

Article 50.

The renewal of the elections cannot be ordered more than once during each electoral legislative term which is two years.*

Article 51.

It is laid down that the Kings of our posterity shall regard as a duty of their reign the observance of these principles which

* See Interpretation of Article 5 of the constitution in the footnote of page 4, which carries reference to this Article.

we have established and put into force to consolidate the foundations of the state, strengthen the basis of the Throne and protect the institutions of justice and the welfare of the people.

* * *

In the Name of God Almighty:

These Fundamental Laws of the National Consultative Assembly and the Senate, consisting of fifty-one articles, are all correct.

December 30, 1906 (zulqadeh 14 A.H. 1324)

(signed)

1. Mozaffar-ed-Din shah
2. Mohammad Ali Qajar, Heir Apparent, (afterwards shah, later deposed)
3. Moshir-ed-Dowleh

well and good; if not, the matter shall be submitted for the consideration of His Majesty. If His Majesty approves the vote of the National consultative Assembly, the proposal shall be put into effect; if he does not approve it, he shall order a fresh discussion and careful examination. If again no agreement is reached, and the Senate, by a majority of two-thirds of its members, approves the dissolution of the National consultative Assembly, and the cabinet separately confirms this dissolution a Royal Decree will be issued for the dissolution of the National Consultative Assembly, and in the same decree orders will be given for new elections. The people shall however, have the right to reelect the former Deputies.

If the Chambers do not agree with the report of the joint committee the dispute shall be submitted to His Imperial Majesty. And if His Imperial Majesty approves the decision of the National Consultative Assembly he will order it to be put effect, otherwise the question will be deferred for six months and, whenever expedient, the proposal may come up at the expiration of this period in the form of a measure or bill in either House.

Article 48.

And all other Article of the constitution dated 14 zighadeh 1324, lunar year of the Hegira, (31 December 1906) and its supplement which may be inconsistent with this article are annulled.

The above article was approved by the constituent Assembly its session of May 8, 1949 (Ordibehesht 18, 1328).

(signed) Mohammad Sadeq Tabatabai

President of constituent Assembly

Article 49.

Those member who are newly elected from Tehran must assemble within one month and those elected from the provinces within three months. When those who are elected from the capital are assembled, the Assembly shall convene and commence its work, but shall not discuss the question in dispute before the arrival of those elected from the provinces. If, with all its members present, the New Assembly confirms the previous decision by a full majority His Imperial Majesty shall order it to put into force.

Article 47.

As long as the Senate is not in session, proposals shall be voted on by the National consultative Assembly alone; after receiving the Royal signature, they shall be put into effect.

Article 48.

(As amended).* The King may dissolve the National consultative Assembly or the senate separately or at same time.

In each case, when one or both Chambers are dissolved by Imperial decree, the reason for the dissolution must be mentioned in the decree which shall also provide new elections.

The new elections must begin within a month after the date of the decree and the new Majlis or both new Houses must convene within three months after the same date.

The New Chamber, thus constituted after the dissolution (of its predecessor), will sit for the term of a new legislature and not for the time remaining from the dissolved legislature.

The new Chamber or chambers may not be dissolved for the same reason (as the preceding one or ones).

When the Senate and the National Consultative Assembly fail to come to an agreement on a project of law or bill which has been sent twice from one chamber to the other, a joint committee made up of an equal number of members from the two chambers shall study the differences and present its report to both Chambers. If the Senate and the National consultative Assembly approve the report of the joint committee, the law in question shall be presented for the Imperial signature.

Whenever a proposal emanating from a Minister shall, after critical revision and correction by the Senate, be submitted to the National consultative Assembly and rejected by the said Assembly, if it is of sufficient importance, a third assembly shall be formed by members of the Senate and the National Consultative Assembly, elected in equal numbers by members of both Houses, to study the question at issue. The resulting decision of this/third/assembly shall be read in the National consultative Assembly. If an agreement is reached,

* As amended by the constituent Assembly on May 8, 1949 (Ordibehesht 18, 1328). For convenience of reference the repealed article is also quoted herein-below in translation:

On the Conditions Relating to the Formation of the Senate

Article 43.

Another Assembly called the Senate and composed of sixty members shall be formed; after formation, its sessions shall be held at the same time as those of the National consultative Assembly (Majlis)*.

Article 44.

The Regulations of the Senate must be approved by the National Consultative Assembly.

Article 45.

