

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : The Sitting of the House of Representatives : Procedures
for Setting the Agenda and Regulating Sitzings

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Thailand adheres to a democratic regime of state administration according to the principle of Representative Democracy as provided for in the Constitution This principle is carried out by the National Assembly, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives, acting as the representative of the people in exercising Legislative power and Executive oversight. Most of the functions of the National Assembly are performed in the House in its sittings to consider the bills, motions and interpellations.

One of the causes which hinder the House in carrying out its tasks is the rules and processes of the sitting as prescribed in the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives. For instance, the right to arrange the agenda of each sitting is vested in the Speaker of the House of Representatives alone. This results in the agenda being arranged in the order as it is proposed, Which may not benefit the sitting of the House.

In addition, since the sitting of the House of Representatives is held only twice a week, many matters pending considerations are delayed, thus causing problems in placing matters on the agenda. This also results in certain cases where the bills are urgent, thus requiring the agenda to be altered so that these urgent bills may be considered. In addition, the process of considering bills, motions and interpellations as prescribed in the Rules of Procedure of the House, taken as a whole, does not facilitate House Sitzings to be as effective and efficient as they should be.

As a matter of fact, the Rules of Procedure for the House currently in force are considered an obstacle to the effective Functioning of the House. Therefore, amendments to the Rules are necessary, particularly with regard to the arrangement of the agenda, the fixing of dates and times of sittings, and the consideration of bills, motions and interpellations.