

LAW, PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES) OF MALAYSIA

TAN SRI DATO' MOHAMAD ARIFF MD YUSOF
DATUK ROOSME HAMZAH

EMERITUS PROFESSOR DATUK DR SHAD SALEEM FARUQI



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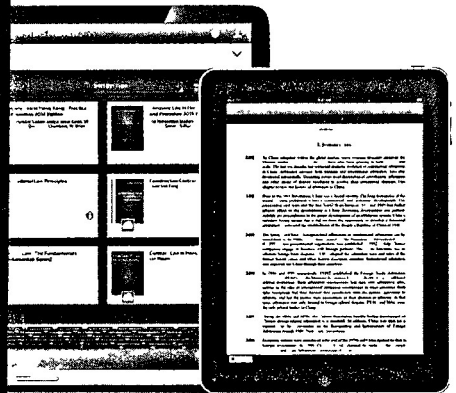
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"The legislative authority of the Federation shall be vested in a Parliament, which shall consist of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and two Majlis (Houses of Parliament) to be known as the Dewan Negara (Senate) and the Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives)."

Article 44 of the Federal Constitution

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Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof
Datuk Roosme Hamzah
Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi

Kepada Yang Bhg Tun

Dengan tulus ikhlas dan penghargaan
atas kesudian Tun mengusulkan pemilihan
saya sebagai Speaker Dewan Rakyat. Terima
kasih yang tidak terhingga kerana memberi
kesempatan bagi saya untuk berkhidmat
untuk negara.

Mohamad Ariff

11/8/20



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Foreword

by Tan Sri Zaharah binti Ibrahim

I am very honoured to have been invited by my former teacher and colleague, YB Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof, the Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives) of the Malaysian Parliament, to write a few words by way of a foreword to this book, the *Law, Principles and Practice in the House of Representatives*, written at the commendable initiative of the Speaker. In view of the fact that it has been more than 60 years since the Malaysian Parliament first sat and in view of the events that have unfolded since the 14th General Elections, there is an obvious need for a book of this nature.

The Speaker has selected the topics with great detail and care. The treatment given by the various authors to those topics is clear, incisive and eminently readable. Relevant authorities, notes and comments and copious bibliographical references have been included. I note with great interest the reforms proposed in this book and hope that they will be given serious consideration. This book is an extremely informative and very valuable source of reference.

In my view, in this country, of the three branches of government the workings of the legislature are the least familiar to the general public. Generally, the general public's attention is drawn to the legislature only during the general elections and by-elections and when matters of public interest are debated and the mainstream media or the social media report on the debates. However, even then, not much attention or interest is paid to the law and procedure involved. This book contains comprehensive information on the law and procedure relating to the Dewan Rakyat, including the up-to-date Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat. It is hoped that this book will spark more interest in such law and procedure.

While the Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat have been amended and updated several times over the years, I note that the quorum provided for in the Standing Orders has remained at 26. This was the quorum of the Dewan Rakyat when it first sat in 1959, being one quarter of the total number of members of the Dewan Rakyat then, which was 104. Sometime in 1986 there was a move by the late Tun Mohd Zahir Ismail, who was the Speaker then, to increase the quorum. However, that move

was not successful. Despite the fact that we now have 222 members of the Dewan Rakyat, the quorum is still 26.

Apart from its role in the enactment of Acts of Parliament, the Dewan Rakyat has oversight of the performance of executive functions. This is done mostly through questions posed during Question Time, during the debates on the Bills under the purview of the various Ministries, particularly during the debates on the annual Supply Bill, and during the debates on the motion thanking the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on his Royal Address. This important role of the Parliament, in particular the Dewan Rakyat, is not much appreciated. It is hoped that the publication of this book will remedy that.

I had the opportunity of observing at close quarters the proceedings of and in the Dewan Rakyat for almost 20 years as the draftsman of many Bills and a few amendments of the Standing Orders. I also had the opportunity to attend several meetings of the Parliamentary Service Commission as a representative of the Attorney General before the Service ceased to exist in 1992. I found the experience and knowledge gained to be very valuable. This book makes me appreciate even more how precious that experience and knowledge were.

It therefore gives me immense pleasure to congratulate the Speaker and his team of authors, Parliamentary officers and staff in bringing out this book on the law, principles and practice of the Malaysian House of Representatives.

Zaharah binti Ibrahim
Former Chief Judge of the High Court of Malaya
Former Parliamentary Draftsman
Attorney General's Chambers of Malaysia
April 26, 2020

Foreword

by David Elder

It is a great honour to have been invited by the Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat, YB Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof, to write a foreword for this historic publication, *Law, Principles and Practice in the Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives) of Malaysia*. The Speaker is the Editor-in-Chief of this first book on the Law, Principles and Practice in the Dewan Rakyat and is to be commended for taking the initiative to see this publication come to fruition.

