

STANDING COMMITTEES FOR A NEW MALAYSIA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This paper is divided into three parts: a) introduction; b) case studies; c) recommendations.
- This paper focuses on the formation of standing select committees for a new Malaysia. After decades of misrule, the Malaysian Parliament’s law-making role has been completely eroded by the executive. Forming standing select committees will go some way to rebuild and strengthen democracy for the new Malaysia.
- This paper draws on the information and knowledge gathered from three case studies: Norway, Great Britain, and Malaysia. Although Malaysia has five standing committees already empowered by the Standing Orders of Parliament, the former two systems have a much longer and richer history of standing committees contributing to legislation and governance in the countries concerned.
- In the following pages, the Norwegian, British and Malaysian systems are further elaborated upon. The paper examines their organisation and scope, sources of power, composition, proceedings, schedule, and budget, before finally making recommendations for Malaysia.
- This paper makes the following recommendations:
 - Nine new standing committees to supplement the current five committees;
 - special select committees to be established on an ad-hoc basis;
 - with an annual budget of RM 11,400,000 to operate all 14 standing committees and ad-hoc special select committees.
- In sum, these are the budgetary details proposed:

1.	Public Accounts Committee and Constitutional Affairs	RM 1,500,000
2.	Standing Orders Committee	RM 100,000
3.	House Committee	RM 100,000
4.	Committee of Privileges	RM 100,000
5.	Selection Committee	RM 100,000
6.	Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs	RM 1,000,000
7.	Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Defence and Foreign Affairs	RM 1,000,000
8.	Standing Committee on Education and Entrepreneurship	RM 1,000,000
9.	Standing Committee on Health, Family and Well-being	RM 1,000,000
10.	Standing Committee on Business, Trade and Industry	RM 1,000,000
11.	Standing Committee on Transport, Works and Communication	RM 1,000,000
12.	Standing Committee on Resources, Energy, Environment, Science and Technology	RM 1,000,000
13.	Standing Committee on Human Resources and Social Affairs	RM 1,000,000
14.	Standing Committee on Housing, Tourism and Territories	RM 1,000,000
15.	Special select committees	RM 500,000
Total		RM 11,400,000

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PART 1:
INTRODUCTION

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **Select committees** is a general term used here to refer to all types of select committees (listed below).
- 1.2. **Standing committees** refers to select committees that are permanent and remain in existence throughout a parliamentary term to consider matters that fall under its thematic purview. These committees will be the main focus in this paper.
- 1.3. **Special select committees** refers to select committees that are established on an ad-hoc basis. They are set up to investigate particular matters, after the conclusion of which investigations they cease to exist.

2. THE ROLES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- 2.1. Standing committees have proven their positive impact and influence in other countries. In Norway, where the 12 standing committees cover the remit of every ministry, the outcome of a committee's inquiries tends to determine the outcome of parliamentary legislative debate and policies.¹ Malaysian parliamentary democracy would benefit greatly from the adoption of such tried and tested practices.
- 2.2. The most important role that standing committees play is to **actively contribute to the legislative process**. By undertaking inquiries into a proposed bill, a standing committee gathers more information about the matter at hand, understands the policy implications, and makes recommendations to Parliament. Between the 52nd and 55th British Parliaments inclusive (1997-2010), British select committees undertook about 1,450 inquiries, producing almost 40,000 recommendations and conclusions.²
- 2.3. Standing committees **contribute significantly to public policymaking**. A review of British select committees during the 13 years of the Labour government in 1997 to 2010 found that as many as one-third of substantive recommendations eventually made it into policy. The review moreover found anecdotal evidence that ministries do in fact take recommendations seriously.³ For instance, the British Environmental Audit Committee's report on microplastics in 2016 helped to bring about a domestic ban on microbeads.⁴
- 2.4. Beyond their legislative and public policymaking purposes, standing committees also function as an effective **check and balance on the executive by, for one thing, providing budgetary oversight**. Sitting on select committees empowers backbenchers and opposition parliamentarians to hold ministers to account by scrutinising their actions and policy decisions. To take one case study, the former Australian Select Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration produced a report in 2007 on their inquiry into Australia's manufacturing sector. All 21 recommendations

¹ Stortinget, "About the standing committees," accessed August 14, 2018, <https://www.stortinget.no/en/In-English/Standing-Committees/>.

² Meghan Benton, "Select Committees aren't just talking shops – they DO make things happen," *Parliamentary Brief* (2011): 21.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Victoria Honour, "Engaging with Parliament: What is good Select Committee evidence," *LSE Impact Blog* (blog), January 8, 2018, <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2018/01/08/engaging-with-parliament-what-is-good-select-committee-evidence/>.

were met with detailed replies, reflecting genuine engagement – and tension – between the executive and the legislative.⁵

- 2.5. Finally, standing committees help to maintain **continuity of government**. The platform serves as a training ground for parliamentarians to gain experience through inspecting and questioning the actions and decisions of the ministers and their officers. By providing invaluable insight into the nuts and bolts of government, this improves the overall quality of governance, enabling less disruptive transitions of power.

3. POWERS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

- 3.1. The powers of all select committees, whether standing or special, extend only to **making recommendations** about the issue at hand to parliament. These recommendations are not legally binding, allowing for some flexibility in the whole process. The executive remains legally free to agree or disagree with the recommendations.
- 3.2. In spite of the lack of legal compulsion, the influence of select committees is politically overriding as they have the power to realign and topple governments. Select committees operate via **soft power**, the use of persuasion and political pressure.⁶ In the British case, where select committees have been part of the parliamentary process since the 1970s, their power manifests in the way parliamentarians seek to pass legislation based on consensus. Bills are drafted with greater stakeholder engagement and policies are more flexible in anticipation of select committees' reports. Select committees thus wield prospective influence as one main method of holding government to account.⁷

⁵ Australian House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration, *Australian manufacturing: today and tomorrow – Government response* (Canberra: The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, 2010), https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=efpa/manufacturing/report.htm.

