

The OPPOSITION

In accordance with the Westminster System of Parliament, the political party with the second largest number of members in a parliament forms the Opposition.

The Opposition has a very important role in ensuring that ministers, and the government as a whole, remain responsible to parliament for their actions. In doing so, the Opposition examines the work of the government and offers alternative policies. This allows the public to make informed judgements about the performance of their representatives and consider which candidates and policies they would prefer to vote for at the next election.

The Opposition always sit to the left of the Speaker in the Chamber.



The Leader of the Opposition always sits in the front row, in the second seat directly opposite the Chief Minister.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The leader of the party that forms the Opposition after gaining the second largest number of votes in an election, becomes the **Leader of the Opposition**.

The Leader of the Opposition is often seen as the alternative Chief Minister. They usually take on the same portfolios as the Chief Minister and respond to the Chief Minister's statements, ask questions and put forward alternative policies for these areas.

Some other members of the Opposition will be responsible for other portfolios and are called **Shadow Ministers**.