As former Clerk of the Australian House of Representatives and Editor of the seventh edition of *House of Representatives Practice*, the definitive volume on the practice of the Australian House of Representatives, I am only too well aware of the effort that is involved in bringing a volume such as this to fruition. The team lead by the Speaker of the House and the then Clerk of the House, Datuk Roosme Hamzah, are to be congratulated for their efforts in producing this first very fine, definitive book on the practice and procedures of the Dewan Rakyat. As an aside, it was welcoming to see the number of references to *House of Representatives Practice* in this publication and I note the inclusion of a guide for the Chairs of the Malaysian House of Representatives Committees that is modelled on a similar guide for the Chairs of Australian House of Representatives Committees.

As the Speaker notes in his introduction to the book, the Malaysian Parliament has evolved its own procedures, rules and practices in the 60 years of its existence and these practices warrant recognition. It is appropriate, and timely, that this book provides a comprehensive documentation of those practices. I have no doubt that it will become a central reference for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, civil servants, academics and researchers and the general public. I should also add that international aficionados of parliamentary affairs (such as myself) will find much of interest in the book to assist in comparing parliamentary practices across jurisdictions.

The publication of this volume is an important milestone in the process of parliamentary reform that the Malaysian Parliament, and particularly the Malaysian House of Representatives, has been engaged in for over 18 months. As an international consultant engaged by the United Nations

Development Program to work on a parliamentary reform project with the Malaysian Parliament, I have been fortunate to see that reform process progress. Although this book seeks to document current practice, it also seeks to explain the reform process and anticipate areas of future reform. In that way, it not only marks an important achievement in the reform process, it also will be a catalyst for further reform.

David Elder

Former Clerk, Australian House of Representatives

March 2020

Preface

A comprehensive work on the law, principles and practice of the Parliament of Malaysia has been long overdue. This present book is published to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Malaysian Parliament in its present form. After 60 years of existence as an established feature of the country's political and constitutional landscape, the law, principles and practice of this grand institution should be documented in a book that will serve as a guide and a source of reference to Members of Parliament, parliamentary officers, government officers and everyone else involved or interested in the running and functioning of this Parliament, specifically the Dewan Rakyat or the House of Representatives.

This work has been written, edited and completed within a very tight schedule. The initial manuscript was completed within 14 months, and every credit must be given to the contributors, editors and the publisher, Thomson Reuters. Rachel Jaques from Thomson Reuters, in particular, provided much-needed specialist editing and typesetting expertise.

The publication in its finished form took less than two years from the initial conception of the idea to write this book sometime in September 2018. As the Editor-in-Chief, I must record my deep gratitude to the contributors who shared the vision and invested untiring commitment to produce this work as a joint undertaking, lending their expertise in the numerous areas of parliamentary practice which are carefully explained in the 28 chapters of this book. The contributors have been carefully chosen from a variety of backgrounds to produce a work that has balance, depth and breadth of knowledge. This is not a mere descriptive account of the functions and procedures of Parliament. The prescriptive element also runs through the various chapters. It stands not just as a record of procedures and practices, but documents standards of good practices and universal guidelines on integrity and good public governance, at any rate within the Commonwealth. In this light, an acknowledgement of gratitude is due to our numerous colleagues in the United Kingdom Parliament, the Parliaments of Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, the German Bundestag and the Stortinget of Norway who have provided useful practical insights through visits and discussions into the workings of their respective legislatures, and this has in turn allowed us to approach this work more broadly as a document

of the good standards and practices for the Malaysian Parliament. It is hoped these standards and practices will in the course of time become entrenched in Malaysian parliamentary culture to the extent that they can achieve a level of permanence and a capacity to endure despite changes of government.

In some of the chapters, the contributors have adopted a critical and contextual approach to the subject. This in itself will be refreshing to the reader interested in reform of the parliamentary institution and parliamentary democracy with the important tenet of responsible government. It is hoped this broader approach will place the workings of the Dewan Rakyat as part of the dynamic political process in Malaysia. There are copious references to anecdotal evidence and excerpts from the Hansard throughout the book to illustrate the “living” Parliament. Nevertheless, this work will have its obvious shortcomings in terms of content and comprehensiveness. The process of improving this work hopefully will continue in future editions. A Bahasa Malaysia version of this work too is being prepared and hopefully will be published within this year to facilitate greater access to this work, particularly among students in Malaysia’s universities and institutions of higher learning.

The editors and contributors have also included useful materials in the appendices and in some of the chapters. The inclusion of a selection of Speaker’s Rulings, for example, will record some of the recurring problems seen in the course of debates and question time and the solutions offered by the respective Speakers and Deputy Speakers. This selection is not comprehensive but has been inserted more as a precursor to a full compilation of Speaker’s Rulings later in the future. In the appendices, some historical materials have been included as a matter of record and an acknowledgment of the services rendered by the numerous personalities who have helped shape the present-day Parliament of Malaysia. Thus, a full historical list of all Members of Parliament from the date of the sitting of the First Parliament to the current Fourteenth Parliament is made available in a handy form to the reader. In the same vein, the lists of the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition over the course of the 60 years will provide an interesting insight into the main personalities who have dominated the Dewan Rakyat over time.

Copies of actual documents to illustrate the parliamentary process in its several facets have also been inserted at appropriate points in some of the chapters to clarify in a meaningful way how the internal rules and procedures actually function. In the same way, charts, flow

diagrams and photographs are included to summarise, clarify and simplify technical issues.

