 days must be asked to the National Assembly to adopt for agreement.

Principle 69:

Any MP who has been absent, owing to illness, for five successive days must have medical prescription as a proof.

Principle 70:

Any MP fails to attend the meeting for more than three days without permission, his/her National Assembly's indemnities must be cut according to days when he/she is absent.

Principle 71:

Any MP who has already got the permission to take a leave of particular days, but is absent for more than the days allowed, his/her incentive must be cut according to the number of days without permission.

Principle 72:

If there is an invitation letter, according to the Principle 47, but any MP still fails to attend the meeting without reasonable cause, that MP has to get the Discipline sanction as follows:

Absent for two days, will get warning.

If receiving the warning at his/her house, but he/she still fails to attend the meeting, his/her incentive must be cut according to the number of the days of absence. The discipline sanction must be delivered to him/her at his/her house.

If receiving this final information but still he/she does not attend the meeting or does not give any excuse with reasonable cause, he/she will get the third discipline sanction – his/her incentives are cut according to the number of the days of absence and he/she is dismissed from the meeting for 15 days.

When receiving the three kinds of the Discipline sanction and one month after, that MP still conducts wrongly, he/she will get a serious discipline sanction. His/her incentives are cut according to the number of the days of absence, he/she is dismissed from the meeting for one month and there is announcement to the people in his/her constituency.

The Permanent Committee of the National Assembly is automatically the imposer of the Discipline sanction when it finds out that the cause of absence to the meeting is unreasonable unless in case the National Assembly receives a reasonable complaints from him/her the plenary meeting.

CHAPTER 15

DISCIPLINE

Principle 73:

The Discipline sanction used for the MPs is as follows:

Reminding

Reminding by writing down in the record;

Blaming; and

Blaming and dismissing for a while from the meeting hall

Principle 74:

The President of the National Assembly has to remind any speaker who wrongly conducts or any MP who distorts orderliness against the Principle 62 of this Internal Regulations.

Principle 75:

Any MP who has been reminded for one time, but still acts wrongly within one meeting, the President of the National Assembly has to remind him/her again by writing down that reminding in the record of the meeting.

Principle 76:

Any MP who has been reminded by writing down in the record must have $\frac{1}{4}$ of the monthly indemnities cut.

Principle 77:

The MPs to be blamed are as follows:

Any MP whom the President of the National Assembly reminds as well as he writes down in the record, but that MP is still stubborn and not afraid.

Any MP who has been reminded for three times, but he/she still makes mistakes during 30 days.

Any MP who leads the turbulence in the meeting hall or persuades MPs not to join working in the National Assembly.

Any MP who humiliates, or bullies or threatens other MPs.

Principle 78:

The MPs to be blamed and dismissed for a while from the meeting are as follows:

Any MP who is blamed but is still stubborn.

Any MP provokes violence.

Any MP humiliates the National Assembly or its President.

Any MP acts wrongly by humiliating the King.

Principle 79:

The blaming or the blaming with dismissing must be adopted by the National Assembly by raising hands or open voting according to the proposition of the President of the National Assembly.

Principle 80:

The blaming results in the following sanction:

50% of the monthly indemnities is cut.

The blaming records are publicly broadcast and published **to be stuck** in all communes in the constituency of the MP who makes the mistakes.

He/she is forbidden to come to work in the National Assembly for 15 successive meetings.

CHAPTER 16

REQUESTING FOR CHANGE OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Principle 82:

This Internal Regulation will be amended unless there is a proposition from at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the overall MPs and is adopted for agreement by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the overall MPs.

CHAPTER 17

PROVISIONAL DISPOSITION

Principle 83:

The seat of a MP left vacant because of resignation, abandon of work for three months without permission or death must be replaced by a new MP chosen from the list of candidates representing the party in the same constituency.

This Internal Regulation was adopted by the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 28 October 1993 during the first meeting of the first session of the National Assembly.

Phnom Penh, 28 October 1993

President of the National Assembly

CHEA SIM