

Pursuant to Article 61 Paragraph 2 and Article 66 Paragraph 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, at its Sessions held on 20 November 2023, the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia adopted the following

## **RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

### **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 1**

(1) The Rules of Procedures shall regulate the organisation and functioning of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia (Assembly) and the Working Bodies of the Assembly (Working Bodies).

(2) In accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, the Working Bodies may adopt Rules of Procedure for their respective work.

#### **Article 2**

(1) The sessions of the Assembly and the meetings of the working bodies shall be open for the public.

(2) The Assembly may decide to work without the presence of the public, under conditions stipulated by the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia (Constitution) and these Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 3**

(1) The Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script shall be the official language in the work of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as the language and script used by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia.

(2) A Member of Assembly, an elected or appointed official who speaks a language other than the Macedonian language, which is spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia, may also speak in the language spoken by at least 20 % of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia at the sessions of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia and at the meetings of the working bodies.

(3) A Member of Assembly who speaks a language other than the Macedonian language which is spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia may preside over a session of the Assembly or chair the meetings of the working bodies in the said language.

(4) A Member of Assembly, an elected or appointed official who speaks a language other than the Macedonian language which is spoken by at least 20% of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia, shall also, in a timely manner, receive and deliver documents to be used at the sessions of the Assembly or the meetings of the Working Bodies in his own language and script.

(5) Citizens of other states who are invited to participate in the work of the Assembly or address the Assembly shall be entitled to speak in their own language.

(6) The speech delivered in a language other than Macedonian must be translated into Macedonian.

#### **Article 4**

- (1) The Assembly shall decide on all issues by public vote.
- (2) The Assembly may use secret voting only to decide on the election, appointment, or dismissal of holders of public and other functions.
- (3) The Assembly may decide to use secret voting upon the proposal of the President of the Assembly or of a Member of Assembly whose request is supported by ten Members of Assembly.

#### **Article 5**

- (1) The Assembly shall be in constant Session.
- (2) The recess period of the Assembly shall last from 1 August to 31 August.
- (3) The President of the Assembly may also convene a session of the Assembly during the recess period.

#### **Article 6**

The Assembly shall be represented by the President of the Assembly.

#### **Article 7**

- (1) The Assembly shall have its stamp.
- (2) The shape of the stamp of the Assembly shall be round. The coat of arms of the Republic of North Macedonia shall be in the middle of the stamp surrounded by the inscription: "Republic of North Macedonia - Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia - Skopje." The stamp shall be inscribed in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script, as well as in the language and script used by the least 20% of the citizens.

#### **Article 8**

The provisions of these Rules of Procedure shall apply accordingly in the work of the Assembly in case of State of Emergency, unless otherwise regulated with the Constitution or these Rules of Procedure.

## **II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY**

### **1. Constitutive Session of the Assembly and verification of the mandates of the Members of Assembly**

#### **Article 9**

- (1) The newly elected Assembly shall meet at a Constitutive Session no later than 20 days after the elections. The Constitutive Session shall be convened by the President of Assembly from the previous composition.
- (2) The President of the Assembly from the previous composition shall determine the day for holding the Constitutive Session within the timeframe of paragraph (1) of this article, based on a previously reached agreement with the representatives of political parties represented in the newly elected Assembly. If an agreement is not reached within 15 days after the elections, the session shall be convened within the period provided for in paragraph (1) of this article.
- (3) If the Constitutive Session is not convened by the President from the previous composition, the Session shall be held on the 21st day from the day of completion of the elections, at 10:00 hours, and it shall be convened by the most senior Member of Assembly by years of age. If the most senior Member of the Assembly by years of age refuses to convene the Session, that right shall pass on to the next most senior Member of Assembly elected, in line up to the elected Member of Assembly who shall agree to convene the first

Session.

(4) Until the election of President of the Assembly, the constitutive session shall be chaired by the most senior Member of Assembly by years of age. If the most senior Member of Assembly by years of age is unable to chair the session for any reason, the right to chair the session shall pass on to the next most senior Member of Assembly elected, in line up to the elected Member of Assembly who shall agree to chair the session.

(5) The agenda of the Constitutive Session shall contain only the items of Chapter II of these Rules of Procedure.

(6) The Constitutive Session shall last a maximum of three days.

(7) The Assembly shall be constituted with the election of President of the Assembly.

(8) The President of the Assembly shall notify the President of the Republic on the constitution of the Assembly and on the election of President of the Assembly.

#### **Article 10**

(1) The Chairperson of the first Session shall appoint two of the elected Members of Assembly who shall, if necessary, substitute the Chairperson in chairing the Session.

(2) The Chairperson shall by a roll-call of the elected Members of Assembly verify the number of the attending elected Members.

(3) The Assembly may be established if the majority of the elected Members of Assembly are attending the Session.

(4) Once the quorum is established, a Chairperson and Members of the Verification Committee of the Assembly (Verification Committee) shall be elected.

#### **Article 11**

Upon the proposal of the Verification Committee, the mandates of the Members of Assembly shall be verified by the Assembly at the Constitutive Session.

#### **Article 12**

(1) The Verification Committee shall be elected by the Assembly at the Constitutive Session, upon the proposal of the Chairperson.

(2) The Verification Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson and four members from among the Members of Assembly belonging to various political parties represented in the Assembly.

#### **Article 13**

The Verification Committee, based on the report of the State Election Commission, shall submit a written report to the Assembly for the election of each Member of the Assembly, with a separate proposal for verification of the mandate for each Member of Assembly.

#### **Article 14**

(1) The Assembly shall review and vote on the report of the Verification Committee as a whole.

(2) A single debate shall be held on the report of the Verification Committee and it may not last more than one day. The voting on the report shall be carried out after the conclusion of the debate, and no later than 24:00 hours.

(3) If the Verification Committee denies the election of a Member of Assembly, it shall suggest to the Assembly to postpone the verification of his/her mandate. The Assembly shall debate and decide separately for each such proposal of the Verification Committee within the timeframe of paragraph (2).

### **Article 15**

The Assembly may postpone the verification of the mandate of a Member of Assembly and decide to require the State Election Commission to perform the necessary insights to check the legality and accuracy of that election and notify the Assembly thereof within 30 days.

### **Article 16**

Until the notification of the State Election Commission is received, the Member of Assembly whose mandate verification is postponed, shall not be entitled to attend the sessions of the Assembly.

### **Article 17**

(1)The verification of the mandates of the Members of Assembly who have become Members of Assembly from the list of candidates for the remaining of the mandate, shall be done by the Assembly at its first subsequent session on the basis of the report from the State Election Commission, and upon the proposal of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues.

(2)Until the election of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues, a proposal for the verification of the mandates of the Members of Assembly referred to in paragraph (1) of this article shall be given by the Verification Committee.

### **Article 18**

Upon the verification of the mandate, a Member of Assembly shall be entitled to rights and obligations stipulated by the Constitution, the law, and these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 19**

(1)The Member of Assembly whose mandate is verified shall be issued an identification card and a card for electronic voting.

(2)The identification card shall include the right to immunity and other rights that may be exercised on the basis of the function Member of Assembly.

(3)The President of the Assembly shall pass more detailed regulations related to the content, form and method of issuing of the identification cards of the Members of Assembly, as well as the registry of the issued identity cards.

(4)The Secretary General of the Assembly shall be responsible for the issuing and the registry of the identification cards.

(5)Identification cards and cards for electronic voting of the Members of Assembly shall be issued in the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script, as well as in the language and script used by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of North Macedonia, if the Member of Assembly speaks a language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic North Macedonia.

## **2. Election of the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues**

### **Article 20**

(1)At its Constitutive Session, upon the proposal of at least ten Members of Assembly, the Assembly shall elect a Committee on Election and Appointment Issues.

(2) Adequate representation of Members of Assembly from political parties represented in the Assembly shall be ensured in the Committee.

(3) Upon the proposal for election of the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues, a single debate shall be held, which may not last more than one day. Voting for the election at

the Committee shall be carried out upon the conclusion of the debate, and no later than 24:00 hours.

### **3. Election of President of the Assembly**

#### **Article 21**

- (1)The Assembly shall elect a President of the Assembly from among its Members.
- (2)For the election of President of the Assembly a single debate shall be held, which may not last more than one day. The vote for the election shall be carried out upon the conclusion of the debate and no later than 24:00 hours.

#### **Article 22**

- (1)A candidate for the position President of the Assembly may be proposed by the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues, or by at least twenty Members of Assembly.
- (2)A Member of Assembly may propose only one candidate for President of the Assembly.

#### **Article 23**

- (1)The proposal for a candidate for President of the Assembly shall be submitted in written form at the session of the Assembly and shall contain the name and surname of the candidate with biography data and an explanation, as well as the names and surnames and signatures of the Members of Assembly who submit the proposal.
- (2) If two or more proposals for a candidate for President of the Assembly are submitted, the order of the candidates for President of the Assembly shall be determined according to the alphabetical order of their surnames.

#### **Article 24**

- (1)The vote for the election of President of the Assembly shall be chaired by the Chairperson.
- (2)If the Assembly decides that the President of the Assembly should be elected by a secret vote, the Chairperson shall be assisted in the election by the Secretary General and three Members of Assembly, elected by the Assembly upon a proposal by the Chairperson, from among the Members belonging to different political parties represented in the Assembly.

#### **Article 25**

The Member of Assembly shall be entitled to vote only for one of the proposed candidates for President of the Assembly. If the Member of Assembly votes for more candidates for President of the Assembly, the voting of that Member of the Assembly shall be declared null and void.

#### **Article 26**

- (1)The candidate who wins the majority of votes out of the total number of Members of Assembly shall be elected as President of the Assembly.
- (2)If there is only one candidate proposed and he/she does not win the necessary majority of votes in the first voting, the complete election procedure shall be repeated.
- (3)If two candidates are proposed for President, and if neither wins the necessary majority of votes during the first round of voting, the vote shall be repeated.
- (4)If three or more candidates are proposed for President of the Assembly, the voting shall be repeated for the two candidates who have won the highest number of votes in the first round of voting.

(5) If among the candidates with highest number of votes, there are candidates with the same number of votes, the voting shall be repeated for all the candidates with highest number of votes.

(6) If during the second round of voting neither of the candidates wins the necessary majority of votes, the complete election procedure shall be repeated.

### **III. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 27**

(1) The Assembly shall elect Vice Presidents of the Assembly from among its Members.

(2) The number of Vice Presidents shall be determined by the Assembly upon a proposal by the President of the Assembly. The Vice Presidents of the Assembly shall be elected from among the Members of Assembly who belong to different political parties represented in the Assembly.

(3) One of the Vice Presidents shall be elected from among the Members of Assembly who belong to the biggest opposition political party represented in the Assembly.

(4) At least one of the Vice Presidents shall be elected from among the Members who belong to the less represented gender.

#### **Article 28**

(1) The provisions of these Rules of Procedure that refer to the nomination of candidates and the election of the President of the Assembly, shall also apply to the nomination of candidates and election of Vice Presidents of the Assembly.

#### **Article 29**

(1) The candidate who received the majority of votes from the total number of Members of Assembly shall be elected as Vice President of the Assembly.

(2) If more candidates are proposed for Vice President than the number to be elected, and the foreseen number is not reached, the voting will be repeated for the election of the number of Vice Presidents who were not elected, from among the candidates who received the highest number of votes.

(3) If the foreseen number of Vice Presidents is not elected in the second round of voting, the procedure for electing the number of Vice Presidents who were not elected shall be repeated.

(4) If as many candidates as necessary to be elected are proposed, and the foreseen number is not elected, the entire election procedure shall be repeated for the number of Vice Presidents who were not elected.

### **III. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

#### **1. Presence at the Session and participation in the work of the Assembly**

#### **Article 30**

(1) Members of Assembly shall have the right and responsibility to attend the sessions of the Assembly.

(2) Members of Assembly shall have the right to participate in the work and the decision making of the Assembly.

### **Article 31**

A Member of the Assembly who is prevented from attending a session of the Assembly shall be obliged to duly inform the President of the Assembly before the start of the session.

### **Article 32**

(1) The President of the Assembly shall call and inform the Member of Assembly who has not attended Assembly sessions three times in a row and has failed to inform the President of the Assembly thereof.

(2) For every further unjustified absence, the President of Assembly shall warn the Member and shall inform thereof the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues and the coordinator of the parliamentary group.

(3) The Member of Assembly who is absent from the sessions of the Assembly at least three times in a row and has not notified the President of the Assembly thereof, shall have a deduction of 5% of his/her salary for each day of absence, for which an act is adopted by the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues.

### **Article 33**

(1) A list of evidence for the presence of the Members of Assembly at the Sessions shall be kept, which shall be open during the proceedings of the Session, and shall be delivered to the President of the Assembly at the end of the working day.

(2) Only Members of Assembly who are on the evidence list shall be entitled to travel allowances.

(3) The President of the Assembly shall inform the Assembly on the presence of the Members on a six months basis.

(4) The Secretary General shall be in charge of managing the list of evidence.

## **2. Parliamentary Groups**

### **Article 34**

(1) Parliamentary groups shall be established in the Assembly.

(2) A parliamentary group shall consist of at least five Members of Assembly elected from the lists of the same political party or coalition of political parties. Members of Assembly elected from the lists of the same political party or coalition of political parties shall belong to the same parliamentary group.

(3) Members of Assembly who are elected from the lists of one political party or coalition of political parties but are less than five Members, may establish a parliamentary group of at least five Members of Assembly together with other Members of Assembly elected from the lists of another political party or coalition of political parties who are also less than five Members of Assembly, or may join any other parliamentary group.

(4) Each Member of Assembly may leave the parliamentary group and join another or act independently as a Member of Assembly who is not organised in a parliamentary group.

(5) A Member of Assembly may be a member of only one parliamentary group.

(6) The parliamentary group shall designate a coordinator of the parliamentary group and up to two deputies. A parliamentary group with more than 30 Members of Assembly shall designate a coordinator of the parliamentary group and up to three deputies.

(7) The parliamentary group shall submit to the President of the Assembly a list signed by each member of the group, the coordinator, and his/her deputy.

(8) The parliamentary group has the right to professional assistance and the right to use a separate office, according to the number of Members of Assembly.

(9) The President of the Assembly shall be informed about a change in the composition of the parliamentary group, the coordinator, and his/her deputy, and shall inform the Members of Assembly thereof.

### **3. The right of the Members of Assembly to information and adequate conditions for exercising the function of Member of Assembly**

#### **Article 35**

(1) All official publications of the Assembly, as well as informational and documentary materials submitted to the Assembly shall be delivered to the Members of Assembly, in a written or electronic format, for the purpose of providing thorough information.

(2) A Member of Assembly shall be entitled to request and receive information from the Secretary General of the Assembly on issues that are important for the exercise of his/her office.

(3) A Member of Assembly shall be entitled to request and receive information and expert assistance from the Staff of the Assembly on issues related to the work of the Assembly and the Working Bodies.

(4) A Member of Assembly shall be entitled to use the library and the documentation of the Assembly to perform his rights and obligations.

(5) The stenographic notes from the session of the Assembly and the meetings of the working bodies, as well as other materials and documents, shall be issued and kept in the Macedonian language and script, as well as in the language and script used by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of North Macedonia.

#### **Article 36**

The Members of Assembly shall be entitled to use the offices in the Assembly that are at their disposal for work and for meetings, in accordance with the act on the internal order in the Assembly that is passed by the President of the Assembly.

