



MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Report of the Select Committee on the Live Broadcasting of the Proceedings of the House and Matters Ancillary Thereto

SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION

29 September 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>1. Establishment of Committee</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>2. Election of Chairperson</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>3. Secretarial Assistance</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>4. Meetings</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5. Methodology</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6. Issues</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>6.1. Advantages and Disadvantages of Live Broadcast</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>6.2. Production and Editing</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>6.3. Regulatory, Procedural and Legal Aspects</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>6.4. Responsibility for Broadcast</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>6.5. Internet Transmission of Proceedings</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>6.6. Monitoring</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>6.7. Administrative Arrangements</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>6.8. Technical Arrangements</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>6.9. Rules of Coverage</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>6.10. Guidelines for Use of Signals</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>6.11. Broadcasting of Signals</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>6.12. Archiving</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>7. Conclusion</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>8. Acknowledgement</i>	<i>18</i>
 <i>Appendices –</i>	 <i>19</i>
 <i>I. Draft Rules of Coverage</i>	
<i>II. Draft Guidelines for the Use of Signals</i>	
<i>III. Draft Rules/Guidelines on Use of Content on Internet</i>	
<i>IV. Draft Guidelines on Use of Archive Material for Broadcast and Non-Broadcast Purposes</i>	

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

1.1 At a sitting held on Tuesday 28 April 2015, the House agreed to the following motion standing in the name of the Honourable Prime Minister –

“This Assembly resolves that a Select Committee of the Assembly, comprising such Members as may be appointed by Madam Speaker, be appointed to consider the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House and matters ancillary thereto, with the power, for that purpose, to send for persons, papers and records and to appoint such number of specialist advisers thereto and to make such recommendations, as it deems fit.”

1.2 At a sitting held on 05 May 2015, Madam Speaker appointed the following members to serve on the Select Committee of the Assembly –

- **Hon. Nandcoomar Bodha, MP, Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport;**
- **Hon. Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, MP; Minister of Health and Quality of Life**
- **Hon. Mrs Marie-Aurore Marie-Joyce Perraud, MP, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare;**
- **Hon. Rajesh Anand Bhagwan, MP, Opposition Whip;**
- **Hon. Jean Francisco François, MP, Parliamentary Private Secretary;**
- **Hon. Jean-Nel Alain Aliphon, MP;**
- **Hon. Vedasingam Baloomoody, MP;**
- **Hon. Ahmad Bashir Jahangeer, MP;**
- **Hon. Ezra Seewoosunkur Jhuboo, MP;**
- **Dr. the hon. Mohamud Raffick Sorefan, MP; and**
- **Hon. Kalidass Teeluckdharry, MP.**

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Your Committee held its first meeting on Thursday 07 May 2015 and elected Honourable Nandcoomar Bodha as Chairperson of the Committee.

3. SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE

Your Committee was served by Mrs Bibi Safeena Lotun, Clerk of the National Assembly and Clerk to the Committee and was assisted by Mrs Saseeta Ramsahye-Rakha, Senior Systems Analyst/Acting Parliamentary Information and Communications Technology Manager, at the Mauritius National Assembly. The Committee proceedings were taken down *verbatim* by officers of the Official Report (*Hansard*) Office.

4. MEETINGS

Your Committee held 11 Meetings on the following dates –

Meetings	Date
1 st Meeting	07 May 2015
2 nd Meeting	14 May 2015
3 rd Meeting	19 May 2015
4 th Meeting	26 May 2015
5 th Meeting	16 June 2015
6 th Meeting	30 June 2015
7 th Meeting	21 July 2015
8 th Meeting	31 July 2015
9 th Meeting	25 August 2015
10 th Meeting	28 September 2015
11 th Meeting	29 September 2015