The members of the Senate shall be elected from amongst the well-informed, discerning, devout and respected persons of the country. Thirty members shall be nominated by His Imperial Majesty, fifteen from Tehran and fifteen from the provinces. Thirty members shall be elected by the people, fifteen from Tehran, and fifteen from the provinces.

Article 46.

After the formation of the senate, all proposals shall be approved by the two assemblies; if the proposals emanate from the senate or from the Cabinet, they must first be critically revised and corrected in the Senate and approved by a majority of votes; they shall then be submitted for the approval of the National consultative Assembly.

However, proposals emanating from the National consultative Assembly shall on the contrary go from this Assembly to the Senate except for financial questions, which are reserved to the National consultative Assembly. The decision of the National consultative Assembly on these questions shall be brought to the notice of the Senate so that the Senate may communicate its observations to the Assembly; but the latter is free, after due examination, to accept or reject these observations.

* See footnote on page 4, Single Article interpreting Article 5 of the constitution with special reference to Article 43 hercof.

Presentation of proposals Emanating from the National consultative Assembly

Article 39.

If a proposal is presented by a member of the National consultative Assembly, it may only be debated if at least fifteen members approve its discussion. In that case, it shall be presented in writing to the president, who may have it first examined by a Committee of Inquiry.

Article 40.

If the bill mentioned in Article 39. concerns one of the responsible Ministers, the Assembly must notify this Minister so that he may be represented in person, if possible, or by his under-secretary and may take part in the debate and discussions held in the chamber or in the Committee of Inquiry. A copy of the bill and any supplements must be forwarded to the responsible Minister ten days to a month before the beginning of the debate, except in the case of urgent matters; in the same way the date of the debate must be fixed in advance. After the matter has been examined in the presence of the responsible Minister, and if it is adopted by a majority of votes of the Assembly, it shall be give in an official written form to the Minister for appropriate action.

Article 41.

Whenever the responsible Minister does not agree with the proposal made by the Assembly, he must explain his reasons and convince the Assembly.

Article 42.

When the National Consultative Assembly demands an explanation of any matter, the Minister concerned is bound to reply. This reply must not delayed unreasonably, except in the case of matters the secrecy of which for a certain period is demanded by the national interest; after this period, however, the responsible Minister is bound to disclose the matter to the Assembly.

papermen and spectators shall be excluded, or may hold a secret conference composed of a certain selected number of members, to which the other members shall not be admitted. However, the decisions of the secret conference shall not be effective unless three-quarters of the members elected are present and take part in it and unless the decision shall have been taken by a majority of votes. If the proposal is not accepted by the secret conference, it shall not be present to the Assembly and shall be passed over in silence.

Article 35.

If the secret meeting takes place at the request of the president of the Assembly he may inform the public of such parts of the debate as he may think fit; but if it is held at the request of a Minister, the disclosure of deliberation depends on the permission of that Minister.

Article 36.

Any Minister may withdraw from the Assembly a proposal put forward by him, at any state of the discussions, unless the proposal shall have been made at the request of the Assembly; in that case the withdrawal of the proposal depends on the assent of the Assembly.

Article 37.

If a bill introduced by a Minister is not accepted by the Assembly, it shall be returned to the Minister with the Assembly's observations. The Minister concerned may accept or reject the Assembly's criticisms and present the bill again to the Assembly.

Article 38.

The members of the Assembly must plainly and clearly declare their rejection or acceptance of the proposals, and no may influence their vote by promises or threats; the rejection or acceptance must be made in such a way as to be perceivable by newspaper reporters and spectators, that is to say, shown by outward sign, such as white and blue voting papers, like.

Article 30.

The Assembly has the right, whenever it considers it necessary, to present a petition to His Majesty, through the medium of a committee composed of the president and six members chosen by the six classes of deputies. His Majesty shall be requested through the Minister of Court to grant an audience to the committee.

Article 31.

The Ministers have the right to attend the sessions of the National Consultative Assembly, to occupy places reserved for them, to listen to the debates, and if necessary, after asking permission from the president, to give any explanations that may be necessary for the careful examination of the questions discussed.

**On the presentation of proposals to the
National consultative Assembly**

Article 32.

Anyone may address in writing his requests, complaints or criticisms to the petitions Office of the Assembly; if the matter concerns the Assembly, it shall itself make the necessary reply; if it concerns one of the Ministries, the Assembly shall forward it to the Ministry for examination and sufficient reply.

Article 33.

New laws that appear necessary be prepared and critically revised in the Ministries responsible and shall be presented to the Assembly by the Minister concerned or by the prime Minister. After having been voted by the Assembly and having received the Royal signature, they shall be put into force.

