

National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012

Proposed clauses on policy committee on biotechnology and biosafety

Insert new clause immediately after Clause 8:

9. **Policy committee on biotechnology and biosafety**

- (1) There shall be a policy committee on biotechnology and biosafety consisting of members set out in the second schedule
- (2) The functions of the policy committee shall be;
 - (a) to provide policy guidelines and to coordinate biotechnology and biosafety policies in the country
 - (b) to liaise with Cabinet on policy matters regarding biotechnology and biosafety
 - (c) to identify obstacles to development of biotechnology and biosafety and ensure implementation of policies and programmes
- (3) Business of the policy committee on biotechnology and biosafety shall be conducted in accordance with Schedule 2
- (4) The Minister may, on the advice of the policy committee amend Schedule 2

Insert new Schedule 2 after Schedule 1 to read:

SCHEDULE 2

Composition and conduct of business of the policy committee on biotechnology and biosafety

1. Composition of the policy committee

The policy committee shall consist of –

- (a) The Prime Minister who shall be the chairperson
- (b) The Minister responsible for science, technology and innovation
- (c) The Minister responsible for health
- (d) The Minister responsible for agriculture, animal industry and fisheries
- (e) The Minister responsible for trade and industry
- (f) The Minister Responbile for environment
- (g) The Minister responsible for education
- (h) Minister responsible for energy
- (i) Minister responsible for security

2. Ex-officio members

The Permanent Secretary of the ministry responsible for science and technology and the chairperson of the national biosafety committee shall be ex-officio members of the inter-ministerial policy committee

3. Meetings

The Prime Minister shall preside at the meetings of the policy committee; in his or her absence, the minister responsible for science, technology and innovations shall preside

4. Procedure

- (1) Five members of the policy committee shall form a quorum
- (2) Questions proposed at a meeting of the policy committee shall be determined by consensus. Where consensus cannot be achieved, questions shall be determined by a simple majority of members present. Where there is an equality of votes, the

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chairperson or person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.

- (3) The policy committee shall meet at least once every twelve months for discharge of business at such time and place as the chairperson may determine.
- (4) The Permanent Secretary of the ministry responsible for science, technology and innovations shall record and keep minutes of the policy committee
- (5) Minutes recorded from a meeting of the policy committee shall be confirmed at the next meeting

5. Powers to co-opt

The policy committee may invite any person who, in the opinion of the chairperson or the policy committee, has expert knowledge or information related to development of biotechnology and biosafety, to attend and take part in proceedings of the committee, without a right to vote.