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Your Committee undertook a review of the precedents set in the other legislatures of the Commonwealth countries, including the House of Commons United Kingdom, the Lok Sabha in India, the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, the House of Commons of Canada, the New Zealand House of Representatives, the Parliament of Portugal, the European Parliament, to name but a few, where proceedings of Parliament are currently broadcast and solicited the views of such persons as it deemed fit to allow Your Committee to carry out the exercise for which it has been mandated.
- 5.2. Your Committee is thus grateful to the following persons for their useful guidance and enlightened support to the Secretariat for the preparation of background information on the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House in foreign Parliaments and for sharing their personal experience in relation thereto –
- Mr Joao Vegas Abreu, former Programme Expert of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament (UNDESA), who submitted an analysis of requests on Parliamentary Television Broadcasting from the European Centre for Parliamentary Research & Documentation 2007-2011;
 - Mr Francisco Feio, Broadcasting Manager of the Parliament Channel of the National Assembly of Portugal who presented a case study of the Parliament of Portugal; and
 - Mr. John Angeli, Director of Broadcast and Mr Nick Sherwood, Technical Programme Manager both of the Broadcasting Unit of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom for sharing the latest changes in technology brought to the longstanding experience of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom.
- 5.3 Your Committee is also grateful to the direction of the public broadcaster, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, of Multi Carrier Mauritius Limited and of the three private radios presently operating in Mauritius, for submitting their views on the issue of the live

broadcasting of the proceedings of the House and matters ancillary thereto, on the invitation of Your Committee.

- 5.4. Last but not least, Your Committee is equally grateful to the Solicitor General's Office for the advice tendered on the legal framework that has to be established to enable the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House.

6. ISSUES

The following issues were addressed, following the documentation research, exchange of views with the stakeholders, expert advice and ensuing discussions by Your Committee –

6.1 *Advantages and Disadvantages of live broadcast*

- 6.1.1. Your Committee observed that the issue of the live broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings has been the subject of intense discussions in all the legislatures which eventually decided to do so.
- 6.1.2. Your Committee noted that the major concerns expressed by Honourable Members across board were that, with the live broadcasting of the proceedings, the traditional character of the Chamber could be altered, with some Members of Parliament being tempted to speak to the public at large and that the nature of the debates would thus be undermined.
- 6.1.3. Moreover, Your Committee also noted that reservations had also been expressed about the excerpts that would be chosen for broadcast, with worries about over-emphasis on short periods of drama whilst other worthwhile but not particularly exciting debates might be ignored.
- 6.1.4. In addition, Your Committee noted that Honourable Members had considered such technical issues as possible discomforts produced by extra lighting or simply the intrusion of cameras during the whole sitting.

- 6.1.5. Your Committee was however reassured that Honourable Members have been unanimous in considering that the House did not have the right to deny access to people who, for diverse reasons, are unable to attend the proceedings in the Public Gallery. It had also been argued that a large proportion of the general public relies exclusively on television for information on government business and that the televising of the proceedings of the House would lead to a better understanding of issues and of the political process.
- 6.1.6. Your Committee further noted that, it has been widely considered that the phenomenal advances in the digital world, particularly, in terms of its reach and diversity, play an important role in the dissemination of information and in the generation of awareness among the people. Thus, with the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House, the democratic principles by which the Commonwealth nations abide, will be better served and upheld.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1.7. Your Committee has assessed the *pros* and *cons* of the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House. After deliberations, Your Committee was unanimous in upholding the view that the advantages of the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House far outweigh the disadvantages thereof and that the Mauritius National Assembly ought to engage in this path and therefore recommends accordingly.
- 6.1.8. Your Committee takes notice that, already, in our legislature, the national broadcaster, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation has been filming the proceedings of the House on sitting days, since long back, excerpts of which are included in its television and radio news bulletins. Furthermore, special events such as, the Address by the President of the Republic on the Government Programme, the taking of the oath of allegiance by the Honourable Members, Visits/Addresses by foreign Head of States and Governments during special sittings, the Budget Speech and debates on important Bills are televised live.

6.1.9. Your Committee is of the opinion that the stage has therefore already been set for the live broadcasting of the proceedings and that the public has the right to know more about Parliament and to see more of the day-to-day business of Parliament.