It is hoped this work will be relevant, informative and readable to all who are interested in the workings of the Dewan Rakyat in particular.

For a work of this magnitude, many have rendered their valuable time and effort. We offer our thanks and the highest appreciation to all. The contributors of the several chapters, of course, have approached the task as a tribute to the institution of Parliament in the firm belief that such a book has to be written as their legacy to the literature on Parliament. Thank you, Datuk Roosme Hamzah, Emeritus Prof Datuk Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi, Professor Dr Farid Sufian bin Shuaib, Associate Professor Dr Mohd Hisham Mohd Kamal, Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun, Prof Dato' Dr Gurdial Singh Nijar, Dr Abdul Aziz Bari, Dato' Ambiga Sreenevasan, Ding Jo-Ann, Maha Balakrishnan, Amy Tam Lay Choon, Idzuafi Hadi Kamilan, Dr Muhamad Sayuti bin Hassan, Muthanna Saari, Christie Choo Li Chi, Wan Anwar Wan Ibrahim and Siti Fatimah Salahuddin. Thank you to the parliamentary officers, Riduan Rahmat (former Clerk of the Dewan Rakyat), Amisyahrizan Amir Khan, Wan Ahmad Syazwan Wan Ismail, Shaharзад Yusof, Muhammad Amir Lutfi Makhtar and Norzulhilmi Nozir Ahmad who have either co-authored many of the chapters on the practical working of the Dewan Rakyat, or provided valuable source references, their valuable inputs have added value and complemented the more general discussions on various aspects of the institution and its internal rules of procedure. Appreciation must also be recorded to the officers and staff of the Speaker's Office who have assisted the editors in the varied aspects of detailed editing and secretarial work. Ali Zulfakar Zainal Abidin, Christie Choo Li Chi, Siti Fatimah Salahuddin, Wan Anwar Wan Ibrahim, Nur Hayyu Rahmat, Siti Katijah Ismail, Muhammad Afiq Mohd Hanif, and Kamala Bhaie MG Pillai provided much needed assistance during the course of the preparation of this book.

To the members of the editorial committee, in particular the Deputy Speakers of the Dewan Rakyat, Dato' Rashid Hasnon and the Hon Nga Kor Ming, and Senator Liew Chin Tong, thank you for your generous support.

Last but not least, the two forewords to this book by Tan Sri Datin Paduka Zaharah Ibrahim and David Elder are greatly appreciated. Tan Sri Datin Paduka Zaharah Ibrahim, a retired Chief Judge of the High Court of Malaya and former Parliamentary Draftsman, and David Elder, a retired Clerk of the Australian House of Representatives, are

eminent personalities in their own right. Their willingness to grace this publication has boosted the morale and the sense of purpose of the contributors and the editors immeasurably.

The law is stated as at the end of May 2020.

Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff bin Md Yusof
Speaker
Dewan Rakyat
Parliament of Malaysia
June 18, 2020

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Profile of Contributors

TAN SRI DATO' MOHAMAD ARIFF MD YUSOF is the current Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia having been elected in July 2018. He is a former judge of the Court of Appeal. A graduate of the London School of Economics (LSE) with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in law, he is a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn and upon graduating joined the Faculty of Law in University of Malaya. In 1986, he became an advocate and solicitor and had his own legal practice called Cheang & Ariff (now Chooi & Company + Cheang & Ariff).

Mohamad Ariff was appointed a Judicial Commissioner for the High Court of Malaya in 2008. He was made a full judge of the same in 2009. In 2012, he was elevated to the Court of Appeal. He retired from the Malaysian Judiciary in 2015 and returned to his prior legal practice, Cheang & Ariff. Mohamad Ariff was a High Court judge during the 2009 Perak constitutional crisis. He also served as the judge who removed the Home Ministry's ban on the book authored by the Sisters in Islam (SIS) entitled *Muslim Women and the Challenges of Islamic Extremism*.

DATUK ROOSME HAMZAH served as the Clerk of the Dewan Rakyat from December 2007 to February 2020. She first joined Parliament in 2001. She has the distinction of being the first female Clerk of the House. She was awarded the Kesatria Mangku Negara (KMN) in June 2008 and in February 2009, she was awarded Panglima Mahkota Wilayah (PMW) which carries the title "Datuk", during the Federal Territory Day Celebrations.

EMERITUS PROF DATUK DR SHAD SALEEM FARUQI is the Holder of the Tun Hussein Chair at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia. He was formerly the Holder of the Tunku Abdul Rahman Foundation Chair at the University of Malaya. He is an Emeritus Professor at Universiti Teknologi MARA; member of the Judicial Appointments Commission; member of the post GE-14 "Institutional Reform Committee"; member of the Malaysia Agreement '63 Committee; Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and Adjunct Professor at Taylor's University, Malaysia.

He is the author of 11 books including: *Document of Destiny: The Constitution of the Federation of Malaysia*. He has written 600 articles and presented 500 seminar papers in 16 countries. He pens a fortnightly column in *The Star* called "Reflecting on the Law".

