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ROYAL DECREE NO. 88/97

We, Qaboos Bin Said, the Sultan of Oman,

After perusal of the Basic Statute of The State issued by the Royal Decree No. 101/96, and The Royal Decree No. 97/91 issuing the Internal Regulations of Majlis A'shura and its amendments there to The Royal Decree No. 86/97 on the establishment of the Council of Oman, and In accordance with the exigencies of public interest,







Have decreed the following:

- Article (1) : The provisions of the attached Internal Regulations of Majlis A'shura shall be employed.
- Article (2) : The Royal Decree No. 97/91 and whichever might contravene with this Decree or conflict with its provisions shall be rendered canceled.
- Article (3) : This Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and come into effect as from the date of its publications.

Issued on 16th Sha'aban 1418 AH  
16th December 1997 AD

Qaboos Bin Said  
Sultan of Oman

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Chapter One : Provisions of Membership

- Article (1) : Members should regularly attend the Majlis and the Committees meetings. In case of his inevitable absence from one of the Majlis sessions or meetings the member should notify in writing either to the President of the Majlis or the Chairman of the concerned Committee as per prevailing circumstances.
- Article (2) : Any member who is obliged for any reason to leave the Majlis premises during the sessions , should excuse himself from the President of the Majlis or the Chairman of the concerned Committee, as per prevailing circumstances.

- Article (3) :** All members shall have Freedom of speech inside the Majlis. Members, whether inside or outside the Majlis, should not commit acts that contravene the rules of Law or these regulations , should give due respect to the State.
- Article (4) :** Members should not commit any of the following acts:
- a. Disclose any information relating to the discussions at the Majlis, the Majlis Bureau, and the Committees.
  - b. Allow non-Majlis members to peruse the minutes of the meeting of the above organs. Members of the Majlis Bureau and Committees shall not allow other members of the Majlis to peruse the minutes of meetings of the Bureau or the Committees, except by the written consent of the President.
- Article (5) :** In all cases, a member shall not exploit his status to obtain personal privileges and he shall refrain from raising any personal issues for discussion before the Majlis.
- Article (6) :** No penal action for a non-attested crime shall be taken against any member during sessions without the Majlis permission. Such permission shall be obtained from the President in between sessions.

#### Chapter Two : The Majlis Main Organs

- Article (7) :** The main organs of the Majlis are defined as follows:
- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| First  | <a href="#">The President of the Majlis</a> |
| Second | <a href="#">The Majlis Bureau</a>           |
| Third  | <a href="#">The Committees</a>              |
| Fourth | <a href="#">The General Secretariat</a>     |

#### Chapter Three : The Majlis Duties & Rules of Performance

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#### Chapter Four : Meetings Procedure

