



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

POINTS OF ORDER

FACT SHEET 6

REVISION 1, 13 JULY 2016

Points of order are raised to call the attention of the Presiding Officer to alleged breaches of the standing rules or the established conventions during debate.

Members have the right and responsibility to interrupt the Member who is speaking immediately whenever an alleged breach occurs and to explain the irregularity concisely to the Presiding Officer.

Members cannot explain their points of order by way of lengthy speeches and, by doing so, abuse the time of the House. The attention of the Presiding Officer must be drawn to a breach of the rules immediately at the moment when it occurs otherwise the business of the House would have passed a stage where the breach would be appropriate.

The Member raising the point of order should state the relevant rule. If the Member fails to provide the relevant reference, the Presiding Officer may request him/her to do so.

Members may not raise points of order or interrupt the Presiding Officer when he/she is addressing the House.

Only the Presiding Officer deals with points of order when they actually arise, not in anticipation, and will not rule on a hypothetical question of procedure. The Presiding Officer does not have to wait for a Member to call his/her attention to a breach of the rules but must deal with the matter as it occurs.

Members are not allowed to raise frivolous points of order or raise points of order in a spirit of mockery. Members raising points knowing full well that the points they are raising are not valid points of order run the risk of not being recognised by the Chair when they are raising valid points of order.