DATUK AZHAR AZIZAN HARUN who is currently the Chairman of the Election Commission is an alumnus of University of Malaya and King's College London. He was a member of the Bar Council's Constitutional Law Committee from 2009 until 2015, and has also been a Speaker at the Malaysian Bar's biennial International Malaysia Law Conference.

During his legal career, Azhar has represented candidates in election petitions, including Barisan Nasional's Datuk Teh Kim Poo, who was defending his Pandamaran state seat win in March 2004, and then PKR's Datuk Zaid Ibrahim, who challenged BN's P Kamalanathan's April 2010 by-election win in the Hulu Selangor Parliamentary seat. Azhar had also in 2008 appeared for human rights groups during the proceedings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) that looked into the VK Lingam video clip scandal, involving allegations of the manipulation of judicial appointments.

YB DR ABDUL AZIZ BARI is a Malaysian academician and currently the incumbent Perak State Legislative Assemblyman for the constituency of Tebing Tinggi in the parliamentary constituency of Ipoh Timur. Aziz Bari is currently the opposition leader in the Perak State Legislative Assembly and was formerly the State EXCO member of Perak in charge of the education, environment and science portfolios. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Perak DAP. Prior to joining politics, he was a professor of law and has published widely in the area of constitutional law. During his 25 years of service as an academic, he has published over 10 books on the various aspects of the Malaysian Constitution as well as more than 150 papers for national and international seminars and conferences.

DATO' DR GURDIAL SINGH NIJAR obtained his LLB (Hons) degree from King's College, London and his LLM and PhD from University of Malaya. He was the founder-Director of the Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity Law. He was spokesperson for developing countries in international negotiations that led to the conclusion of three treaties including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. He is on the Expert Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Panel of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome), and a Senior Fellow of the South Centre (Geneva). He served as a Law Professor at University of Malaya's Law Faculty for 16 years. He has written widely in International journals and was the recipient of the 2011 Anugerah Akademik Negara (Journal article). He has more than 30 years of litigation practice and has argued several landmark cases involving civil, constitutional and administrative law. He has drafted laws for the government and is currently engaged to revamp the Environmental Quality Act. He is President of the National Human Rights Society (HAKAM). He is a member of the Council of Foreign Affairs, a Director of the Malaysian

Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and was a Commissioner of the National Water Services Commission (SPAN). He writes a fortnightly column, “Law Speak”, in *The Sun*. He runs his own litigation practice.

PROF DR FARID SUFIAN SHUAIB obtained his LLB (Hons) from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and was immediately offered a teaching post at the Kulliyah of Laws, IIUM in 1993. He completed his LLM from Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and obtained his PhD in Law from IIUM. He received and completed research grants on administration of Islamic law, media law and constitutional law. He has published widely in Malaysian and international journals. Among his books are *Constitutional Law of Malaysia: Text and Commentary*, *Media Law in Malaysia*, *Administration of Islamic Law in Malaysia: Text and Material and Powers and Jurisdiction of Syariah Courts in Malaysia* published by Pearson, WoltersKluwer and LexisNexis respectively. He has been invited to visit and to deliver seminars at universities in England, Turkey and Indonesia. His writings are referred to in the judgments of the superior courts of Malaysia. He was a Visiting Scholar at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) in 2016. He is currently the Dean of Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, IIUM.

ASSOC PROF DR MOHD HISHAM MOHD KAMAL, LLB (Hons) (IIUM), LLB (Shariah) (Hons) (IIUM), LLM in International Law (Hull), PhD (IIUM), is Associate Professor at Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). He has written on Public International Law and Islamic International Law. His publications notably include “Application of International Law in Malaysia”, in Marko Novakovic (editor), *Basic Concepts of Public International Law: Monism & Dualism* (Belgrade: Faculty of Law of University of Belgrade, Institute of Comparative Law of Belgrade & Institute of International Politics and Economics of Belgrade, 2013), pp 853-865; “The Dispute between Malaysia and Indonesia over the ND6 and ND7 Sea Blocks: A Malaysian Perspective”, (2015) 8(1) *Journal of East Asia and International Law*, pp 171-193 (as a co-author); and “Principles of Distinction, Proportionality and Precautions under the Geneva Conventions: The Perspective of Islamic Law” in Borhan Uddin Khan & Md Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan (editors), *Revisiting the Geneva Conventions: 1949-2019* (BRILL | NIJHOFF, 2019), pp 244-261.

DATO’ AMBIGA SRENEVASAN is a well-known human rights advocate and has received several international awards for her work in this field. She was a member of the Institutional Reforms Committee, which was set up in May 2018 to advise the government on reforms needed to key public institutions. She has led several organisations in the past decade including the Bar Council, Bersih 2.0 and the National

Human Rights Society (HAKAM). She is currently a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists.

DING JO-ANN is a legal researcher in the firm of Sreenevasan. She is a qualified lawyer and has a Master's in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford. She has worked for the Centre for Independent Journalism and Human Rights Watch. She was part of the legal support team for the Institutional Reforms Committee set up by the government in May 2018.