- Article (79) :** The Members should regularly attend the Majlis and the Committees meetings. In case of his inevitable absence from one of the Majlis sessions or meetings the member should notify in writing either to the Chairman of the Majlis or the Head of the concerned Committee as per prevailing circumstances. The rules of works of the Majlis shall specify the number and date of the meetings during each session. A meeting may be adjourned by the Majlis approval to an unspecified date. In such cases the Chairman shall specify the date of the next meeting and notify the members thereof. The Chairman may, in urgent cases call upon the Majlis to convene before the date fixed for the meeting.
- Article (80) :** The Majlis meeting shall be held in-camera and shall only be attended by its members, the Secretary General, members of the staff permitted to attend and others who are invited to any one of the meetings.
- Article (81) :** Meetings in which services Ministers present their reports and answer members' questions, shall be reported through national media. The media coverage of the members questions and the answers to these questions should be done in accordance with the norms observed by the Omani society. Broadcasting should be in suitable periods fixed by the competent authorities to ensure full benefits.
- Article (82) :** The following points should be observed in the Majlis meeting in which the service Ministers present their statements:
- a. The statement of the Minister shall be distributed to the members in ample time before the start of the meeting, to enable them study it carefully. The President of the Majlis shall briefly acquaint the concerned Minister with the main issues that shall be raised by the members to enable him make available all the necessary information and data that help the citizens follow up the matter in question.
  - b. The members' questions shall be specific, direct and related to the nature of the Minister or the government official's work. The Minister or the government official may abstain from answers for which they do not have enough information, or the questions that are out of their competences.
  - c. Comments on the Minister's answers or any inquiries about them should be given in an in-camera meeting held at the Majlis or committees level, as necessitated by the nature of each issue raised for discussion.
- Article (83) :** Lists shall be available to members, half an hour before the opening of the meeting to sign their names for attendance. Other lists shall also be available for their signature as per the system approved by the Majlis Bureau.
- Article (84) :** The Chairman shall open the Majlis meetings provided that they are attended by, at least, two thirds of the members. If quorum is not reached at the opening time, The Chairman shall adjourn the meeting for half an hour. If the quorum is still not reached after this time, the President shall adjourn it and fix a date for the meeting.
- Article (85) :** After the meeting is open, the Secretary General shall read out the names of the members excusing themselves and those who are absent. Then the Majlis shall consider the subject on the Agenda
- Article (86) :** Discussions on subject not enlisted on the Agenda shall not take place unless so required by the Government or the President.
- Article (87) :** The Secretary General shall file members' applications to speak as per sequence of their request.
- Article (88) :** No member shall speak in the meeting unless he requests to do so and being permitted by the President. Except for requests to expedite reports on subject referred to the Majlis ' Committees, nobody shall be allowed to speak on any subject referred to any of the committees unless the committee's report has been submitted and tabled.
- Article (89) :** Without prejudice to any special provision regarding priorities of speech, the President shall grant permissions to members who wish to speak, as per sequence of their applications and in compliance with the course of discussion. Any member who had filed an application may waive his turn to another.
- Article (90) :** Government officials may appear before the Majlis or its committees as per their requests, and they are obliged to appear in response to the Majlis ' invitation to deliver a statement or clarification about the policy of their Ministry or the Government. The government officials, in such cases , shall not have the right to vote.
- Article (91) :** Any member may request clarification on a particular matter and hear the reply from the government official who delivers a statement or clarification as per his own request or in response to an invitation by the Majlis, provided that the clarifications are in respect of an important issue of public interest.
- Article (92) :** When expressing his point of view, the member should not go beyond the subject in issue, and should restrict himself to the rules of discussion and take care not to repeat his opinions or the opinions of those who spoke before him. Only the President of the Majlis has the right to remind the member that he has deviated from the subject in issue, or that his opinion has been clearly stated and the President may fix the time that he sees suitable for any member to express, within its limits, his opinions about an issue. It is not permissible for any member to use inapt or vulgar words or unseemly expressions that might harm the Majlis. The Chairman of the Majlis, or people and institutions, or might touch the public decency and order. Further more , it is not allowed to be involved in what might detriment the Basic Statute of the State, the dignity of the Government or the due order of the meeting.
- Article (93) :** No body except the President shall interrupt the member or make any remarks to him. If the President drew the attention of the member to a certain point twice during his speech in one meeting, and the speaker didn't comply with the President's request, the President may refuse to allow the member to speak for the rest of the meeting.
- Article (94) :** Has the Majlis decided to forbid any member to speak but he did, or tried to disturb the general order, the Chairman may decide to remove him from the meeting hall. This will result in depriving the member from taking part in the Majlis proceedings for the remaining part of that meeting, exclude his statement from the minutes, and consider him as absent.
- Article (95) :** In case the President decided to bar the member from attending the rest of the meeting, and the member failed to do so voluntarily, The Chairman may suspend the meeting and take the necessary action to enforce his decision. In this case, the deprivation of the member will automatically extend to the next three meetings.

<b>Article (96) :</b>	The member who has been deprived from attending the proceeding of the Majlis as per the above article, may request suspension of the decision as from the next day of its issue by expressing regret to what has happened and apologize in writing for his disrespect to the decision of the President. The apology shall be read in the first coming meeting.
<b>Article (97) :</b>	The Secretary General shall supervise editing minutes of the Majlis meetings according to the directives of the President. The minutes shall be signed either by the President or the member Presiding over the meeting, as necessary, and the Secretary General. It shall be kept in the records of the General Secretariat of the Majlis. Nobody except the members shall be entitled to peruse the Majlis meetings minutes.
<b>Article (98) :</b>	Voting may be taken by raising hands or by any other means determined by the Majlis. In case of failure to obtain a clear result by raising hands, voting shall be obtained by calling members' names. No discussion or new views shall be expressed during the voting. The Chairman shall cast his vote after all members have done so.
<b>Article (99) :</b>	The Majlis recommendations shall be issued by majority votes of, least, two thirds of the attending members.
<b>Article (100) :</b>	The Chairman shall declare to the members the Majlis ' recommendations according to the voting results. No comments on the recommendations shall be made after their declaration. The Chairman shall also declare the suspension of the meeting or its termination as well as the date and time of the next meeting.
<b>Article (101) :</b>	The General Secretariat shall edit verbatim minutes for every meeting in which all procedures, subjects, discussions and recommendations made shall be put in writing. The General Secretariat shall take appropriate measures to maintain the secrecy of these verbatim minutes.
<b>Article (102) :</b>	The Chairman may decide to exclude from the verbatim minutes any part of speech delivered by a member in violation to the rules of these regulations.
<b>Article (103) :</b>	The General Secretariat shall distribute verbatim minutes of the session's meeting after they are typed. Distribution shall take place at least three weeks before the beginning of the next session. Any member who attends the meeting shall be entitled to apply for endorsing the corrections he considers appropriate in the minutes of the said meeting. The applications shall be presented by the member to The General Secretariat in writing within, at most, ten days from the date at which he received his copy of the minutes.
<b>Article (104) :</b>	The session's verbatim minutes shall be submitted to the Majlis at its first coming session and the verbatim minutes of each meeting shall be accompanied with the relevant applications for correction. When the Majlis approves the correction, it shall be confirmed in the minutes of the meeting at which it was approved and the minutes of the previous meeting shall be corrected accordingly. No corrections in the minutes shall be made after its endorsement. It shall be signed by the President and the Secretary General and shall be kept in the records of the Majlis. The verbatim minutes of the last session at the end of the Majlis term shall be endorsed by the Majlis Bureau.