⁶ Ruth Fox et al., "Select committee powers and effectiveness," *UK Parliament*, 2012, <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmliain/writev/scp/scp11.htm>

⁷ David Walker, "Under review: How well do MPs scrutinise policies?" *Guardian*, January 7, 2011, <https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2011/jul/07/review-mps-scrutinise-public-policy>; and Benton, "Select Committees."

PART 2:
CASE STUDIES

4. ORGANISATION AND SCOPE OF SELECT COMMITTEES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1. In this section, we explore how standing committees are organised and what their scope of duties are. Some standing committees are organised according to ministries, while others are organised to address subject matters that cut across ministries. The scopes of their work accordingly vary: some standing committees oversee laws, some oversee policymaking, and others provide budgetary oversight for ministries and their governmental bodies.

4.2 NORWEGIAN CASE STUDY

- 4.1.2. The Norwegian Parliament has 12 standing committees, each dedicated to a field of expertise. Each standing committee is also organised and associated with one or more specific ministries that correspond with its area of work.
- 4.1.3. These Norwegian standing committees consider matters and bills before they are tabled for debate in the parliament.
- 4.2.1. The standing committees are not empowered to scrutinise the finances of the ministries with which they are affiliated (unlike the British departmental standing committees – see 4.3.2 below). However, they do have the power to set the budget of the affiliated ministry ahead of the tabling of the fiscal budget in the Storting. Moreover, the ministries' accounts are audited by the Auditor-General, whose report then has to be approved by the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs.⁸

4.3 BRITISH CASE STUDY

- 4.3.1. The British Parliament has *departmental standing committees*, each affiliated to a particular department (i.e. ministry). They are responsible for examining three aspects of the departments: spending, policies, and administration.⁹
- 4.3.2. This organisational point is one point of difference between the British and Norwegian systems. The British departmental standing committees are designed to check and balance the executive, while the Norwegian standing committees, while also affiliated with specific ministries, are not (see 4.2.1 above). Therefore, the former scrutinise the executive while the latter is focussed on examining matters of parliamentary debate.
- 4.3.3. The British Parliament also has *standing committees that are not affiliated to particular departments*, but are dedicated to specific subject-matters that cross departmental boundaries, for instance gender equality. These committees are responsible for examining how bills or matters before parliament affect the subject matter they are accountable for.
- 4.3.4. These non-departmental standing committees thus serve a function similar to that of the Norwegian standing committees, in that they both examine matters of parliamentary debate. The difference is merely that the British ones cut across departments in their

⁸ Norwegian Embassy in Malaysia, meeting with authors, August 16, 2017; and Stortinget, *The Norwegian Parliament Rules of Procedure & the Constitution*, (Oslo: Stortinget, 2018).

⁹ UK Parliament, "Select committees," accessed August 21, 2018, <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/committees/select/>.

respective subject-matters while the Norwegian ones correspond to the subject-matters of the existing ministries.

- 4.3.5 In addition, the British Parliament also has *special select committees* that are set up as and when they are needed.

4.4 MALAYSIAN CASE STUDY¹⁰

- 4.4.1 The Parliament Standing Orders currently provide for the establishment of only five *standing committees*, which have no legislative or public policy scope. Compared to the other three case studies, the severe lack of select committees has rendered the Malaysian Parliament a rubber stamp for the executive.
- 4.1.4. These are, firstly, the Committee of Selection, which is responsible for nominating members to the other select committees when Parliament so instructs. [Standing Order 76]
- 4.1.5. Secondly, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which is responsible for examining the use of public funds by any and all government bodies. [Standing Order 77]
- 4.1.6. Thirdly, the Standing Orders committee, which is responsible for considering matters relating to the standing orders. It is when Parliament refers matters to the committee “from time to time” that the committee considers them and reports back to Parliament. If the matter involves any proposal to amend the Standing Orders, no further proceedings can be taken by Parliament until the Standing Orders Committee has reported back to them. [Standing Order 78]
- 4.1.7. Fourthly, the House Committee, which is responsible for considering the comfort and convenience of, and services and amenities available to, Members of Parliament. The committee is set up to assist the Speaker of Parliament in these matters. [Standing Order 79]
- 4.1.8. Fifthly, the Committee of Privileges, which is responsible for considering any matter which may appear to affect the powers and privileges of Parliament. It undertakes matters when referred to it by the Speaker of Parliament, who does so when he is satisfied that a prima facie breach of privilege has been committed. If Parliament judges that some act or matter or thing has been committed which is punishable as an offence, a separate committee can be appointed by Parliament to summarily enquire into such a case and the appropriate action. [Standing Order 80]
- 4.1.9. With the exception of the PAC and the Committee of Privileges, none of the above five have the power to send for persons, papers, and records unless Parliament resolves so. The PAC may do so of its own accord.
- 4.4.2 In addition, Parliament may also appoint *special select committees*, joint committees, and “any other committee, which is not a select committee”.
- 4.4.3 In the following sections, a closer look will be taken at the PAC as a case study that illustrates the normal functioning of standing committees in the existing Malaysian system.

¹⁰ Malaysian Parliament, *Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat (Thirteenth Publication)* (Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian Parliament, 2013).

4.5 SUMMARY AND COMPARISON

<i>Type of scope</i>	Specific ministry	Subject matter	Legislative process	Policymaking	Budgetary scrutiny
Norway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	x	x	x	x	✓

5. SOURCES OF POWER

5.1. INTRODUCTION

5.1.1. In this section, we explore the sources of power of select committees. Select committees may derive their power from a formal source, such as a constitutional document or a Parliament's standing orders, or from convention, or both. We also consider the gap in the Malaysian system.

5.2. NORWEGIAN CASE STUDY

5.2.1. The Norwegian standing committees are empowered by convention. This allows committees to be fluid and dynamic in its exercise of duties as they are not tied down by rigid constitutional laws or standing orders.