MAHA BALAKRISHNAN read law at the University of Bristol, UK and is a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. Maha holds a Master's degree in Democracy and Comparative Politics from University College London, UK. During her 12 years at the Malaysian Bar, Maha practised civil, commercial and public administrative law. She contributed to the Bar's public advocacy work, participating in Royal Commissions of Inquiry and contributing to policy papers on legal and institutional reform. Maha was the Co-Deputy Chair of the 2009-11 Constitutional Law Committee that created the *MyConstitution* campaign. Shifting focus to politics and public policy in 2013, Maha has consulted for UNICEF, the National Democratic Institute, NGOs and think-tanks. She spent four years as Political Advisor to the British High Commission, where she provided interdisciplinary strategic analyses and developed multi-stakeholder partnerships. She has conducted studies on institutional and legal design in transitional and singular democracies. Maha is the co-author of *Malaysian Parliamentary Procedure: A Guide to the Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat*.

DR MUHAMAD SAYUTI HASSAN is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Human Sciences, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Tanjong Malim, Perak, Malaysia. He obtained his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the Faculty of Law, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Master in Law (LLM) (2009-2010) from UKM and his law degree (LLB) from International Islamic University Malaysia. He was seconded to the Parliament of Malaysia as Head of the Research and Library Division from 2016-2019. In addition, he has also served as Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Attorney General's Chambers, Sarawak Branch in 2009 before joining academia. Currently, his research interests are indigenous issues, international law, criminal law and parliamentary practice & procedure. He has published numerous publications on indigenous peoples, international law and criminal law.

RIDUAN RAHMAT started his service at the Parliament of Malaysia in 1989 as an administrative assistant. He was appointed as Head of the Management and Special Functions Division in 2006 before being promoted as the Secretary of the Senate in 2014 where he held the

position until February 2020. He was appointed as the 13th Secretary of the House of Representatives in February 2020. He holds a Bachelor degree in Business of Administration from Universiti Teknologi Mara and a master's degree in political science from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. In 2014, he was awarded the Darjah Ahli Mangku Negara (AMN) by His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong

ALI ZULFAKAR ZAINAL ABIDIN has more than 32 years' working experience in the public service. Presently he holds the position as Senior Private Secretary to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia. He has served Parliament as Senior Private Secretary to the Speaker of Dewan Rakyat from 2010 till now. He holds Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Communication from National University of Malaysia.

WAN ANWAR WAN IBRAHIM is currently Special Officer to the Speaker of Malaysian House of Representatives. He holds LLB (Hons) degree and Master of Law (LLM) in Banking Law from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). He is an advocate and solicitor (Malaya) and has worked as a lawyer and legal advisor for several organisations. He is a Syariah legal practitioner in the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan and Putrajaya. He was also involved in legislating law at the municipal level when he served as Selayang Municipal Councillor. Wan Anwar is a Dutch Visitors' Programme alumnus themed "Democracy and Rule of Law" organised and hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands in December 2019.

SITI FATIHAH SALAHUDDIN is currently serving as the Private Secretary to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. She is a Syariah Counsel by profession. She was admitted in Johor (June 2017) and in Kuala Lumpur (December 2017) and practised from June 2017 to August 2018 before joining the Speaker's Office in August 2018. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Fiqh and Fatwa from Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) in 2016 and a Postgraduate Diploma in Islamic Judiciary and Advocatory Practice in 2017 from the same University.

CHRISTIE CHOO LI CHI is currently serving as a Parliamentary Researcher at the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Chester and a Master of Laws (LLM) degree specialising in Human Rights, Conflict and Justice from SOAS, University of London. Christie has worked as a Parliamentary Researcher at the UK House of Lords prior to joining the Speaker's office.

AMY TAM LAY CHOON is a researcher in the Research and Library Division at the Parliament of Malaysia. Prior to joining Parliament,

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Contents

<i>Foreword by Tan Sri Zaharah binti Ibrahim</i>	v
<i>Foreword by David Elder</i>	vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Editorial Board</i>	xiii
<i>Profile of Contributors</i>	xv
<i>Table of Cases</i>	xxxix
<i>Table of Statutes</i>	xlvi
<i>Table of Standing Orders</i>	lv
<i>Glossary</i>	lxiii

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1: Introduction	3
<i>Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof</i>	
I. Overview.....	3
II. Scheme of This Book.....	7

PART 2 THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Chapter 2: The Constitutional Position of Parliament	13
<i>Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof</i> <i>and Emeritus Prof Datuk Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi</i>	
I. Introduction.....	13
A. Position and Powers of Parliament.....	13
B. The Reid Commission Recommendations.....	14
C. The Constitutional Design: Free and Strong Parliament Based on Parliamentary Democracy.....	15
D. Separation of Powers.....	16
II. The Constitutional Provisions.....	19
A. Article 4: Constitutional Supremacy.....	19
B. Articles 5–13: Fundamental Rights.....	22
C. Articles 14–28A: Citizenship Provisions.....	23
D. Article 43: Enforcing Ministerial Responsibility.....	23
E. Articles 44–65: Composition of the Federal Legislature.....	23
F. The Making of Federal Laws.....	24
G. Articles 66–68: Legislative Procedure.....	24