#### Chapter Five : The Majlis Affairs

Click on relevant links :

[The Majlis Budget and Accounts](#)

[Keeping Order in the Majlis](#)

#### Chapter Six : Final Provisions

<b>Article (110) :</b>	With the exception of the statements submitted to the Majlis by the Ministers or other government representatives in regard to the Ministry or government plans, no issue shall be submitted to the Majlis or be included in its Agenda before satisfying the criteria of availability of all its details, information and related studies.
<b>Article (111) :</b>	The General Secretariat shall provide a number of files containing copies of the details, information and related studies referred to in the previous article. These files shall be put at the disposal of the members who wish to peruse them inside the Majlis premises before the meetings.

### Rules and Procedures Regulating the work of the Majlis A'Shura

#### 1.Majlis Sittings

##### A.Timing of the Sittings during the Annual Term

The Majlis sitting shall be held on the first Monday of the Gregorian month, unless the Majlis decides otherwise or there are urgent matters which necessitate the convening of the sitting. If the sitting does not cover all the items of its agenda, the Majlis shall decide to examine these items in another session, as per circumstances.

##### B.Agenda of the Majlis Sitting

1.The following items shall be included in the agenda of each sitting:

- a. Approving the minutes of the previous sitting which shall be forwarded to the members, at least, one week before the next sitting. The members shall present requests for voting, if any, within two days after receiving the minutes.
  - b. Letters and documents related to the Majlis affairs referred to it, except whatever requires urgent consideration by the Chairman and he shall inform the Majlis about the same in the next sitting. The letters and documents included in the agenda shall be read out to the Majlis. Any member who wishes to comment on their contents can do so once for five minutes. The total duration of commentary shall not exceed thirty minutes for all speakers.
  - c. Urgent issues and topics referred by His Majesty the Sultan or the Government or what shall be presented by the Chairman or the reports that shall be submitted by the organs and committees of the Majlis with regard to these matters and topics.
  - d. Requests for debate.
  - e. Questions [Those stipulated in Article 5- chapter 3 of the Internal Regulations of the Majlis].
  - f. Desires.
  - g. Ministerial Statements.
  - h. Annual Ministerial reports.
  - i. Reports and recommendations of committees on issues which are not urgent.
  - j. Foreign Assignments.
- 2.The agenda shall be distributed to the members ,at least, one week before the sitting.

3.The reports of the Secretariat General on the work and activities of the Majlis and its organs shall be prepared every two months and shall be submitted to the members for their perusal and information.

##### C.System of the Sittings

- 1.Each sitting shall last for four hours at most, including one hour break for noon prayer and lunch. The sitting shall start at 10:00 and ends at 15:00 at most
- 2.The items on the agenda shall be presented in order of submission. Taking into consideration what has been mentioned in other items, debate shall commence and be closed on each item separately and voting on them and the decision of the Majlis to this effect shall be announced.
- 3.Opinion on closing the debate on the subject shall be taken when six members speak about it, three in favor and three opponents, and after listening to rapporteur replies to them. The Speaker may not ask for closing the debate immediately after giving his speech. The debate may be closed as per a proposal by the Chairman if he deems the topic has been thoroughly examined.
- 4.The member who speaks on the subject of one item, shall not do so more than twice for a period not exceeding four minutes at one time, taking into consideration that priority shall be given to who has not made comments before
5. With exception to what has been mentioned in Item 4 above-mentioned, the members shall be given permission to speak, at any time, to support the provisions of the Basic Statute of the State, or the Rules of the Majlis or to request the closure of debate, or to postpone examining a topic being presented for debate.
- 6.While taking opinion, each member shall express his opinion on any topic. Those who abstain from voting may be asked to give reasons for abstention, after taking opinion and before announcing the result. Those who abstain shall not be considered as supporters or opponents of the topic.
- 7.It shall not be permissible to read out statements during the sitting, except reports, papers or documents that support the speaker. It shall not also be permissible to read out the statements submitted to the Majlis and are distributed to the members in due course of time before the sitting.

#### 2. Committees' Affairs

##### A.Formation of Standing Committee

The Standing Committees of the Majlis shall be formed , taking into consideration the following:

- 1.Selection for membership of each committee shall be according to the desire of the members, giving priority to appropriate qualification as regards competences of the committee or those who have already joined them.
- 2.Representation of the Governorates and the regions of the Sultanate in the membership of each committee, if possible.
- 3.The members of the Governorates and the regions shall not exceed 1/4 of the members of each committee, if possible.