5.3. BRITISH CASE STUDY

5.3.1. The British standing committees are empowered by Standing Order 152 of the House of Commons.¹¹

5.3.2. They moreover derive power from convention. It is a noteworthy point that some British standing committees have a history dating back to the 1800s, if not earlier.

5.4. MALAYSIAN CASE STUDY

5.4.1. Owing to decades of misrule, no conventions have been developed regarding standing committees in the Malaysian system. As such, our only guide comes from Standing Orders 76-80. This paper recommends the development of conventions to supplement standing orders, which will be dealt with in a separate paper at a later date.

5.4.2. Parliament is empowered by Standing Orders 76-80 to set up the five specific standing committees detailed above in 4.4.

¹¹ UK Parliament, *Addendum to the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to public business* (London: UK Parliament, 2017), <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmstords/soaddendum0307.pdf>

- 5.4.3. Parliament is also empowered by Standing Order 81 to set up special select committees as and when they are deemed necessary.
- 5.4.4. Standing Orders 82-88A further detail the powers and proceedings of all select committees, standing and special alike.¹²
- 5.4.5. Joint committees are provided for by Standing Orders 87-88.
- 5.4.6. All other forms of committees which are not select committees are provided for by Standing Order 88A.

6. COMPOSITION OF SELECT COMMITTEES

6.1. INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1. In this section, we explore the make-up of select committees. The processes by which they are formed are similar, but the committees of different systems have different sizes, different support staff, and different organisation of work.

6.2. NORWEGIAN CASE STUDY

- 6.2.1. There are 12 standing committees in the Norwegian Storting, or Parliament. Every parliamentarian serves on one of the 12 committees, with parties and constituencies proportionally represented as far as possible. Therefore, the composition of a committee tends to reflect the composition of the Storting.¹³
- 6.2.2. This system of placing every parliamentarian in one of the 12 committees has certain advantages. Firstly, it expedites the legislative process as not every parliamentarian needs to read every bill. Instead, the party member(s) sitting on each committee are able to inform their parliamentary party of the issues at stake, which is how the parties then decide on their party lines ahead of debate in the Storting. Secondly, it builds expertise within political parties without additional training.¹⁴
- 6.2.3. In theory, a cross-party Election Committee of 37 members is convened at the beginning of the new parliamentary term to thereafter decide the composition of the standing committees. In practice, however, parliamentary party groups decide among and between themselves how their Members will be allocated among the various committees. The Election Committee usually approves the proposals put forth by the party groups.¹⁵
- 6.2.4. There are two guiding principles that further influence how members are selected to the committee. Firstly, all parties are required to be represented on the Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. This implies that if a party only has one representative in the Storting, they will only be represented on that committee, and no others.¹⁶

¹² See Appendix B for a list of the more significant points detailed in Standing Orders 82-88A.

¹³ Stortinget, "About the standing committees."

¹⁴ Norwegian Embassy, meeting with authors; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

¹⁵ Stortinget, "About the standing committees."

¹⁶ Norwegian Embassy in Malaysia, electronic communication with authors, September 5, 2018.

- 6.2.5. Secondly, every parliamentary party must be as widely represented on the committees as possible. In other words, a party must be represented in all committees before they can have a second seat in a committee.¹⁷
- 6.2.6. The size of each committee ranges from eight to 18 members. The Election Commission also appoints one chairperson and two vice-chairpersons. Formally, these are elected by the committee; in practice, the election is usually negotiated between and among party groups beforehand and in the election committee.¹⁸
- 6.2.7. On top of this, the Storting employs one to two committee secretaries to support the members of each committee in their work. Their role is strictly limited to facilitating administrative work and does not include offering policy advice. These individuals are selected through an open application process and are paid by the administration of the Storting.¹⁹
- 6.2.8. Additionally, advisors are employed by the administration to further assist the committee in their work, although these are not advisors who offer expert advice on the subject matter in question.²⁰
- 6.2.9. Upon adopting an inquiry, the committee elects a spokesperson from among its members to see the inquiry through. The first task of the spokesperson is to present the matter to the committee, and the last task is to formulate in writing the final recommendation of the committee.²¹
- 6.2.10. When a Member of Parliament is appointed as a Cabinet Member, their Deputy Member of Parliament takes their place in the Storting for the duration of their tenure as Minister. This means that the deputy also takes their place in the relevant committee. It is important to note that there exists no direct line of hierarchy and the Deputy is allowed to fully assume the role and capacity of a parliamentarian.²²
- 6.2.11. The Extended Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee is an exception to the above point. This committee, which convenes much more rarely than the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, has a membership that includes leaders of the parliamentary party groups. Its responsibility is to consult with the Government on important foreign policy, trade policy, national security policy, and emergency preparedness issues.²³

6.3. BRITISH CASE STUDY

- 6.3.1. The British system comprises two groups of select committees: House of Commons Select Committees, and House of Lords Select Committees.
- 6.3.2. There are three types of **House of Commons** Select Committees, totalling 43.
- 6.3.3. The first type are departmental committees. These are **standing committees**. There is one for each government department, responsible for examining three aspects of the department's work: spending, policies, and administration. They also have the power to

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Norwegian Embassy, meeting; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Stortinget, "About the standing committees."

²² Norwegian Embassy, meeting.

