



ASSEMBLÉE DE LA
POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE

WELCOME TO THE ASSEMBLY
OF FRENCH POLYNESIA





The Assembly of French Polynesia (Local Parliament) is the only political institution of the country directly elected by the people. It is located in Downtown Papeete, Taraho'i square, where stood the former royal palace of the Pomares.

Organic law 2004-192 of February 27, 2004, published at the Official journal of French Polynesia on March 12, 2004, set up powers of the Assembly of French Polynesia.

Powers have changed over time and political situations. An elected **legislative Assembly** replaced the Assembly of former chiefs, it was itself superseded by various **representative councils**, from the colonial era, without any real powers. 1945, the **Territorial Assembly** became once again an influential political body.

From 2004, there are 57 representatives from all the archipelagos. It is the Polynesian legislator. Its deliberations rule "businesses of French Polynesia". It can also adopt acts known as "Country laws". Furthermore, it votes the budget and accounts of the Country and supervises action of the President of French Polynesia and of the Government.

The Assembly meets twice a year in **ordinary sessions**, one administrative session and one budgetary session. Exceptionally there are extraordinary sessions. The **Chamber** is where the Assembly meets for the sessions. Outside these meetings, they work within **legislative committees** specialized in one specific area to consider "Country laws" bills and drafts or **deliberations**.

A **permanent committee**, with its 21 elected representatives, operates the Institution between sessions.



THE ASSEMBLY THROUGHOUT HISTORY

June 29, 1880, France annexed French Establishments of Oceania. A **Colonial Council**, composed of 12 members elected by direct universal suffrage for one year was established. The Governor of the French Establishments of Oceania consulted this Colonial Council, from 1880 to 1885, on the budget plan of the colony. Sessions were closed to the public.



Queen Pomare IV Palace



Pomare V in state robes

1930 until 1932, 10 members. It was consulted when the budget was drawn up, on loans and planned budget for public works and was competent in approving the budget.

Between 1932 and 1946, **Economic and Financial delegations** replaced the Board, composed of 13 members of which 7 members elected by direct universal suffrage. They debated on the budget and were consulted on loans projects. Members of the **Standing Committee** were elected from these delegations. Standing Committee could decide on routine proceedings of Delegations between sessions.

August 31, 1945, creation of the first **Representative Assembly**, composed of 20 members elected by direct universal suffrage for five years and already representing the entire populations of the archipelagos. This Representative Assembly had great budgetary powers, it voted budget and freely identified discretionary spending, managed local affairs such as territorial domain or loans.

1952, it became **Territorial Assembly** composed of 25 councillors elected for five years. It kept the powers of the Representative Assembly. 1957, 30 councillors elected for five years. 1984, 41 councillors.



Daily life in Papeete in the 1930s



First representative assembly in 1946



Aerial view of Papeete with the Assembly on the wharf and the former Palace of the Queen on the right.



1958, protest against income tax



Gathering at the territorial assembly in Tarahō'i

From 1885 until 1899, the **General Council** replaced the Colonial Council. 18 members elected by direct universal suffrage for 6 years. Sessions were open to the public. It voted the budget of the colony, taxes and was responsible for the management of the domain of the colony. From 1899, 11 members constituted the Assembly, however it kept its powers.

1903, the **Board** replaced the General Council. 10 members, with 7 civil servants. It had consultative powers. From 1903 until 1930, 6 members constituted this Board. It decided on disagreements between administration and citizen.

From 1959, the Territorial Assembly could dismiss councillors of the Government, with a vote of non confidence.

1996, it became **Assembly of French Polynesia** and from 2001, there were 49 councillors and 57 representatives in 2004.

MISSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY



The Assembly of French Polynesia is one of the four institutions of French Polynesia with:

- The President of French Polynesia, elected by the Assembly within its members;
- The Government, with the vice-president and 7 to 10 ministers;
- The economic, social, environmental and cultural council, composed of 48 representatives from industrial boards, unions and associations participating in the economic, social and cultural life of French Polynesia.