#### **Article 37**

(1) Members of the Assembly may organise themselves in the Parliamentary Club.

(2) The organisation, tasks, and the method of functioning of the Parliamentary Club shall be regulated with the rules of the Club.

### **4. Parliamentary questions**

#### **Article 38**

(1) A Member of the Assembly shall have the right to ask the President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (the Government), any Member of the Government and other holders of public office accountable to the Assembly any question related to their work or issues under their authorities.

(2) The question should be short and precise.

(3) The Member of Assembly shall be obliged to indicate to whom the question is addressed.

(4) An evidence list shall be kept for the Parliamentary Questions.

#### **Article 39**



(1) A question shall be asked orally at the session, while in the timeframe between two sessions, in written form, through the President of the Assembly.

(2) If the question concerns a holder of a public office who is not a member of the Government, the Member of Assembly shall inform the President of the Assembly thereof, no later than 24 hours before the beginning of the session.

(3) A separate record/section shall be kept for parliamentary questions submitted in written form between two sessions, which shall be published in a prominent place on the website of the Assembly. The record/section shall contain the questions asked, the deadline in which the question should be answered, the answers to the questions, as well as the questions that have not been answered within the deadline of Article 43 paragraph (2) of these Rules of Procedure.

(4) After receiving a written answer to a parliamentary question submitted in written form between two sessions, the Member of Assembly shall not elaborate thereof at the session for parliamentary questions.

#### **Article 40**

(1) A separate session for Parliamentary Questions shall be convened on the last Thursday of the month.

(2) The session must be attended by the President and the Members of the Government and other holders of public offices for whom it has been announced that they will be asked a question.

(3) If the President of the Government needs to leave the session for objective or urgent reasons, the absence may not be longer than one hour.

(4) A Member of Assembly is entitled to a maximum of three questions at the same Session.

(5) A Member of Assembly may not elaborate longer than 10 minutes when asking a question, and he/she shall be entitled to state whether he/she is satisfied with the answer and ask additional question, in a duration of no longer than three minutes.

(6) The answer to the orally asked question may not last more than ten 10 minutes.

#### **Article 41**

(1) The Members of Assembly shall inform the President of the Assembly about their parliamentary questions, in writing, 24 hours prior to holding of the Session.

(2) The order of asking parliamentary questions shall be determined by the President of the Assembly in agreement with the coordinators of the parliamentary groups in a way that will ensure a ratio of two to one in favour of the Members of Assembly coming from opposition parliamentary groups and Members of Assembly in opposition who are not organised in a parliamentary group.

#### **Article 42**

(1) Parliamentary questions from Members of Assembly coming from opposition parliamentary groups and from Members of Assembly in opposition who are not organised in a parliamentary group shall be asked once a month, on the day of holding the session of the Assembly. If no sessions are convened during the month, the President of the Assembly must convene one session for the purpose of parliamentary questions.

(2) Parliamentary questions from paragraph (1) of this article shall be asked after determining the agenda of the session, for a duration of two hours.

(3) For the parliamentary questions from paragraph (1) of this article, Members of Assembly shall notify the President of the Assembly within five days from the day of convening the session. The order of asking parliamentary questions is determined by the President of the

Assembly in agreement with the coordinators of the opposition parliamentary groups and with Members of Assembly in opposition who are not organised in a parliamentary group.

(4) The President of the Assembly shall notify the President of the Government, the members of the Government and the holders of public offices for whom it has been announced that a question will be asked, about the day and time of the parliamentary questions.

(5) The session must be attended by the President and Members of the Government and other holders of public offices for whom it has been announced that that a question will be asked. If the President of the Government is unable to attend the session due to objective or urgent reasons, he shall appoint an authorised representative.

(6) A Member of Assembly may ask a maximum of three questions at one session, in a duration of no longer than 10 minutes, and the answer may not last longer than five minutes.

(7) The Member of Assembly has the right to state whether he is satisfied with the answer to the question and to ask an additional question, in a duration of no longer than three minutes. The answer to the additional parliamentary question may not last longer than three minutes.

#### **Article 43**

(1) The question asked in written form, in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, shall be delivered by the President of the Assembly to the person to whom it is addressed.

(2) The President of the Government, the member of the Government or other public office holders to whom the question referred to in paragraph (1) of this article is addressed shall submit the answer to the question to the President of the Assembly within 10 days from the date of receiving the question.

#### **Article 44**

(1) An oral question shall be answered at the same session when the question was asked.

(2) The answer to a question addressed to the President of the Government shall be given by the President of the Government or a designated representative of the Government, to a question addressed to a member of the Government, the answer shall be given by the member of the Government, and to a question addressed to a public office holder, the answer shall be given by the public office holder.

(3) As an exception, if the President of the Government, i.e., the representative of the Government, its member, i.e., the holder of a public office, declares that he is unable to give an oral answer at that session for justified reasons, he shall be obliged to give the answer in written form within 20 days.

(4) For the answers from paragraph (3) of this article that are submitted to the Assembly in written form, the same records/section from article 39 of these Rules of Procedure shall be kept.

(5) The written answer shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly, who shall immediately forward it to the submitter of the question and to all Members of Assembly.

#### **Article 45**

The Member of Assembly who asked the oral question, after receiving the answer, has the right to ask an additional question for a duration of three minutes.

#### **Article 46**

If the answer refers to a question that is considered confidential, the Government i.e., public official may propose that the answer be given at a session of the Assembly without the presence of the public. The Assembly shall decide on the proposal in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure.

## **5. Interpellation**

### **Article 47**

(1) An interpellation may be raised by at least five Members of Assembly for the work of any public official, the Government or each Member of the Government separately, as well as on issues related to the work of the state bodies.

(2) The interpellation motion shall be submitted in writing, shall be signed by all Members of Assembly who are submitting it and shall contain explanatory notes.

(3) The interpellation motion shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly, who shall forward it to the person it is addressed to and to all Members of Assembly.

### **Article 48**

The person who is subject to the interpellation shall be entitled to submit a written answer to the President of the Assembly within 15 days from the day of receiving the interpellation motion.

### **Article 49**

(1) The interpellation shall be placed on the agenda of the first subsequent session of the Assembly, after the expiry of 10 days from the day of submission of the answer to the Members of Assembly.

(2) If the answer is not submitted within the deadline established in Article 48 of these Rules of Procedure, the interpellation shall be placed on the agenda at the first subsequent session of the Assembly.

(3) The Assembly shall, as a rule, consider the interpellation as the first item on the agenda, within 10 working days from the day the person subject to interpellation submits the answer, i.e. within 10 working days from the expiration of the deadline referred to in Article 48 of these Rules of Procedure.

(4) If several interpellation motions are submitted and the deadline for their consideration from paragraph (3) of this Article has been met, the order of consideration is made according to the time of the submitted answers, that is, according to the expiration of the deadline for submitting the answer.

### **Article 50**

(1) One of the Members of Assembly who have submitted the interpellation motion shall be entitled to give an explanation of the interpellation, in a duration of 20 minutes.

(2) The entity that is subject to the interpellation motion shall be invited at the Session and shall be entitled to explain his/her written answer or give an oral answer to the interpellation, in a duration of 20 minutes.

### **Article 51**

(1) The debate on the interpellation shall last one working day, until the exhaustion of the applicants for the floor, and it shall be decided upon by 24:00 hours at the latest.

(2) The Members of Assembly shall inform the President of the Assembly of their participation in the debate on the interpellation motion, 24 hours prior to holding of the Session.

(3) The order of Members of Assembly by parliamentary groups and Members of Assembly not organised in parliamentary groups who shall participate in the debate, shall be determined by the President of the Assembly in agreement with the coordinators of the parliamentary groups, in a way that will ensure a ratio of two to one in favour of the Members of Assembly coming from opposition parliamentary groups and Members of Assembly in opposition who are not organised in a parliamentary group.

(4) If the Assembly accepts the interpellation, it shall adopt a conclusion containing the position of the Assembly in reference to the contents of the interpellation.

#### **Article 52**

Members of Assembly who have submitted the interpellation motion may withdraw it only prior to the beginning of the debate.

#### **Article 53**

The debate on the interpellation shall be interrupted if:

1. A vote of confidence of the Government is raised;
2. The Government resigns;
3. The President of the Government proposes to dismiss the Government member who is subject to the interpellation, and
4. The public official resigns.

### **6. Keeping confidential information**

#### **Article 54**

- (1) The Member of Assembly shall be obliged to keep the state, official, military and business confidential information (secret), in accordance with the law.
- (2) The information that the Members of Assembly learn at a session of the Assembly or at a meeting of the working body, in connection with the issue discussed without the presence of the public, shall be considered secret.
- (3) All materials submitted to the Assembly and Working Bodies, which are marked as such by the proponent of the material, shall also be considered secret.
- (4) The way of handling and keeping the materials that are considered secret shall be regulated with a special act adopted by the President of the Assembly.

### **7. Immunity of the Members of Assembly**

#### **Article 55**

- (1) The Member of the Assembly shall enjoy immunity from the day of the verification until the day of termination of his/her mandate.
- (2) A request for the approval of the detention of a Member of Assembly shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly by an authorised body. If the request is not submitted by an competent authority, the President of the Assembly shall inform the authority thereof.
- (3) The notification that a Member of Assembly is detained because he was caught committing a crime for which a prison sentence of at least five years is prescribed shall be submitted by the competent authority to the President of the Assembly, who shall deliver it to all the Members of Assembly.
- (4) The authorised body shall inform the President of the Assembly on the detention of a Member of Assembly even when he/she has not claimed his/her immunity.

(5)The President of the Assembly shall immediately submit the request for detention, i.e. the notification from paragraph (4) of this Article about the detention of a Member of Assembly, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues. The Committee shall be obliged to consider the request, that is, the notification, and submit a report to the President of the Assembly within two days.

(6)The Member of Assembly to whom the request refers shall be notified about the meeting of the Committee.

#### **Article 56**

(1) On the basis of the report of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues, the Assembly shall decide on the request within three days at the latest from day of receiving the request for the detention of the Member of Assembly.

(2) After being notified of the detention of a Member of Assembly who has not claimed immunity, the Assembly may decide to apply immunity to the Member of Assembly, if this is necessary for performing the function of Member of Assembly.

#### **Article 57**

The provisions of these Rules of Procedure referring to the immunity of the Members of Assembly shall respectively apply to the immunity of the President of the Government.

### **8. Termination and abrogation of the Member of the Assembly's mandate**

#### **Article 58**

The mandate of a Member of the Assembly shall expire and may be taken away only in cases stipulated by the Constitution, the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 59**

(1)A Member of Assembly may submit a resignation.

(2)The Member of the Assembly shall submit the resignation personally at a session of the Assembly and he/she may explain it.

(3)The Assembly shall, without holding a debate, ascertain that the mandate of the Member of Assembly has ended on the day of the session.

#### **Article 60**

(1)The notification about a Member of Assembly who has been sentenced for a criminal act for which a prison sentence of at least five years is prescribed, shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly by the Court that delivered the sentence.

(2)The President shall immediately distribute the notification from Paragraph (1) of to all the Members of Assembly.

(3)The mandate of a Member of Assembly sentenced for a criminal act for which a prison sentence of at least five years is prescribed shall be terminated. The Assembly shall, on its first subsequent session, acknowledge that the mandate of the Member of Assembly has ended on the day he was convicted and shall notify the State Election Commission thereof.

#### **Article 61**

(1)The notification about a Member of Assembly sentenced for criminal or other punishable act which makes him/her unfit to perform the function of Member of Assembly shall be

submitted to the President of the Assembly by the court that delivered the sentence. The President shall immediately forward the notification to the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues.

(2)The President of the Assembly shall notify the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues about a Member of Assembly who has been absent from the sessions of the Assembly without a justified reason for more than six months.

(3)A proposal for revoking the mandate of a Member of Assembly in the cases referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article, shall be submitted by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues within 15 days of receiving the notification from the President of the Assembly.

(4)The Assembly shall, at its first subsequent session, hold a debate upon the proposal for revoking the mandate of a Member of Assembly submitted by the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues.

(5)The debate may be concluded with a decision to revoke the mandate of the Member of Assembly or with a conclusion that there are no elements for revoking the mandate of the Member of Assembly.

#### **IV. PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ASSEMBLY**

##### **1. President of the Assembly**

###### **Article 62**

The President of the Assembly shall:

1. Represent the Assembly;
2. Convene and preside over the sessions of the Assembly;
3. Ensure the implementation of the Rules of Procedure and give clarification on its application, for which he/she may request an opinion from the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues;
4. At the request of the Vice President of the Assembly proposed by the largest opposition party in the Assembly, the President of the Assembly may oblige the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandate and Immunity Issues to hold a meeting and give an opinion regarding the application of the Rules of Procedure within three days;
5. Determine a working body responsible for considering individual issues submitted to the Assembly (hereinafter: competent working body);
6. Receive, determine from a formal aspect the propriety of a proposal for launching a citizen's initiative for adopting a law, for calling for a referendum at the state level and for submitting a proposal for amending the Constitution and forward it to the competent working bodies;
7. Take care of harmonizing the activities of the Assembly with the President of the Republic and with the Government;
8. Cooperate with the coordinators of parliamentary groups;
9. Carry out international cooperation, on behalf of the Assembly, with parliamentary, diplomatic-consular, and other representatives of foreign countries and international organisations, as well as with other prominent foreign personalities;
10. Monitor the work of the Assembly Staff, takes care of the advancement of their work and the creation of conditions for their modern and efficient operation;
11. Entrust the performance of certain tasks to the Secretary General of the Assembly;
12. Form working groups for consideration of certain issues under the competence of the Assembly;

13. Adopt acts established by these Rules of Procedure and
14. Perform other tasks stipulated by the Constitution, the Law and these Rules of Procedure.

## **2. Vice Presidents of the Assembly**

### **Article 63**

(1) The Vice Presidents of the Assembly shall assist the President of the Assembly and perform other duties in their area of competence.

(2) In the event of the President of the Assembly being prevented or absent from work, one of the Vice Presidents shall replace him according to a pre-established order, taking into account the equal participation of the Vice Presidents.

### **Article 64**

The President of the Assembly, together with the Vice Presidents shall:

1. Ensure the exercise of the rights of the Members of Assembly and the provision of conditions for their work;
2. Plan the dynamics of the Sessions of the Assembly;
3. Decide on the reception of delegations of parliaments of other countries and representatives of other bodies and organisations from abroad and on sending permanent and occasional delegations abroad and in this connection coordinates the activities of the Assembly and the working bodies;
4. Accept the assumption of patronage by the Assembly for separate celebrations of events of importance for the Republic and determines representatives of the Assembly at those celebrations and;
5. Decide on holding meetings and other types of consultative meetings of importance for the work of the Assembly.

## **3. Coordinating the work of the Assembly**

### **Article 65**

((1) The President of the Assembly with the Vice Presidents and coordinators of the parliamentary groups shall:

1. consider matters of importance for the advancement of the work of the Assembly and the working bodies;
2. review issues and initiatives related to the work of the Assembly;
3. plan the activities of the delegations, parliamentary groups for cooperation with other parliaments, joint working groups, and of the Members of Assembly in the realisation of international cooperation and
4. establish quarterly and annual calendars for the work dynamics of the Assembly.

(2) In the annual calendar from Paragraph (1) Point 4. of this article, it is determined which days are intended for sessions of the Assembly, and which days are for meetings of the working bodies.