²³ Norwegian Embassy in Malaysia, electronic communication; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

investigate other public bodies associated with their department. The following are some examples:²⁴

Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy Committee
Defence Committee
Exiting the European Union Committee
Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
Treasury Committee²⁵

- 6.3.4. The second type of Commons select committees are those that undertake work that crosses departmental boundaries. These are also **standing committees**. Typically, these committees scrutinise various bills or other matters for the subject matter that they are responsible for inquiring into. For instance, the Environmental Audit Committee considers how well government policies and programmes contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development. The following are some examples of these committees:²⁶

Environmental Audit Committee
Finance Committee
Public Accounts Committee
Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Women and Equalities Committee²⁷

- 6.3.5. The third type of Commons select committees are those involved in a range of ongoing investigations. These are **special select committees**.
- 6.3.6. Commons select committees can also hold pre-appointment hearings to take evidence from candidates for key public positions before they are appointed.²⁸
- 6.3.7. Commons select committees comprise around 12 members. Usually, every Member of Parliament must serve on a committee if they are not a minister, opposition front-bench spokesperson, or a party whip. As far as possible, the composition of a select committee will reflect that of the House of Commons.²⁹
- 6.3.8. The membership of the Commons select committees is decided by election within each parliamentary party. The only exception is the non-departmental Backbench Business Committee, the members of which are elected by a vote of all MPs.³⁰
- 6.3.9. Most chairs of the Commons Select Committee are elected by a secret ballot of all parliamentarians, the exceptions being some of the non-departmental committees. Chair positions are allocated to parties in a way that reflects the relative party strengths in the House. This position comes with few formal powers – among other things, chairs can only vote in the event of a tie – but it does mean playing a key role in leading the committee’s work.³¹

²⁴ UK Parliament, “Select committees.”

²⁵ See Appendix A for the full list of committees.

²⁶ UK Parliament, “Select committees.”

²⁷ See Appendix A for the full list of committees.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ UK House of Commons Information Office, *Select Committees* (London: UK Parliament, 2011), <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-information-office/brief-guides/select-committees.pdf>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

6.3.10. In addition to the above Commons committees, there are six **House of Lords** select committees.³²

6.3.11. All of these are non-departmental and thematic in their remits. They are *standing committees*. Examples include:³³

Science and Technology Committee
Constitution Committee³⁴

6.3.12. This system is designed to take advantage of the expertise of Members of the House of Lords, many of whom are appointed to the House precisely because of their expertise in particular fields.

6.3.13. Additionally, the House of Lords also regularly sets up ad-hoc **special select committees** to investigate other particular matters it decides to take up.³⁵

6.4. MALAYSIAN CASE STUDY – THE PAC³⁶

6.4.1. The Committee of Selection selects PAC members and forwards the names of its candidates to the Chairman of the House of Representatives.

6.4.2. The PAC comprises 14 Members of Parliament. The Parliament appoints one chair and one vice-chair from among these 14 members.

6.4.3. In addition to the above, there are five ex-officio members. Ex-officio members are members who have automatic membership due to positions he or she already holds in government. They provide expertise and advise the 14 members of the PAC. These members are drawn from the following government bodies:

Jabatan Audit Negara (National Audit Department)
Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia (Ministry of Finance)
Jabatan Akauntan Negara Malaysia (National Accounting Department)
Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (Public Services Department)
Unit Perancang Ekonomi (Economic Planning Unit)

6.4.4. The PAC is furthermore supported by a secretariat of 3 members, namely the Secretary of the Parliament, the Secretary of the House of Representatives division, and the Head Secretary of the PAC. These are civil servants who are accordingly paid by the state.

³² UK Parliament, "Select committees."

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ See Appendix A for the full list of committees.

³⁵ Commons Information Office, "Select committees."

³⁶ Malaysian Parliament, *Jawatankuasa*; and Malaysian Parliament, *Standing Orders*.

7. PROCEEDINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

7.1. INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1. This section goes into how the select committees usually function. Details are given as to how they initiate or are assigned work, how they carry it out, and what takes place at the end of an inquiry they undertake.

7.2. NORWEGIAN CASE STUDY

- 7.2.1. The standing committees undertake work referred to them by the Storting. This can take place through two paths: the first is when the Government initiates an issue, submits a white paper, and refers it to the standing committee; the second is when a parliamentarian puts forth a Private Member's Motion or Bill and refers it to the standing committee. Nearly all the standing committees only have the power to consider matters referred to them by the Storting. The only exception is the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs, which has the power to initiate business independently.³⁷
- 7.2.2. For each matter the Storting seeks an inquiry into, the general rule of thumb is that it is the standing committee whose remit most closely reflects that of the ministry or matter at hand that is responsible for undertaking it. While not every standing committee is perfectly related to one ministry, every standing committee has a well-defined scope that corresponds to one to two ministries. Formally, it is the imperative of the Presidium to decide which committee undertakes a matter at hand.³⁸
- 7.2.3. For example, the Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs corresponds to the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Children and Equality. The Committee's responsibilities are matters relating to: families, children, and young people; gender equality; consumer affairs, including matter relating to debt settlement; church, religious and belief communities; culture and cultural heritage.³⁹
- 7.2.4. In the event of a cross-ministerial matter, the Storting may decide to set up a joint committee to conduct an inquiry into the matter. Such a committee draws an equal number of members from each of the two standing committees concerned.⁴⁰ It is not often that a joint committee is formed, as the scopes of work are distinctly demarcated.⁴¹
- 7.2.5. The task of the standing committee in conducting an inquiry is to gather evidence, both oral and written, and arrive at a conclusion based on that evidence. To gather evidence, the committee calls for written evidence and convenes public hearings. Unless it is decided otherwise, hearings must be held in public, thus promoting transparency and accountability in the workings of the standing committee. It may call in representatives from ministries, organisations, or private individuals, and organisations and individuals may also request to appear before a committee to present their views. This open process therefore moreover facilitates public involvement in the process of policymaking.⁴²

³⁷ Stortinget, "About the standing committees," Norwegian Embassy, meeting; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Stortinget, "About the standing committees."

⁴⁰ Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

⁴¹ Norwegian Embassy, meeting; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

⁴² Stortinget, "About the standing committees."