Assembly of French Polynesia is the legislative body of French Polynesia. It is composed of 57 representatives elected by direct universal suffrage, on the basis of proportional representation for five years.

It represents the entire 5 archipelagos: Society Islands, Tuamotu Islands, Gambier Islands, Marquesas Islands and Austral Islands. These archipelagos constitute a single electoral constituency, divided in 8 polling districts. From the election, the representative at the Assembly represents its archipelago and all French Polynesia.

Parity was introduced in 2001. Electoral lists must alternate one man and one woman.

Representatives elect the President of the Assembly for the whole term of office.

A bureau with 3 vice-presidents, 3 secretaries and 3 quaestors, appointed proportionally to political groups, assists her/him in managing the institution.

In order to operate within the institution, representatives convene in political groups.



Representatives in public session at the Assembly of French Polynesia



The main 2 missions of the Assembly of French Polynesia are:

- Law-making;
- To monitor activities of the Government.

LAW MAKING

The Assembly considers and adopts country laws, deliberations, opinions and resolutions.

French is the official language in French Polynesia. However, debates at the Assembly are also in Polynesian languages.

Bills considered at the Assembly are introduced either by the Government (draft) or by the representatives (proposal).

A Legislative Committee considers and eventually amends texts before they are discussed in open session. Since 2005, the Assembly has nine legislative committees specialized in particular areas (economy, tourism, marine resources, health, education, accommodation, etc.).

Then the Plenary Assembly or the Standing Committee, 21 members, during recess, considers and votes texts by article. Votes are generally by show of hands, except for country laws by open vote with roll call of representatives.



Meeting of the Committee on economy, finance, budget and public service.

MONITORING

The Assembly of French Polynesia monitors actions of the Government through:

- Representatives question the President of the Country and the members of the Government;
- Liability of the President of the Country and of the members of the Government questioned:



- presentation of a resolution of no confidence;
- presentation of a hoist resolution within the framework of the adoption of the budget of the Country.

- Establishment of commissions of enquiry;
- Prior monitoring of the committee on budgetary and financial control, established by organic law of 7-12-2007, on some decisions of the Government: financial assistance granted to legal persons, real estate operations of the country and appointment of directors of public institutions or managers in companies partly owned by French Polynesia;
- Representation of French Polynesia in over 150 committees or external bodies, to control deliberations taken in institutions receiving financial support from the Country;
- Budgetary orientation debate provided by organic law of 7-12-2007, allowing representatives, within two months prior examination of the budget of the Country, to debate on budgetary orientations of the upcoming year as well as on multi-year commitments considered by the Country.



Meeting of the Committee on budgetary and financial control.

LOCATIONS

a) René Leboucher hall

The hall of the Assembly is called René Leboucher, who was the first general secretary of the institution from 1954 until 1986. René Leboucher Hall is a living space, an activity area and a discovery area with associative and cultural events and exhibitions all year long.



b) Sonia Agnieray-Thunot Room

“Sonia AGNIERAY-THUNOT” is the name given to the committee room. She used to be deputy general secretary from 1989 to 1996. It is used for legislative committees meetings and other meetings relating to deliberative work. Ten panels tell the story of the Assembly, of Taraho’i square, with a biography and a portrait of Mrs. Sonia AGNIERAY-THUNOT.



c) John French Teariki Room

John French TEARIKI was a former president of the Assembly, elected several times in the 1970s. Inaugurated in September 2011, this second committee room hosts representatives of members of legislative committees and other meetings relating to deliberative work. 10 panels on the walls relate involvement and political and personal career of Mr. TEARIKI. Excerpts of his most emblematic speeches, photos tell about the life of Mr. John French TEARIKI.