H.	Articles 2(b), 159 and 161E: Constitutional Amendments	29
I.	Articles 96–112: Financial Procedure	31
J.	Articles 73–79 and Schedule 9: Federal-State Division of Legislative Power	32
K.	Articles 95B-95E, 161–161E and Schedule 9: Special Provisions for Sabah and Sarawak	34
L.	Articles 149–151: Special Powers Against Subversion and Emergency	34
M.	Articles 116–117 and the Thirteenth Schedule: Delineation of Electoral Constituencies	35
N.	Article 63: Exercise of Parliamentary Privileges	35
O.	Article 89: Protection of Malay Reserves.....	36
III.	Role of Parliamentarians	36
A.	Role on the Floor.....	36
B.	Committee Role.....	36
C.	Check and Balance on the Executive	36
D.	Need for Training, Professionalism and Support Services	36
E.	Need for Special Allocation of Time for Private Members' Bills	37
F.	Assistance to Private MPs	37
G.	Official Secrets Act 1972.....	37
H.	Role of Party Whips.....	37
I.	Constituency Function.....	37
IV.	Conclusion.....	37
Chapter 3: Constitutional Supremacy: Theory Versus Reality.....		39
<i>Emeritus Prof Datuk Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi</i>		
I.	Role of a Constitution	39
II.	Constitutional Design in 1957	40
III.	Constitutional Supremacy	41
A.	The Constitution is Supreme	41
B.	Constitution is the Highest Law.....	42
C.	Parliament is Not Supreme	42
D.	State Assemblies Are, Likewise, Not Supreme.....	42
E.	"Any law"	43
F.	Pre-Merdeka laws.....	43
IV.	Judicial Review	44
A.	Power of Superior Courts	44
B.	Severability	44
C.	Retrospectivity or Prospectivity	44
D.	Grounds	44
E.	Forum	44
F.	Presumption of Validity.....	45

V.	Islam as the Religion of the Federation but Not the Basic Law of the Land.....	45
VI.	Controlled Executive	46
VII.	Federal-State Division of Powers	46
	A. In General	46
	B. Special Rights for Borneo States	46
VIII.	Constitutional Monarchies.....	46
IX.	Fundamental Rights.....	47
X.	Special Procedures for Constitutional Amendment.....	47
XI.	Special Position of Malays and Natives	47
XII.	Limits on Powers to Control Subversion	47
XIII.	Limits on Emergency Powers	47
XIV.	How has the Constitution Worked?	48
XV.	A Limited Parliament Subject to Judicial Review	48
XVI.	Judicial Review of Executive Acts.....	50
	A. Constitutional Review of Executive Action.....	50
	B. The Principle of “Non-justiciability”	51
	C. Ouster Clauses	51
	D. <i>Locus Standi</i>	51
XVII.	Federal-State Division of Powers	52
XVIII.	Fundamental Liberties.....	53
	A. Rights in the Constitution	53
	B. Personal Liberty (Article 5)	54
	C. Abolition of Slavery (Article 6).....	54
	D. Protection Against Retrospective Criminal Laws (Article 7(1)).....	54
	E. No Double Jeopardy (Article 7(2))	54
	F. Equality (Article 8)	55
	G. Freedom of Movement (Article 9).....	55
	H. Freedom of Speech, Assembly and Association (Article 10)	55
	I. Religion (Article 11).....	55
	J. Education (Article 12)	56
	K. Property (Article 13).....	56
	L. Other Constitutional Rights	56
	M. Implied Rights.....	57
	N. Summary.....	57
XIX.	Islam as the Religion of the State	57
XX.	Conclusion.....	60

**Chapter 4: Between Washington and Westminster:
Malaysia’s System of Parliamentary Government.....65**

Emeritus Prof Datuk Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi

I.	Introduction	65
II.	Comparison and Contrast	65

A.	Institutional Separation	65
B.	Ministerial Responsibility.....	66
C.	Divided Government	66
D.	Vote of No-confidence.....	66
E.	Security of Tenure.....	67
F.	Number of Terms.....	67
G.	Popularly Elected Chief Executive	68
H.	Unified Versus Split Executive	68
I.	Independent Legislature.....	68
J.	Dissolution of Legislature	69
K.	Cabinet's Talent Pool	69
III.	Conclusion.....	69
Chapter 5: The Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Parliament		71
<i>Dr Abdul Aziz Bari</i>		
I.	Introduction	71
II.	The Monarchy and the Constitutional Framework	72
III.	A Note on Comparisons With Foreign Systems	73
IV.	The Office of the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong	75
V.	The Powers of the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong	76
A.	Jurisdiction	76
B.	Types of Powers	76
C.	The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Parliament	78
D.	Conference of Rulers	80
VI.	The Rulers and the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri in the States.....	82
VII.	Issues and Debates Since Independence in 1957	83
VIII.	Concluding Remarks	87
Chapter 6: The Prime Minister and the Cabinet System		89
<i>Dato' Dr Gurdial Singh Nijar</i>		
I.	Introduction	89
II.	The Cabinet.....	91
III.	Conclusion.....	93
Chapter 7: The Electoral Process		95
<i>Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun</i>		
I.	Introduction	95
II.	The Election Commission (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya)	96
A.	Composition of the Election Commission	96
B.	Election Commission Act 1957	99
C.	The Office of Secretary to the SPR.....	100
D.	Powers and Duties of the SPR.....	101
E.	Control and Supervision of the Conduct of Elections.....	103