(3) The President of the Assembly with the Vice-Presidents and coordinators of the parliamentary groups shall work on the basis of harmonizing the views..

### **Article 66**

(1) The President of the Assembly with the Vice Presidents, the coordinators of the parliamentary groups and the Secretary General of the Assembly shall hold regular

coordination meetings every Monday. The coordination meeting may also be held ad hoc. The coordination meeting shall have an advisory role and shall be managed by the President of the Assembly.

(2) The coordination meetings of the Assembly shall also be attended by a representative of the Government.

(3) At the coordination meeting:

1. Harmonization of the work schedule of the working bodies of the Assembly shall be carried out;

2. An annual projection shall be made for holding oversight hearings in terms of their number and dynamics of holding, in accordance with the means and conditions available to the Assembly in the current year;

3. Consultations shall be carried out on certain draft laws;

4. Consultations shall be carried out on the draft agenda for the sessions of the Assembly; and

5. Other issues under the competence of the Assembly shall be considered.

(4) The President of the Assembly shall adopt a Rulebook for the operation of the coordination meetings with the Vice Presidents and coordinators of parliamentary groups.

#### **4. Secretary General of the Assembly**

##### **Article 67**

(1) The Assembly shall have a Secretary General.

(2) The Secretary General shall be appointed by the Assembly at a proposal of the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues.

(3) The Secretary General shall perform the work entrusted to him/her by the President of the Assembly.

(4) The Secretary General shall assist the President of the Assembly in the preparation and organisation of the sessions of the Assembly and perform other duties stipulated by these Rules of Procedure.

(5) The Secretary General shall organise and coordinate the work of the Staff of the Assembly and shall adopt rulebooks, guidelines and other acts on regulating the work of the Staff.

##### **Article 68**

(1) The Assembly shall nominate one or more deputies to the Secretary General at the proposal of the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues.

(2) The Deputy Secretary General shall assist the Secretary General in the work and shall replace him/her in case of his/ her absence or prevention from work.

##### **Article 69**

The procedure for appointing the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, the conditions for their appointment and the duration of their mandate shall be regulated with law.

##### **Article 70**

The Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General shall be accountable for their work and the work of the Staff before the Assembly, whereas for the work entrusted to them by the President of the Assembly, they shall be accountable to the President of the Assembly.



## **VI. DYNAMICS OF WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 71**

The quarterly and annual calendars from Article 65 paragraph (1) item 4. of these Rules of Procedure on the dynamics of the work of the Assembly shall be determined in accordance with the procedures and deadlines established in the Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 72**

The materials received and delivered to the Members of Assembly in the first five working days at the beginning of the month shall be considered in the current month, and the materials that arrive after the fifth working day shall be considered in the following month, unless otherwise regulated with these Rules of Procedure.

## **VII. ASSEMBLY SESSIONS**

### **1. Convening the sessions and proposing the agenda**

#### **Article 73**

- (1) The President of the Assembly shall convene the sessions of the Assembly.
- (2) The President of the Assembly may convene a session at the request of the President of the Republic, the Government or at least 20 Members of Assembly.

#### **Article 74**

- 1) The decision to convene a session of the Assembly with the draft agenda and the materials for the items proposed for the agenda of the session shall be delivered to the Members of Assembly at least 10 working days before the day set for holding the session.
- (2) In urgent cases, the President of the Assembly may convene a session within a period shorter than 10 working days, and he may propose the agenda together with the materials at the session itself.
- (3) The President of the Assembly shall be obliged to explain the urgency of convening the session from paragraph (2) of this article.
- (4) The President of the Assembly shall notify the President of the Republic and the President of the Government about the convening of the session and the draft agenda.
- (5) A session of the Assembly shall be held from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with a break of one hour, unless the President of the Assembly decides otherwise for certain sessions.

#### **Article 75**

- (1) The President of the Assembly shall propose the agenda for the sessions, and the Assembly shall decide thereon at the beginning of the session.
- (2) The President of the Assembly shall include in the draft agenda the items that have fulfilled the relevant conditions stipulated by these Rules of Procedure.
- (3) The President of the Assembly shall be obliged, at the proposal of the Members of Assembly belonging to the opposition, to introduce a new item on the daily agenda which fulfils the conditions stipulated by these Rules of Procedure, at every second session. The proposal should be harmonised at the coordinative meeting of the President of the Assembly, the Vice Presidents, coordinators of the parliamentary groups and Members of

Assembly not organised in parliamentary groups, who submit the proposal. This item shall be considered as the first item of the agenda.

(4) The provision of Paragraph (3) of this article does not apply to the sessions of the Assembly convened in accordance with Article 85 of the Constitution, Article 40 of these Rules of Procedure and to the sessions convened to commemorate significant events and persons.

#### **Article 76**

(1) A Member of Assembly or the Government may, until the agenda of the session is determined, propose the inclusion of items in the agenda, only in cases of urgent need.

(2) The proponents from Paragraph (1) of this article shall be obliged to submit materials in written form and explain the urgency within 10 minutes.

(3) A Member of Assembly or the Government may, after convening the session, propose the postponement or withdrawal of certain items from the agenda and provide a rationale for it.

## **2. Presiding over the Sessions**

#### **Article 77**

(1) The Assembly session shall be presided over by the President of the Assembly.

(2) In case of inability or absence of the President of the Assembly, he/she shall be replaced by one of the Vice Presidents of the Assembly.

(3) If the Vice Presidents are prevented or absent, a Member of Assembly shall be elected at the session of the Assembly to chair the session. Until the election of the Member of Assembly who will chair the session, the session shall be opened and chaired by the oldest Member of Assembly present.

## **3. Presence and participation in the Session**

#### **Article 78**

(1) The President of the Republic may attend the session of the Assembly and participate in its work, for the issues on the agenda that are within his competence as stipulated by the Constitution.

(2) The President of the Government, ministers, and authorised representatives of the proponents of the draft law submitted by at least 10,000 voters may attend the session of the Assembly and participate in its work.

(3) The President of the Assembly may invite representatives of other bodies and organisations to attend the session of the Assembly and to participate in its work when issues under their competence are being considered.

#### **Article 79**

The President of the Assembly may invite high parliamentary and state representatives of other countries and international organisations and other prominent foreign personalities to attend a session and address the Assembly as guests.

## **4. Course of the Session**

### **Article 80**

(1) A session of the Assembly shall start at the scheduled time with the present Members of the Assembly.

(2) The President shall inform the Members of the Assembly about the persons invited at the Assembly session.

### **Article 81**

(1) The Minutes of the sessions of the Assembly shall be adopted before the determination of the agenda.

(2) A Member of the Assembly may make remarks on the Minutes and request changes therein.

(3) The remarks on the Minutes shall be voted without a debate.

(4) The President of the Assembly shall state that the minutes on which no remarks have been made have been adopted, that is, the minutes in which changes and additions have been made.

(5) The adopted minutes shall be signed by the President of the Assembly or the Chair of the session and the Secretary General of the Assembly.

### **Article 82**

Before the adoption of the agenda, the President of the Assembly shall inform the Members of Assembly on any proposals for inclusion, postponement or withdrawal of items from the agenda, in accordance with Article 76 of these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 83**

(1) The Assembly shall decide without debate on each proposal for changes or supplements to the draft agenda, and on the overall draft agenda for the session.

(2) The elaboration for the proposal to amend and supplement the draft agenda shall last for three minutes.

(3) When a number of changes and supplements are made in the draft agenda, the adopted agenda shall be made available to the Members of Assembly in electronic form in the course of the session.

### **Article 84**

(1) The debate on the items in the agenda shall be carried out according to the established order of the agenda.

(2) In the course of the session, and upon a proposal of the President of the Assembly, of the proponent, or a Member of Assembly supported by at least 10 other Members of Assembly, the Assembly may decide without debate to change the order of the items in the agenda, i.e. to hold a single debate on items which are mutually related. The elaboration for the proposal shall last for 3 minutes.

### **Article 85**

(1) The Assembly may not debate issues on which the competent working body and the Legislative Committee have not taken a position, unless otherwise regulated with these Rules of Procedure.

(2) As an exception, the Assembly may debate issues on which the competent working body and the Legislative Committee have not taken a position within the deadlines provided for in Articles 147 and 156 of these Rules of Procedure.

(3) The provision from paragraph (2) of this Article shall not apply to the Electoral Code, the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Law on the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Law on Members of Assembly and the Law on Financing Political Parties.

(4) The Assembly may not debate a draft law that brings it into alignment with the law of the European Union, if the draft law has not been considered by the Committee on European Affairs of the Assembly.

#### **Article 86**

(1) At the beginning of the debate, the proponent i.e. the representative of the proponent, may give additional explanation or clarification for each item in the agenda.

(2) The debate shall last until the list of Members of Assembly who have registered to take the floor is exhausted. The Members of Assembly shall apply for debate within one minute from the opening of the debate. The list of the Members of Assembly may not be changed or supplemented during the debate.

(3) As an exception to paragraph 2 of this Article, the Members of Assembly who, within one minute after the opening of the debate, are prevented to apply for the floor due to attendance at meetings of the Working Bodies or delegations of the Assembly, shall have the right to apply for the floor when then they arrive at the session of the Assembly, if the debate on the item is still ongoing.

(4) The proponent and the coordinators of the parliamentary groups may apply to take the floor during the debate.

(5) The President of the Assembly shall conclude the debate after he/she determines that the list of speakers has been exhausted.

#### **Article 87**

(1) The President of the Assembly may interrupt the session if there is not a majority of Members of Assembly required for decision-making and in other cases when he/she deems it necessary.

(2) The President of the Assembly shall interrupt the session at the request of the coordinator or deputy coordinator of a parliamentary group. A coordinator or deputy coordinator of a parliamentary group may request an interruption of the session only once during the day, for a duration of one hour.

(3) The President of the Assembly shall interrupt the session at the request of the coordinator or deputy coordinator of a parliamentary group for the purpose of delivering stenographic notes from the speech or an explanation of the proponent, given at the beginning of the debate under a separate item on the agenda.

(4) The Assembly may decide to interrupt the session at the request of the chairperson of a working body or the coordinator of a parliamentary group for the purpose of holding a meeting of the working body.

(5) The time for resuming the interrupted session shall be determined by the President of the Assembly.

#### **Article 88**

The Assembly may conclude a debate on each item of the agenda by:

1. adoption of an act;
2. adoption of a conclusion, or
3. simply moving on to the following item.

#### **Article 89**

When all items of the agenda are exhausted, the President of the Assembly shall conclude the session.

### **5. Taking the floor / Speaking**

#### **Article 90**

Nobody shall have the right to speak at the session without previously asking and receiving permission to take the floor by the President of the Assembly.

#### **Article 91**

(1) The President of the Assembly shall ensure that the speaker is not interrupted or by any other act limited in the freedom of speech.

(2) The President of the Assembly shall give the floor to the Members of Assembly according to the order in the list of those who have registered to take the floor.

(3) A Member of the Assembly who has registered to take the floor, and is not present in the hall at the time he is called to speak, loses the right to speak in the debate for which he/she has registered and may not further apply to take the floor in the same debate.

#### **Article 92**

(1) During the debate, a Member of Assembly may speak only once for a maximum of 10 minutes, the rapporteur of the competent working body and of the Legislative Committee 10 minutes, a coordinator of a parliamentary group or one Member of Assembly determined by the parliamentary group or the coordinator of the parliamentary group and the proponent, may speak more than once, but in a total duration of no more than 15 minutes.

(2) A Government representative, when not a proponent, may take the floor only once for a maximum of 15 minutes.

(3) Speaking time limitations foreseen in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply for the procedures for amending the Constitution, the adoption of the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia, initiating a procedure for determining accountability of the President of the Republic and for the vote of confidence of the Government.

(4) At the session of the Assembly the Member of Assembly may stand and speak from his/her seat.

#### **Article 93**

The President of the Assembly shall give the floor to the proponent as soon as requested.

#### **Article 94**

(1) The President shall immediately give the floor to a coordinator of a parliamentary group, deputy coordinator or Members of Assembly who are not members of a parliamentary group, who wish to comment on the improper implementation of the Rules of Procedure.

(2) The coordinator of the parliamentary group, deputy coordinator or Members of Assembly who are not members of a parliamentary group are obliged to indicate the provision of the Rules of Procedure and explain about the alleged improper implementation of the provision.

(3) The speech may not be longer than three minutes.

(4) After the speech, the President of the Assembly shall give clarification.

(5) Paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this article shall also be applicable to the meetings of the working bodies. If the coordinator or deputy coordinator of the parliamentary group are not attending the meeting of the working body, only one member or deputy member of the

working body, as well as the member or deputy member of the working body that is not organised in a parliamentary group, may speak on the improper implementation of the Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 95**

(1)The President shall give the floor (reply) to a Member of Assembly who requests to clarify an incorrectly cited statement, or a statement that caused misunderstanding, as soon as the one who has caused the need for clarification finishes his/her speech.

(2)A Member of Assembly shall apply for a reply to the speech of another Member of Assembly, at all times during the speech of the Member of Assembly.

(3)One reply shall be allowed to a speech of a Member of the Assembly. The Member of Assembly has to limit the speech to the clarification and it may not take longer than three 3 minutes.

(4)A reply to a reply shall be allowed once, for a duration of one minute.

(5) Paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this article are also applicable to the meetings of the working bodies.

#### **Article 96**

(1)The speaker may speak only on the topic of the debate.

(2)If the speaker deviates from the topic, the President of the Assembly shall remind him to stick thereto.

(3)If the speaker continues to deviate from the topic after the second reminder, the President shall deprive him/her of the right to speak.

(4)The speaker shall be obliged to respect in his/her speech the dignity of the Assembly.

### **6. Maintenance of order**

#### **Article 97**

(1)The President of the Assembly shall ensure the maintenance of the order at the session.

(2)The President of the Assembly may warn and deprive a Member of Assembly of his/her right to speak, for reasons of disrupting the order at the session.

#### **Article 98**

(1)The President of the Assembly shall warn a Member of Assembly if with his conduct, by taking the floor without being given permission to speak, by interrupting the speech of a speaker or by similar acts, he/she disrupts the order at the session.

(2)The President of the Assembly shall deprive a Member of Assembly of the right to speak, when he/she disrupts the order with the speech, while being called twice beforehand to comply with the order at the session.

#### **Article 99**

(1)The President of the Assembly may exclude a Member of Assembly from the session in cases when despite the warning, i.e. deprivation of the right to speak, he/she still continues to disrupt the order at the session or uses expressions that violate the dignity of the Assembly.

(2)A Member of Assembly thus excluded from the session, shall be obliged to immediately leave the hall where the session is being held.

(3) If the President of the Assembly cannot maintain order, he shall announce a short break of the session.

#### **Article 100**

The provisions for order maintenance at the sessions of the Assembly shall apply to all the participants in the session.

### **7. Decision-making**

#### **Article 101**

(1) The Assembly may decide if the majority of the total number of the Members of Assembly are present at the session.

(2) The Assembly shall make decisions with a majority vote of the present Members of Assembly, and at least with one third of the total number of Members of Assembly, unless a special majority is foreseen with the Constitution or the Law.

(3) The President of the Assembly shall announce the number of Members of Assembly who voted 'for', 'against' or 'abstained', as well as the total number of Members of Assembly present.

(4) The President of the Assembly may decide that the number of present Members of Assembly is determined by counting.