6.1.10. Your Committee is also of the view that the uninterrupted live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House would –

- reduce the communication gap between Parliament and the people;
- enable greater participation in the political process and encourage feedback;
- improve the quality of news reporting on the activities of Parliament and by extension, the perception of the members of the public as to what occurs in Parliament;
- raise the quality of the debates;
- eliminate possible selectivity in the media and similarly affect interpretive journalism and ultimately add an educational value to proceedings; and
- create a diverse vibrant democracy in Mauritius.

6.2 Production and Editing

6.2.1. Your Committee further observed that, although the issue of editing cropped up in many legislatures in the production of the signals, most Parliaments provide an unedited version of the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House.

6.2.2. Your Committee noted that, in most legislatures, in-house expertise, facilities and platforms have been developed to televise the proceedings of the House. Your Committee noted that in some legislatures, the production of the signals are sometimes outsourced, while in others, it is fully realised in-house or sometimes there is a mix of both.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.3. Your Committee takes note that the Mauritius National Assembly is already equipped with a hi-tech Digital Recording and Cue Light System integrated in the Conference Management System that had been installed in the Chamber together with an efficient Information and Communications Technology infrastructure. This will facilitate modules base of remote controlled robotic cameras for filming the proceedings to be grafted thereon. Hence, the implementation of the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House will be an easier task since it will benefit from the existing in-house expertise, facilities and platforms that constitute the E-Parliament infrastructure.
- 6.2.4. In addition, Your Committee is of the view that the live proceedings of the House should also be streamlined on the existing official website of the Mauritius National Assembly. Your Committee therefore commends the state of the ICT infrastructure already in place in our legislature.
- 6.2.5. After deliberations, Your Committee has also recognised the benefit of implementing an in-house Production Unit to be fully controlled and staffed by our legislature in order to take ownership of the feeds that are produced and that the copyright thereof be fully vested therein. In this regard, Your Committee is of the view that the functions and duties of the Standing Broadcasting Committee to be known as the Broadcasting Committee will be more effectively and efficiently fulfilled and recommends accordingly.
- 6.2.6. Your Committee is also of the view that, since the broad principle to televise is to cover the business of the House and being given that the aim is to make parliamentary debate more accessible to the public and to improve public understanding of the democratic process, no editing should take place. However, the coverage should strictly adhere to the Rules of Coverage as to be prescribed by the Standing Broadcasting Committee and therefore recommends accordingly.
- 6.2.7. Your Committee is however of the view that, in addition, as obtains in most Parliaments, such captions as may be necessary for the comprehension and understanding of the business being dealt with should be inserted by the appropriate officer in charge thereof at the

level of the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly, following set guidelines and, Your Committee recommends accordingly.

6.3. Regulatory, Procedural and Legal Aspects

6.3.1. Your Committee considered extensively the issue of parliamentary privilege and of the legal implications in the event of abuse of use of the signals.

6.3.2. Your Committee is of the view that this ought not be a deterrent to live broadcast as has been the considered view in most legislatures.

Your Committee has observed that most legislatures have provided for the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House principally, under the Standing Orders, while some have established the rules and guidelines in relation thereto into an Act of Parliament.

6.3.3. Your Committee has also considered other aspects with regard to the legal framework concerning the issue of licensing for broadcast and has sought and obtained legal advice accordingly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.3.4. After due consideration, Your Committee is thus of the view that, should a Honourable Member or any other person feel aggrieved by anything said or done in the course of the proceedings of the House which is broadcast, the Honourable Member or person ought to be given the right to make an application for redress or right of reply, as the case may be, in a manner as may be prescribed within the **least delay** and which would be placed on the parliamentary record and recommends accordingly.

6.3.5. Your Committee is aware of the urgency for a reply to be published as close as possible to the bone of contention and is further of the view that a request from any Honourable Member or person to rebut a statement made in Parliament about that Honourable Member or person should be referred to the Speaker of the National Assembly who shall rule thereon expeditiously and Your Committee recommends accordingly.

6.3.6. Your Committee is further of the view that the broadcasting agencies should be required to report the rebuttal if they have reported the incident and recommends accordingly.

