



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

MOTIONS

FACT SHEET 9

REVISION 1, 4 JULY 2016

One can define a motion as a proposal by a Member that the House do something, order that something should be done or that the opinion of the House be expressed on a certain matter.

Motions may be introduced by any Member and it is in this way that the House considers matters introduced by Members themselves as opposed to “government business” represented as Bills.

Legislative proposals are normally brought before the House in terms of the standing rules and in most cases they originate from the Executive Authority.

The business of the House is arranged by the whips and it is, therefore, their decision whether or when a motion will come up for consideration.

After a motion has been placed on the Order Paper for consideration on a given day, it is up to the Member in whose name the motion appears to move the motion at the appropriate time. If a Member does not move his/her motion, it lapses and is not considered by the House unless another Member has been authorised by the Member concerned to move it on his/her behalf.

A motion may not contain unbecoming expressions, infringe the standing rules, be tendered in a spirit of mockery or be designed merely to give annoyance. The rules provide that motions that offend against the practice or the rules may be amended or otherwise dealt with as the Speaker may decide.

A motion must be phrased in such a way that, if agreed to, it would serve the express judgement or will of the House in a concise form. It should not take the form of a reasoned argument and any motivation should be given when the Member introduces the motion in the House.

When a motion on the Order Paper is reached on a given sitting day, the Member in whose name the motion stands gets up and formally moves the motion. He/she may introduce and motivate it if time has been made available for a debate. Members may move amendments to the motion. At the end of the debate, the Member who introduced the motion is given an opportunity to reply to the debate before it is put from the Chair for decision.