(5) The determined number of present Members of Assembly shall be considered accurate, unless the President or one Member of Assembly whose request is supported by at least 10 other Members of Assembly, request that the number of present Members of Assembly is determined again.

### **8. Voting**

#### **Article 102**

(1) The public vote shall be carried out by use of technical means or by raising hands.

(2) The method of using the technical means shall be regulated with an act adopted by the Secretary General of the Assembly.

#### **Article 103**

(1) The voting may also be carried out by a roll call of each Member of Assembly.

(2) The roll call shall be done in order to precisely determine the voting result, at the request of the President of the Assembly or one Member of Assembly whose request is supported by at least 10 other Members of Assembly, only if the proposal put to vote has received five votes more or less than the number of votes necessary for its adoption.

(3) During the roll call, the doors of the hall where the session is being held shall be closed and the Members of Assembly shall not be allowed to enter or leave the hall at that time.

(4) The Secretary General of the Assembly shall perform the roll call.

(5) The roll call shall be carried out in a way that will ensure that each Member of Assembly declares "for" or "against" the proposal or is abstaining from vote.

(6) If a Member of Assembly is not present in the hall at the time when called to vote, he/she may not vote additionally.

(7) The President of the Assembly shall announce the voting results at the end of the roll call.

#### **Article 104**

- (1) Secret voting shall be carried out by use of ballots.
- (2) The ballot papers must be of the same size and colour.
- (3) The secret ballot shall be chaired by the President of the Assembly, who shall be assisted by the Secretary General and three Members of Assembly of different parliamentary groups or Members of Assembly who are not organised in parliamentary groups, elected by the Assembly at the proposal of the President of the Assembly.
- (4) The seal of the Assembly shall be placed on each ballot.

#### **Article 105**

Before the start of the secret ballot vote, the President of the Assembly shall give the necessary voting guidelines.

#### **Article 106**

- (1) The ballot paper for the election i.e. appointment of public and other office holders shall contain the function for which the election i.e. appointment is made, the names and surnames of the individual candidates, according to the alphabetical order of their surnames.
- (2) An ordinal number shall be placed before the name and surname of each candidate.
- (3) During the secret ballot vote for the election i.e. appointment of public and other office holders, the Members of Assembly shall vote by encircling the number before the name and surname of the candidate.
- (4) A ballot paper shall be considered invalid if it cannot be determined with certainty for which candidate the Member of Assembly has voted.

#### **Article 107**

- (1) The name and surname of the public and other office holders whose dismissal is proposed shall be indicated on the ballot paper, along with the words "for" and "against".
- (2) The Members of Assembly shall vote on the dismissal by encircling one of the aforementioned words.
- (3) A ballot paper shall be considered invalid if it cannot be determined with certainty how the Member of Assembly has voted.

#### **Article 108**

The secret voting for the proposal as a whole shall be carried out in such a way that the proposal and the words "for" and "against" are indicated on the ballot paper, and the voting shall be done by encircling one of the aforementioned words.

#### **Article 109**

After the end of the voting, the President of the Assembly shall announce the results of the voting and, based on the result, shall ascertain whether the proposal voted for has been adopted or rejected.

### **9. Minutes and stenographic notes**

#### **Article 110**



- (1) Minutes shall be kept from the sessions of the Assembly.
- (2) The minutes shall contain basic information on the work of the session, the submitted proposals and adopted conclusions related to the items on the agenda.

#### **Article 111**

The minutes, as a rule, shall be distributed to all Members of Assembly at least three days before the session on which the minutes should be approved.

#### **Article 112**

The Secretary General of the Assembly shall take care of the preparation and archiving of the original minutes of the sessions of the Assembly.

#### **Article 113**

- (1) Stenographic notes shall be taken for the work of the sessions of the Assembly.
- (2) Undelivered speeches of Members of Assembly submitted in writing at the session shall be an integral part of the stenographic notes, with a notification that they have not been delivered at the session.
- (3) The stenographic notes on the work of the session of the Assembly shall be kept in the documentation of the Assembly, in electronic digital format and in hard copy/written form.
- (4) Stenographic notes shall be uploaded on the intranet (the internal network of the Assembly) and on the web page of the Assembly (internet).
- (5) The manner of publishing the stenographic notes on the intranet and on the web page of the Assembly, the right of the Members of Assembly to make corrections in the stenographic notes and the deadlines for their publication shall be regulated with an act adopted by the President of the Assembly.

## **VI. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND DISMISSALS**

### **1. Election of the Working Bodies of the Assembly, the Permanent Delegations and the Parliamentary Groups for Cooperation**

#### **Article 114**

- (1) The election of chairpersons and members of working bodies of the Assembly and their deputies; the heads, members and deputy members of the permanent parliamentary delegations in the international parliamentary assemblies; and chairpersons and members of the Parliamentary Groups for Cooperation with other parliaments, shall be made from among the Members of Assembly, upon a proposal of the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues, on the basis of a list proposed by the parliamentary groups.
- (2) Appropriate representation of Members of Assembly from the parliamentary groups and Members of Assembly who are not organised in a parliamentary group shall be ensured in the proposal of the committee.
- (3) The proposal of the Committee shall ensure the appropriate representation of Members of Assembly of different genders.
- (4) The chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Standing Inquiry Committee for Protection of Citizens' Freedoms and Rights shall be proposed from among the Members of the Assembly from the opposition.
- (5) Each proposal shall contain as many candidates as the number of the members of the working body i.e. the permanent delegation or Parliamentary Groups for Cooperation to be elected.

(6) Each Member of Assembly shall be entitled to declare in which working body he/she would like to become a member.

(7) The proposal of Paragraph (1) of this article shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly, who will then have it distributed to the Members of Assembly.

## **2. Election of Government**

### **Article 115**

The Assembly shall elect the Government in a manner and according to the procedure stipulated with the Constitution and these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 116**

The President of the Assembly, within three days from the day of receiving the written notification from the President of the Republic, shall inform the Members of Assembly about the candidate for the President of the Government (mandate holder).

### **Article 117**

(1) The mandate holder shall, within 20 days from the day of being entrusted with the mandate, submit to the Assembly a proposal for composition of the Government and a programme.

(2) The proposal for composition of the Government shall be submitted in writing. It shall contain the name and surname of the candidate for President of the Government and of the candidates for ministers with their curriculum vitae.

(3) The President of the Assembly shall immediately submit to the Members of Assembly the proposal for the composition and programme of the Government.

(4) The President of the Assembly shall convene a session for the election of Government within 15 days from the day of receiving the proposal.

(5) The mandate holder shall elaborate the programme and the proposal for composition of the Government at the session for election of the Government.

### **Article 118**

(1) The Assembly shall hold a single debate on the programme of the mandate holder and the proposal for composition of Government. The debate shall last not more than two days.

(2) The President of the Assembly shall determine the order of Members of Assembly in the debate in a way that ensures participation in the debate of Members of Assembly from the different parliamentary groups represented in the Assembly.

(3) The vote on the election of the Government shall be carried out on the proposal for the composition of Government as a whole and shall be public. The vote shall take place at the end of the debate, at 24.00 hours the latest.

(4) The Government shall be elected if the majority of the total number of Members of Assembly voted for it.

### **Article 119**

The President of the Assembly shall inform the President of the Republic on the election of the Government.

## **3. Elections, appointments and dismissals of public and other office holders**

#### **Article 120**

- (1) The Assembly shall conduct elections, appointments and dismissals of holders of public and other functions in a manner determined by the Constitution and by law.
- (2) According to the item on the agenda for elections, appointments and dismissals of holders of public and other functions, the Assembly shall hold a single debate, and vote separately for each proposal.

#### **4. Resignations**

#### **Article 121**

- (1) Every holder of public or other function, who is elected or appointed by the Assembly shall be entitled to resign and explain the resignation, for not longer than 15 minutes.
- (2) At its first subsequent session, the Assembly shall confirm, without a debate, that the mandate of the holder of public or other function has ceased at the day of that session.

#### **IX. SOLEMN OATH**

#### **Article 122**

(1) The President and the Vice President of the Assembly, the President of the Government, the ministers and the judges of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia, before taking office, shall give a solemn oath in the Assembly. The text of the Solemn Oath reads as follows:

“I declare that I will perform the function (state the function) conscientiously and responsibly and I will respect the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of North Macedonia”.

- (2) The President of the Assembly or the Chairperson shall read the text of the Solemn Oath at the Session.
- (3) The Solemn Oath shall be signed and handed over to the President of the Assembly.
- (4) The other public office holders who are elected or appointed by the Assembly, shall give and sign the solemn oath in front of the President of the Assembly.

#### **X. WORKING BODIES OF THE ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 123**

- (1) The Assembly shall establish permanent and temporary working bodies.
- (2) The working bodies shall consider draft laws, other acts adopted by the Assembly, as well as other issues within the competence of the Assembly and perform other tasks determined by these Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 124**

- (1) The permanent working bodies shall be established by a decision of the Assembly.
- (2) The Assembly shall, by a decision, also establish temporary working bodies for particular duties.
- (3) The Assembly may, by a decision, also establish inquiry committees for all areas and for any issue of public interest.
- (4) The scope and number of members shall also be determined by the decision on the establishment of working bodies and inquiry committees .
- (5) The composition of the working bodies and inquiry committees shall be determined by a decision of the Assembly, depending on the number of Members of Assembly in

parliamentary groups, Members of Assembly who are not organised in parliamentary groups and in accordance with the Law.

(6) As a rule, the Chairpersons of the inquiry committees shall be from among the Members of Assembly from the opposition parliamentary groups.

#### **Article 125**

(1) A working body shall have a Chairperson, deputy Chairperson and a designated number of members and deputy members.

(2) A working body may have two members from the ranks of scientific and professional workers, who shall be elected by the Assembly at the proposal of the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues.

(3) The members of the working body from paragraph (2) of this article cannot be members of political party bodies, and shall participate in the work of the working body without the right to decide.

#### **Article 126**

(1) The Working Body shall work at meetings.

(2) The Chairperson of the working body shall convene the meetings. The Chairperson shall also convene a meeting if requested by the President of the Assembly or at least one third of the members of the body, who shall submit materials for the issue they suggest to be inserted in the agenda of the committee meeting.

(3) If the Chairperson of the working body does not convene a meeting when he/she is obliged to do so or if the working body does not have a Chairperson, the meeting shall be convened by the President of the Assembly and the meeting shall be chaired by the member of the working body determined by the President of the Assembly until the end of the meeting.

(4) The invitation for the meeting together with the draft agenda and the materials that are to be considered at the meeting shall be delivered to the members of the working body by the Chairperson of the working body, as a rule five, five days before the day of the meeting

(5) In urgent cases, a meeting of a working body may be held within a shorter deadline, and the agenda may be submitted at the meeting itself.

(6) The Chairperson of the working body shall be obliged to explain the urgency for convening the meeting determined in paragraph (5) of this article.

(7) The Members of Assembly shall be notified about the meeting of the working body also through the website of the Assembly.

(8) The Chairperson of the working body shall inform the Government for the convened session, and the representative of the proponent about the issues and proposals that the working body will debate.

#### **Article 127**

(1) A representative i.e. a trustee of the Government or a representative of a state administration body may attend and participate in the meeting of the working body, when an issue in their field of competence is debated.

(2) A representative of the Government and a representative of the proponent whose proposal is being considered shall attend and participate in the work of the meeting of the working body when a draft law or other act is being considered in the second reading.

(3) The authorised representative of the proponent of the law submitted by at least 10,000 voters may also attend the meeting of the working body.

(4) A Member of the Assembly who is not a member of the working body shall have the right to attend the meeting of the working body and participate in its work, without the right to make decisions. The Member of Assembly shall not have the right to take the floor about incorrect application of the Rules of Procedure, and he shall use the right of reply in the manner established in Article 95 of these Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 128**

(1) The working bodies, for the purpose of carrying out the tasks within their scope, may request data and information from the state administration bodies and from other bodies and organisations.

(2) Scientific and professional workers who were engaged by the Government and participated in the preparation of draft laws shall have the right to attend and participate in the debate at the meeting of the working body when the draft law is considered in the first and second reading. When submitting the draft law, the Government shall inform which scientific and professional workers will attend the meeting of the working body.

(3) The working body may invite scientific, professional and public workers and representatives of the municipalities, the city of Skopje, public enterprises, trade unions and other organisations, institutions and associations to its meeting for the purpose of giving opinions on the issues that are considered at the meeting of the body.

#### **Article 129**

(1) A working body may decide to hold a public debate meeting. Representatives from Article 128 paragraphs (2) and (3) of these Rules of Procedure and representatives from civil society organisations shall be invited to the public debate.

(2) The working body shall draft a report from the public debate, which shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly.

#### **Article 130**

The working bodies may not have investigative or other judicial functions

#### **Article 131**

(1) The agenda of the meeting of the working body shall be determined at the beginning of the meeting.

(2) Issues proposed by Members of Assembly, the President of the Assembly and the Government may also be included in the agenda

(3) Initiatives to debate certain issues at a meeting of the working body may also be raised by other working bodies of the Assembly, state administration bodies, municipalities, the city of Skopje, institutions, citizens' associations.

#### **Article 132**

(1) The competent working body and the Legislative Committee shall consider draft laws and other acts.

(2) Draft laws and other acts may also be considered by other working bodies (interested working body).

(3) The competent working body shall take a position based on the opinions and proposals of the interested working body.

(4) A representative of the interested working body shall also be invited to a meeting of the competent working body where the opinion of the interested working body is debated.

(5) The Chairpersons of the competent and the interested working body may agree to hold a joint meeting. The working bodies vote separately at the joint meeting.

(6) If the competent working body does not adopt the opinion of the interested working body, the rapporteur of the interested working body may present the opinion at a session of the Assembly.

(7) The working bodies may cooperate with the corresponding working bodies of parliaments of other countries and international organisations.

#### **Article 133**

(1) A record shall be kept of the presence of the members of the working body.

(2) The member of the working body who is unable to attend a meeting is obliged to notify the Chairperson of the working body in due time.

(3) A member of a working body who is absent from its meetings at least three times in a row and has not notified the Chairperson thereof, shall have a deduction of 5% of his/her salary for each day of absence, for which an act is adopted by the Committee on Elections and Appointment Issues.

(4) The Working Body may propose to the Assembly to dismiss a member of the working body who has been unjustifiably absent from the meetings of the working body three times in a row.

#### **Article 134**

(1) The working bodies may establish working groups for the study of separate issues within their scope or for the preparation of draft acts. The members of the working groups shall be determined from among the members of the working body, the Members of Assembly, scientific, professional and public workers, as well as representatives of the state administration bodies and from other bodies and organisations.

(2) Working groups shall act within the framework of the working body and cannot act independently.

(3) The working groups shall submit a report to the working body.

#### **Article 135**

(1) The working body shall take a position on every issue it considers and shall submit a report to the President of the Assembly.

(2) A debate on a separate issue may also end with a simple passage.

(3) A debate at the meeting of the working body shall be held regardless of the number of present members of the working body.

(4) The working body may take a position if the meeting is attended by a majority of the total number of members of the working body. The working body shall take a position with a majority vote of the members present, and at least with one third of the total number of members.

(5) The report shall contain the position of the working body with an explanation. The report shall also include all expressed opinions and proposals on the issue that was considered at the meeting of the working body.

(6) The Chairperson of the working body shall sign the report and shall be responsible for its authenticity.

(7) If the Chairperson of the working body does not sign the report, the report shall be signed by the majority of the members present, and at least by one third of the total number of members of the working body.

