



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. What is the Legislative Council?**

The Legislative Council, also known by the abbreviation MMN, was established under Article 23 of the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam 1959. The Legislative Council serves as the official platform for discussions on matters and issues that are relevant and of importance to the people and the country.

### **2. When did the Legislative Council convene for the first time?**

Before independence, the State Council initially convened 32 times between 21 October 1959 and 12 February 1984. The Legislative Council was re-established in 2004.

### **3. What are the main functions of the Legislative Council?**

The Legislative Council functions as the highest legislative body of the country responsible for Law-Making; Financial Scrutiny; and Inquisitorial and Check & Balance.

### **4. When was the Legislative Council Building officially inaugurated?**

The Legislative Council Building, which is the venue where the Legislative Council sittings are held, was officially inaugurated on 4th March 2008.

## **5. Who are the Members of the Legislative Council?**

Members of the Legislative Council are appointed under Article 24 of the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam 1959, consisting of 34 members, including Ex-Officio Members; and Appointed Members comprising: Titled Persons; Persons who have achieved distinction; and District Representatives. The term of Members of the Legislative Council is five years.

## **6. Who is the Speaker of the Legislative Council?**

The Speaker of the Legislative Council is Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib.

## **7. Who is the Clerk to the Legislative Council?**

The Clerk to the Legislative Council is Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dr. Dayang Hajah Hurnani binti Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hurnairah.

## **8. What is meant by the term "Session"?**

Generally, a "Session" refers to the period from the commencement of the Legislative Council sitting until its adjournment within each year.

## **9. What is meant by the term "Meeting" of the Legislative Council?**

A "Meeting" refers to a group of sittings of the Legislative Council which begins whenever the Legislative Council is summoned to sit and ends when the Council is adjourned. Within each Session of the Legislative Council, there are First Meeting and Second Meeting.

## **10. What is meant by the term “Sitting”?**

A “Sitting” refers to the days on which the Legislative Council meets. A Council sitting refers to one day of the Legislative Council sitting, which usually begins from 9.00 AM till 12.00 PM, and resumes from 2.30 PM till 4.30 PM. During the month of Ramadhan, the sitting usually begins from 9.30 AM till 1.00 PM.

## **11. What are the rules governing the Legislative Council?**

The conduct of meetings is based on the Standing Orders of the Legislative Council and the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam.

## **12. What are the main agenda discussed in the Legislative Council?**

The Legislative Council discusses important matters such as Motions and the Supply Bill for the Financial Year, where the Legislative Council will consider and subsequently approve the Bill to become the Supply Act for the Financial Year. The sittings also provide opportunities for Question Time and Ministerial Statements.

## **13. What is discussed during the sessions of the Legislative Council?**

Sessions of the Legislative Council hold debates and exchanges of views towards discussing matters and issues that are of importance to the people and the country. Discussions, deliberations, and consensus among all Members are important, as through this process, a more strategic and well-coordinated framework of cooperation can be built for the interest of the country.

## **14. What are the procedures to attend the Legislative Council sitting?**

Visitors and members of the public who wish to attend the Legislative Council sittings are requested to adhere with several rules and guidelines, particularly regarding dress code and procedures for entering the Chamber, in order to ensure comfort and smooth proceedings throughout the session.

### Official Dress Code:

#### Men:

- Long-sleeved shirt and long pants (lounge suit) with tie OR Melayu Islam Beraja attire OR complete Baju Melayu attire with sinjang and songkok
- Black or dark-coloured blazer
- Formal shoes

#### Women:

- Baju kurung OR long-sleeved shirt/blouse with long pants/skirt (lounge suit)
- Headscarf (for Muslim women)
- Black or dark-coloured blazer
- Formal shoes

#### Schools and Higher Institutions:

- Higher institutions:
  - Long-sleeved shirt and long pants with songkok (male students) / Baju kurung with headscarf (female students)
  - Formal shoes
- School students:
  - Respective school uniform
  - School shoes

#### Attire not allowed:

- Attire such as hats/caps, short-sleeved shirt, T-shirts, sportswear, jeans, shorts, sport trousers, leggings, sandals, slippers.

### Chamber Rules:

1. Smoking is prohibited both inside and outside of the Legislative Council Building compound.
2. Taking photos or videos inside the Chamber during sitting is prohibited.
3. Members of the public or visitors attending the session must ensure that their mobile phones are switched to silent mode while inside the Chamber.
4. Dangerous items or objects are prohibited. Security screening will be conducted before entering the Legislative Council Building.
5. Maintain silence while the session is conducted.
6. Littering inside the Chamber is prohibited. Please use the bins provided in the Legislative Council Building.
7. No food or drink is allowed inside the Chamber.
8. Please follow the procedures for entering and exiting the Chamber while the session is in progress.

### **15. Are schools and educational institutions allowed to attend the sittings?**

Schools and educational institutions are welcomed to bring students as an exposure to the Legislative Council, the national legislative process, and to listen to debates in the Chamber. Visit requests may be submitted through an official letter to the Secretariat of the Legislative Council (Visit Committee) at least five (5) days before the date of the visit.

## **16.Are there translation services provided during the sittings?**

The Secretariat of the Legislative Council provides English translation services (upon request). Visitors who require this service may request at least 24 hours before attending the sitting to the Secretariat of the Legislative Council (Strategic Relations Division) through:

Email : majlis.mesyuarat@jmm.gov.bn  
Tel : +673 2380501 ext 221

## **17.How can the public watch the daily sitting recordings?**

Daily recordings are broadcast on RTB Perdana and RTB Sukmaindera channels at 9.00 PM for Part One and followed by Part Two at 11.00 PM.

## **18.How can the public obtain further information about the Legislative Council and its sittings?**

For any enquiries and further information, please contact the Secretariat of the Legislative Council:

### **Address:**

Department of Councils of State,  
Jalan Dewan Majlis, BB3910,  
Negara Brunei Darussalam

### **Telephone**

+673 2380501

### **Fax:**

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majlis.mesyuarat@jmm.gov.bn