##### B.Work of the Committees

- 1.The following shall be among the competences of the committee
  - a.Study the draft laws and topics referred to it by the Majlis or its Chairman.
  - b.Study annual ministerial reports related to the work of the committee.
  - c.Propose draft laws within the competences of the committee.
  - d.Propose amendments to the laws in force which are within the competences of the committee.
  - e.Co-ordination with the Office of the Majlis with regard to proposal related to Ministers who shall present their statements before the Majlis, the subject of the Ministerial statement, preparation for the session during which the Minister will give his statement, in case of approval of the proposal of the committee.

f.Follow-up policies, plans, development projects, in connection with the work of the committee. Follow-up implementation of allocations, as mentioned in the State General Budget for each Fiscal Year, of sectors and affairs pertaining to the activities of the committee.

2. The committee shall annually submit its proposal regarding the subject it is intending to study to obtain the approval of the Majlis, or when it is submitting its final report, asks for permission to study a subject among those whose priority has been determined.
3. The committees shall commit themselves that their subjects for study shall be specific and confined to a partial framework rather than a comprehensive entire study. The study shall treat a specific issue of importance and priority in its report and recommendations. The Report shall also be direct, brief, from introductions and elaborate recitals. The committee may attach what it deems as important for its work, along with report as annexes. This includes a separate clarification notes required by the study. The number of any original report shall not exceed by any means twenty pages.
4. Deadlines shall be fixed for the committee to complete their studies on topics or what they have been charged with or referred to them. In case which are not urgent, the period allocated for the study of any subject shall not exceed four month extendable to another two months, subject to the approval of the Office of the Majlis, if the committee submits reasonable reasons for the delay.
5. The committee shall continue their work to complete their work in between the annual sitting during which the sittings of the Majlis stop while the work of the committees continues
6. As per Article 39 of the Internal Regulations of the Majlis, as regard enforcement of the Rules and Procedures of the Standing Committees on the formation of sub-committees, it is stipulated that the quorum for the meeting of these sub-committees shall be two-thirds of the members, and decisions shall be adopted by two-thirds of the present members, minutes and agenda shall be prepared for their meetings. The provisions of sub-committees shall be applicable on working teams.
7. The committee shall have a specific work plan and executive programme to achieve the work it is entrusted to study.
8. Members of the Majlis may attend meeting of the committee to which they are not members. They may take part in discussions and give opinion, but do not participate in voting, provided that they ask permission from the committee to this effect. The committee can call members of the Majlis whose experience and specialization can be beneficial to it, if it deems that as appropriate. Each member of the Majlis shall provide the committees with written opinions and proposal on topics they are studying. In this case the committee call him to attend its meetings which shall be dedicated to study these opinions and proposals.
9. The committee shall prepare and draft its report on any topic it is studying, after meeting all its elements, checking data, available studies related to it, which enables the Majlis to make its opinion and make its decision about it. The report of the committee shall have to include the basis of the topic referred to it, the views and results it has reached about it and its recommendations, reasons and justification on which it has relied when making these recommendations.
10. The committee may ask for the return of the report submitted to the Majlis, as per a request by its Head or the Chairman of the Majlis, if new developments or details necessitate reconsideration of the report. The committee shall decide, following the study on a specific issue, that it agrees with the policy of the Government as regards this topic and that there is no need to furnish recommendations, and shall submit its final report to the Majlis or information and perusal

### 3-Work of the Majlis

#### A. Debate on the report of the committees

1. The debate on the report of the committee shall start before the Majlis by a brief presentation by the rapporteur on the subject of the report, then a general discussion, to be followed by voting on the approval or disapproval of the study in principle. It may not be possible to request keeping the report after its general discussion, taking of opinion and its approval in principle. The member who requests keeping the report shall have to ask that during the general discussion, giving reasons and justifications on which he relies. Opinion is taken after six members speak about the topic, three in favor and three opponents, and after listening to the rapporteur's and the head of the committee's reply to them.
2. Following the preliminary approval to the report of the committee, the Majlis shall start discussing the topic item by item, giving its opinion on each item after discussion, and listening to the remarks and amendments of the members to each item, as well as the reply of the rapporteur. Opinion shall be taken after discussion on the entire report. The concerned committee shall be authorized to examine and draft it in light of the discussion and recommendations. If the committee includes in the report effective ideas and new recommendations, amending what has been endorsed by the Majlis, it shall present these recommendations to the Majlis in the nearest next sitting to discuss and give opinion on them in light of the brief clarification given by the rapporteur of the committee on what committee has added to the report.
3. Following its approval and endorsement, the report shall be submitted to His Majesty the Sultan or the Council of Ministers, as per circumstances, within ten days from its final endorsement.

