

- (5) In terms of its rules and orders, the National Assembly may elect from among its members other presiding officers to assist the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

## Decisions

53. (1) Except where the Constitution provides otherwise—
- (a) a majority of the members of the National Assembly must be present before a vote may be taken on a Bill or an amendment to a Bill;
  - (b) at least one third of the members must be present before a vote may be taken on any other question before the Assembly; and
  - (c) all questions before the Assembly are decided by a majority of the votes cast.
- (2) The member of the National Assembly presiding at a meeting of the Assembly has no deliberative vote, but—
- (a) must cast a deciding vote when there is an equal number of votes on each side of a question; and
  - (b) may cast a deliberative vote when a question must be decided with a supporting vote of at least two thirds of the members of the Assembly.

## Rights of certain Cabinet members and Deputy Ministers in the National Assembly

54. The President, and any member of the Cabinet or any Deputy Minister who is not a member of the National Assembly, may, subject to the rules and orders of the Assembly, attend and speak in the Assembly, but may not vote.

[S. 54 substituted by s. 3 of the Constitution Sixth Amendment Act of 2001.]

## Powers of National Assembly

55. (1) In exercising its legislative power, the National Assembly may—
- (a) consider, pass, amend or reject any legislation before the Assembly; and
  - (b) initiate or prepare legislation, except money Bills.
- (2) The National Assembly must provide for mechanisms—
- (a) to ensure that all executive organs of state in the national sphere of government are accountable to it; and
  - (b) to maintain oversight of—