

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE No. 25 OF 1948.

It is hereby notified for general information that, under and by virtue of the powers vested in him by section *seventeen* of the Bechuanaland Protectorate European Advisory Council Proclamation, 1947 (No. 44 of 1947), His Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to approve the following Rules and Orders which have been made by the Council.

By Command of His Excellency
the High Commissioner.

H. E. PRIESTMAN,
Administrative Secretary.

High Commissioner's Office,
Cape Town, 10th February, 1948.

STANDING RULES AND ORDERS OF THE
EUROPEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL.

MEETINGS.

1. The President shall be empowered to preserve order and to enforce all rules and standing orders.
2. No member shall absent himself from the meetings of Council without satisfying the Resident Commissioner of the necessity of such absence.
3. The Council shall not be disqualified from the transaction of business on account of any vacancies among its members, but the Council shall not be competent to act in any case unless there are present at and throughout the meeting four members at least.
4. The President may at any time suspend or adjourn any meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

5. The daily order of business shall be as follows:—
 - (i) Communications from the Chair.
 - (ii) Papers to be laid on the table.
 - (iii) Questions of which notice has been given and answers thereto.
 - (iv) Draft legislation.
 - (v) Motions of which notice has been given.
 - (vi) Reports from Committee.
 - (vii) Notices.
 - (viii) Adjournment.

Subject to the above all propositions shall be submitted to the Council in the order in which they stand in the Order of the Day Book: Provided that the Council may by specific vote determine to proceed to any particular business out of the regular order and a motion for such vote may be made without notice and shall take precedence of all other business.

6. Any business not disposed of at the time of any adjournment shall stand as an order of the day for the next meeting.

7. A book shall be kept by the Clerk to be called the Order of the Day Book, wherein shall be inserted and numbered in succession subjects intended to be brought up for discussion at each meeting and shall be open for inspection by members at any time.

QUESTIONS.

8. Notice of intention to ask a question, if not given at a meeting shall be given in writing with the details of the question to the Clerk at least one day previous to the meeting at which it is intended to ask the question. If an oral reply is requested the question shall be marked "oral reply", otherwise the question will be answered in writing through the Clerk; Provided that nothing shall prevent a member from putting a question without notice if the President so permits.

9. No debate shall take place on the giving of "notice" of any "question".

10. The object of a question shall be to obtain information on a matter of fact.

11. The President may rule that no reply should, on the ground of public interest, be given to any question.

12. (1) A question shall not publish any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible.

(2) A question shall not contain any argument, inference, imputation or ironical expression.

(3) A question shall not ask for an expression of opinion or for the solution of an abstract legal question or of a hypothetical proposition.

(4) A question shall not be asked as to character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity.

13. The President shall be the sole judge of the propriety or admissibility of a question and he may disallow any question which in his opinion is an abuse of the right to ask questions.

14. When a reply to a question has been put into writing a copy shall be supplied to the member putting the question before the time fixed for the meeting of Council at which the question is to be answered.

MOTIONS.

15. A member may give oral notice of a motion during a meeting, mentioning the meeting of Council at which it is intended to bring forward the same. Such notice shall be reduced into writing and handed to the Clerk on the same day on which it is given.

16. A member may give notice of motion in writing to the Clerk not later than one day previous to the meeting at which it is intended to make the motion.

17. No debate shall take place upon a notice of motion.

18. A member who has made a motion may withdraw the same by leave of the President.

19. A motion which has been withdrawn may be made again at a subsequent meeting, but no motion shall be proposed which is the same in substance as any motion which during the previous six months shall have been resolved in the affirmative or negative.

20. The following motions may be made without notice:—

- (i) Any motion for the adjournment of a Council or a debate;
- (ii) Any motion for the suspension of standing orders;
- (iii) Any motion for the withdrawal of strangers;
- (iv) Any motion for the reference of any matter to committee;
- (v) Any motion made when the Council is in committee;
- (vi) Any motion the urgency of which is admitted by the majority of the members present.