6.3.7. Your Committee equally recommends that sanctions be imposed for not abiding by the Guidelines for Use of Signal, as prescribed, which may include, amongst others, cancellation of license to broadcast and recommends accordingly.

6.3.8. Your Committee also agreed to the need for an amendment to be brought to section 24 of the Information, Communication and Technologies Act to provide for the Mauritius National Assembly to be exempted from the requirement to be issued with a licence to be able to broadcast or streamline the proceedings of the House.

6.4. Responsibility for Broadcast

6.4.1. Your Committee has reviewed the arrangements made in the legislatures benchmarked with as regards the authority to be entrusted with the responsibility for the live broadcasting of the proceedings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.4.2. After deliberations, Your Committee is of the unanimous view that the Mauritius National Assembly should itself be entrusted with ensuring that the proceedings of the House be captured and distributed live through properly implemented platforms and, eventually, to archive same for later use and recommends accordingly.

6.5. Internet Transmission of Proceedings

6.5.1. Your Committee equally noted that most legislatures simultaneously provide webcasting feeds of the images of parliamentary proceedings and podcasting, this being the cheapest method of dissemination of information.

RECOMMENDATION

6.5.2. Your Committee is of the view that all the avenues of transmission of information ought to be explored and used to bring Parliament to the people and should provide webcasting and podcasting of the images of parliamentary proceedings and recommends accordingly.

6.6. Monitoring

6.6.1. Your Committee observed that, in most legislatures, a standing committee of the House is set up for the monitoring of the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House, including the duty to prescribe what are generally termed as Rules of Coverage and Guidelines for the Use of Signals or other similar rules/guidelines, and for the occasional review thereof, as and when required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.6.2. Your Committee therefore considered that, it is of paramount importance that Standing Order 69 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly (1995) be amended to provide for the setting up of a Sessional Select Committee to be known as the “Broadcasting Committee”. This Committee must be appointed at the beginning of every session to perform the functions allotted thereto by the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly, essentially, with the duties to monitor the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House, prescribe such rules and guidelines as may be necessary and to look into all matters incidental thereto and Your Committee recommends accordingly.

6.6.3. Your Committee further noted that in most legislatures, breach of rules and conditions may be treated as contempt and that it has been dealt with through the exercise of the Speaker’s power to withdraw the privilege of being able to broadcast. Your Committee is of the view that this may be included in the Standing Orders/ National Assembly (Powers, Privileges and Immunities) Act as being a further example of contempt.

6.6.4. Your Committee recommends that the Standing Broadcasting Committee will have the power to decide that the Production Unit will provide the signal to the public service broadcaster, that is, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation and any other broadcaster, if any, and the private radios or any other television or radio, on such conditions as it may prescribe, on application.

6.7. Administrative Arrangements

Staffing

6.7.1. Your Committee noted that, in the legislatures which have developed its own in-house facilities for the production of the signals, the Production Unit which has been set up comprises a Director/Manager of Broadcast, being an official of the legislature, and of operators to manage and operate the Production Unit and that, in the discharge of his duties, the Director/Manager of Broadcast stands guided by the “Rules of Coverage” as prescribed by the “Standing Broadcasting Committee”, to which he/she is accountable for the broadcast content.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.7.2. Since Your Committee is recommending the setting up of an in-house Production Unit, Your Committee is further recommending that a Director/Manager of Broadcast be recruited, together with such number of operators and other staff as may be required for the effective and efficient operation and management of the Production Unit.

6.8. Technical Arrangements

Acquisition of Hardware and Software

6.8.1. Your Committee reviewed the requirements of the technical specifications as worked out by the Office of the Clerk while assisting the Committee works.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.8.2. Your Committee therefore commends the preliminary works submitted to the Committee by the Office of the Clerk in relation to the acquisition of the hardware and software and is satisfied that, as normally obtains in such projects, a Steering Committee to be chaired by the Clerk of the National Assembly would be set up, with such number of officers as may be required, to look into the drafting of the specifications for the acquisition of the required hardware and software for the implementation of the project in relation to the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House.

