



**SPEAKER'S DETERMINATION
No. 1 of 2013**

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES**

I, Honourable Doctor Patrick Herminie, being the Speaker ("the Speaker") of the National Assembly of Seychelles (the "National Assembly"), authorised and empowered by Orders 88 and 95 of the Standing Orders 2009 to make such determination as may be necessary from time to time;

HEREBY determine the following general conditions and procedures relating to the broadcasting, re-broadcasting of the National Assembly's proceedings and all of its other forms of communication to the public.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

All media organisations or individuals wishing to cover the National Assembly's proceedings must have been accredited by the Speaker. Accreditation may be granted to the licensed electronic or print media organization or freelance reporter upon receipt of a written request to the Speaker. Accreditation can be obtained on a permanent or temporary basis by the Speaker's office. Accredited media organisations and individuals will be subject to the published "Terms and Conditions of Media Accreditation"; have access to the National Assembly's documentation centre; verbatim and can make use of the press office/gallery.

The accredited media officers should seek to work in close collaboration with the officer appointed as Director of Broadcasting of the National Assembly, to give a full, balanced, fair and accurate account of proceedings, with the aim of informing viewers about the work of the National Assembly.

In carrying out this task, the accredited media should have regard to the dignity of the National Assembly and to its function as the legislative arm of the government in line with the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, 2011.

In accordance with the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, 2011 and with the Commonwealth's best practices the following are being proposed as regards to the conditions of use of coverage by the accredited media in the National Assembly of Seychelles.

INTERPRETATION

The following terms shall, unless otherwise specified in the Standing Orders 2009, be interpreted as such:

“accredited media” means a person licensed or unlicensed by the Seychelles Licensing Authority and accredited by the Speaker to record the National Assembly proceedings for communication to the public;

“broadcast” means a sound or television broadcast of any material and includes diffusion over wires;

“committee” means a Select or Standing Committee as defined pursuant to article 104(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles;

“communication to the public” includes, in addition to any live performance or delivery, any mode of visual or acoustic presentation to the public;

“Director of Broadcasting” means an officer appointed to retain control over the National Assembly's portrayal by the accredited media, review and edit footage of the National Assembly proceedings, determine which footage may be broadcast, ensure arrangements organized by Committee and these conditions are adhered to and to be accountable to the Speaker on all matters related thereto;

“division” means the procedures referred to in orders 58 and 59 of the Standing Orders 2009;

“grave disorder” means incidents of individual or collective misconduct of such serious or disruptive nature as to place in jeopardy the continuation of the sitting and amount to contempt as per National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, 2011.) ;

“Member” means a Member of the National Assembly;

“official's table” includes the area of the Chamber where any non member is located during a sitting;

“re-broadcasting” means simultaneous or subsequent broadcasting by one broadcaster of the broadcast of another broadcaster, and includes diffusion of the broadcast over wires; and

“unparliamentary behaviour” means any conduct which amounts to defiance of the Chair but which falls short of grave disorder.

1. RESTRICTION OF FILMING AND TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF PARTS OF CHAMBER AND PRECINCTS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

- i. The official's table and galleries shall not be shown without express written permission of the Speaker;
- ii. Great care should be exercised in showing the occupant of the Chair. Shots designed to show the Speaker receiving advice from a Clerk at the Table, officers of the Chamber and doorkeepers attending in the Chamber shall not be shown, unless they are taking an active part in the proceedings;
- iii. During divisions, a wide-angle shot of the Chamber may be used. In addition, the following events relating to Divisions may be shown using the standard format described in sub-paragraph 1 (ii): the putting of the Question, both initially and after the two minutes interval; the announcement of the names by the Clerk; any points of order which may arise, together with any response by the Chair; and the announcement by the Clerk and the Chair of the voting figures;
- iv. In no circumstances should close-up shots of Members' or their papers (wholly or partially) be taken; and
- v. Coverage ceases as soon as the Speaker announces that the House stands adjourned or the Speaker leaves the Chair for the suspension of a sitting.

2. STYLE AND PRESENTATION

- i. The standard format for depicting the Member who has the floor should be a head and shoulders shot, not close-up;
- ii. Subject to sub-paragraphs (iii) to (iv) below, the camera shall remain on the Member speaking until he or she has finished;

- iii. Wide-angle shots of the Chamber may be used from time to time to show ambiance of the house and to establish the geography of the House for the benefit of viewers;
- iv. As a matter of general practice, the accredited media should switch to a shot of the occupant of the Chair whenever he or she rises; this principle should be applied all the more strictly during incidents of disorder or alterations between the Chair and other Members;
- v. Occasional cut-away shots to illustrate individual reactions are allowed, but only to show a Member who has been referred to by the Member speaking; and
- vi. Medium-angle shots, including over-the-shoulder shots, are permissible.