#### B. Review of draft laws

1. The Chairman of the Majlis shall announce, in the next sitting following reference of the draft law, the deposit of the law at the Majlis, and give instruction for its distribution to the members and its reference to the concerned committee. This shall be by a decision of the Majlis or forwarding by the Chairman who will inform the Majlis about the same.
2. Preliminary discussion shall take place on the draft when deposited and distributed, the members shall be instructed to give their proposals in writing to the concerned committee.
3. The concerned committee shall have to examine the draft law within a period not exceeding three months, unless the report is urgent, then the Majlis may instruct the committee to complete the study within the periods it deems as appropriate. For studying the report, the committee shall take the following measures:
  - a. Requests all studies, explanations, data on which the Government has relied for preparation of the draft law, call Government officials and specialists who contributed to the preparation of the draft law to present the draft before the committee, clarify its background, its details, targeted purposes, and participate in the discussions on the draft
  - b. Seek the assistance of the members of the Majlis for participation in the study of the draft law and attend its meetings without having the right for voting.
4. The committee shall prepare its report on the draft law in the form of a comparative schedule showing provisions of the draft law and the amendments of the committee and the justification for these amendments. The report shall be confined to the review of the rules and provisions of the draft law, without elaboration by giving general recommendations on the subject of the draft law not relevant to the law. If these recommendations have direct relevance to the law, it will be enough to refer to them at the beginning of the report.
5. The concerned committee shall hold a joint meeting with the Legal Committee to put the proposed amendments to the draft law in the appropriate legal drafting and coordinate the provisions of the law, and then submit its report to the Majlis.
6. When submitting the report of the concerned committee to the Majlis, it shall be examined according to the following rules and measures:
  - a. The debate shall begin with a brief presentation of the rapporteur. The report shall have to include the original draft law, as well as the amendments made by the committee and justifications for that.
  - b. This shall be followed by general discussion on the draft law regarding the principles and the basis on which it is based. The floor shall be given to the rapporteur of the committee, the representative of the Government and then the other members.
  - c. The general discussion shall be closed and opinion taken on the draft law in principle.
  - d. This shall be followed by detailed discussions including reading out items which have been amended article by article and text of these amendments, discussion of amendments by the Majlis. New amendments shall be presented during the discussion and it is preferable to be in writing.
  - e. Discussion shall be closed on each item and its amendments. Opinion shall be taken on the amendments, starting by the one with great scope, then on the entire article.
  - f. If the Majlis endorses amendment to an article opposing the provisions of other articles it has approved, or amendments shall have to be made to the provisions these articles, the Majlis shall return to their discussion to ensure coordination and non-contravention of the provisions.
  - g. The members shall have the right to present their written proposals submitted to the concerned committee, and give their points of views about them upon deliberation and discussion, in case the committee has not accepted these proposals. The rapporteur of the committee shall reply giving justifications for not accepting them. The Majlis opinion with regard to these proposal shall be taken.
  - h. Deliberation may be repeated on an article or more as per the justified request by the Government or the Chairman of the Majlis or the concerned committee or five members of the Majlis. Discussion shall be confined to these articles only.
  - i. Opinion shall be taken on the entirety of remaining articles of the draft law to which no amendments have been made.
  - j. The Majlis shall vote finally on the entire draft law, and shall refer it to the concerned committee in conjunction with the Legal Committee to put in the final drafting as per endorsement of the Majlis, within a period not exceeding two weeks.
7. The laws in force to be examined by the Majlis for promotion shall be considered as a draft law. The opinion of the Majlis on what the committees intend to study for promotion among the laws in force, shall have to be asked first, and a report on the need for amendment to the law in force and its preliminary ideas regarding this amendment shall be presented to the Majlis by the said committee.

#### D. Examination of Draft Development Plans

Taking into consideration the amendment to Article 29 [d] by the Royal Decree No. 74/2003 amended by the Royal Decree No. 86/97 on the Council of Oman, and taking into consideration non-contravention of any provision of part 3, chapter 3 of the Internal Regulations of the Majlis A'Shura with provisions of Article 29 [d], the following procedures and rules shall be applicable on the draft development plans submitted by the Government to the Majlis:

1. The draft development plan shall be referred, as being submitted by the Government to the Economic Committee to examine it urgently. The Majlis shall be informed about this in the next sitting. The focal points of the plan and its objectives, its most important financial and investment data shall be distributed to the members.
2. The members are advised to submit their proposals and ideas about the draft plan in writing to the Economic Committee, and determine their right to attend the meetings of the committee when examining these proposals which should be collected by the committee in a complementary report giving its opinion about them.
3. The Heads of the Permanent Committees shall be considered as members in the Economic Committee as soon as the draft plan has been referred to it, until the Majlis completes its examination.
4. A deadline shall be fixed for the committee to complete the study of the draft plan.
5. The committee can call government officials and experts who participated in making the draft plan to attend its meetings to inform about the details of the draft, its background, and give opinion on the proposals being submitted, without having the right for voting.
6. The Economic Committee shall submit, through the Presidency, sectorial plans and its drafts to the concerned committees of the Majlis to give opinion and proposals about these sectorial plans in reports to be submitted to the committee to take what it deems as appropriate to this effect.
7. After completion of the study of the draft plan, the committee shall prepare its report and recommendations about it, and submit it to the Majlis. The report shall be distributed to the members, at least three days, before the session dedicated for its discussion.
8. The Majlis shall dedicate several sessions to discuss the report of the committee. The Minister shall be invited to attend these sessions along with senior officials he nominates from his Ministry. The discussion shall be according to the following procedures:
  - a. The discussion shall begin with a presentation of the report and the recommendations by the rapporteur of the committee as well as the amendments made to the draft plan. The rapporteur shall point out the written proposals submitted to the committee and the stand of the committee towards it.
  - b. Discussion on the amendments on the committee to the draft plan. Opinion shall be taken on it item by item, after listening to the rapporteur and the representative of the Government.
  - c. Any member of the Majlis shall have the right to take part in the discussion by giving opinion on the proposal or supporting written proposals he has submitted to the committee and have not been included in its report. Opinion shall be taken on these ideas and proposals, if they are approved, they shall be included in the committee's report. If these proposals have great impact on the recommendations, it shall be referred to the committee to reconsider its recommendation in light of the same.
  - d. The Majlis shall complete its examination of the draft development plan by voting on the entire plan after taking opinion on the report of the Economic Committee.

#### E. Drafts of the State General Budget

As per the provisions of the amendments issued by the Royal Decree No. 74/2003, the Majlis shall apply on the draft of the State General Budget the same rules and measures as proposed in Item 8 above-mentioned on the examination of the development plan. Copies of the draft budget shall be distributed to the members.

#### F. Desires

1. Proposals concerning desires on issues within the competences of the Majlis, as per the provisions of Article No. [67] of the Internal Regulations of the Majlis, shall be submitted and each proposal shall give reasons and justification for submitting it. Members of the Majlis shall focus on submitting desires related to general issues, improvement of the Government performance, and treatment of obstacles of the economic sector.
2. The proposal of a desire shall be included in the next sitting following its submission, unless excluded by the Chairman, upon the approval of the Office, as per the provisions of Article [69] of the Internal regulations. The Chairman shall inform the Majlis about excluded proposals of desires in turn and the reasons for that, without submitting decisions of exclusion for discussion or taking of opinion.
3. When submitting a proposal of a desire to the Majlis, other than last case mentioned in item [2] above-mentioned, discussion for a limited period not exceeding half an hour in which two supporters and two opponents take part, in addition to the member who submitted the proposal. Then opinion shall be taken on the topic, and make a decision in one of the following forms:
  - a. Keep the topic
  - b. Refer to the Economic Committee

- c. Approve the proposal of desire and examine it urgently
  - d. Clarify the opinion of the Government on the proposal of desire and submit these clarifications to the Majles as soon as they are submitted.
4. When a proposal of a desire is submitted to the concerned committee, it shall examine, study, and prepare its report on it within a period of one month. The report shall be submitted to the Majles for discussion and taking what it deems as appropriate to this effect. The member who submitted the proposal shall be invited to take part in the meeting dedicated for the examination of his proposal without having the right for voting.
  5. Presenters of proposals of desires shall have the priority of speech in the sessions discussing their proposals.
  6. Desires related to one topic or topics which are connected shall be merged to be examined at one time.
  7. A monthly session of the Majlis shall be held to examine proposals of desires, or an hour of each session shall be dedicated to, if necessary, shall be dedicated to examine such proposals.
  8. The Government shall be informed about the decision of the Majles on these proposals of desires for implementation within its general policy.

#### G. Questions

A questions means the definition stipulated in Article [70] , part 5 chapter 3 of the Internal regulations. The following rules and procedures shall be applicable:

1. The members of Majles A'Shura may ask questions to the service Ministers. The written questions and their topics shall be announced in each sitting to inform the Majles about them and what has been taken to this effect.
2. A summary of the question and those who submitted them shall be published periodically as well as the response of the concerned authorities in the mass media, within the press coverage of the work of the Majles.
3. The Majles may merge questions submitted by the members on one topic or connected with each other to be examined in one sitting.
4. It shall be agreed with Council of Minister, as a general rule, that Minister or whoever is authorized from the Under Secretaries at his Ministry shall reply to the written questions.