Control Room

6.8.3. Your Committee noted that there is also the need to set up a control room to monitor cameras and perform other functions required for the origination of the signals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.8.4. Your Committee recommends the setting up of such a room.

Cameras in Chamber and Lighting

6.8.5. Your Committee noted that, normally, remote controlled cameras are used; that the installation of the lights is calculated according to the size and shape of the Chamber; that importance is given to reduce discomforts or inconveniences to Members; that the use of cold cameras which generate less heat are installed; and that the Serjeant at Arms is to intervene if it becomes apparent that cameras are filming matters not within the Rules of Coverage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.8.6. Your Committee is of the view that such issues be considered in the course of the implementation of the project in relation to the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House when preparing the specifications and to be prescribed by the Standing Broadcasting Committee.

6.9. Rules of Coverage

6.9.1. Your Committee noted that in all the legislatures where live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House is implemented, “Rules of Coverage” have been elaborated to which the Director/Manager of the Broadcast stands governed and the conditions for down streaming the use of television coverage of the House and addresses how the rules and conditions of use will be enforced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.9.2. Your Committee is of the unanimous view that Rules of Coverage have to be issued for the purpose stated above. Your Committee has worked out a draft of the Rules of Coverage (see appendix I) and recommends accordingly.

6.10. Guidelines for Use of Signal

6.10.1. Your Committee noted that, in many legislatures, the Guidelines for the Use of the Signals that were issued provide that, no extracts of Parliamentary proceedings may be used in any light entertainment programme or in a programme of political satire and that subject to the above, extracts of Parliamentary proceedings may be included in broadcast “magazine” programmes which also contain music or humorous features, provided that the different types of item are kept separate. Extracts from Parliamentary proceedings may not be used in party political broadcasts. No extracts of Parliamentary 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. Finally, the user shall at all times comply with all the Rules of Coverage, Guidelines and Directives laid down from time to time by the Standing Broadcasting Committee of the House in reports issued and otherwise.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.10.2. Your Committee is of the unanimous view that Guidelines for the Use of Signal have to be issued for the purpose stated above. Your Committee has worked out a draft of the Guidelines for the Use of Signal (see appendix II) and recommends accordingly.

6.11 Broadcasting of Signals

6.11.1. Your Committee had to deal with the issue of how the signals ought to be broadcast and of the arrangements that had to be made to realise this laudable initiative of live broadcasting as a means of bringing Parliament to the people, taking into account the number of sittings and hours of each sitting of the Assembly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.11.2. After extensive consideration, Your Committee is of the view that it would not be cost effective to have a dedicated parliamentary channel in view of the number of hours of parliamentary proceedings.

6.11.3. Accordingly, Your Committee recommends that a collaborative approach be engaged between Parliament and the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation for a dedicated channel to be provided to the Mauritius National Assembly on the days Parliament sits.

6.11.4. Your Committee recommends that other government and semi-government services, such as Multi Carrier Mauritius Limited, which have the facilities for broadcasting and for the transmission of signals, be requested to provide same.

6.11.5. Your Committee also recommends that a collaborative approach be engaged with the private radios for live broadcast for such proceedings as the Private Notice Question, the Prime Minister Question Time, the Parliamentary Questions addressed to other Honourable Ministers and other major events.

- 6.11.6. Your Committee is of the view that the web-casting of the parliamentary proceedings is an important medium in the modernisation agenda and in helping to reconnect with the public. As such, webcasting will render the work of the House more accessible than it has so far been possible through traditional media. Your Committee also considers that webcasting should become a core part of an integrated, interactive Parliamentary Information System, providing information to Honourable Members and to the public at large.
- 6.11.7. Your Committee therefore recommends that the required additional component of the Information and Communications Technology infrastructure be implemented in our legislature to enable the web streaming of the proceedings of the House on its official website (see appendix III).