- 7.2.6. The standing committee discusses the evidence, votes on it, and finally adopts a recommendation to be presented to the Storting. This recommendation contains a summary of the matter and the comments of the committee, along with a proposed decision. At least one week before the committee submits the recommendation, the spokesperson may require the committee to submit specific written questions to a relevant member of the government.⁴³ The purpose of this is to gather more information from Government, in line with the fact-finding nature of the committees' work⁴⁴ (as opposed to giving Government a chance to respond ahead of the recommendations, as is the case with the British system – see 7.2.3 below).
- 7.2.7. The parliamentarians then take over the remainder of the legislative work. As standing committees make recommendations for the specific purpose of informing parliamentary debate and voting, recommendations have no legal binding force whatsoever. The executive is also not obligated to respond to the recommendations, as it is to the confidence of the Storting that the executive is beholden, not the committees.⁴⁵
- 7.2.8. In most cases, the committee arrives at a unanimous decision. When disagreements arise, exhaustive discussion may ensue, at times splitting the committee into factions. The factions involve their parliamentary party groups when faced with particularly difficult or complex disagreements. As political standpoints on the issue are clarified in the meetings with their parties, it is hence still the parties that structure the negotiations that take place.⁴⁶
- 7.2.9. Moreover, as recommendations are adopted by a simple majority vote, and the composition of the standing committee roughly reflects that of the Storting, the decisions of the standing committee tend to foreshadow the outcome of parliamentary debate.⁴⁷ This is highly significant, as the committees are responsible for preparing every bill that the Storting debates. It is in this way that the establishment of standing committees can firmly place legislative power in the hands of parliament, strengthening the separation of powers in a democracy.
- 7.2.10. Importantly, all recommendations from the committee reflect whether the position is one of unanimity or one of a majority agreement. In the case of the latter, minority viewpoints may take the form of an alternate minority recommendation. The majority recommendation and the minority recommendation will then be taken to a vote in the Storting.⁴⁸

7.3. BRITISH CASE STUDY

- 7.3.1. Once a select committee adopts an inquiry, it announces the terms of reference, i.e. four to five key questions to set out the scope of the inquiry.⁴⁹
- 7.3.2. There are three main ways in which the select committee proceeds to gather evidence. Firstly, it puts out a call for members of the public to submit written evidence. Secondly, it holds public hearings to collect oral evidence from panels that comprise various members of the public, such as experts on the issue and concerned citizens. Thirdly, it may also

⁴³ Norwegian Embassy, meeting; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Stortinget, "About the standing committees."

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Norwegian Embassy, electronic communication; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

⁴⁹ Honour, "Engaging with Parliament."

choose to go on informal fact-finding visits. All speech in these fact-finding sessions is covered by parliamentary privilege. As with the Norwegian model, this is an open process that promotes active citizen participation in the legislative process, especially as British select committees tend to be interested in receiving written evidence from individuals of any level of expertise.⁵⁰

- 7.3.3. Once it has conducted sufficient sessions, the committee normally holds a final oral evidence session with the Minister in the relevant ministry. This session is meant to give the committee a chance to question the government's position on everything they heard during the course of the inquiry.⁵¹ This is a feature that distinguishes the British system from the Norwegian, the reason being that the former is geared specifically towards checking and balancing the executive while the latter is not. Correspondingly, therefore, Norwegian ministers are only summoned by the select committees when the need arises.
- 7.3.4. The committee then discusses the evidence and produces a report that summarises the evidence, draws conclusions from it, and makes recommendations directed at the government. These recommendations are not legally binding or otherwise obligatory. Nevertheless, it is a convention that the government responds to the recommendations within 60 days. The reports and government responses are publicly published on the Parliament website.⁵²

7.4. MALAYSIAN CASE STUDY – THE PAC⁵³

- 7.4.1. There are two paths to initiating a PAC inquiry. The first is by the direction of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General briefs the PAC on the same day that the report (Laporan Ketua Audit Negara, LKAN) is tabled in Parliament. The second is by the own initiation of the PAC. The committee is empowered to initiate proceedings on issues of public interest, as stated in the House of Representatives Standing Order No.77(1).
- 7.4.2. Once the PAC has initiated an inquiry, it calls for written evidence and compels witnesses to attend a closed hearing to give oral evidence. These witnesses may be drawn from members of government bodies, members of the public, and whomever else the committee considers relevant to the inquiry.
- 7.4.3. The secretariat of the PAC then proceeds to prepare a report based on these findings in what is known as 'Housekeeping' meetings. The PAC goes through the draft.
- 7.4.4. The Head Secretary of the PAC is responsible for presenting the findings of the PAC to Parliament after the report is adopted. Parliament then debates the report, following which the PAC makes recommendations to the Ministry of Finance.
- 7.4.5. This is followed by a response from the Ministry of Finance.
- 7.4.6. Finally, the PAC concludes by tabling a Progress Report (Laporan Kemajuan PAC).

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Commons Information Office, "Select committees."

⁵³ Malaysian Parliament, *Jawatankuasa*.

8. SCHEDULE OF SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

8.1. INTRODUCTION

- 8.1.1. This section concerns the schedule of select committees, specifically when they conduct their work and how much time they take to do it.

8.2. NORWEGIAN CASE STUDY

- 8.2.1. The Norwegian standing committees work according to specified time limits, the setting of which are supervised by the Presidium of the Storting. The chair of the committee is responsible for ensuring compliance to these time limits, and any decisions to postpone these limits must be approved by the Presidium.⁵⁴
- 8.2.2. Also worth noting is that the Presidium also takes into consideration that the time limits suit other, more long-term, programmes of the Storting.⁵⁵
- 8.2.3. Norwegian Standing Committees meet one to two times a week. During fall sessions, one day is allocated each week for such meetings.⁵⁶
- 8.2.4. The Storting goes into recess during the summer. This period of time allows committees to carry out information-gathering trips, whether domestic or international.⁵⁷
- 8.2.5. On some infrequent occasions, Ministers hold informational briefings for Committee members. This is usually conducted during Question Time, a weekly sitting in the Storting when members put forth questions to members of the cabinet.⁵⁸
- 8.2.6. The exception to this is the Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, which serves as an arena for parliamentarians to receive confidential information from the government. The President of the Storting and the chairs of the parliamentary groups sit on this committee. However, It is to be noted that a convening of this Committee is also quite unusual.⁵⁹

8.3. BRITISH CASE STUDY

- 8.3.1. The select committees work on varying time frames. Some committees publish reports as regularly and frequently as every week, while others publish only occasionally. A typical departmental committee publishes around a dozen reports a year, while the Public Accounts Committee stands out with nearly 50 a year.⁶⁰

⁵⁴ Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

⁵⁵ Norwegian Embassy, meeting; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Norwegian Embassy, electronic communication; and Stortinget, "Question Time," last modified March 18, 2016, <https://www.stortinget.no/en/In-English/About-the-Storting/News-archive/whats-on/question-time/>.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Commons Information Office, "Select committees."

