



THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES

1. Purpose of the Code

The purpose of this Code is to assist Members in the discharge of their obligations to the Assembly, their constituents and the public at large.

2. Public Duty

(1) By virtue of the Oath of Allegiance taken by all Members, Members have a duty to be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of Seychelles and to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, to uphold the laws of Seychelles and act on all occasions in accordance with the public trust placed in them.

(2) Members have a general duty to act in the interests of the nation as a whole and a special duty to their constituents.

(3) In the discharge of their duties, Members shall comply with the provisions of the Public Officers Ethics Act.

3. Personal Conduct

Members shall observe the general principles of conduct specified below-

(a) Selflessness: Members should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends;

(b) Integrity: Members should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might influence them in the performance of their duties;

(c) Objectivity: In carrying out business, including making recommendations on public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, Members should make choices on merit;

(d) Accountability: Members are accountable for their decisions and actions to the electorate and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate;

(e) Openness: Members should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take, and should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the public interest clearly demands;

(f) Honesty: Members have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their Parliamentary duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest;

(g) Leadership: Members should promote and support good governance by leadership and example.

4. Public Interest

Members shall base their conduct on full consideration of the public interest, avoid conflict between personal interest and the public interest and resolve any conflict between the two, at once, and in favour of the public interest.

5. Public Trust

Members shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner which will maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of the Assembly and never undertake any action which may bring the Assembly, or its Members generally, into disrepute.

6. Corruption

The acceptance by a Member of a bribe to influence his or her conduct as a Member, including any fee, compensation or reward in connection with the promotion of, or opposition to, any Bill, Motion, or other matter submitted, or intended to be submitted to the Assembly, or to any Committee of the Assembly, is contrary to this Code.

7. Declaration of Interest

Members shall fulfill conscientiously the requirements of the House in respect of the declaration of interest and shall always draw attention to any relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committees, or in any communications with Ministers, Government Departments or Executive Agencies.

8. Transparency

In any activities with, or on behalf of, an organization with which a Member has a financial relationship including activities which may not be a matter of public record such as informal meetings and functions, Members must always bear in mind the need to be open and frank.

9. Acting as paid advocate

No Member shall act as a paid advocate for any person or organisation in any proceedings of the House.

10. Improper use of Payments

No improper use shall be made of any payment or allowance made to Members for public purposes and any rules which apply to such payments and allowances must be strictly observed.

11. Use of Information Received

Members must bear in mind that information which they receive in confidence in the course of their Parliamentary duties should be used only in connection with those duties, and that such information must never be used for purposes of publicity or financial gain.

SCOPE OF THE CODE

This Code applies to Members in all aspects of their public life. It does not seek to regulate what Members do in their purely private and personal lives.

The obligations set out in this Code are complementary to those which apply to all Members by virtue of the procedural and other rules of the Assembly and rulings of the Chair.

17th March, 2009