6.12. Archiving

- 6.12.1. Your Committee noted that archiving is an important element as it entails storing data for future reference and that most legislatures provide for the archiving of the audio and video tapes just in the same way and for the same purpose as Official Reports (*Hansards*) are kept and it is even believed that, it may in the near future, supersede the importance of written Official Reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.12.2. Your Committee is of the view that the importance of archiving cannot be underscored and recommends that necessary arrangements be made for the safe archiving of the broadcast materials for future reference purposes and for the preservation of valuable moments of the parliamentary history in line with the Rules/Guidelines on Use of Archive Material for Broadcast and Non-Broadcast Purposes as may be prescribed by the Broadcasting Committee (see appendix IV).

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. Your Committee wishes to highlight that, all along, there has been wide consensus on the need for the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House and that it is long overdue.
- 7.2. Indeed, Your Committee believes that, in the present modern Information Age, citizens are entitled to be aware of the decisions which impact their lives when being taken by their elected representatives in the legislature in real time.
- 7.3. Your Committee also believes that democracy is all about - quoting Abraham Lincoln's definition of democracy - having a "Government of the people, by the people and for the people".
- 7.4. Hence, Your Committee firmly believes that the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House will bring Parliament closer to the people, that is, bridge the gap between Parliament and the people.
- 7.5. Your Committee therefore recommends the adoption by the House of the present Report to enable the implementation of what is to be a landmark in our parliamentary history.

8. Acknowledgement

- 8.1. Your Committee would like to express its thanks to all the persons who have provided assistance to Your Committee, in particular, the officers of the Secretariat of the National Assembly who attended Your Committee.

***Nandcoomar BODHA, MP and
Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport
Chairperson***

29 September 2015

Appendix I

DRAFT



MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

RULES OF

COVERAGE

OF

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE

INTRODUCTION

Because it is necessary to uphold the dignity of Parliament, the following guidelines should be observed.

The *Standing Broadcasting Committee* may review and amend the guidelines from time to time as and when required.

1. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The Director/Manager of Broadcasting is subjected to give a full, balanced, fair and accurate account of proceedings, with the aim of informing viewers about the work of the House. Coverage should give an accurate account of the proceedings of the House, free of subjective commentary and editing techniques designed to produce entertainment rather than information.

[Note: In carrying out this task, the Director/Manager should have regard to the dignity of the House and to its function as a working body rather than a place of entertainment.]

2. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR PICTURE DIRECTION

(a) Restriction of Filming Certain Parts of Chamber, etc.

- (i) The press and public galleries, the officials' and visitors' boxes, not being directly related to proceedings, should not be shown, other than unavoidably as part of wide-angle or other authorised shots of the Chamber.
- (ii) Shots of the occupant of the Chair should be shown with due respect taking into account the dignity and decorum of the House. For example:
 - Shots designed to show the occupant of the Chair receiving advice from a Clerk at the Table should not be used.
- (iii) Officers/Ushers of the House operating in the Chamber should not normally be shown, other than unavoidably as part of wide-angle or other authorised shots of the Chamber.
 - 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 II (b) (i): the putting of the

Question, both initially and after the two minute interval; the announcement of the names of the Tellers; any points of order which may arise, together with any response by the Chair; and the announcement by the Tellers and the Chair of the voting figures.

- (iv) Roving or reaction shots should be allowed only under the following circumstances:
 - When a Member has sought information which is being supplied by the Member speaking
 - When the Member is referred to in debate.
- (v) The camera should concentrate on the occupant of the Chair whenever he/she rises.
- (vi) In no circumstances should close-up shots of Members' or Officers' papers be taken.

(b) Style and Presentation

- (i) The standard format for depicting the Member who has the floor should be a head and shoulders shot, not a close-up.
- (ii) Subject to sub-paragraphs (iii) to (vii) below, the camera should normally 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: for example, while the Director/Manager is seeking a closer shot of a Member who has just been called, at times when no single Member has the floor, and to establish the geography of the House for the benefit of viewers.
- (iv) As a matter of general practice, the Director/Manager should switch to a picture 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 altercations between 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.