- 8.3.2. The schedules of the work of select committees are publicly available. The Parliament website gives advance notice for when committees are due to meet and to publish a report.⁶¹

8.4. MALAYSIAN CASE STUDY – THE PAC

- 8.4.1. The PAC convenes on an ad-hoc basis, averaging about 50 days a year. These meetings may be scheduled on any day, regardless of whether Parliament is in session.⁶²
- 8.4.2. Under the previous government, the committee produced 12-13 reports a year on average.⁶³
- 8.4.3. The pace of work is uneven throughout the year. In 2017, the committee produced three reports in March-April, four in August, and 11 in November.⁶⁴

9. BUDGET OF SELECT COMMITTEES

9.1. INTRODUCTION

- 9.1.1. This section considers the budgetary details of select committees. Wages and travel are the main items accounted for.

9.2. NORWEGIAN CASE STUDY

- 9.2.1. The following budgetary details were kindly provided by the Norwegian Embassy in Malaysia.
- 9.2.2. The Norwegian standing committees are not given any set budgets. Instead, the Constitutional Department of the Storting grants money to standing committees on the basis of needs, typically to finance domestic travels, training, and meeting expenses.⁶⁵
- 9.2.3. International travel is the biggest expense in the work of the committee. A four-year budget, which stands apart from the rest of the Constitutional Department budget, is set aside for travel. Committees may travel if it finds it necessary for its work and if the Presidium consents.⁶⁶
- 9.2.4. Parliamentarians are not given any additional wages for their work on the standing committees, as the work is already part of their job as a parliamentarian (except for the President of the Storting). Parliamentarians are paid an annual wage equivalent to about RM450,000.⁶⁷

⁶¹ UK Parliament, "Commons Select Committee Report Calendar," last modified July 19, 2018, <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/hoc-news3/>

⁶² PAC Secretariat, personal communication with authors, September 3, 2018.

⁶³ Malaysian Parliament, *Jawatankuasa*.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ Norwegian Embassy, meeting; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

⁶⁶ Norwegian Embassy, electronic communication; and Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

⁶⁷ Norwegian Embassy, meeting.

9.2.5. However, the Secretariat is paid by the Storting. They are paid a senior civil servant's wage.⁶⁸ The annual compensation of Norwegian civil servants range from 748,500 USD (secretarial positions) to 216,100 USD (senior managerial positions) as of 2017.⁶⁹

9.3. BRITISH CASE STUDY

9.3.1. The chairs of most select committees receive an additional salary for their work on the committee.⁷⁰

9.3.2. We have not been able to procure further budgetary details for the British system.

9.4. MALAYSIAN CASE STUDY⁷¹

9.4.1. The PAC runs on an estimated budget of **RM 1,514,000 a year in total**. For the purposes of this paper, this figure will heretofore be rounded off to RM 1,500,000. This covers staff wages, parliamentarians' attendance fees and expenses, and the committee's study trips.

Item	Cost (RM)
Cost of staff wages	384,000
Cost of parliamentarians' attendance fees	105,000
Cost of parliamentarians' allowance	525,000
Cost of work trips	500,000
Total Cost	1,514,000

Below is a more detailed breakdown of this sum.

9.4.2. The PAC hires one head of committee, two auditors, one clerk, and four Hansard reporters. Each are paid an average of RM 4,000 a month. This implies that the PAC runs on an operational annual cost of about **RM 384,000** (RM 4,000 x 8 staff x 12 months).

9.4.3. Parliamentarians on the committee are paid an attendance fee of RM 300 per day when PAC meetings are held on days when Parliament is not in session. They are not paid on days when Parliament is in session. Assuming that 25 out of the scheduled 50 days of meeting are held on days when Parliament is not in session, this amounts to **RM 105,000** (RM 300 x 14 members x 25 days).

9.4.4. Additionally, on days when Parliament is not in session, parliamentarians on the committee can make claims for air travel, accommodation, and food allowance. The budget for each is

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ OECD, *Government at a Glance 2017*, (Paris: OECD, 2017), <https://www.oecd.org/gov/gov-at-a-glance-2017-norway.pdf>.

⁷⁰ Commons Information Office, "Select committees."

⁷¹ PAC Secretariat, personal communication.

RM 500. Assuming that every member makes these claims for the 25 meeting days, this amounts to **RM 525,000** (RM 1500 x 14 members x 25 days).

9.4.5. Finally, there is an ad-hoc annual budget for work trips, which we estimate to be **RM 500,000**. Examples include site visits and overseas trips to parliaments of other countries.

9.4.6. The other four existing standing committees run at an estimated minimum of **RM 100,000** each a year in total; these are, namely, the Standing Orders Committee, the House Committee, the Committee of Privileges, and the Selection Committee.

9.4.7. Therefore, the current work of all existing select committees requires an estimated annual budget of **RM 1,900,000** in total.

