

## Chapter 10

### Rules on Asking Questions

RDC Resolution No. 03-43-2003 provides the following rules on asking questions during meetings of the Council and its committees

1. Be Honest in Asking Questions. "Honesty is the best policy" is a rule that is applicable in all fields of human endeavor. In deliberative bodies, a member is supposed to ask questions primarily to seek clarification on certain issues, proposals, or any other matters being discussed. However, there are instances where a member is asking questions not for the purpose of seeking clarification but for the purpose of projecting his own self as more knowledgeable than the respondent. It is obvious all along that he knew the answer to his questions. This should be avoided.
2. Avoid "Embarrassing Questions". Questions that might embarrass or humiliate the respondent, or for that matter any other member in the group, should be avoided.
3. Avoid Fault-Finding Questions". Sometimes it is only "what is wrong" that should be corrected which is being discussed but not "who is wrong". Hence, all questions to be propounded should not focus on who is wrong, or who, among the members, committed a wrong. This matter of finding out who commits a wrong should be referred to the proper committee to conduct a fact-finding investigation.
4. Avoid Questions That Tend To "Cross-Examine" Or "Interrogate". The art of "cross-examination" is for lawyers, especially inside the courtroom. The art of "interrogation" is for police or investigative officers usually utilized during inquisition or investigation proceedings. The art of "interpolation" is the one adaptable in deliberative bodies.
5. Avoid Asking More Than Two (2) Successive Questions at a Time. Generally, a member is entitled to ask one (1) question only at a time. However, he may be allowed another one commonly known as a "follow-up" question. If he has other questions to ask propriety demands that he should first sit down and give others the same opportunity to ask their questions. Afterwards, he may again seek recognition so he could ask his other questions. (In legislative bodies, a member may be allowed to ask as many questions as he may wish to make, subject however, to the internal rules of that body. This happens when two or more groups assigned their respective spokesman or floor leader who, when his turn comes, may ask two or more questions at a time.)
6. Graciously Acknowledge the Answer. Satisfied or not satisfied with the answer, a member who asked the question should be Graciously Acknowledge the Answer. Polite enough to acknowledge it. Say even a simple "Thank you". At least, by being granted that opportunity to ask his question is something that a member should be thankful for.