

General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Suspension of Bishops) Canon 2007 Assenting Ordinance 2009

Explanatory Statement

1. The Constitution Amendment (Suspension of Bishops) Canon 2007 amends s61A to provide for –

- (a) the possible suspension of any bishop who is subject to a charge before the Special Tribunal,
- (b) machinery to convene and chair a meeting of a diocesan council to consider whether to concur with a proposed suspension, and
- (c) a situation where the Primate is the subject of a charge and possible suspension.

2. The 1961 Constitution already provides for suspension of a diocesan bishop who is the subject of a charge before the Special Tribunal. The amendments enable non-diocesan bishops who are subject to a charge before the Special Tribunal to be suspended. It is considered that the amendments are not objectionable.

Recommendation

3. The Standing Committee recommends that the Synod pass the bill as an ordinance.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

STEVE LUCAS
Manager, Legal Services

2 September 2009