21. Every motion, except in committee, shall be seconded and, if not seconded, shall not be debated, and shall be considered as lost and a note of its being lost entered in the Minutes.

RULES OF DEBATE.

22. It shall be competent for any member of the Council to propose any question for debate and such question if seconded by any other member shall be debated and disposed of according to these Standing Rules and Orders.

23. Every member except the President shall speak standing and shall address his observations to the President.

24. If two or more members rise at the same time to speak the President shall call on the member who first catches his eye.

25. No member shall impute improper motives to any other member and all personalities shall be carefully avoided.

26. Every member shall restrict his observations to the subject under discussion.

27. When a member has finished his observations he shall resume his seat and any other member wishing to address the Council shall rise.

28. No member shall interrupt another member except by rising to a point of order when he shall simply draw attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit to the President for decision.

29. A member shall not speak more than once on the same subject except in explanation or to order or when the Council is in committee.

30. The member who originated any motion may however reply at the close of the debate and before the motion is put. The mover of an amendment to a motion shall not have a right of reply at the close of a debate on that amendment.

AMENDMENTS.

31. (1) Any member may move an amendment of any proposition provided that the amendment be relevant and not identical with any amendment moved by another member. The relevancy of an amendment or the identity of one amendment with another shall be decided by the President.

(2) The mover of an amendment may speak in support thereof, but no further debate shall be allowed except in committee until the amendment has been duly seconded.

(3) Amendments of a motion shall be put before the original motion and an amendment of a proposed amendment shall be considered as if the previous amendment was an original motion.

32. Any amendment moved and seconded may be required by the President to be put into writing by the mover and delivered to the Clerk.

33. All questions proposed for decision in the Council shall be determined by a majority of votes of members present and voting.

34. After a question has once been put by the President no further discussion thereupon shall be allowed.

DRAFT LEGISLATION.

35. Copies of all draft legislation submitted for the consideration of Council at a meeting shall be circulated to members by the Clerk at least two days before the meeting at which the draft legislation is to be considered.

36. Draft legislation will be presented to Council, with a statement of the objects of the legislation and the reasons for its proposed enactment. There may then follow a debate upon the general merits and principles of the draft legislation. On conclusion of this debate the Council shall resolve itself into committee of which the President shall be the Chairman, to consider the draft legislation, clause by clause, and suggest such amendments as may be deemed necessary.

37. In considering draft legislation in committee any member may move an amendment, or without making a formal motion, may suggest an amendment or may ask for information respecting any part of the draft legislation or any proposed amendment.

38. After draft legislation has been considered in committee the Council shall resume, the motion being that Council approves (subject to the amendments approved in committee) or does not approve the proposed legislation.

39. If at this stage any member desires to delete or amend any provision contained in the draft legislation or to introduce any new provision he may move that it be re-committed and if the motion is carried Council shall resolve itself into committee and any alterations proposed may be discussed. The Council shall then resume.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

40. There shall be a standing committee on finance to consider estimates of revenue and expenditure, of which the Government Secretary and the Financial Secretary shall be members, and all the members of the Council or such number of them as Council shall from time to time determine shall be members. The Government Secretary shall be Chairman and in his absence from any meeting the Financial Secretary shall be Chairman for that meeting.

41. The Chairman and two elected members of the Standing Committee on Finance shall constitute a quorum.

42. Any advice which the Committee wishes to offer on the estimates shall be embodied in a report and the report may be adopted in Council on a motion for its adoption.

ADMISSION OF STRANGERS.

43. The Clerk is authorised to issue Orders of Admission to any persons who may be recommended for such by any member of the Council, provided that not more Orders shall be issued than there is accommodation available for the due comfort of strangers.

44. The President may at any time order strangers to withdraw.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING RULES AND ORDERS.

45. Any of these Standing Rules and Orders may be suspended with the consent of the President and the majority of members present and voting.

MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THESE RULES.

46. Any question of order or procedure not provided for in these Rules shall be decided by the President whose decision in the matter or on any disputed point of interpretation of any of these Rules shall be final.