### **Article 136**

(1)The working body shall appoint a rapporteur. As a rule, the rapporteur of the working body shall be the Chairperson, whereas for certain items of the agenda the working body may also appoint other member as a rapporteur.

(2)The rapporteur of the working body shall represent the positions of the working body at the sessions of the Assembly.

(3)The Rapporteur may not change the position of the working body or renounce it, unless authorised so by the working body.

### **Article 137**

The competent working body and the Legislative Committee may propose to the Assembly to postpone the consideration of a certain issue.

### **Article 138**

(1)Minutes shall be kept for the meetings of the working body.

(2)The Minutes shall contain the names of the present and absent members of the working body, the names of other participants in the meeting, the oral and written proposals, the positions of the working body, the results of each vote, each separate opinion, as well as the rapporteurs assigned by the working body.

(3) The minutes adopted at the meeting of the working body shall be signed by the Chairperson of the working body and the assembly staff member who prepared the minutes.

## **XI. ADOPTION OF LAWS AND OTHER REGULATIONS**

### **1. Initiating a procedure**

#### **Article 139**

Every Member of Assembly, the Government and at least 10,000 voters shall be entitled to propose adoption of a law (authorised proponent of a law).

#### **Article 140**

(1)Each citizen, group of citizens, institutions and associations may submit an initiative for adoption of a law to the authorised proponents.

(2)The initiative submitted to the Assembly shall be forwarded to the Members of Assembly and the submitter of the initiative shall be informed thereon.

#### **Article 141**

If a group of Members of the Assembly is an authorised initiator, one Member shall be appointed as representative of the initiator. If no such representative is appointed, the first member signed on the proposal shall be considered as representative of the initiator.

### **2. Content of the draft laws**

#### **Article 142**

(1)Draft laws shall contain a title, introduction, text of the provisions of the law and elaboration.

(2)Draft laws for harmonisation with the law of the European Union shall be marked with (\*) as a footnote that is placed at the end of the title, and the text of the footnote shall have

explanation containing the name/title and CELEX number of the regulation, that is, the regulations of the European Union with which the law is harmonised, namely: "This law is harmonised with the regulation/regulations of the European Union (title), number (CELEX number)".

(3)The introduction shall contain:

1. assessment of the conditions in the area that should be regulated by the law, and the reasons for adoption of the law;
2. the goals, principles and basic solutions of the draft law;
3. assessment of the financial implications of the draft law on the state budget and other public finances, and
4. assessment of the financial resources needed for the implementation of the law and the method of their provision, as well as data on whether the implementation of the law entails material obligations for individual entities.

(4)The introduction may contain:

1. An overview of regulations from other legal systems, and compliance of the draft law with the law of the European Union;
2. special reference to gender equality;
3. An overview of other laws that should be amended with the adoption of the law and the regulations that should be adopted for the implementation of the law;
4. other implications from the proposed solutions;
5. impact assessment of the regulation.

(5)When the draft law contains provisions for harmonisation with the law of the European Union, there shall be a European flag on the front, and introduction which shall also contain data on the source act of the European Union with the full title, number and date.

(6) A declaration of compliance, signature of the competent minister and a clear indication of the legal act of the European Union with which the compliance was carried out shall also be submitted with the draft law.

(7) The elaboration shall contain an explanation of the content of the provisions of the draft law, the interconnection of the solutions contained in them and the implications of the proposed solutions.

(8) If the draft law contains provisions that have retroactive effect, the proponent shall be obliged to separately explain the reasons for their proposal.

(8)The submitter of the draft law for amending and supplementing an existing law, shall also submit the text of the provisions of the existing law that are to be amended.

### **Article 143**

If a draft law is not drafted in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, the President of the Assembly shall, prior to its distribution to the Members of Assembly, request from the proponent to make it compliant with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure. If the proponent fails to do that within 15 days from the day of the request by the President of the Assembly, the draft law shall be considered as not having been submitted.

### **3. Submitting and distributing a draft law**

#### **Article 144**

The draft law shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly in written and electronic form. When the authorised proponent of the law are at least 10,000 voters, the draft law shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly in written form. The President of the Assembly immediately, and at the latest within three working days from the day of



submission, shall deliver it to the Members of Assembly, in written and electronic form, thus starting the legislative procedure.

#### **Article 145**

(1)The President of the Assembly shall submit to the Government a draft - law not proposed by the Government, in order for the Government to give its opinion.

(2)If the Government does not submit its opinion, the Assembly and the Working Bodies shall consider the draft - law without this opinion.

### **4. First reading**

#### **4.1. Consideration of draft laws in the working bodies**

#### **Article 146**

The Assembly, the competent working body and the Legislative Committee shall hold general debate of the draft law in the first reading.

#### **Article 147**

(1)Before debating the draft law at a session of the Assembly, it shall be considered by the competent working body and the Legislative Committee, within three working days prior to the day designated for holding the session of the Assembly.

(2)If the draft law contains provisions for which additional finances are allocated, the proposal may also be considered by the working body whose scope of work includes budget and finance issues in terms of the impact of these provisions on the available funds and on the possible sources of financing the proposed solutions.

#### **Article 148**

(1)The competent working body shall consider the draft law from the point of view of the need for adoption of the law, the principles on which the law should be based, the basic relations that are regulated by the law and the proposed method of their regulation.

(2)The Legislative Committee shall consider the draft law from the point of view of the need for adoption of the law and its compliance with the Constitution.

#### **Article 149**

(1)The reports of the competent working body and the Legislative Committee shall contain their opinion on whether the draft law is acceptable and whether it should be given for further reading.

(2)The reports on the draft law shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly who shall then submit the reports to all the Members of Assembly, to the proponent of the law, and to the Government if it is not the proponent.

#### **4.2. Debate on draft laws at a session of the Assembly**

#### **Article 150**

A session of the Assembly for the first reading of a draft law shall be held within 10 working days from the day of the adoption of the decision to convene the session, but no longer than 20 working days from the day of submission of the draft law to the Members of Assembly.

### **Article 151**

- (1) After the general debate, the Assembly shall decide whether the law may be given for second reading.
- (2) If the Assembly decides that the draft law is acceptable and may be given to further reading, the legislative procedure shall continue.
- (3) If the Assembly decides that the draft law is not acceptable and may not be given to further reading, the legislative procedure shall be terminated. The same draft law may not be submitted again within three months.

### **Article 152**

- (1) For the draft law that is of wider interest, the Assembly, after the general debate, may decide to conduct a public debate on that law and determine a competent working body that will organise the public debate.
- (2) A request to hold a public debate on a draft law of wider interest may be submitted by the competent working body, the coordinator of a parliamentary group and at least five Members of Assembly. The request shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly in written form, before the beginning of the session for the general debate on the draft law.
- (3) The Assembly shall decide on the request from paragraph (2) of this article.

### **Article 153**

- (1) The working body that organises the public debate shall:
  1. ensure that the draft law is published so that it is available to the citizens, public institutions, institutions, citizens' associations, political parties, trade unions and other interested entities;
  2. ensure the collection and arrangement of the opinions and proposals that were presented during the public debate and
  3. prepare a report on the results of the public debate.
- (2) For the performance of the tasks from paragraph (1) of this article, the competent working body may establish a special working group.

### **Article 154**

- (1) All interested entities from Article 153 Paragraph (1) Item 1 of these Rules of Procedure shall be notified of the public debate through the Assembly TV Channel and through the daily press that will be determined by the competent working body.
- (2) The draft law that is put up for public debate shall be published on the website of the Assembly on a special banner for public debate.
- (3) A call for opinions and proposals shall be published with the draft law and the term in which they can be submitted shall be determined.

### **Article 155**

- (1) Based on the opinions and proposals presented in the public debate, the competent working body, in accordance with Article 135 of these Rules of Procedure, shall prepare a report and submit it to the President of the Assembly together with the draft law for the second reading.
- (2) The President of the Assembly shall distribute the report of the public debate of the working body to all Members of Assembly and the proponent.

## **5. Second reading**

### **5.1. Consideration of draft laws in the working bodies**

#### **Article 156**

- (1) The competent working body and the Legislative Committee, within seven working days after the session of the Assembly held for the first reading of a draft law, shall convene a meeting at which the draft law is considered in the second reading.
- (2) The meeting for the second reading convened in the competent working body and in the Legislative Committee may last a maximum of five days from the day of convening the meetings.
- (3) The provision from paragraph (2) of this article shall not be applied to the Electoral Code, the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Law on the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Law on Members of Assembly and the Law on Financing Political Parties.
- (4) The competent working body and the Legislative Committee, shall consider the provisions of the draft law individually and the submitted amendments and shall vote on them. Working bodies may also submit their own amendments.

#### **Article 157**

- (1) The proposal to amend or supplement the draft law shall be submitted in the form of an amendment.
- (2) An amendment may be submitted by any Member of Assembly, parliamentary group and working body.
- (3) The amendment shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly in written form and must be explained and signed by the proponent.
- (4) If the amendment contains provisions which require financial resources, the proponent of the amendment shall be obliged to indicate at the same time the possible sources for securing those funds.

#### **Article 158**

- (1) An amendment may be submitted at least two days prior to the day of holding meeting of the competent working body or the Legislative Committee.
- (2) If the draft law is proposed to be adopted in shortened procedure, the amendments may be submitted until the beginning of the meeting for the second reading of the draft law.
- (3) When a law is adopted in urgent procedure, the amendments may be submitted until the end of the debate.
- (4) As an exception, an amendment may be submitted until the end of the debate of the draft law, if it harmonizes the provisions in the text that have changed due to the previous adoption of one or more amendments.

#### **Article 159**

The President of the Assembly shall immediately distribute the amendments to the Members of Assembly, the competent working body and the Legislative Committee.

#### **Article 160**

- (1) Each amendment shall be debated and voted separately.
- (2) If two or more different amendments are submitted to the same provision of a draft law, the order of voting for the amendments shall be according to the order of their submission.
- (3) If one of the amendments proposes removal of a particular provision of the draft law, vote shall first be taken on that amendment and if it is adopted, there shall be no voting on the other amendments to that provision.

(4) If two or more amendments with a similar content are submitted to a single provision of a draft law, at the proposal by the President, the working body may decide to hold a single debate, but to vote separately on each amendment.

(5) The proponent of an amendment may amend, supplement or withdraw the amendment until the end of the debate on the amendments to the same article.

#### **Article 161**

(1) In case when a draft law amends or supplements another law, amendments may be submitted only to the articles that are being amended or supplemented by the draft law.

(2) As an exception, amendments may be submitted for inclusion of transitional and final provisions of the draft law.

(3) If an amendment to a draft law contains provisions that require additional finances, the President of the Assembly shall immediately submit the amendment to the working body under whose scope are issues of the budget and finances, whose scope includes the issues of the budget and finances, in order to study the impact of the amendment on the available resources and the possible sources for financing of the proposed solutions and to inform thereof the competent working body and the Legislative Committee.

#### **Article 162**

(1) The competent working body and the Legislative Committee, following the completion of the debate, and within five days at the latest, shall prepare a text of the draft law incorporating the adopted amendments (amended draft law) and elaboration.

(2) The elaboration shall indicate the differences in the solutions between the text of the draft law and the amended draft law, as well as the reasons for those amendments. If there are retroactive provisions in the amended draft law, they shall be explained separately.

(3) If differences arise during the preparation of the amended draft law between the competent working body and the Legislative Committee, they shall hold a joint meeting to harmonise their positions.

(4) If the competent working body and the Legislative Committee fail to harmonise their positions, the decision thereon shall be taken by the Assembly.

### **5.2. Consideration of draft laws at a session of the Assembly**

#### **Article 163**

(1) At the second reading of a session of the Assembly, a debate shall be held only for those articles of the draft law that have been amended by amendments of the working bodies and only to those articles amendments may be submitted.

(2) Amendments may be submitted by a parliamentary group, every Member of Assembly and the proponent, no later than three working days before the day set for holding the session of the Assembly.

(3) If a draft law is proposed to be adopted in a shortened procedure, an amendment may be submitted until the beginning of the session for the second reading of the draft law.

(4) As an exception, an amendment may be submitted until the end of the debate on the draft law, if it harmonises the provisions in the text that have been changed due to the previous adoption of one or more amendments.

(5) When a law is adopted in urgent procedure, amendments may be submitted until the end of the debate.

(6) Submission and vote on the amendments at a session of the Assembly shall be carried out in accordance with articles 158, 160 and 161, unless otherwise provided with these

Rules of Procedure.

(7) Only the proponent of an amendment may take the floor and elaborate the amendment, for a total of three minutes.

(8) If there are two or more Members of Assembly as proponents of an amendment, only one of the proponents may take the floor and elaborate amendment, for a total of three minutes.

#### **Article 164**

(1) The amendment shall be adopted by a majority vote of the present Members of Assembly, and at least by one third of the total number of Members of Assembly, regardless of the majority of votes required for the adoption of the law, established by the Constitution.

(2) The amendment of the proponent of the draft law and the amendment with which he agreed shall be considered an integral part of the draft law.

#### **Article 165**

(1) If amendments to more than one third of the articles of the amended draft law are adopted, after the second reading is completed, the text of the law is prepared and legally and technically edited for the third reading.

(2) If the draft law is submitted by the Government, the Assembly may, in the case of paragraph (1) of this article, decide that the Government prepare the text of the draft law for the third reading.

(3) If the competent working body and the Legislative Committee ascertain that certain provisions of the draft law upon the adoption of the amendments in the second reading are inconsistent with each other or are not in accordance with the Constitution or other laws, they shall notify the Assembly thereof and propose possible solutions.

#### **Article 166**

(1) If at the second reading of a session of the Assembly, amendments to less than one third of the articles of the amended draft law are adopted, the Assembly may decide that the third reading of the draft law be held at the same session.

(2) The chairperson shall decide whether the third reading will be held immediately after the adoption of the decision from paragraph (1) of this article.

#### **Article 167**

If the Assembly does not adopt any amendment to the amended draft law during the second reading, the vote on the draft law shall be carried out at the same session.

### **6. Third reading**

#### **6.1. Consideration of draft laws at a session of the Assembly**

#### **Article 168**

As a rule, the third reading of the draft law is held at the first following session after the second reading at the session of the Assembly. At this stage, the working bodies do not debate.

#### **Article 169**

(1) During the third reading, the Assembly shall debate and decide only on the articles of the amended draft law for which amendments have been submitted and shall decide on the draft law as a whole.

(2) During the third reading of a draft law, amendments may be submitted only to the articles to which amendments were adopted during the second reading at the session of the Assembly.

(3) An amendment may be submitted by the proponent and a Member of Assembly, at the latest within two working days before the day set for holding a session of the Assembly.

(4) The debate on the amendments shall take place in accordance with Article 160 of these Rules of Procedure.

## **7. Voting and declaring at the session of the Assembly**

### **Article 170**

(1) The President of the Assembly may conclude a debate on a draft law, amendments or other acts within the competence of the Assembly, and set a date and hour for the vote when the Assembly shall declare itself.

(2) The Assembly shall declare itself on draft laws, amendments or other acts within the competence of the Assembly without a debate.

## **8. Majority required for adoption of laws**

### **Article 171**

Laws shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Members of Assembly determined in the Constitution and a law.

## **9. Urgent procedure for adoption of laws**

### **Article 172**

(1) As an exception, a law may also be adopted in urgent procedure.