#### H. Request for Discussion

1. Each application for discussion shall be accompanied by a note clarifying the subject, justification, and focal points for discussion .
2. The request for discussion shall be submitted to the Majles during the next session following its submission for endorsement and approval. The following rules and procedures shall be observed during the discussion:
  - a. One of the presenters of the request shall present it briefly.
  - b. The floor shall be given, at least, to two supporters and two opponents of the topics. One of the presenters of the request for discussion shall comment on these speeches. Discussion shall not last more than half an hour except with approval of the Majles.
  - c. Discussion shall be closed and opinion shall be taken on the approval or rejection, or reference of the request to the concerned committee for study and giving opinion
  - d. If the Majlis approves the request of discussion it shall be submitted to the concerned Minister. The concerned committee shall make preparation for request of discussion with the participation of the presenters of the request, not exceeding five members. If it has been referred to the concerned committee before submitting it to the Minister, it shall give within two weeks its opinion on the request of discussion, which shall be presented to the Majlis to assist it in making its decision on the approval or rejection .
3. The Majlis shall dedicate a special sitting , as per the provisions of the regulations, to exchange views with the concerned Minister on the request of discussion. The discussion shall be as follows:
  - a. The Minister shall give a clarification on the subject of the request for discussion within fifteen minutes.
  - b. The discussion by the members shall commence by giving the opportunity to five of the presenters of the request and three members of the concerned committee, Number of participants in the discussion should not exceed thirty.
  - c. The Minister shall give reply to the discussion and proposals by the members at one time or in groups of five members or more within thirty minutes. Three members shall be given the opportunity to comment on the replies of the Minister
  - d. Following the closure of discussion and the departure of the Minister, the Majles shall take a decision on the request of discussion and the need for submitting a recommendation or a desire to this effect. If the Majles decides to issue a recommendation on the issue, it shall refer it to the concerned committee to prepare this recommendation in light of the discussion with the Minister within a period not exceeding fifteen days as from the date submitting the issue to it.
  - e. When the committee studies and prepares its recommendation on the request of discussion, it shall call those who have presented the request to take part in its meetings dedicated for its study.
  - f. The report on the request of discussion referred to it shall be submitted to the first session following preparation of the report. After the discussion, the recommendations endorsed by the Majles shall be submitted to His Majesty the Sultan or the Council of Ministers , as per circumstances.
4. There shall not be a programme prepared in advance on requests of discussion, and these requests shall not be related to the program of Ministerial statements.

#### I. Study of the Annual Ministerial Reports

1. The Ministerial reports shall be presented to the Majles as soon as they are submitted to it to hold a general discussion on them which ends in one of the following decisions:
  - a. Keep the topic
  - b. Refer it to the concerned committee for study and giving opinion
  - c. Authorize the Office of the Majles to take whatever it deems as appropriate in light of the discussion.
  - d. Propose invitation of the Minister to deliver a statement or clarify on one or some of the topics included in the report.
2. If the annual Ministerial statements have been referred to the concerned committees, the most probable measure, the committee shall study the report and its contents in light of the discussion at the Majles, prepare a report on its remarks and recommendations within a month. The committees shall determine the guidance means which assist them to study and revise these Ministerial reports.
3. The remarks and proposals of the committees on the annual Ministerial reports shall be presented to the Majles to take its final decision to this effect after discussion of these remarks and proposals. The final decision shall be one of the following alternatives:
  - a. keeping the topic
  - b. Refer the remarks and proposals to the Council of Ministers.
  - c. Propose invitation of the Minister to deliver a statement or a clarification before the Majlis on specific policy or programme or topics which have attracted the attention of the Majlis while discussing and revising these reports.
4. When a proposal of a desire is submitted to the concerned committee, it shall examine, study, and prepare its report on it within a period of one month. The report shall be submitted to the Majles for discussion and taking what it deems as appropriate to this effect. The member who submitted the proposal shall be invited to take part in the meeting dedicated for the examination of his proposal without having the right for voting.
5. Presenters of proposals of desires shall have the priority of speech in the sessions discussing their proposals.
6. Desires related to one topic or topics which are connected shall be merged to be examined at one time.
7. A monthly session of the Majlis shall be held to examine proposals of desires, or an hour of each session , if necessary, shall be dedicated to examine such proposals.
8. The Government shall be informed about the decision of the Majles on these proposals of desires for implementation within its general policy.

## 4. Membership Affairs

### A. Regulations for the Members' Attendance of the Meetings

1. If the member is absent from any of the sittings of the Majles or the meetings of the Office or the committees, he shall inform the Chairman of the Majles or the Head of the committee as per circumstances, giving the reasons and justifications for absence, in due course of time before the next sitting. The member shall not agree to attend a meeting and apologize on the day of the sitting or a day before it, unless in emergency cases.
2. The names of absentees shall be accurately registered on the minutes of the sitting or meetings, and the names of those who apologize and the justifications of their absence.
3. The member of the Majls may not ask for open holiday, and shall not be absent on holiday for more than a month without permission from the Chairman of the Majles, and the Majles shall be informed in the next sitting.
4. The Majles shall periodically follow-up the attendance and absence of the members from the sittings or the meetings of the Office or the committees. A monthly report shall be presented to the Majles on attendance and absence of the members. Any member who is absent more than once from the sittings or the meetings of the Office or the committees, shall be informed in writing about the same.
5. Taking into consideration the provisions of item [6] below, if the member has been absent from the sittings or the meetings of the Office or the committees more than three consecutive times without any acceptable reason or five separate times within the term of sittings, he shall be warned in writing. If absence exceeds five consecutive times or seven separate times, he shall be warned again and this warning shall be read before the Majles. If absence exceeds this limit, for the sittings or the meetings of the Office or the committees, the member shall be considered as resigned of the membership of the Office or the committee, and this shall be announced before the Majles, and a substitute shall be selected.
6. If the member is absent for more than half the number of sittings of the Majles or meetings of its Office, if he is a member, or the meetings of the committee of which he is a member during one annual term, the chairman can present the matter to the Majles to take a decision of dropping the membership of the member due to neglect of duties stipulated in Article [4] of the Rules of the Council of Oman. This shall be presented to the Majles before the end of the annual term. The member shall be given one opportunity if he apologizes publicly before the Majles promise to be punctual in conducting his duties and attendance if the sittings of the Majles and its meetings. This apology shall be acceptable once during the one term of the Majles.