F.	Registration of Electors on the Electoral Rolls.....	106
G.	Delimitation of Constituencies	108
III.	Reforms of the Electoral Process	114
Chapter 8: Caretaker Government		117
<i>Dato' Ambiga Sreenevasan and Ding Jo-Ann</i>		
I.	Concept of Caretaker Government.....	117
II.	What are the Roles and Functions of a Caretaker Government and Guidelines in Other Commonwealth Countries?	117
A.	Upon Dissolution of Parliament.....	117
B.	After Losing Confidence.....	119
C.	Preparation For Transition	120
III.	The Malaysian Position	120
A.	The Present Position.....	120
B.	The Need for Malaysian Guidelines	121
C.	What the Guidelines Should Cover	122
D.	Guidelines Must Involve Consultation	123

PART 3

THE FUNCTIONS AND INSTITUTIONS OF PARLIAMENT

Chapter 9: The Functions of Parliament.....		127
<i>Idzuafl Hadi bin Kamilan and Dr Muhamad Sayuti bin Hassan @ Yahya</i>		
I.	Introduction	127
II.	International Perspectives.....	127
A.	Concept of Parliamentarism.....	127
B.	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures	128
III.	Malaysian Context	128
A.	Government Formation	128
B.	Deliberative Function.....	129
C.	Other Functions	130
IV.	Law-Making Function	130
V.	Oversight Function to Scrutinise the Actions of the Government	132
A.	Collective and Individual Ministerial Responsibility	132
B.	Oversight Mechanisms	132
VI.	Budget Approval and Taxation	134
A.	Function of Parliament.....	134
B.	Financial Bills	134
VII.	Representation.....	134
VIII.	Conclusion.....	135

Chapter 10: The Institutions of Parliament..... 137
Datuk Roosme Hamzah and Officers of the Clerk of the House

I.	Introduction	137
II.	His Majesty the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong	139
III.	The Senate (Dewan Negara)	140
IV.	The House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat)	141
V.	Membership of Parliament	142
	A. Qualifications	142
	B. Disqualification	142
	C. Oaths By Members	143
VI.	Absence of a Member	143
VII.	Parliament	143
	A. Duration	143
	B. Summoning, Prorogation and Dissolution of Parliament	144
	C. Sessions	145
	D. Meetings	147
	E. Quorum	150

Chapter 11: The Speaker's Position and Functions 151
Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof

I.	Introduction	151
II.	The Main Function of the Speaker	153
III.	The Speaker as Principal Officer and Representative of the House	154
IV.	Rulings	156
V.	Disobedience of Speaker's Authority	162
VI.	The Hallmark of Impartiality	162
VII.	Relinquishing Party Positions	164
VIII.	Relinquishing Corporate and Other Positions of Profit	164
IX.	Qualification and Procedure of Election of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers	165
	A. Qualifications for Election	165
	B. Procedure for Election	166
X.	Powers of the Deputy Speakers	168
XI.	Tenure of Office, Resignation and Dismissal	168
XII.	Administrative Duties of the Speaker	169
XIII.	Summary	170

Chapter 12: The Role of the Secretary to Parliament 237
Datuk Roosme Hamzah and Officers of the Clerk of the House

I.	Introduction	237
II.	Duties of the Secretary to the House of Representatives	238
III.	Before Session	239

IV.	During Session	240
A.	Order of Business and Speaker's Notes.....	240
B.	Minutes and Votes of the Proceedings	240
C.	<i>Hansard</i>	241
V.	Answers to Questions.....	242
VI.	Motions	242
VII.	Papers.....	242
VIII.	Legislative Process	242
IX.	During the First Meeting After Election	243
X.	Order of Business	248
XI.	Election of Tuan Yang Di-Pertua	248
XII.	Administration of Oath	249
XIII.	Committees	250
XIV.	Assisting Preparation of Rulings	251
XV.	During the Opening of Parliament	251
XVI.	Conference of Speakers of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies	254
XVII.	International Parliamentary Level	254

Chapter 13: The Administration of Parliament.....257

Datuk Roosme Hamzah and Officers of the Clerk of the House

I.	Introduction	257
II.	Functions of the Legal Advisor's Office.....	258
A.	To Provide Legal Advice	258
B.	Enactment	258
C.	Prosecution and Legal Advisory	258
D.	Legal Review	258
E.	Others	259
III.	Functions of the Corporate Communication Division	259
A.	Introduction.....	259
B.	Management of Official Visits.....	259
C.	Digital Asset Management	259
D.	Management of Gallery	259
IV.	Functions of the Research Division and Library	259
V.	Functions of the Senate and House of Representatives Management Division	260
VI.	Functions of the Human Resource and Management Service Division.....	261
VII.	Functions of the International Relations and Protocol Division	262
VIII.	Functions of the Building and Landscape Management Division	263
IX.	Functions of the Information Technology Division	264
X.	Functions of the Security Division	264
XI.	Functions of the Members of Parliament Affairs Division.....	265