d) Vetea Bambridge Room

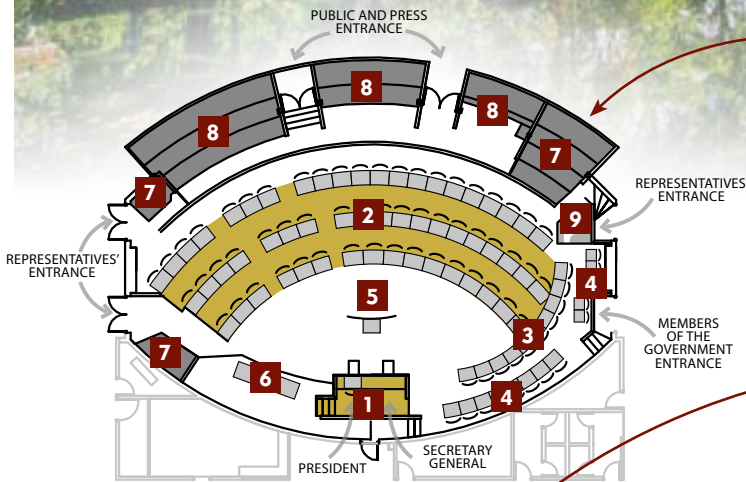
The chamber is called after Mr. Vetea Bambridge, general secretary from 1987 until 2005. It is where the 57 representatives, distributed according to political group, facing the president of the institution who organises and directs hearings.



Sculpted works of art adorn the chamber, emphasizing a pattern or a particular aspect of culture, traditions, techniques and skills particular to each archipelago of French Polynesia.

In this chamber 57 seats for the representatives, 12 seats for the President of French Polynesia and members of the Government, 90 seats in public galleries and 24 seats for the medias.