Article 34.

The president of the Assembly may, if necessary, personally or at the request of ten members of the Assembly or of one of the Ministers, summon a secret meeting from which news-

(monopolies), whether the concessionaire is a national or foreigner, must be authorized by the National Consultative Assembly, except for treaties which it would be in the interests of the State and the nation to keep secret.

Article 25.

No state loan at home or abroad may be raised without the knowledge and approval of the National Consultative Assembly.

Article 26.

The construction of railways and chaussee roads, whether at the expense of the State, or at the expense of national or foreign corporations and companies, requires the approval of the National Consultative Assembly.

Article 27.

Whenever the National Consultative Assembly observes a violation or negligence in the application of the laws, it shall notify the Minister responsible, who shall provide the necessary explanation.

Article 28.

Should any Minister, contrary to one of the laws enacted and approved (signed) by His Majesty, fraudulently issue written or verbal orders on His Majesty's authority and use such orders as an excuse for his negligence and lack of attention, he shall, according to the law, be responsible to His Sacred Majesty personally.

Article 29.

Should a Minister be unable to give a satisfactory account of any affair according to the laws approved (signed) by His Majesty, and should it be agreed that he has acted contrary to the law or that he has transgressed the limits imposed on him the Assembly shall request His Majesty to dismiss him; and should his treason be proved before the Court of Justice, he shall no longer be eligible for public office.

Article 19.

The National consultative Assembly, after approval by the Senate, shall have the right to call upon the Government to put into effect any decisions taken to make tax reforms and to facilitate relations with the Government authorities in the administrative divisions of the country and the provinces and to define the limits of governorships.*

Article 20.*

The budget of each ministry must be completed during the second half of each year for the following year and be ready fifteen days before New Year's Day (Noruz festival).**

Article 21.*

Whenever a new law is necessary to supplement the basic laws of the ministries or to amend or repeal existing laws, this law shall be made with the approval of the National Consultative Assembly, or by responsible Ministers.

Article 22.

The approval of the National consultative Assembly is necessary for all transfers or the revenues or properties of the State or the country, and for all modifications of the frontiers of the country.

Article 23.*

The state cannot grant any concession for the creation of any Kind of company and public partnership without asking authorization from the National Consultative Assembly.

Article 24.

The conclusion of treaties and agreements, the granting of commercial, industrial agricultural or other concessions

* The persian wording of this article is rather ambiguous. It apparently conflicts with Article 46 hereunder.

** The Iranian New Year, corresponding to March 21 or 22.

Article 14.*

The National consultative Assembly, by a special regulation entitled "Internal Regulations," shall regulate its own affairs such as the election of its president and vice-president, secretaries and other employees, the procedure for discussions, the formation of committees, etc.

THE DUTIES, SPHERE OR AUTHORITY AND RIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY**Article 15.***

The National consultative Assembly shall have the right in all questions to examine and discuss, in all sincerity and truth, ruling by the majority, in complete security and confidence, whatever it considers in the interests of the country and the nation; after they have been approved by the Senate, decisions must be submitted to the sovereign by the head of the Government and put into effect after receiving Royal approval.

Article 16.*

All laws necessary for the consolidation of the foundations of the state and of the kingdom (the Throne) for the regulation of the affairs of the country and for the establishment of ministries, must be approved by the National consultative Assembly,

Article 17.*

The National consultative Assembly shall, when occasion arises, draft up such bills as may be necessary for the creation, modification, completion or repeal of existing law. They will come into force when they have been approved by the Senate and signed by His Majesty.

Article 18.*

The regulation of financial questions, adjustment of the budget, changes in taxation the acceptance or rejection of duties, charges and new assessments instituted by the Government, must be with the approval of the National consultative Assembly.

fulfill to the utmost of our powers the duties which have been conferred upon us, and that we shall remain loyal and truthful to our just, obeyed and honored Sovereign His Imperial Majesty; that we will not betray the institution of his Kingdom (the foundation of his Throne) and the rights of the people, and that we will consider nothing that is inconsistent with the interests of the Government and the Iranian people.

Article 12.*

No one may molest a member of the National consultative Assembly on any ground or excuse without the knowledge and approval of the National consultative Assembly; and if by chance a member shall have openly committed a crime, felony or misdemeanor and shall have been arrested in flagrante delicto, no penalty can be inflicted upon him without the Assembly having been advised.

