



## **REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **1.0 ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION AND POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Members of this Honourable House are reminded that on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020, the Honourable Karl Samuda, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and Leader of the House, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that, in keeping with Standing Order 68(1) (b) and notwithstanding Standing Order 68(3), this Honourable House appoint a Standing Orders Committee consisting of the following Members:

Hon. Parnel Charles, Snr., MP – Chairman

Hon. C. Everaldo Warmington, MP

Mr. Leslie Campbell, MP

Mr. Heroy Clarke, MP

Mr. Fitz Jackson, MP

Mr. Peter Bunting, MP

Mr. Dwayne Vaz, MP

Members are further reminded that on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020, the following motion was moved:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Report of the House Committee of the House of Representatives on its examination of the technological facilities and any amendments required to enable the House to conduct its business virtually during periods of national emergency, be adopted and referred to the Standing Orders Committee of the House of Representatives for consideration and report.

## **2.0 OVERVIEW**

Your Committee considered the recommendations of the Report of the House Committee to examine and report on the technological facilities and any amendments required to enable the House to conduct its business virtually during periods of National Emergency along with other measure intended for the amendment of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives.

Your Committee held two meetings on the subject matter on May 5 and 19, 2020. We now have the honour to present our findings and recommendations.

## **3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Your Committee in its deliberations examined and agreed the recommendations of the House Committee in relation to the possibility of the Jamaican Parliament hosting virtual meetings with the use of software applications with one amendment. We also note that several Parliaments are already meeting virtually. Your Committee also considered the matter in relation to meetings of Parliamentary Committees.

We discussed the use of the word “restricting” in recommendation 4 (ii) as outlined by the House Committee and it was agreed that the word be deleted.

We noted further that the Committee agreed to adapt the wording used by the Caymanian Parliament where matters of national security arose.

Your Committee agreed to accept the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives and that it was necessary that a model be established with detailed safeguards and meeting protocols where virtual meetings would occur.

## **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Your Committee agreed the following recommendations :

- (i) the adoption of a model that allows the House of Representatives and Parliamentary Committees to host virtual meetings; the model must comprise detailed safeguards and meeting protocols before any decisions are made on the application to be adapted;
- (ii) the model to be adopted to include the number of Members of Parliament who will be present in the Chamber, that is, Parliamentary sittings would include at least a quorum including the

Speaker or acting Speaker, the Leader of Government Business, the Leader of Opposition Business, or their respective representatives. Any Member (s) undertaking a main presentation will be required to be present in the Chamber. Other Members of Parliament who will join remotely for the purposes of voting and providing responses or support;

- (iii) that the Committees of the House can meet virtually but the Chairman along with a quorum must be present in the Chamber along with representatives of the relevant agencies and departments; and
- (iv) that the House of Representatives also adapt the Caymanian model in amending the Standing Orders to reflect that “Where it is impracticable by reason of public emergency, or any other emergency as agreed by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition for the House of Representatives to meet physically, it may do so by electronic means”.

## **5.0 THANKS AND COMMENDATIONS**

Your Committee wishes to express gratitude to the Clerk to the Houses and her staff for their administrative and technical support and for the kind courtesies extended during the sitting.

**Houses of Parliament**

**May 19, 2020**

**APPENDIX 1**  
**ATTENDANCE RECORD**  
**One (2) Meeting**

	Present	Absent	Apology
Hon. Pearnel Charles, Snr., MP <b>Chairman</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-
Hon. C. Everalld Warmington, MP	<b>2</b>	-	-
Mr. Leslie Campbell, MP	<b>2</b>	-	-
Mr. Heroy Clarke, MP	<b>2</b>	-	-
Mr. Fitz Jackson, CD, MP	1	1	-
Mr. Peter Bunting, MP	<b>2</b>	-	-
Mr. Dwayne Vaz, MP	1	<b>1</b>	-

**SIGNATURES**



Hon. Pearnel Charles, Snr, MP **Chairman**



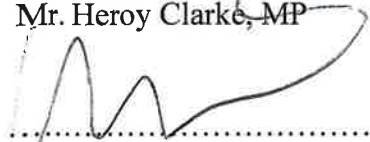
Hon. C. Everal Warmington, MP



Mr. Leslie Campbell, MP



Mr. Heroy Clarke, MP



Mr. Fitz Jackson, CD, MP



Mr. Peter Bunting, MP



Mr. Dwayne Vaz, MP