### B. The Legal Immunity

As per the provisions of Article [6] of the Internal regulations of the Majles A'shura , concerning immunity of members from taking penal measures against them except with permission of the Majles, unless caught red-handed, the following rules and measures shall be taken in cases requiring the same:

1. The member shall acquire immunity since the date of his membership to the Majles [the date of announcement of the final results of elections], and ends by the expiry of his term of office [end of September preceding the new sitting of the Majles] unless it has been dropped before that for any other reason. The member cannot waive this immunity without the permission of the Majles or its Chairman.
2. The Majles shall be informed about the measures taken in case the member is caught red-handed.
3. Request for permission to waive immunity of a member shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Majles by the Minister of Justice or the Prosecutor General, each as per legal competences.
4. The Chairman shall submit the request for waiving immunity to the Legal Committee to examine it urgently with one week, and inform the Majles about this in the next sitting. The report of the committee shall be presented to the Majles.
5. Examination of the committee and the Majles shall be whether the case is malicious or meant to prevent the member from executing his duties. Evidence for conviction shall not be examined. Whenever they realize that the case is serious, they issue permission to take penal measures against him.
6. The Majles shall issue its decision to waive the immunity or not, following discussion of the report of the Legal Committee. The floor shall be given during discussion to the rapporteur of the Legal Committee and the concerned member or who is being deputized by him from the members , another two members supporting and two opponents of waiving the immunity. The decision shall be made by the majority of two-thirds in a secret ballot, and the member shall be outside the hall during voting.

7. Waiving immunity shall not prevent the member from attending the sittings of the Majles, the meeting of its committees and enjoying his full rights and membership duties. If a judicial verdict has been issued on an offensive or crime impairing honor or honesty, this shall be presented to the Majles to examine dropping his membership for not meeting one of the conditions stipulated in Article [22] of the Regulations of the Majles.

#### **C. Abrogation of Membership**

Membership of the Majles expires by the end of September preceding the new term, unless it has been abolished before that for any legal reason. Membership shall cease to exist in one of the following cases: -Death. -Resignation. -Dropping of membership. Only the Majles determines request of abrogating membership or resignation of its members, as per the provisions of Article [4] of the Regulations of the Council of Oman, and according to the following rules and procedures:

- a. The Chairman shall inform the member about whom request for abrogation of membership has been presented and shall present the matter to the Majles in the following session.
- b. The Majles shall refer the matter to the Legal Committee to examine it and submit a report within two weeks at most, and shall be presented to the Majles in the next session.
- c. Decision of the Majles on abrogation of membership shall be issued within a month as of presenting the report to it, by the majority of two-thirds of members, in a secret ballot.
- d. The concerned member shall have the right to defend himself before the Legal Committee and the Majles, and he can deputize any member to defend him and take part in the discussions, and leaves the meeting upon voting.
- e. Abrogation of the membership shall be effective as of the date of the issuance of the decision of the Majles to this effect.

#### **2. Resignation of a Member**

- a. The resignation shall be submitted in writing and justified to the Chairman of the Majles who shall present it to the Office in a meeting attended by the member who has resigned.
- b. If the member does not give up his resignation, the Office shall refer it to the Majles in its next sitting. The member may give up his resignation before holding this sitting. The resignation shall be considered as final as from the date of its acceptance by the Majles. The decision to this effect shall be issued by absolute majority of the present members.
- c. The member shall present his resignation if he has been appointed in a ministerial position or any other public job during his term of office. In all cases his membership expires as from the date of his appointment in this job.

#### **3. Substitute Member**

- a. In case of demise of a member, the Chairman shall inform the Minister of Interior about the same within three days as from the date of death or the date of knowing this, and shall inform the Majles in the first following sitting and announce the vacancy of the position. If the vacancy is due to dropping of membership or resignation or appointment in a public job, the Majles shall announce the vacancy as from its date, and shall inform the Minister of Interior about the same.
- b. With regard to the provisions of Article [27] of the Internal Regulations of the Majles, the Minister of Interior shall issue a complementary statement about the substitute member, in case of death dropping of membership or resignation, and his membership shall begin as from the date of issuance of this statement and continues until the end of the term of the Majles.