PART 4 THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS

Chapter 14: The Order of Business	269
<i>Datuk Roosme Hamzah and Officers of the Clerk of the House</i>	
I. Order of Business of the House.....	269
A. Arrangement of Business in the Dewan Rakyat	269
B. Daily Order	269
II. Order of Business of the Special Chamber	272
III. Arrangement of Public Business.....	272
 Chapter 15: Parliamentary Questions and Debates	 275
<i>Maha Balakrishnan</i>	
PART 1: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS	275
I. Introduction	275
II. Categories of Questions.....	278
A. Overview.....	278
B. Oral and Written Questions	278
C. Questions to Ministers	279
D. Questions to Other Members.....	280
III. Notice of Question	280
IV. Content and Format of Questions.....	281
V. Processing the Questions	283
A. Overview.....	283
B. Coordinating With the Government	283
C. Scheduling of Oral Questions	285
D. Publishing the Schedule of Questions	285
VI. Disallowing, Altering or Editing Questions.....	286
A. Power of the Speaker to Alter and Disallow Questions	286
B. Power of the Secretary to Edit Questions.....	286
C. Refusal of a Question By a Minister.....	287
VII. Procedure at Question Time	287
A. Asking Oral Questions.....	287
B. Asking Supplementary Questions	288
C. Undisposed Oral Questions	289
VIII. Replies to Written Questions	289
IX. Minister's Question Time	289
A. Overview.....	289
B. Notice, Processing and Scheduling of MQT questions....	290
C. Procedure For Minister's Question Time	291
X. Conclusion	291
PART 2: DEBATES	292
I. Introduction	292
A. Role of Debate	292

B.	The Role of Parliamentary Debate in Democratic Politics	293
C.	Regulating Parliamentary Debates	294
II.	Scope of Debate	295
III.	Speaking During Debate	295
IV.	Interruptions During Debate	298
A.	General Prohibition	298
B.	Interruption on a Point of Order	298
C.	Interruption to Seek Clarification	299
V.	Time Limits and Closure of Debate	300
A.	General Rule	300
B.	Timetabling Debates	300
C.	Closure Motions	301
VI.	Rules of Order	302
A.	Overview	302
B.	Reconsideration of a Question Already Decided	302
C.	Matters That Are <i>Sub Judice</i>	302
D.	Offensive Language and Sexist Remarks	305
E.	Remarks and Imputations Against Other Members and Public Servants	307
F.	Treason, Seditious and Promotion of Ill-will or Hostility	308
G.	Using or Casting Imputations Against Sovereign Entities and Constitutional Office Holders	308
H.	Anticipation	310
I.	Motion or Amendment Calculated to Breach Rules of Order	310
VII.	Misleading the House	311
VIII.	Decorum and Dress	312
A.	Decorum	312
B.	Dress	312
IX.	Powers to Maintain Order	313
X.	Withdrawal or Suspension of a Member	314
XI.	Strangers and Press	315
XII.	Conclusion	316
Chapter 16: Motions		317
<i>Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof</i>		
I.	Introduction	317
II.	A Motion as a Proposal	318
A.	Definition of "Motion"	318
B.	Substantive Motions	318
C.	Subsidiary Motions	319
III.	Notice Requirements	319
A.	General Rule on Notice of Motion	319



The core team from the Parliament of Malaysia

Over time, the Malaysian Parliament has evolved its own procedures, processes, conventions and practices, such that a sufficient body of local rules and practices has developed to the extent that it warrants its own analysis. This book aims to provide the necessary comprehensive text that will be useful to parliamentarians, parliamentary officers, civil servants, serious scholars and researchers, and of course the general reader with a keen interest in parliamentary affairs. The contributors and editors have consciously chosen to analyse not only the laws of Parliament, but also the practices and the underlying principles underpinning these laws and practices. It is not meant to function as a simple textbook on rules per se but it also provides the detailing, explanations and examples for the reader to understand a particular rule and practice better.

In keeping with the intent and scope of this book, the writing of this book has included the necessary inputs and insights of a large pool of specialist contributors beyond the immediate walls of Parliament. Besides the Speaker, the Clerk of the Dewan Rakyat, senior officers in the Clerk's Office, research officers and officers in the Speaker's Office, the contributors also include legal practitioners, members of academia, a politician and the Chairman of the Election Commission of Malaysia. It is a collective effort with a collective insight, each chapter providing a specialised perspective, which hopefully will make the book more relevant and useful to a broad range of readers.

This book focuses essentially on the scope and functions of a modern Parliament. It is a text to aid the practising legislator, and yet in its analytical aspects, dwells on reform and change, often with a broad comparative treatment. The intricacies of the workings of the technical rules are explained and placed within the larger context of a Parliament in modern times that has more dynamic functions, particularly where parliamentary democracy is the adopted system of government where Parliament should also be seen as a vehicle to ensure executive accountability, transparency and governmental good governance, as well to ensure effective oversight over how the national finances are managed and spent.

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