(2) A law may be adopted in an urgent procedure when this is necessary in order to prevent and avoid major disruptions in the economy or when the interests of the security and defence of the Republic require it, or during major natural disasters, epidemics or other extraordinary and urgent cases.

(3) The proponent shall be obliged to explain the proposal that the law should be adopted in an urgent procedure.

(4) Along with the proposal to adopt the law in urgent procedure, a draft law whose adoption is put forward shall also be submitted.

### **Article 173**

(1) The Assembly shall decide on the justification of the proposal, that the law be adopted in urgent procedure without a debate.

(2) If the Assembly decides to debate the proposal, that the law be adopted in urgent procedure, it shall oblige the competent working body and the Legislative Committee to debate the draft law.

(3) The meeting of the competent working body and the Legislative Committee shall be convened and begin immediately, and not later than 24 hours after the provision of paragraph (2) of this article.

(4) The meeting referred to in paragraph (3) of this article shall end within 24 hours of its commencement.

### **Article 174**

(1) When a draft law is considered in an urgent procedure, no general debate is held. The second and third readings are held in the same session. In that case, the second reading begins with a debate on the draft law in accordance with the provisions of these Rules of Procedure for the second reading.

(2) The Assembly, upon the proposal of the President of the Assembly, the coordinator of a parliamentary group, or a Member of Assembly whose request is supported by at least 10 other Members of Assembly, may ask the competent working body and the Legislative Committee to state their position on the amendments submitted after the end of their meetings.

## **10. Shortened procedure for adoption of a law**

### **Article 175**

The proponent of a draft law may propose to the Assembly to debate the draft law in a shortened procedure in the event that:

- it is not a complex or extensive law,
- there is termination of the validity of a certain law or particular provisions of a law, or
- the law does not require a complex or extensive harmonisation the law of the European Union.

### **Article 176**

(1) If the Assembly decides to debate, to adopt the draft law in a shortened procedure, the President of the Assembly shall immediately oblige the competent working body and the Legislative Committee to debate the draft law.

(2) The meeting of the competent working body and the Legislative Committee shall be convened and begin immediately, but not later than 24 hours after the provision of paragraph (1) of this article, nor earlier than six hours from the provision of paragraph (1) of this article, and will end within three days of its commencement.

(3) The provision from paragraph (2) of this article shall not be applied to the Electoral Code, the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Law on the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Law on Members of Assembly and the Law on Financing Political Parties.

(4) When the draft law is considered in a shortened procedure, the Assembly shall hold a general debate.

(5) The second and third readings shall be held at the same session. In that case, the second reading shall begin with a debate on the draft law in accordance with the provisions for the second reading of these Rules of Procedure. Amendments may be submitted at the session until the beginning of the third reading of the draft law.

## **11. Consideration of draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on financing and budget, draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on economy and draft laws for harmonisation with the law of the European Union at the meetings of the working bodies**

### **Article 177**

(1) The general debate of draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on financing and budget, of draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on economy and draft laws for harmonization with the law of the European Union, in the

competent working body and in the Legislative Committee may last a maximum of three working days.

(2) A member of the working body and a Member of Assembly may take the floor several times during the general debate for a total of 20 minutes, and the coordinator of a parliamentary group for a total of 30 minutes.

(3) The proponent and the representative of the Government, when the Government is not the proponent, may take the floor several times, but not more than 15 minutes in total..

(4) If the draft law is proposed by two or more Members of Assembly, only one of the proponents may take the floor and elaborate the law for a total of 15 minutes.

#### **Article 178**

The provisions of these Rules of Procedure that refer to the procedure for consideration of draft laws in the working bodies in the first reading are accordingly applied during the general debate of draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on financing and budget, draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on economy and draft laws for harmonisation with the law of the European Union.

#### **Article 179**

(1)The second reading of draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on financing and budget, draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on economy and draft laws for harmonisation with the law of the European Union in the competent working body and in the Legislative Committee may last a maximum of three working days.

(2) A member of the working body and a Member of Assembly may take the floor only once during the amendment debate in duration of 10 minutes. The coordinator of a parliamentary group or a Member of Assembly designated by the parliamentary group may take the floor only once during the amendment debate in duration of 15 minutes.

(3) Only the proponent of the amendment may elaborate the amendment and take the floor in duration of 10 minutes in total, and if two or more Members of Assembly are proponents of the amendment, only one of the proponents may take the floor and elaborate the law for a total of 10 minutes.

#### **Article 180**

The provisions of these Rules of Procedure that refer to the procedure for consideration of draft laws in the working bodies in the second reading are accordingly applied to the second reading of draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on financing and budget, draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on economy and draft laws for harmonisation with the law of the European Union.

#### **Article 181**

(1)The debate in the competent working body and in the Legislative Committee on draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on financing and budget, draft laws under the jurisdiction of the competent working body on economy and for harmonisation with the law of the European Union, that are considered in shortened or urgent procedure, may last a maximum of two working days.

(2) A member of the working body and a Member of Assembly may take the floor only once during the amendment debate in duration of 10 minutes. The coordinator of a parliamentary



group or a Member of Assembly designated by the parliamentary group may take the floor only once during the amendment debate in duration of 15 minutes.

(3) Only the proponent of the amendment may elaborate the amendment and take the floor in duration of 10 minutes in total, and if two or more Members of Assembly are proponents of the amendment, only one of the proponents may take the floor and elaborate the law for a total of 10 minutes.

## **12. Signing and publishing of the acts**

### **Article 182**

(1) The text of the law shall not be signed.

(2) Other regulations and general acts adopted by the Assembly shall be signed by the President of the Assembly.

(3) Acts adopted independently by the working bodies shall be signed by the chairperson of the body having adopted the act.

### **Article 183**

(1) The President of the Assembly shall, immediately after its adoption, submit the law to the President of the Republic for signing the decree for the promulgation of the law.

(2) If the President of the Republic decides not to sign the signing the decree for the promulgation of the law, the Assembly shall examine the draft law again in a third reading, within 30 days from the day of the adoption of the law.

(3) After the reconsideration of the law, only amendments in connection with the indication of the President of the Republic may be submitted.

### **Article 184**

(1) Prior to entering into force, laws, other regulations and general acts shall be published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia".

(2) The conclusions of the Assembly shall be published in the bulletin of the Assembly, and if the Assembly decides, in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia".

(3) The conclusions of the working bodies, if they decide, shall be published in the bulletin of the Assembly.

## **13. Authentic interpretation of laws**

### **Article 185**

A request for an authentic interpretation of a law may be submitted by any Member of Assembly, the Government, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Public Prosecutor of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Ombudsman, the mayors of the municipalities and the city of Skopje and the councils of municipalities and the city of Skopje, if the need for authentic interpretation arose in relation to the application of laws in their operations.

### **Article 186**

(1) The request for providing authentic interpretation of a law shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly and it shall contain the title of the law, the provisions for which the interpretation is requested, and the reasons for the request.

(2) The President of the Assembly shall forward the request for authentic interpretation of a law to the Legislative Committee and the Government.

(3)The Legislative Committee may seek an opinion regarding the request for authentic interpretation of a law from the competent working body of the Assembly.

(4)After receiving the opinion of the Government and the competent working body, the Legislative Committee shall assess whether the request for authentic interpretation is justified.

(5)If the Legislative Committee decides that the request for authentic interpretation is justified, it shall draw up a draft authentic interpretation and submit it to the Assembly.

(6)The Assembly shall debate and decide on the draft authentic interpretation of the law and the submitted amendments thereof at the same Session.

(7)The draft authentic interpretation shall be adopted by the same majority as the one required for the law to which the authentic interpretation is provided.

(8)The authentic interpretation shall be published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia".

(9)If the Legislative Committee decides that the request for authentic interpretation is not justified, it shall submit a report to the Assembly, which shall decide on the request. The initiator of the request shall be notified of the decision of the Assembly.

#### **14. Procedure for establishing a consolidated text of a law**

##### **Article 187**

(1)If a law has been amended or supplemented a number of times, or if the law brings about extensive amendments and supplements, the proponent of the law may propose the establishment of a consolidated text of the law.

(2)If the Assembly deems that justified, it shall, by the law of Paragraph (1) of this Article, authorise the Legislative Committee to draft a consolidated text of the law and publish it in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" within 30 days from the day of publishing the law on amending and supplementing the law in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia".

(3)The consolidated text of the law shall be drafted by the proponent of the law who shall submit it for establishment to the Legislative Committee within 15 days from the day of publishing the law on amending and supplementing the law in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia".

(4)The Assembly, through its Legislative Committee, shall be obliged to prepare a consolidated text of a law which has been amended or supplemented more than three times.

#### **15. Procedure on draft laws following the end of the mandate of the Assembly**

##### **Article 188**

(1) All legislative procedures and procedures for adoption of other acts initiated during the mandate of the Assembly shall be concluded with the expiration of the mandate of the Assembly.

(2)As an exception, a legislative procedure shall continue when initiated at the proposal of 10,000 voters, of the Government, if within 30 days of its election the Government notifies that this is necessary, as well as the procedures initiated at the proposal of Members of Assembly from the previous composition, and assumed by the Members of Assembly within 30 days of the constitution of the Assembly.

## **16. Procedure for adoption of the Budget and Final Account of the Budget**

### **16.1 Procedure for adoption of the Budget**

#### **Article 189**

- (1) The Draft Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia (Draft Budget), along with the necessary documents necessary according to law, shall be submitted by the Government to the President of the Assembly within the deadline established by law.
- (2) The general debate and the debate on the amendments in the competent working body shall be concluded by the end of November at the latest.
- (3) The plan for the manner and duration of the debate on the Draft Budget shall be prepared by the President of the Assembly, after prior consultation with the Chairperson of the competent working body. The plan prepared by the President of the Assembly shall be harmonized at a special coordination meeting.
- (4) A direct broadcast shall be provided for the meeting of the competent working body on the Assembly TV Channel.
- (5) The Legislative Committee shall not consider the Draft Budget.
- (6) During the procedure for considering the Draft Budget in the competent working body, a Member of Assembly has the right to two replies lasting three minutes each and two counter-replies lasting one minute each, whereas for the incorrect application of the Rules of Procedure, Article 94 paragraph (5) of these Rules of Procedure shall be applied accordingly.

#### **Article 190**

- (1) A general debate shall be held on the Draft Budget in the competent working body which shall last a maximum of four days.
- (2) The representative of the Government shall elaborate the Draft Budget for a duration of 30 minutes.
- (3) A Member of Assembly may take the floor several times during the general debate, for a total of 20 minutes, whereas a coordinator of a parliamentary group, for a total of 30 minutes. The representative of the Government may take the floor several times during the general debate, but not more than 30 minutes in total.

#### **Article 191**

- (1) An amendment to the Draft Budget may be submitted no later than three working days before the day set for holding the meeting of the competent working body. For the submission of amendments, Article 157 of these rules of procedure shall be applied accordingly.
- (2) The amendment debate shall be held in the competent working body and shall last a maximum of six days.
- (3) A Member of Assembly may take the floor only once during the amendment debate for a duration of 10 minutes. The representative of the Government may take the floor on the acceptability of an amendment only once for five minutes.
- (4) The submitter of the amendment may take the floor and elaborate the amendment only once for 15 minutes, and if the submitter of the amendment is two or more Members of Assembly, only one of the submitters may take the floor and elaborate the amendment only once in a duration of 15 minutes.

(5) The debate and voting on the amendments shall be carried out in accordance with Article 160 of these Rules of Procedure.

#### **Article 192**

(1) If the amendment debate in the competent working body does not end within the period provided for in Article 191 paragraph (2) of these Rules of Procedure, the debate for the remaining amendments shall continue in the next two days (additional deadline).

(2) The plan for the manner and duration of the debate on the remaining amendments shall be prepared by the Chairperson of the competent working body after prior consultation with the coordinators of the parliamentary groups. The time shall be allocated separately for each of the remaining amendments, and it shall also include the time for the Government representative to take the floor on the acceptability of the amendment.

(3) If the amendment debate is not completed within the additional deadline, the competent working body shall vote on each remaining amendment individually without a debate the next day, no later than 24:00 hours.

(4) After the completion of the amendment debate, the competent working body shall be obliged to submit a report to the President of the Assembly, signed by the President, that is, the Chairperson of the meeting, who shall distribute it to the Members of Assembly and to the Government.

#### **Article 193**

(1) The government shall prepare an amended Draft Budget. The amended Draft Budget shall represent a new integral text in which the Government has incorporated the amendments it agreed with and the necessary amendments and supplements to the Draft Budget. An explanation shall also be submitted along with the amended Draft Budget.

(2) Amendments to the amended Draft Budget may be submitted no later than three days before the day set for holding the Assembly session, only to those sections that have been amended in the amended Draft Budget. Amendments may be submitted by any Member of Assembly, parliamentary group and the Government.

(3) Articles 163 and 164 of these Rules of Procedure shall be applied accordingly for the debate and vote on the amendments to the amended Draft Budget.

#### **Article 194**

(1) The debate on the Draft Budget, that is, on the amended Draft Budget at a session of the Assembly, shall be held in the second week of December and shall last a maximum of five days. During the debate, a Member of Assembly may take the floor several times for a total of 20 minutes, whereas the coordinator of a parliamentary group for a total of 30 minutes. The representative of the Government may take the floor several times, but not more than 30 minutes in total.

(2) The Assembly shall adopt the Budget no later than the deadline established by law.

### **16.2 Procedure for amending and supplementing the Budget**

#### **Article 195**

(1) If the Government submits the proposal for amending and supplementing the Budget to the Assembly no later than June 30, the provisions related to the procedure for considering and adopting the Budget will be applied in the procedure for its consideration and adoption.

(2) The plan for the method and duration of the debate on the proposal for amending and supplementing the Budget shall be prepared by the President of the Assembly, after prior consultation with the Chairperson of the competent working body. The plan prepared by the President of the Assembly shall be harmonised at a special coordination.

#### **Article 196**

If the Government submits the proposal for amending and supplementing the Budget to the Assembly after 1 July, the procedure for its consideration and adoption shall be shortened and shall last a total of 14 days.

#### **Article 197**

(1) The competent working body shall hold a general debate on the proposal for amending and supplementing the budget, for a maximum of three days.

(2) The representative of the Government shall elaborate the proposal for amending and supplementing the Budget, for a duration of 30 minutes.

(3) A Member of Assembly may take the floor several times in the general debate for a total of 20 minutes, whereas a parliamentary group coordinator for a total of 30 minutes. The representative of the Government may take the floor several times in the general debate, but not more than 30 minutes in total.

#### **Article 198**

(1) An amendment to the proposal for amending and supplementing the budget may be submitted no later than three days before the day set for holding the meeting of the competent working body. Article 157 of these Rules of Procedure shall be applied accordingly for the submission of amendments.

(2) The amendment debate shall be held in the competent working body and shall last a maximum of six days.

(3) A Member of Assembly may take the floor only once during the amendment debate for 10 minutes. The representative of the Government may take the floor to give a statement on the acceptability of an amendment only once for five minutes.

(4) The submitter of the amendment may take the floor and elaborate the amendment only once in duration of 15 minutes, and if the submitter of the amendment is two or more Members of Assembly, only one of the submitters may take the floor and elaborate the amendment only once in duration of 15 minutes.

(5) The debate and vote on the amendments shall be carried out in accordance with Article 160 of these Rules of Procedure.

(6) If the amendment debate in the competent working body does not end within the deadline provided by paragraph (2) of this article, the debate on the other amendments shall continue the next day (additional deadline).

