

CHAPTER VI
REGULATION OF SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

30. Commencements and Ending of Sittings of the Assembly

- 1) When in session, the sittings of the Assembly shall normally commence at 10 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. Any extension of the sitting shall be by a spontaneous motion stipulating a specified duration and approved by a majority of the members present.
- 2) Save for public holidays the sittings of the Assembly shall be held three times a week: on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

31. Adjournment of Sittings

The Speaker may for any good reason adjourn sittings of the Assembly for a period not exceeding one week.

32. Publicity of Sittings

Subject to these Regulations, sittings of the Assembly shall be open to the public, press and visitors, unless the Speaker decides otherwise. The business of the Assembly may be communicated to the public through the mass media.

33. Secret Sittings

If the Speaker determines that public interest so requires, the Assembly may sit in camera.

34. Quorum

- 1) The quorum for the meetings of the Assembly shall be one half of the members. The decisions of the Assembly shall be passed by simple majority of the members present unless provided otherwise by the Constitution or the law.
- 2) When the quorum is available at the commencement of any sitting of the Assembly, such sitting shall continue and be deemed proper even though the number of the members constituting the quorum becomes less; nevertheless any minister or member may notify the Speaker if the Speaker is unaware of the lack of the quorum; and in that case the Speaker shall cause the bell to be rung for five minutes. If no quorum is reached after 5 minutes the Speaker shall adjourn the sitting for 25 minutes. If at the end of that period no quorum is available the Speaker shall adjourn the sittings.

- 3) If a quorum is not available at the commencement of a sitting, the Speaker shall defer his or her entry and the bell shall be rung. After five minutes, the Speaker shall enter and take the chair. If a quorum is not available he or she shall suspend the sitting for not more than twenty-five minutes. If at the end of this period the quorum is not attained, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly.
- 4) If from the number of members taking part in a division it becomes clear that they do not themselves constitute a quorum, the division shall be invalid. The business then under consideration shall stand and the Speaker shall proceed as if his or her attention has been drawn to the absence of the quorum.
- 5) In every instance where the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan or any provision of these Regulations lay down that a fixed majority is necessary to decide any question:
 - a. The Assembly shall not proceed to a division on that question unless and until a number of members at least equivalent to such fixed majority are present at the time for directing the division.
 - b. If the division on that question results in a majority of ayes, but less than such fixed majority, the Speaker may direct one further division on the same question to be held within seven days from the date of the first division; if on such further division the fixed majority is not obtained, he or she shall declare the motion lost.

35. Language

Deliberations of the Assembly shall be held in English and Arabic languages; nevertheless, any national language may be used with the permission of the Speaker or chairperson of any Committee of the Assembly provided that the necessary translation is availed.