Item	Cost (RM)
PAC Budget	1,500,000 (approx.)
Standing Orders Budget	100,000
House Committee Budget	100,000
Committee of Privileges Budget	100,000
Selection Committee Budget	100,000
Total Cost	1,900,000

PART 3:
RECOMMENDATIONS

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEES

- 10.1.1. This paper proposes nine new standing committees to increase the total of **standing committees to 14**. Special select committees will also be set up on an ad-hoc basis.
- 10.1.2. Using a mix of specific ministry and subject-matter focus, this paper proposes that the Malaysian Parliament set up nine new standing committees to correspond to the remit of 25 ministries, as well as retain the five existing standing committees.
- 10.1.3. Every ministry will be represented by a standing committee. Where a few ministries overlap significantly in their areas of responsibility, they will share one standing committee between them. All three subdivisions of the Prime Minister's Department, namely Religious Affairs, Law, and National Unity and Social Well-being, are included (see 10.1.7).
- 10.1.4. The Public Accounts Committee, the Selection Committee, the Standing Orders Committee, the House Committee, and the Committee of Privileges will be retained. Save for the PAC, the memberships of the other four committees will be decided by the political parties in Parliament and may include ministers.
- 10.1.5. In addition, this paper recommends that the scope of the PAC be expanded to include oversight of constitutional affairs. The modified PAC – heretofore still referred to as the PAC – will be associated with the Prime Minister's Department (Law).
- 10.1.6. Members of parliament will be encouraged to sit on only one standing committee as long as they are not cabinet members. There are 167 members of Parliament available to sit on the committees below; each committee will have 11 members. The PAC will continue to be an exception with 14 members.
- 10.1.7. The following is the proposed list of 14 committees.

No.	Existing Standing Committee	Subject Matter
1.	Public Accounts and Constitutional Affairs Committee	Oversight over all government expenditure and constitutional affairs Prime Minister's Department (Law)
2.	Standing Orders Committee	Oversight over Dewan Rakyat Standing Order
3.	House Committee	Oversight over comfort and convenience of and services and amenities available to members of the House
4.	Committee of Privileges	Oversight over powers and privileges of the House
5.	Selection Committee	Nomination of members to the above committees
No.	New Standing Committee	Ministry
1.	Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Economic Affairs Ministry of Rural Development

2.	Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Defence and Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Defence Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3.	Standing Committee on Education and Entrepreneurship	Ministry of Education Ministry of Entrepreneur Development
4.	Standing Committee on Health, Family and Well-being	Ministry of Health Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Ministry of Youth and Sports
5.	Standing Committee on Business, Trade and Industry	Ministry of International Trade and Industry Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumers Affairs Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry of Primary Industries
6.	Standing Committee on Transport, Works and Communication	Ministry of Transport Ministry of Works Ministry of Communication and Multimedia
7.	Standing Committee on Resources, Energy, Environment, Science and Technology	Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry of Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment
8.	Standing Committee on Human Resources and Social Affairs	Ministry of Human Resources Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Prime Minister's Department (National Unity and Social Well-being)
9.	Standing Committee on Housing, Tourism and Territories	Ministry of Housing and Local Government Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry of Territories

10.2 COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

10.1.8. This paper recommends that aside from the PAC, the nine new standing committees will each comprise 11 members. Each committee will also be supported by a permanent secretariat of three staff and two permanent Hansard reporters. In addition, it will have a budget to hire ad-hoc advisors as necessary.

10.1.9. The exception will be the PAC. As it requires two auditors as part of its permanent staff, it will continue to be supported by a permanent staff of eight.

10.3 SCHEDULE OF STANDING COMMITTEES

10.3.1 We recommend the nine new standing committees to sit for no less than 12 compulsory days to receive monthly briefings from the relevant ministries. We also expect 20 additional ad-hoc days, bringing the average number of sitting days to 32 a year.

10.3.2 The PAC is expected to continue to sit for an average of 50 days a year.

10.4 ESTIMATED BUDGET

10.4.1 The following budget is estimated based on the case study of the PAC. This paper has assessed the PAC budget to approximate RM 1,500,000 a year (see 9.4).

10.4.2 For the nine new standing committees, we expect the budget to be about 70% of the PAC budget, i.e. approximately RM 1,000,000 a year for each standing committee.

10.4.3 In addition, we propose an allocation of RM 100,000 a year for each of the existing standing committees; namely, the House Committee, the Standing Orders Committee, the Committee of Privileges, and the Selection Committee.

10.4.4 Finally, a budget of RM 500,000 will be allocated to special select committees.

10.4.5 Therefore, the entire annual budget for 14 standing committees and special select committees amounts to approximately **RM 11,400,000**.

No.	Existing Standing Committee	Budget
1.	Public Accounts Committee and Constitutional Affairs	RM 1,500,000
2.	Standing Orders Committee	RM 100,000
3.	House Committee	RM 100,000
4.	Committee of Privileges	RM 100,000
5.	Selection Committee	RM 100,000
No.	New Standing Committee	Ministry
1.	Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs	RM 1,000,000
2.	Standing Committee on Home, Defence and Foreign Affairs	RM 1,000,000
3.	Standing Committee on Education and Entrepreneurship	RM 1,000,000
4.	Standing Committee on Health, Family and Well-being	RM 1,000,000
5.	Standing Committee on Business, Trade and Industry	RM 1,000,000
6.	Standing Committee on Transport, Works and Communication	RM 1,000,000
7.	Standing Committee on Resources, Energy, Environment, Science and Technology	RM 1,000,000
8.	Standing Committee on Human Resources and Social Affairs	RM 1,000,000
9.	Standing Committee on Housing, Tourism and Territories	RM 1,000,000
No.	Special Select Committees	Budget
1.	<i>Ad-hoc special select committees</i>	RM 500,000
GRAND TOTAL		RM 11,400,000

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APPENDIX A

NORWEGIAN STANDING COMMITTEES

1.1. Below is the full list of the Norwegian Storting standing committees and the ministry or ministries that each is affiliated with. There are 11 standing committees corresponding to 15 ministries, on top of which there is a Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs, as well as an Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. Every ministry except the Office of the Prime Minister is represented.⁷²