(7) The plan for the method and duration of the debate on the remaining amendments shall be prepared by the Chairperson of the competent working body after prior consultation with the coordinators of the parliamentary groups. Time shall be allocated for each of the remaining amendments accordingly, and it shall also include the time for the Government representative to give a statement on the acceptability of the amendment.

(8) If the amendment debate is not completed within the additional deadline, the competent working body shall vote on each remaining amendment individually without a debate the next day, no later than 24:00 hours.

(9) After the completion of the amendment debate, the competent working body shall be obliged to submit a report to the President of the Assembly, signed by the President, that is, the Chairperson of the meeting, who shall distribute it to the Members of Assembly and to the Government.

### **Article 199**

(1) The government shall prepare a supplemented draft for amending and supplementing the Budget. The amended draft for amending and supplementing the budget shall be a new integral text in which the Government shall incorporate the amendments it agreed with and the necessary amendments and supplements to the proposal for amending and supplementing the Budget. An explanation shall also be submitted along with the amended draft for amending and supplementing the Budget.

(2) Amendments to the amended draft for amending and supplementing the budget may be submitted no later than three days before the day set for holding the Assembly session, only to those sections that have been amended in the amended proposal for amending and supplementing the budget. Amendments may be submitted by any Member of Assembly, parliamentary group or the Government.

(3) Article 163 of these rules of procedure shall be applied accordingly for the debate and vote on the amendments to the amended draft for amending and supplementing the Budget.

### **Article 200**

The debate on the proposal for amending and supplementing the Budget, that is, on the amended draft for amending and supplementing the Budget shall last a maximum of three days at the session of the Assembly. A Member of Assembly may take the floor several times during the debate for a total of 20 minutes, whereas a coordinator of parliamentary group for a total of 30 minutes. The representative of the Government may take the floor several times, in a duration of not more than 30 minutes in total.

### **Article 201**

The provisions of these Rules of Procedure that refer to the procedure for adoption of a law, shall be accordingly applied in the procedure for the adoption of the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Final Account of the Budget.

## **17. Procedure for adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and other regulations, general acts and documents**

### **17.1 Rules of Procedure of the Assembly**

### **Article 202**

(1) Any Member of Assembly and the competent working body may submit draft Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

(2) The provisions related to the submission and debate of a draft law shall be applied accordingly in the procedure for adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

## **17.2 Declarations, Resolutions, Decisions And Recommendations**

### **Article 203**

- (1)The general position of the Assembly on issues of general political significance shall be expressed by means of a Declaration.
- (2)By a Resolution, the Assembly shall indicate the situation, problems and measures that should be in a particular area.
- (3)By a Recommendation, the Assembly shall provide guidelines for overcoming existing circumstances in a specific area.

### **Article 204**

- (1)Every Member of Assembly, parliamentary group, working body and the Government shall have the right to propose adoption of a declaration, resolution, decision, recommendation and other general acts.
- (2)The provisions of these Rules of Procedure regulating the second reading of a draft law shall apply accordingly in the procedure for adoption of declarations, resolutions, decisions, recommendations and other general acts, with a compulsory general debate.

## **17.3 Debate on Analyses, Reports, Information and other documents**

### **Article 205**

- (1)The Assembly may debate on Analysis, Reports, Information and other documents submitted by the Government or other authorised proponents.
- (2)The Assembly may also discuss Information submitted by the Government to a Member of Assembly on his/her demand, if the Member of Assembly proposes this.
- (3)The debate on the documents from paragraphs (1) and (2) of this article, as a rule, shall end with the adoption of a conclusion.

## **18. Confirmation and approval of Statutes and other general acts**

### **Article 206**

- (1)The President of the Assembly shall submit to the Legislative Committee and the competent working body the Statutes and other general acts for which, pursuant to Law, the Assembly is authorised to give confirmation or approval. The President of the Assembly shall notify the Members of the Assembly that such documents have been received and stored in the Documentation Unit of the Assembly.
- (2)The Statutes and other general acts shall also be submitted to the Government, which shall give its opinion within 30 days from the day of receiving.

### **Article 207**

- (1) The Legislative Committee shall submit the harmonised remarks of the competent working bodies on the Statutes, i.e., other general legal acts to its initiators, and shall determine a deadline for receiving their remarks.
- (2)When the competent working bodies and the Legislative Committee, after receiving the statutes, i.e., other general acts, determine that the initiator acted in accordance with the given remarks within 30 days from the day of receiving the act, they shall submit a report and a draft-decision to the Assembly for confirmation.

(3)When the competent working body and the Legislative Committee determine that the initiator of the Statute i.e. other general act has not acted in accordance with the remarks, they shall submit a Report on this to the Assembly.

## **19. Procedure for Ratification of International Agreements**

### **Article 208**

(1)Ratification of an international agreement shall be carried by a law.

(2) A draft law on Ratification of International Agreements shall be submitted by the Government.

(3)The Government shall initiate the procedure for adopting a law on Ratification of an International Agreement by submitting a draft law on Ratification.

(4)The draft law on Ratification of an International Agreement shall contain the text of the International Agreement proposed for Ratification.

(5)The elaboration of the draft law on Ratification of an International Agreement shall include the constitutional basis, the reasons for proposing ratification of an international agreement, assessment of whether the international agreement shall require adoption of new laws or modification of the existing ones, as well as an assessment of the need to allocate financial resources from the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for the implementation of the international agreement.

### **Article 209**

(1) The provisions of these Rules of Procedure regulating the procedure for debating a draft law in urgent procedure shall be accordingly applied in the procedure for debating a draft law on Ratification of an International Agreement.

(2)The text of the international agreement shall not be amended or supplemented.

### **Article 210**

The laws on ratification of international agreements and the source text of international agreements shall be published in a special section of the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" - International Agreements..

## **20. Procedure upon citizens' initiative at the state level**

### **Article 211**

(1) The President of the Assembly, after receiving the proposal for launching a citizen's initiative for adoption of a law, for calling a referendum at the state level and for submitting a proposal to proceed to amending the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, shall immediately submit it to the President of the Legislative Committee and to the Chairperson of the competent working body.

(2)The Legislative Committee and the competent working body shall submit an opinion on the orderliness of the initiative to the President of the Assembly within two working days.

### **Article 212**

(1)If the President of the Assembly determines that the initiative is orderly, he/she shall notify thereto the authorised proponent within three days of receiving the opinion of the working bodies.

(2)If the President of the Assembly determines that the initiative is not orderly, after receiving the opinion of the working bodies, he/she shall include the issue related to the initiative in the



agenda of the first subsequent session of the Assembly, as the first item on the agenda which shall be voted on the same day, at 24:00 hours at the latest.

(3) The Assembly shall decide by a conclusion whether the initiative is orderly.

(4) The President of the Assembly shall notify the authorised proponent on the conclusion of the Assembly within three days.

## **XII. PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHTY**

### **Article 213**

(1) The Assembly shall exercise political control and oversight of the Government by an oversight hearing. The oversight hearing shall be held in order to obtain information and expert opinions on issues within the scope of the competent working body in relation to the establishment and implementation of policy, the execution of laws and other activities of the Government and state administration bodies.

(2) Oversight hearings shall be held in accordance with the annual projection for holding oversight hearings from Article 66 paragraph (3) point 2. of these Rules of Procedure.

(3) The oversight hearing shall be carried out by the competent working body, which may invite authorised representatives of the Government or state administration bodies to its meeting and request from them information and clarifications that are the subject of the oversight hearing.

(4) Other persons who can provide information on the issues that are the subject of the oversight hearing may be invited to the oversight hearing.

(5) The invited authorised representatives shall be obliged to attend the meeting at which the oversight hearing is held.

(6) The authorised representative who does not attend the oversight hearing, and was duly notified and invited thereto, shall be published in a special place on the website of the Assembly. The institution where the authorised representative holds office, i.e., is employed, shall be notified of his absence from the oversight hearing.

(7) The Chairperson of the working body shall notify the President of the Assembly about the holding of the oversight hearing. The President of the Assembly shall notify the Government in writing about the holding of the oversight hearing. Along with the notification, the President of the Assembly will request the Government to designate an authorised representative (representatives) for the issues that are the subject of the oversight hearing.

(8) The Chairperson of the competent working body shall invite the authorised representative of the Government or the bodies of the state administration, in writing, to the meeting of the working body at which the oversight hearing will be held and shall inform him/her about the issue that is the subject of the hearing and may request from him/her to submit information, opinions and views, in written form, no later than three days before the day of holding the meeting of the body.

(9) The funds for holding the oversight hearings shall be provided from the funds of the Assembly provided for in the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia.

(10) The public shall be informed about the holding of the oversight hearing through the website of the Assembly and the Assembly TV Channel. A direct broadcast shall be provided for the oversight hearing on the Assembly TV Channel, unless a session of the Assembly or a session referred to in Article 189 paragraph (4) of these Rules of Procedure is not being held at the same time.

### **Article 214**

(1) An initiative to hold an oversight hearing may be raised by one member of the competent working body. The initiative shall be presented in writing to the Chairperson of the competent working body.

(2) The Chairperson of the competent working body shall be obliged to place the initiative as the first item on the agenda of the next meeting of the competent working body.

(3) The next meeting of the competent working body shall be held within 10 working days from the day of submission of the written initiative for holding an oversight hearing. The competent working body shall be obliged to consider the initiative and make a decision thereto.

(4) The working body shall decide on holding an oversight hearing with a majority vote of the members present, and at least with one third of the total number of its members. The oversight hearing shall be held within 15 working days from the day of the decision.

(5) If 15 Members of Assembly submit a request for holding an oversight hearing to the Chairperson of the working body through the President of the Assembly, then the Chairperson of the working body shall be obliged to immediately convene it Vice .

(6) The President of the Assembly with the Vice Presidents and the coordinators of the parliamentary groups may give a recommendation to the Chairperson and the members of the working body for holding oversight hearings.

#### **Article 215**

(1) The Chairperson of the competent working body, which holds the oversight hearing, must necessarily consult with the members or deputy members of the competent working body during the selection of authorised representatives.

(2) The members of the competent working body shall have the right to propose authorised representatives who may be invited to the oversight hearing.

(3) The Chairperson shall establish a list of representatives based on the received proposals based on the proposals from the members of the competent working body.

(4) The order of hearing the statements of the representatives shall be determined in a way that will ensure a balanced ratio between the majority and the opposition.

#### **Article 216**

(1) During the oversight hearing, the members of the competent working body and the Members of Assembly who are not members of the competent working body may ask questions to the authorised representatives of the Government or the state administration bodies invited to the hearing, only in relation to the issue that is subject of the debate.

(2) During the oversight hearing, a debate may be held with the summoned persons who shall provide information only if it is necessary to harmonise or clarify specific issues and facts.

(3) The competent working body shall decide on the duration of the hearing, ensuring the participation of each member of the competent working body in the hearing.

(4) During the oversight hearing, the authorised representative shall have the right to a presentation before the competent working body regarding the topic that is the subject of the supervisory hearing for a duration of up to five minutes.

(5) After the presentation of the authorised representative, questions may be asked by the persons from paragraph (1) of this article for a maximum of 10 minutes, only on the topic that is the subject of the oversight hearing.

(6) The authorised representative shall have the right to answer the question within 15 minutes.

(7) During the oversight hearing, a question may be asked for a duration of three minutes. The answer to the question may last up to six minutes.

#### **Article 217**

(1) The oversight hearing shall be phonographically recorded, stenographic notes shall be taken and minutes shall be kept. The stenographic notes from the meeting shall be an integral part of the minutes.

(2) The working body shall submit to the Assembly a report on the oversight hearing which shall include the essence of the presentations, and it may also propose conclusions and recommendations, which shall also be submitted to the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia.

(3) The report with the conclusions and recommendations from the oversight hearing shall be published on the website of the Assembly, not later than 15 days after the end of the hearing.

### **XIII. PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

#### **1. Proposal for initiating amendment to the Constitution**

#### **Article 218**

A proposal for initiating amendment to the Constitution of Republic of North Macedonia may be submitted by the President of the Republic, the Government, at least 30 Members of Assembly or 150,000 citizens.

#### **Article 219**

A proposal to proceed to amending the Constitution shall include specific directions for amending and supplementing the Constitution and elaboration on the reasons for proposing amendments and supplements to the Constitution.

#### **Article 220**

The President of the Assembly shall submit the proposal to proceed to amending the Constitution to the Members of Assembly, the President of the Republic and the Government, when they are not the initiators of the proposal.

#### **Article 221**

(1) The debate on the proposal for amending the Constitution in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs may last a maximum of 10 working days. A member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and a Member of Assembly may take the floor several times during the debate in duration of total of 20 minutes, while a coordinator of parliamentary group may take the floor for a total of 30 minutes. The representative of the proponent may take the floor several times during the debate, but not more than 30 minutes in total.

(2) The Assembly shall, hold a debate at its session on the proposal to proceed to amending the Constitution in its entirety, which shall last 10 working days at most. A Member of Assembly may take the floor several times during the debate in duration of 20 minutes in

total, the coordinator of a parliamentary group may take the floor for a total of 30 minutes. A representative of the proponent may take the floor several times, but not more than 30 minutes in total.

(3) The Assembly shall adopt the decision to proceed to amending the Constitution by a two-thirds majority vote of the total number of its Members.

(4) Upon adopting the decision to proceed to amending the Constitution, the Assembly shall, by a Conclusion, determine the timeline in which the proponent of the proposal for amending the Constitution shall draft the text of the Draft amendments to the Constitution.

## **2. Draft Amendments to the Constitution**

### **Article 222**

The proponent shall submit the draft text of the Constitutional amendments with an elaboration to the President of the Assembly, who shall distribute it to the Members of Assembly, the President of the Republic and the Government, when not initiators, not later than 30 days prior holding the session of the Assembly.

### **Article 223**

(1) The debate in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and in the Legislative Committee shall last three working days at most for each amendment. A member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Legislative Committee and a Member of the Assembly may speak several times during the debate in duration of 20 minutes in total, while a coordinator of a parliamentary group a total of 30 minutes. The representative of the proponent may take the floor several times, in a duration of not more than 30 minutes in total.

(2) The debate in the Assembly shall be held on the draft text of each amendment separately and opinions and suggestions may be given. The debate of the text of each draft amendment may last three working days at most. An Member of Assembly during the debate shall take the floor several times in duration of a total of 20 minutes; the coordinator of a parliamentary group shall speak a total of 30 minutes. A representative of the proponent shall speak several times, but not more than 30 minutes in total.

(3) By a majority vote of the total number of its Members, the Assembly shall determine the draft of each amendment to the Constitution.

(4) The Assembly shall put the draft amendments to a public debate.

(5) The Assembly shall determine a timeframe for the public debate, the manner of publishing the draft amendments, and the deadline by which the proponent, as a bearer of the public debate, shall submit to the Assembly a report on the results of the debate and the text of the Constitutional amendment proposals.

## **3. Draft Constitutional amendments**

### **Article 224**

The proponent shall submit the draft amendments, together with the explanation and the results of the public debate to the President of the Assembly the text of the Constitutional. The President of the Assembly shall distribute the proposals to the Members of the Assembly, the President of the Republic and the Government, when not initiator, not later than 30 days prior holding of the Session of the Assembly.

### **Article 225**

(1) The proponent, each Member of the Assembly, Working Body and the Government when not an initiator, may submit amendments to the text of the draft Constitutional amendments, not later than eight days before the Assembly holds the session on which the amendments of the Constitution are to be adopted.

