

Status of the Parliament of RK

- ▶ Parliament of RK is
 - the highest representative body of the Republic
 - performing legislative functions.

- ▶ Parliament consists of two Chambers acting on a permanent basis:
 - the Senate and
 - the Mazhilis.

Structure of the Parliament of RK

- ▶ The Senate is composed of deputies:
 - Elected in twos from each regions (14 oblasts+Astana and Almaty), at a joint session of the deputies of all representative bodies of the regions.
 - 15 deputies of the Senate are appointed by the President.
- ▶ The Mazhilis consists of 107 deputies.
 - 98 deputies are elected on the basis of the Party Lists.
 - 9 deputies are elected by the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan.
- ▶ Term of the powers of deputies of the Senate is 6 years.
- ▶ Term of the powers of deputies of the Mazhilis is 5 years.

Elections

- ▶ Elections of the deputies of the Mazhilis is carried out on the basis of:
 - Universal,
 - Equal,
 - Direct electoral right (suffrage)
 - Under secret ballot.
 - Only those political parties which received not less than 7 percent of votes are admitted to distribution of deputy mandates on the basis of Party Lists.

- ▶ Elections of the deputies of the Senate are carried out on the basis of:
 - Indirect electoral right
 - Under secret ballot.
 - Half of the elected deputies of the Senate are re-elected every three years.

Status of the Deputies

- ▶ They have no right
 - to hold other paid offices, except teaching, research and creative activities,
 - to engage in entrepreneurial activity
 - ▶ Violation of these rules results in the termination of a deputy's powers.
- ▶ During the term of office, they may not be arrested, detained, arraigned on an administrative or criminal charge without the consent of a respective Chamber
 - except for the cases of being apprehended on the scene of a crime or committing grave crimes.

Most Important Competences of the Parliament

- ▶ to amend the Constitution (by 3/4 of votes) at the proposal of the President;
- ▶ to adopt laws and in particular to approve the republican budget and taxes
 - In case of the President's veto to confirm the law by the majority of 2/3 of votes.
 - ▶ In this event the President must sign the law.
- ▶ to give consent to the appointment of the Prime-Minister (done by Mazhilis).
- ▶ to express a vote of no confidence to the Government (done by Mazhilis)
- ▶ to issue acts of amnesty to citizens;
- ▶ to ratify and denounce international treaties.
- ▶ to decide issues of war and peace;
 - and of the use of the Armed Forces abroad at the proposal of the President.

Legislative Process: Initiative and Stages

The right of a legislative initiative belongs to:

- ▶ the deputies of Parliament,
- ▶ the Government; and
- ▶ the President (who may charge the Government to prepare a draft of law)

STAGES:

- ▶ 1) A draft of law is considered by the deputies of the Mazhilis;
 - if approved by the majority of votes;
- ▶ 2) It is transmitted to the Senate;
 - If it is approved by the majority of votes of deputies of the Senate;
- ▶ 3) It may be considered by the Constitutional Council with respect to its compliance with the Constitution (*if the Council is requested to do so!*);
 - If the draft is approved,
- ▶ 4) It is submitted to the President to be signed within ten days.
 - Laws of the Republic come into effect after they are signed by the President.

Dissolution of the Parliament

- ▶ The President may dissolve:
 - the Parliament or
 - the Mazhilis of the Parliament
- ▶ after the consultations with the Chairpersons of the Chambers of the Parliament and the Prime-Minister.