3. SPECIAL GRAPHICS

- i. Doctoring of shots and photographs are not allowed;
- ii. Use of special camera and editing effects are not permitted; and
- iii. Use of graphics to illustrate statistics are permitted.

4. COVERAGE AND PRINT REPRODUCTIONS OF PROCEEDINGS IN CHAMBER AND GALLERY

- i. The accredited media is not allowed to edit the speeches inappropriately or alter the chronology or arguments so as to prevent the reproduction out-of-context or overtly edited speeches;
- ii. The accredited media should take great care to report on National Assembly deliberations as accurately and fairly as possible, and ensure all the diverging views of the House are conveyed; and
- iii. The accredited media may use direct quotations from Members' verbatim.

5. LIVE COVERAGE

- i. Live coverage of the National Assembly proceeding may be made available to provide greater public access to the legislature.
- ii. During live coverage Members' immunities would deem to have been extended to the accredited media; and

- iii. The rebroadcasting of an event that had earlier been broadcast live will not be protected by the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act 2011.

6. COMMITTEES

- i. Filming of Committee stage or Committee meetings shall be permitted, unless otherwise indicated by the Speaker;
- ii. When coverage of Standing Committee is permitted, the rules of coverage for the Chamber shall be applied; and
- iii. As regards to Coverage of the Committee of the whole Assembly, the rules and of coverage for the Chamber apply.

7. GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF ARCHIVE MATERIAL

- i. Archive material shall not be used in any way to lower the dignity or damage the reputation of the National Assembly, or any Member;
- ii. Archive material shall not be used in any way which infringes the legitimate rights of individual Members, in particular by purporting, without their authority, to enlist their support for, or endorsement of, any product, organisation, cause or political party;
- iii. That, in the case of compilations or summaries of proceedings distributed in visual or audio formats, there may be no internal editing of extracts such as to distort the timing of events or the meaning of any words spoken; that there should be a clear indication of subject and time changes; and that due regard must be had to the requirements of political balance;
- iv. That no archive material shall be used in any form of advertising or publicity; and
- v. Members may request footage of un-broadcast footage featuring him or her only. Such request shall be made to the Director of Broadcasting through the Speaker.

8. TREATMENT OF DISORDER

- i. On occasions of grave disorder, the camera shall focus on the occupant of the Chair for as long as proceedings continue, or until order has been restored;

- ii. In cases of unparliamentary behaviour, the camera shall focus on the occupant of the Chair, and should certainly do so if he or she rises, but occasional wide-angle shots of the Chamber are acceptable; and
- iii. Interruptions from, or demonstrations in, the galleries should in no circumstances be filmed or photographed.

9. GENERAL RULES

- i. No extracts of the National Assembly's proceedings may be used in any light entertainment programme or in a programme of political satire, or to cause ridicule or denigration;
- ii. Subject to rule 9 (i) above, extracts of National Assembly's proceedings may be included in broadcast programmes which may also contain only appropriate music;
- iii. Extracts from National Assembly's proceedings may not be used in party political broadcasts except for broadcast footage;
- iv. No extracts of National Assembly's proceedings may be used in any form of advertising, promotion or other form of publicity, except in the form of trailers for programmes which use extracts within the requirement of these guidelines and where the trailers also comply with those requirements; and the user shall at all times comply with all the rules of coverage, guidelines and directives laid down from time to time by the relevant committee in reports issued by them and otherwise;
- v. Reproduction of deliberation must comply with existing broadcasting laws and regulations; and
- vi. Deliberations reports that use extracts of coverage of proceedings and purport to be summarized must be fair and accurate.

10. BREACH OF CONDITIONS

- i. The Speaker will intervene if it becomes apparent that the accredited media are not abiding to this determination;
- ii. Reporting on the proceedings of the National Assembly is subject to the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act 2011 which clearly outlines the limitations of the media regarding coverage of the proceedings of the National Assembly; and

- iii. Breach of these conditions may result in loss of access to coverage, revocation of the status of being an accredited media, the instituting of civil proceedings against a person and may be treated as contempt as per section 19(e) of the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, 2011 and be proceeded against accordingly.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2013

Hon. Dr. Patrick Herminie

THE SPEAKER