(2) As an exception, the proponent may submit amendments to the draft Constitutional amendment until the end of the debate in line with harmonisation of the text of the amendment proposals that have been amended as a result of the adoption of an amendment.

#### **Article 226**

The Committee on Constitutional affairs and the Legislative Committee shall hold a debate on each draft amendment and a general debate, which can last three working days at most. A member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Legislative Committee and a Member of Assembly shall take the floor during the debate several times in duration of 20 minutes in total, whereas a coordinator of parliamentary group a total of 30 minutes. The representative of the proponent shall take the floor several times, but not longer than 30 minutes in total.

#### **Article 227**

(1) A general debate and a debate on the text itself shall be conducted on each Constitutional draft amendment, which shall last three working days at most. Member of the Assembly during the review shall speak several times in duration of 20 minutes in total, a Coordinator of the Parliamentary Group a total of 30 minutes. The representative of the proponent shall speak several times, but not longer than 30 minutes in total.

(2) The Assembly shall decide separately on each draft amendment to the Constitutional, by a majority vote of the total number of Members of the Assembly.

(3) The Member of the Assembly during the debate on the Constitutional amendment can take the floor once in duration of 10 minutes. The coordinator of the parliamentary group or one Member of the Assembly determined by the parliamentary group or by the coordinator of the parliamentary group shall can take the floor once in the debate per amendment in duration of 15 minutes. The representative of the proponent shall take the floor once in duration of 5 minutes.

(4) Only the proponent of the draft Constitutional amendment shall elaborate and speak on the amendment in duration of ten minutes, if two or more Member of the Assembly are proponents of the amendment, only one of the proponents shall speak on the amendment in duration of 10 minutes in total.

(5) The amendments submitted by the proponent and amendments accepted by the proponent shall be regarded as an integral part of the draft text of the Constitutional amendment.

(6) The Assembly shall determine each draft amendment separately by a majority vote of the total number of the Members of Assembly.

### **4. Adoption and promulgation of Constitutional amendments**

#### **Article 228**

(1) The amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the total number of the Members of the Assembly.

(2) The Assembly shall adopt the decision for amendment to the Preamble, the Articles on Local Self-Governance, the Article 131, any provision concerning the rights of the members

of communities, including in particular Articles 7, 8, 9, 19, 48, 56, 69, 77, 78, 86, 104 and 109, as well as a decision for adding any new provision related to the issues covered with these provisions and these articles, by a two-thirds majority vote of the total number of Members of Assembly, which has to include a majority vote of the total number of Members of the Assembly belonging to the communities that are not majority in the Republic of North Macedonia.

#### **Article 229**

The Assembly shall adopt the decision on proclamation of the Amendments to the Constitution by a two-thirds majority vote of the total number of its members.

### **5. Procedure for adoption of a Constitutional Law on Implementation of the Constitution**

#### **Article 230**

(1)The President of the Republic, the Government or at least 30 Members of Assembly shall have the right to propose adoption of a Constitutional Law on Implementation of the Constitution.

(2)The provisions of these Rules of Procedure which refer to submission and debate on a Law in the second reading shall apply accordingly in the procedure for adoption of a Constitutional Law.

(3)A Constitutional Law shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the total number of Members of the Assembly.

(4)The Assembly shall adopt a decision for promulgation of the Constitutional Law by a two-thirds majority vote of the total number of its members.

### **XIV. PROPOSAL FOR INITIATING A PROCEDURE DETERMINING THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC**

#### **Article 231**

(1)A proposal for initiating a procedure to determine the accountability of the President of the Republic may be submitted by at least 30 Members of the Assembly.

(2)The proposal from Paragraph 1 of this Article shall contain explanation for the reasons for initiating the procedure, a description and evidence on the actions by which the President of the Republic has violated the Constitution and the laws in exercising his/her rights and obligations.

(3)If the proposal is not drafted in accordance with Paragraph 2 of this Article, the President of the Assembly shall, before distributing it to the Members of Assembly, request from the initiator to adjust the proposal within five days.

(4)The President of the Assembly shall immediately distribute the proposal from Paragraph (1) of this article to the Members of the Assembly and to the President of the Republic.

#### **Article 232**

(1)Within five days of the submission of the proposal, the Assembly shall establish a Committee for assessing the grounds of the proposal.

(2)The Committee shall have a Chairperson and 10 members, elected by the Assembly upon a proposal by the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues, and adequately representing the Members of Parliamentary Groups and the Members of Assembly that are

not organised in parliamentary groups.  
(3)The Committee shall submit a Report to the Assembly within seven days of its establishment.

#### **Article 233**

(1) The President of the Assembly shall immediately inform the President of the Republic on the establishment of the committee from Article 232 of these Rules of Procedure.  
(2)The President of the Republic may submit a written statement on the allegations in the proposal for initiating a procedure for determining accountability to the committee.

#### **Article 234**

The President of the Assembly shall immediately distribute the report of the committee to the Members of Assembly and to the President of the Republic and shall convene a special session of the Assembly which shall be held within seven days from the day the report was submitted.

#### **Article 235**

(1)A debate shall be held on the proposal from Article 231, Paragraph (1) of these Rules of Procedure and the report of the committee.  
(2) One of the Members of Assembly who have submitted the proposal shall have the right to elaborate the proposal.  
(3) The Chairperson or a member of the committee shall have the right to elaborate on the report.  
(4) At the session, the President of the Republic may present, in writing or orally, his/her view on the allegations of the proposal and on the report of the committee.

#### **Article 236**

(1) The Assembly shall decide on initiating a procedure to determine accountability of the President of the Republic with two-thirds majority vote of the total number of Members of Assembly.  
(2) The President of the Assembly shall immediately distribute the decision to initiate a procedure to determine accountability of the President of the Republic to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia and to the President of the Republic.

### **XV. RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Article 237**

(1) The Government shall be represented in the Assembly by the President of the Government.  
(2) The representatives appointed by the Government to the Assembly and the working bodies of the Assembly shall participate in the work of the Assembly and the working bodies and shall present the opinions of the Government.

#### **Article 238**

Trustees appointed by the Government shall attend the meeting of the working body and shall inform and give explanations on the items on the agenda.

#### **Article 239**

The Assembly shall exercise political control and oversight of the Government in a manner and procedure determined by the Constitution and these Rules of Procedure.

## **1. A vote of confidence for the Government**

### **Article 240**

(1) A vote of confidence for the Government may be initiated by at least 20 Members of the Assembly. A motion for a vote of confidence shall be submitted in writing and must include an explanation.

(2) A vote of confidence may also be initiated by the President of the Government in writing or verbally at a session of the Assembly.

(3) The President of the Assembly shall immediately convey the motion for a vote of confidence to the Members of the Assembly, the Government and the President of the Republic, and when the President of the Government verbally initiates the vote of confidence at a Session of the Assembly, the President of the Assembly shall immediately notify thereon the President of the Republic.

(4) The motion for vote of confidence of the Government may be withdrawn until the opening of the Session on which the motion shall be debated.

(5) A motion for vote of confidence of the Government cannot be posed verbally posed by the President of the Government.

### **Article 241**

(1) The President of the Assembly shall immediately convene a session for a vote of Confidence for the Government. The session shall be held on the third day of submission of the motion for a vote of confidence.

(2) The timeframe of Paragraph 1 of this article shall begin on the day following the day of submission of the motion for a vote of confidence.

### **Article 242**

(1) A debate shall be held on the motion for a vote of confidence for the Government.

(2) One of the Members of Assembly who have initiated the vote of confidence shall have the right to elaborate the motion in duration of not more than 30 minutes.

(3) The speaking order of the Members of Assembly from parliamentary groups and Members of Assembly who do not belong to a parliamentary group, who take part in the debate, shall be determined in agreement between the President of the Assembly and the coordinators of parliamentary groups prior to the beginning of the session.

(4) A Member of the Assembly shall have the right to take the floor several times during the debate in total of 15 minutes, and a coordinator of a parliamentary group for a total of 20 minutes.

### **Article 243**

(1) The Assembly shall vote on the no confidence motion after the expiration of the third day from the day of raising the vote of confidence. The President of the Government shall also have the right to address the Assembly before the vote.

(2) If the President of the Government raises the vote of confidence at a session of the Assembly orally, the Assembly shall vote on the confidence motion on the same session, without a debate.

### **Article 244**



- (1) If a no confidence vote for the Government is adopted, the President of the Government shall submit a Resignation to the Assembly within 24 hours from the no confidence vote.
- (2) The President of the Assembly shall immediately notify the President of the Republic on the vote of no confidence and the submitted resignation.

## **2. Resignation of the Government**

### **Article 245**

- (1) The Government, the President of the Government or a member of the Government may submit Resignation.
- (2) The resignation of the Government and of the President of the Government shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly in writing and may include explanation.
- (3) The resignation of a member of the Government shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly through the President of the Government.
- (4) The president of the Assembly shall immediately distribute the resignation of the Government or the President of the Government to the Members of Assembly and to the President of the Republic.
- (5) The President of the Assembly shall immediately distribute the resignation of a member of the Government to the Members of Assembly.

### **Article 246**

The Assembly shall, on its first subsequent session, without a debate declare that the mandate of the President of the Government, the Government or a member of the Government ceases on the day of holding the session.

## **3. Dismissal**

### **Article 247**

- (1) The President of the Government shall submit a proposal for dismissal of a member of the Government to the President of the Assembly in writing and may give an explanation.
- (2) The Assembly shall decide upon the proposal for dismissal of a member of the Government at its first subsequent session.
- (3) A general debate shall be held on the proposal for dismissal of the Government. The debate shall last for a maximum of two days.
- (4) When the President of the Government proposes a dismissal of several members of the Government, who are less than one third of the members of the Government, the Assembly shall have a single debate. The debate shall last for a maximum of two working days .
- (5) The Member of the Government whose dismissal has been proposed may speak on the proposal for 15 minutes.
- (6) The procedure on the proposal for dismissal of a member/ members of the Government shall be applied to the proposal for dismissal of Deputy Minister (Deputy Ministers).

### **Article 248**

- (1) A proposal of the President of the Government for dismissal of more than one-third of the members of the Government shall be submitted to the President of the Assembly.
- (2) On the proposal from Paragraph (1) of this Article, the Assembly shall decide as for the election of a new Government.

## **XVI. BUDGET OF THE ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 249**

- (1) The allocations for the work of the Assembly shall be provided with the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia.
- (2) The Assembly shall manage independently the usage, allocation and the purpose of the finances provided by the section of the Budget on the Assembly.
- (3) The provision of the allocations for the work of the Assembly, as well as the usage, allocation and purpose shall be executed pursuant to the Law.

### **XVII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 250**

- (1) The Assembly, for the purpose of carrying out international cooperation, shall establish permanent delegations to International Parliamentary Assemblies to which it is a Member i.e. Associate Member; Parliamentary Groups for Cooperation with other Parliaments and may also establish joint Working Bodies with other Parliaments, International Parliamentary Organisations and institutions, temporary delegations and other structures of cooperation.
- (2) The Delegations, Working Bodies, Parliamentary Groups for Cooperation, Joint Working Bodies and the Members of Assembly shall report on the accomplished international cooperation to the President of the Assembly, who shall convey such reports to the Members of the Assembly, and, subject to need, to other state bodies and institutions.

#### **Article 251**

The planning of the Assembly's international cooperation shall be carried out within the calendar of activities of the organisations and institutions to which it is a member or with which it cooperates, as well as on the basis of the expressed and harmonised interests for bilateral cooperation.

### **XIV. PUBLICITY IN THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 252**

The Assembly shall provide information to the public regarding its work, and the work of the working bodies and permanent delegations to international organisations.

#### **Article 253**

The citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia may follow the sessions of the Assembly and the meetings of the working bodies from the galleries in compliance with the regulations on the internal order of the Assembly.

#### **Article 254**

Representatives of the media may, in compliance with the regulations on internal order of the Assembly, attend the sessions of the Assembly and the meetings of the working bodies for the purpose of informing the public on their work.

#### **Article 255**

Media representatives shall have at their disposal the acts discussed and adopted by the Assembly, the information and documents regarding the issues debated at the Sessions of the Assembly and at the Meetings of the Working Bodies; reports on the activities of the Working Bodies and Minutes from the Sessions, unless the Assembly i.e. a Working Body decides to examine particular issue without the presence of media representatives.

#### **Article 256**

The manner of exercise of the rights, obligations, and duties of media representatives in the Assembly shall be regulated with an act adopted by the President of the Assembly.

#### **Article 257**

The Assembly and the competent working bodies may decide that a draft law or proposal of another general act debated/considered in the Assembly, which is of special interest for the public, should be published in the press or in a special publication.

#### **Article 258**

The Assembly and the working bodies may decide, for the purpose of informing the public on the work of the Assembly, to issue a press release following a session of the Assembly or a meeting of a working body held without the presence of the public, i.e. without the presence of the media representatives, as well as in other cases when the Assembly or the working body decide so.

#### **Article 259**

A press conferences regarding the work of the Assembly shall be held when the President of the Assembly, a parliamentary group, working body or Head of a Delegation following a visit abroad, who shall assign the representative as well, to deliver the press statement.

#### **Article 260**

The Assembly shall have its own website with the general information on the Assembly, its working bodies, the President of the Assembly, the Members of Assembly, Parliamentary Groups, Delegations of the Assembly, adopted laws, sessions and other activities of the Assembly, the Assembly Staff and other data related to the organisation and work of the Assembly.

(2) Live broadcast of the sessions of the Assembly, live broadcast and reruns of the meetings of the working bodies and other bodies of the Assembly shall be aired at the Assembly TV Channel. The Assembly TV Channel may broadcast international activities, official state visits and meetings of the President of the Assembly, the Permanent Delegations to the International Parliamentary Assemblies, Temporary Delegations of the Assembly and the Parliamentary Groups for Cooperation with other Parliaments, ceremonial events held in the Assembly, conferences, cultural and other events held in the Assembly or events under the auspices of the Assembly.

### **XIX. STAFF OF THE ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 262**

(1) All expert and other undertakings for the needs of the Assembly, working bodies and Members of the Assembly, shall be performed by the Assembly Staff (the Staff).

(2) The organisation and duties of the Staff shall be determined by an act adopted by the Assembly in compliance with law.

(3) The Staff shall be headed by the Secretary General of the Assembly.

#### **Article 263**

(1) The maintenance of the order in the Assembly's building and on the premises in which the Assembly performs its activities shall be ensured by a special service. The organisation and the tasks of the Security Service of the Assembly shall be stipulated by Law.

(2) Without the approval of the President of the Assembly, the authorised officers of the state administration bodies may have neither access to the premises referred to in Paragraph (1) of this article nor can undertake measures against Members of Assembly, members of the Staff or against other citizens.

(3) Carrying weapons in the building of the Assembly shall not be allowed, with the exception by persons authorised to maintain order in the building of the Assembly.

## **XX. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 264**

On the day of the entry into force of these Rules of Procedure, the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”, no. 91/2008, 119/10 and 23/12 and “Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia no. 152/19) shall cease to have effect.

### **Article 265**

These Rules of Procedure shall enter into force on the eighth day of their publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia”, whereas the implementation shall start with the incoming composition of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia.

No. 08 –  
20 November 2023  
Skopje

**ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

**PRESIDENT  
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
NORTH MACEDONIA**

Talat Xhaferi, MDS