No.	Standing Committee	Ministry
1.	Committee on Business and Industry	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
2.	Committee on Education and Research	Ministry of Education and research
3.	Committee on Energy and the Environment	Ministry of Climate and Environment Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
4.	Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Children and Equality
5.	Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs	Ministry of Finance
6.	Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence	Ministry of Defence Ministry of Foreign Affairs
7.	Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence	<i>Members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence</i> <i>President of the Storting</i> <i>Chairs of the parliamentary party groups</i> <i>Consults with the Government</i>
8.	Committee on Health and Care Services	Ministry of Health and Care Services
9.	Committee on Justice	Ministry of Justice and Public Security
10.	Committee on Labour and Social Affairs	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
11.	Committee on Local Government and Public Administration	Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
12.	Committee on Transport and Communications	Ministry of Transport and Communications
13.	Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs	<i>Oversight over all ministries</i>

1.2. Note that there is an exceptional standing committee called the Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. It is subject to slightly different rules owing to its special nature as a committee empowered to receive confidential and sensitive information from the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defence, and other members of government. Its

⁷² Norwegian Embassy, electronic communication with authors, August 9, 2018.

exceptional powers facilitate its role in consulting with the government on important foreign policy, trade policy, national security policy, and emergency preparedness issues.⁷³

BRITISH SELECT COMMITTEES⁷⁴

1.3. Below is the full list of British House of Commons departmental select committees.

- i. Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy Committee
- ii. Defence Committee
- iii. Defence Sub-Committee
- iv. Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee
- v. Education Committee
- vi. Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee
- vii. Exiting the European Union Committee
- viii. Foreign Affairs Committee
- ix. Health and Social Care Committee
- x. Home Affairs Committee
- xi. Housing, Communities, and Local Government Committee
- xii. International Development Committee
- xiii. International Trade Committee
- xiv. Justice Committee
- xv. Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
- xvi. Scottish Affairs Committee
- xvii. Transport Committee
- xviii. Treasury Committee
- xix. Treasury Sub-Committee
- xx. Welsh Affairs Committee
- xxi. Work and Pensions Committee

1.4. Below is the full list of British House of Commons non-departmental select committees.

- i. Administration Committee
- ii. Backbench Business Committee
- iii. Environmental Audit Committee
- iv. European Statutory Instruments Committee
- v. Finance Committee
- vi. Liaison Committee (Commons) – considers general matters relating to the work of select committees
- vii. Members' Expenses Committee
- viii. Petitions Committee
- ix. Privileges Committee
- x. Procedure Committee (Commons)
- xi. Public Accounts Committee
- xii. Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee
- xiii. Regulatory Reform Committee
- xiv. Science and Technology Committee (Commons)
- xv. Selection (Commons)
- xvi. Standards Committee

⁷³ Stortinget, *Norwegian Parliament Rules*.

⁷⁴ Commons Information Office, "Select committees."

- xvii. Standing Orders (Private Bills) (Commons)
- xviii. Statutory Instruments Committee (Commons)
- xix. Sub-Committee on the Work of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact
Women and Equalities Committee

1.5. Below is the full list of British House of Lords select committees.

- i. Communications Committee
- ii. Constitution Committee
- iii. Economic Affairs Committee
- iv. European Union Committee
- v. International Relations Committee
- vi. Science and Technology Committee

APPENDIX B

MALAYSIAN CASE STUDY – DEWAN RAKYAT STANDING ORDERS⁷⁵

1. Below is a closer look at what Standing Orders 82-88A detail with regards to the establishment and functioning of select committees in the Malaysian parliament.
 - 1.1. As far as possible, the **composition** of the select committee is to reflect the composition of Parliament. [Standing Order 82(1)]
 - 1.2. Every committee will be supported in its work by a **secretary**, either the Secretary of the Parliament or a secretary appointed by him/her. [Standing Order 83(8)]
 - 1.3. The **timeframe** for the operations and the term of the committee is not limited or otherwise specified at the time of its set-up. It continues in being until it completes the task for which it was set up. [Standing Order 83(6A)]
 - 1.4. The committee's **schedule** is restricted. It may only hold its meetings while Parliament is sitting, and the meeting must be within the premise of the Parliament. [Standing Order 83(5A)] However, it may nevertheless continue its investigations when Parliament is adjourned. [Standing Order 83(7)]
 - 1.5. The select committee must confine the **scope** of its deliberations to the matter referred to it by Parliament. Any extensions or limitations to the scope are to be decided by Parliament. [Standing Order 83(4)]
 - 1.6. To gather **evidence**, the committee has the power to call witnesses or send for written evidence, unless otherwise specified in Orders 76-80 [Standing Order 83(1-2)]. By its leave, person or persons directly affected by the matter under consideration may appear or be represented by counsel before the committee. [Standing Order Standing Order 83(7A)]
 - 1.7. A **majority vote** will be taken on proposals or other decisions on which the committee is divided. The chair only votes if he/she is needed as a tiebreaker. [Standing Order 84]
 - 1.8. The committee will make their **report** to Parliament as soon as they have completed their inquiry, after which any Member of Parliament may then move to adopt the report. If the special select committee's task was to scrutinise a bill, Parliament will proceed to the third reading of the bill, following the recommendation of the committee. [Standing Order 86, see also Standing Order 60]
 - 1.9. A **joint committee** may be set up between the Parliament and the Senate (Dewan Negara) when necessary. Note that a **Standing Joint Committee** may also be set up for the purposes of examining matters affecting the welfare or internal administration of both houses. Standing Orders 87-88 detail how these should be set up. [Standing Order 87-88]
 - 1.10. Parliament can also appoint "**any other committee**, which is not a Select Committee" to carry out matters that are referred to it from time to time. Such a committee would be chaired by the Speaker of Parliament and consist of other parliamentarians appointed by Parliament. [Standing Order 88A]

⁷⁵ Malaysian Parliament, *Standing Orders*.