- (vi) Medium-angle shots, including over-the-shoulder shots, are permissible where the Director/Manager wishes to show both the Member who has the floor and another Member intervening or seeking to do so.
 - (vii) Occasional group shots — mid-way between the standard head and shoulders shot and the wide-angle shot — are permitted; such shots may be used either for the purposes of showing the reaction of a group of Members, or in order to establish the geography of a particular part of the Chamber.
- (c) Special Camera Techniques
- (i) In no circumstances are split-screen shots to be used.
 - (ii) Panning shots along the benches should not normally be used.
 - (iii) Occasional zoom shots are permitted.

3. TREATMENT OF DISORDER

- (a) Disorder in the Galleries
- (i) Neither interruptions from, nor demonstrations in, the galleries are “Proceedings”, and as such they should in no circumstances be televised.
 - (ii) If an incident of the sort described in sub-paragraph (i) above occurs in such a way as to interfere with an otherwise permissible shot, the Director/Manager should cut either to a wide-angle shot of the Chamber which does not show the offending incident, or to the occupant of the Chair.
- (b) Disorder on the Floor of the House
- Televising may continue during incidents of grave disorder or unparliamentary behaviour for as long as the sitting continues, but only subject to the following guidelines:
- (i) On occasions of grave disorder, the Director/Manager should normally focus on the occupant of the Chair for as long as proceedings continue, or until order has been restored. (By “grave disorder” is meant incidents of individual, but more

likely collective, misconduct of such a serious disruptive nature as to place in jeopardy the continuation of the sitting.)

- (ii) In cases of unparliamentary behaviour, the Director/Manager should normally 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. (The phrase “unparliamentary behaviour” is intended to signify any conduct which amounts to defiance of the Chair but which falls short of grave disorder.)

4. PRIVILEGE AND RIGHT OF REPLY

- (a) If a Member, under the protection of privilege, defames or makes allegedly false statements, either intentionally or unintentionally, about a person who is outside Parliament, that person should have the right to apply to Parliament to have a reply placed on the public parliamentary record.
- (b) In order to ensure that a reply is published in the parliamentary record as close as possible to the initial allegation, a request from a member of the public to rebut a statement made in Parliament about that person should be referred to the Speaker, who must rule on the matter fairly and expeditiously, within a week.
- (c) The media should report the rebuttal if they have reported the original allegation.

5. SANCTIONS

It is the responsibility of the Broadcasting Committee to prescribe sanctions to be imposed for breach of the rules, which, inter alia, may include restriction on access to the Press Gallery and censure.

Appendix II

DRAFT



MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

GUIDELINES

For the

USE OF SIGNAL

INTRODUCTION

The guidelines for the use of the signals are:

- a) no extracts of Parliamentary proceedings may be used in any light entertainment programme or in a programme of political satire;
- b) subject to paragraph (a) above, extracts of Parliamentary proceedings may be included in broadcast "magazine" programmes which also contain music or humorous features, provided that the different types of item are kept separate;
- c) extracts from Parliamentary proceedings may not be used in party political broadcasts;
- d) no extracts of Parliamentary 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
- e) As Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) is carrying the Coats of Arms in all recordings/transmissions of parliamentary proceedings, it shall be obligatory for private agencies to include the Coats of Arms in their transmissions using live signal or recorded versions;
- f) There shall be no commercials before, during and immediately after the carriage of the live signals.
- g) There shall also be no simultaneous analyses, debate or commentary on the proceedings during the use of live signals in their coverage.
- h) It shall be ensured that no Parliamentary privilege is violated while carrying live signals.
- i) There shall be no on-line editing of the live signals.
- j) The signals shall be provided on non-exclusive basis and the user shall not supply the feed further to any other agency.
- k) The user shall be allowed to make use of the recorded excerpts/footage of the televised proceedings with the approval of the National Assembly of Mauritius Secretariat. The intending agencies shall contact the Clerk of the National Assembly of Mauritius with the following documents –
 - Request on their letter head, clearly stating the purpose for which the footage is required;

- If the footage is required for use in a film/programme, a copy of the script thereof
- l) The user shall at all times comply with all the rules of coverage, guidelines and directives laid down from time to time by the Standing Broadcasting Monitoring Committee in reports issued or otherwise.

