

## **Election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand**

The provision regarding the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand has been apparently stipulated in the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives B.E. 2551 (2008) which was recently revised.

The election of the Speaker shall be put on the agenda at the beginning of the Parliament or whenever a vacancy of the office occurs.

Particularly in the first occurrence, members of the House of Representatives shall be assembled by Royal Decree for the first sitting which is considered as the first day of the general ordinary session within thirty days from the date of the general election. Apart from making a solemn declaration of a member of the House at a sitting, the election of the Speaker of the House shall conventionally be contained in the agenda thereof, including the election of the Deputy Speakers of the House.

As for the reason that there is no Presiding Officer to preside over the first sitting, the most senior member present, hence, shall act as the Chair to preside over the sitting provisionally as provided by the Rules.

In electing the Speaker, each member has the right to nominate only one member and such nomination must be seconded by not less than twenty members. If there is only one nominee, such nominee shall be deemed to be elected. In case where there are several nominees, the voting shall be secret.

For the election of the Deputy Speakers, the process shall proceed as same as the Speaker's as mentioned above. However, provided that the House has its resolution to have two Deputy Speakers, the first Deputy Speaker shall be elected prior to the second Deputy Speaker.

/After...

After the Speaker and the two Deputy Speakers have been elected, the Secretary General shall instantly inform the Prime Minister for further presentation to the King. Upon the appointment of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers by the King, the Secretary General shall send a copy of Royal Command to the Senate for information.

The qualification of the Speakers and the Deputy Speakers has been lately specified in the new Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550 (2007). The Speaker and the Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives who are a member of an executive committee or hold any position in a political party are prohibited to serve their term in the position simultaneously.

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