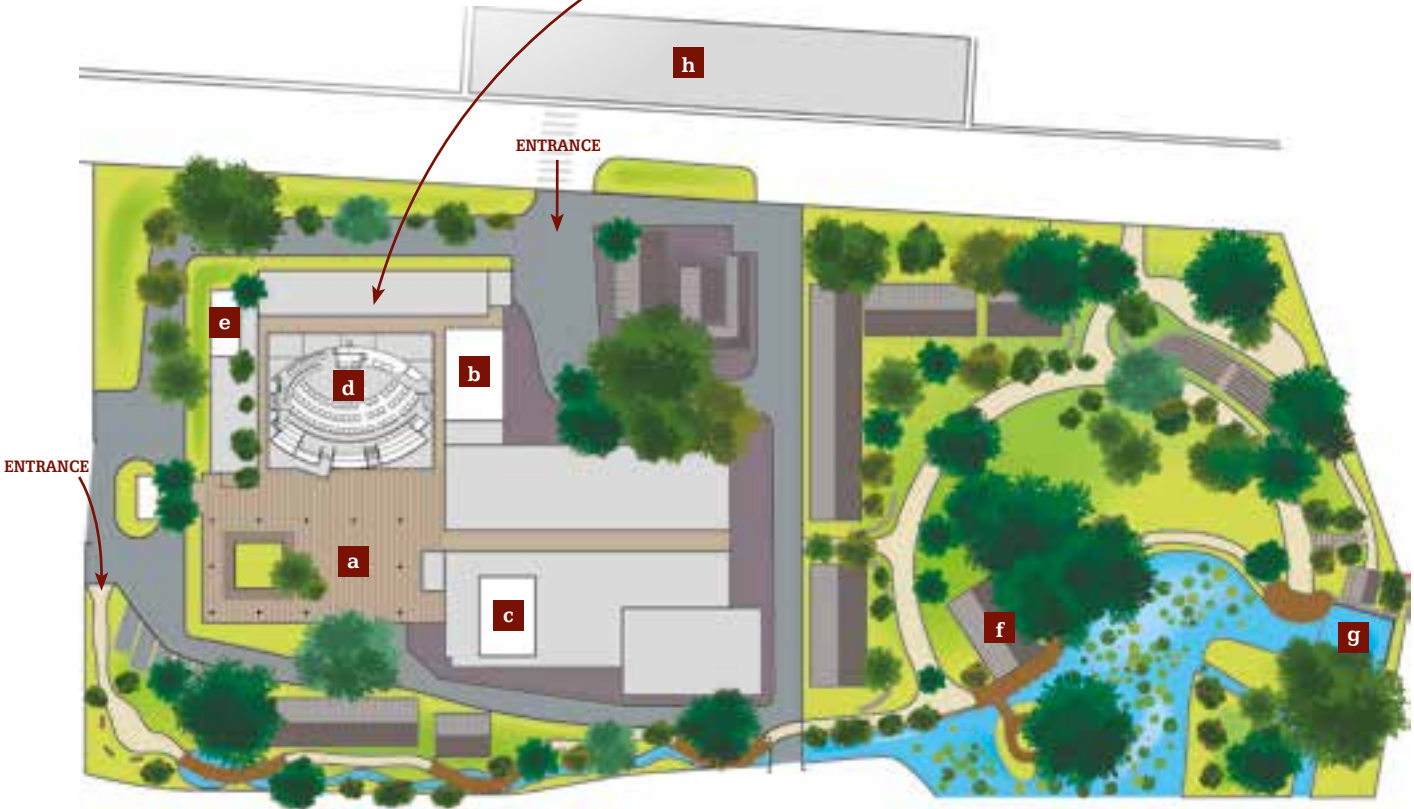


CHAMBER SEATING PLAN

- 1 - Podium
- 2 - Representatives (56 seats)
- 3 - Members of the Government
- 4 - Staff of the members of the Government
- 5 - Rapporteurs and outside participants
- 6 - Reporting secretaries and Head of Protocol
- 7 - Press areas
- 8 - Public areas
- 9 - Translators' room

ENTRANCES TO THE ASSEMBLY

- a - René LÉBOUCHER Hall
- b - Sonia AGNIÉRAY-THUNOT Room
- c - John French TEARIKI Room
- d - Vetea BAMBRIDGE Room
- e - Office of the President
- f - The *fare potee* – Te Fare Araa
- g - Pond and Gardens of the Queen
- h - Tetuna'e Building





e) Office of the President of the Assembly



The President of the Assembly meets representatives and staff for work sessions in his private office in Taraho'i. He also meets there prominent figures who pay him courtesy calls.

f) The *fare potee* – Te Fare Ara

“Te Fare Ara” means that this *fare* is over water and also the fact that the location is light, peaceful and regenerative. A place of rest, of informal and friendly meeting to discuss, to share.

g) Bath of the Queen and Gardens

The Assembly is located within a park of about 1,200 m², crossed by a stream dividing the gardens of the Assembly and the High Commissioner. It is the former park of the palace of Queen Aimata Pomare IV, with her own garden and fresh water basin where she bathed.

It was renovated in 2012, with several native and endemic plants such as *autera'a maohi* (*Terminalia glabrata* var. *glabrata*), *puahi* (*santalum insulare* var. *raiateese*), *ume'ume* (*Pritchardia mitiaroana*), *vahane* (*Pritchardia marquisensis*) or the *fara Papeno'o* (*Pandanus papenooensis*).

h) Tetuna'e Building



Secretariat General and institution's administrative departments are located in Tetuna'e Building, on the left side of Taraho'i Building, Docteur Cassiau Street. The premises were inaugurated on August 2009 and called Tetuna'e.




Contact Assemblée

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VISITING THE ASSEMBLY

Attending sessions

Plenary sessions of the Assembly of French Polynesia are held in Vetea Bambridge room and are opened to the public. Public may attend spontaneously and observe decorum and observe a respectful behavior.

During opening and formal sessions as well as during sessions for the election of the President of the Country or the vote of a motion of no-confidence or hoist motion, only people holding an official invitation from the president of the Assembly are allowed in the visitors' gallery.

Guided visits

Guided visits are free of charge and take usually one hour. Tours are available from Mondays to Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 03:00 p.m. and are in French. Persons of reduced mobility are also welcomed. Pre-registration is required. Download the form at accueil@assemblee.pf and send it to the reception desk within 48 hours prior to the planned date.

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