Article 13.*

The discussions of the Assembly must be public in order that their results may be put into effect; journalists and visitors have the right to attend debates and to follow them in accordance with the internal regulations of the Assembly, but not the right to speak. All discussions of the National Consultative Assembly may be published in the press, on condition that they are not modified in form or meaning, so that all may know the discussions and the course of events. Whoever thinks he can give a useful opinion may publish it in the press, so that nothing shall remain hidden or unknown. Thus all newspaperers, so long as their contents are not contrary to any of the fundamental principles of the state or the nation shall be at liberty to print useful subjects of public interest, parliamentary debates and the opinions of citizens on these discussion at the same time, anyone who publishes something in the press or other publication contrary to the foregoing and from personal motives, or is guilty of libel, shall be liable to arraignment and trial and shall be punished in accordance with the law.

Article 7.*

The Assembly (Majlis) may proceed with deliberations in the presence of any number that may attend meeting. However, when a vote is to be taken, the presence of more than half the Deputies present in the capital is necessary. And a majority of votes is obtained when more than half the members present in the meeting vote for or against the matter (under discussion).

Article 8.*

The duration of vacations and sessions of the National consultative Assembly shall be decided by an internal ruling of its own, and after the summer vacation the Assembly shall be re-opened to resume its work on the fourteenth of Mizan (this year October 6) which corresponds with the anniversary of its first opening.

Article 9.*

During vacations the National consultative Assembly may be recalled to hold extraordinary session.

Article 10.*

At the time of its opening the National consultative Assembly shall present an address to His Imperial Majesty the shah, and shall have the honor of hearing the reply of His Imperial Majesty.

Article 11.*

The member of the National Consultative Assembly when they enter the Assembly for the first time, must take the following oath and subscrib to it:

We, the undersigned, invoke God as our witness and swear on the Qur'an that, as long as the rights of parliament and its members are respected and carried out in accordance with this law, we shall most faithfully, uprightly and diligently

* This amendment passed on May 16, 1957 by the Senate and National Consultative Assembly in joint meeting of Congress, in conformity with the last portion of the Article annexed to the supplementary constitutional Law.

Article 3.

The National consultative Assembly is composed of members elected at Tehran and in the provinces; it meets in Tehran.

Article 4.*

The number of Deputies in the National Consultative Assembly (Majlis) for the capital and for the provinces shall be two hundred, and after every ten years, in case the population of the country increases in any constituency, one Deputy shall be added for every one hundred thousand persons according to official census.

Apportionment of (Deputies to) constituencies shall be in accordance with special law.**

Article 5.*

The term of office in the National consultative Assembly is four full years and it includes the Nineteenth Term. Prior to the expiration of the period, new elections shall be held according to law. The beginning of each term shall be from the date of the approval of credentials of more than half the Deputies. There is nothing to prevent the re-election of former Deputies.

This amendment passed on May 16, 1957 by the Senate and National consultative Assembly in a Joint meeting of congress, in conformity with the last portion of the Article annexed to the Supplementary constitutional law.

Article 6.*

The National Consultative Assembly convenes after two-thirds of the Deputies of the National consultative Assembly are present in the capital.

*Translator's note: The electoral law of Sept. 17, 1906. divided the electors into six classes - princes and members of the royal family, professors and students, nobles, officials, merchants, and farmers. These classes were abolished by electoral law of July 1, 1909, which substituted election in two stages.

قانون اساسی ایران بزبان انگلیسی

THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

of December 30, 1906 (Zulqa'deh A.H. 1324)

IN THE NAME OF GOD THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL

WHEREAS, by Imperial Firman (decree) dated the fourteenth of Jomadi-os-Sani A.H. 1324 (August 5, 1906) we ordered that a National Council be set up to promote the progress and happiness of our Kingdom and people, strengthen the foundations of our Government, and carry out the Sacred Law of His Holiness the last of all prophets, may the priase of Allah be upon him and his posterity.

WHEREAS, by virtue of the fundamental principle (therein laid down), that every individual in the realm has the right to participate in approving and superintending the affairs of the commonwealth, each Person according to his rank, we have left it to the judgment of the nation to choose the Members of this Assembly by popular election.

THEREFORE, the National Consultative Assembly having now been opened in accordance with our sacred designs, we lay down hereunder the Principles and articles of the Fundamental Law regulating the National Consultive Assembly, its duties and functions, its province and its relations with the various departments of the state.

**THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE
ASSEMBLY**

Article 1.

The National consultative Assembly (Majlis) is established and constituted in accordance with the Imperial decree of August 5, 1906.

Article 2.

The National consultative Assembly represents all the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Iran associated in the political and economic affairs of their country.