Appendix III

DRAFT



MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Rules/Guidelines

On

Use of Signals

On

the Internet

Content

For these purposes, "Parliamentary proceedings" mean proceedings in the Chamber of the National Assembly commissioned by broadcasters. The Material remains Parliamentary copyright and all rights are reserved.

Access to content

The Material is to be made available live to users through a broadcast distribution network. It is the responsibility of the user to arrange onward connection of the signal to their organisation. Copies of televised coverage of Parliamentary proceedings can also be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Mauritius National Assembly upon special request.

Use of Content

The user is permitted the use of the Material on the latter's website as approved by the Clerk of the National Assembly through proper application

Conditions of Use

The use of the Material under this licence is subject to compliance with the attached *Rules of Coverage and Usage* as laid down by the National Assembly.

It shall be the user's responsibility to ensure compliance with these and any other guidelines issued by the Mauritius National Assembly as to the use of coverage.

Internet use and Embedding material on websites

The user may utilize the Material on the internet subject to the following conditions:

- (a) the video content is "watermarked" (*original watermark for video images of the National Assembly*) in a manner so as to show its origin.
- (b) where embedding is permitted from a website under the direct control of the user, the user shall require anyone embedding the Material to comply with the attached ***Mauritius National Assembly Embedding Terms of Use***. In the event that the user becomes aware of non-compliance with those Terms, the user shall immediately cease to permit the embedding of the Material.
- (c) where the Material is published on other websites personally associated with the user (such as a YouTube Channel or a Facebook page), the user shall first obtain confirmation:
 - (i) that the Website shall unconditionally permit the removal of the Material by the user or the Mauritius National Assembly at any time and without notice;
 - (ii) that there shall be no advertising displayed on the same screen as the video recording of televised coverage where that video recording represents the majority of the content on any page of the website or where the page would not exist without the video recording. In other cases, advertising may be permitted, but not where there is any connection between the advertising and the video recording and;
 - (iii) that the Website shall not provide the Material to anyone else, other than by permitting embedding. Where the Website permits embedding, the user shall require that anyone embedding the Material must comply with the attached ***Mauritius National Assembly Embedding Terms of Use***.
- (d) In the event that the user becomes aware of non-compliance with condition c) ii) or iii) the user must ensure that the Website immediately ceases to permit the embedding of the Material or must immediately remove the Material.

Restrictions on Advertising

The user shall ensure that:

- (a) no advertisement is inserted during or adjacent to any live broadcast or recorded extract of parliamentary proceedings which could reasonably be seen as calculated, by its placement, to exploit the subject matter of those proceedings;
- (b) no advertisement which features or refers to Members of Parliament, parliamentary parties, or which makes use of a parliamentary setting, is inserted in or adjacent to any live broadcast or recorded extract of parliamentary proceedings.

Liability

The user shall indemnify the Mauritius National Assembly against all liabilities, claims, demands, actions, costs (including legal costs and expenses of the user and, where appropriate, of the Claimant and other parties and any sums paid by way of compensation or costs by the Mauritius National Assembly to compromise or settle any claim), damages and loss ("Liabilities") arising out of any breach by the user of any of the terms of this rules/guidelines and shall indemnify the Mauritius National Assembly against all Liabilities in respect of material transmitted by it in the course of the supply of the televised coverage.

The Mauritius National Assembly shall be entitled to take all reasonable steps in the conduct of proceedings relating to such a claim, including the settlement of such a claim on such terms as the Mauritius National Assembly decides. The Mauritius National Assembly shall notify the user of any claim for which the user is liable to indemnify it under the terms of this clause as soon as reasonably practicable and shall supply to the user all information and documents relating to the claim as the user may reasonably request as soon as reasonably practicable.

Variation

The terms of these rules/guidelines may be varied or revoked by the Mauritius National Assembly at any time.

Where the rules/guidelines is varied, the user shall comply with the rules/guidelines as so varied as soon as reasonably practicable after being given notice by the Mauritius National Assembly of the variation.

The Mauritius National Assembly Embedding Terms of Use

The Mauritius National Assembly permits you to embed its video and audio material on your website as long as you agree to various conditions (see below). Please note:

- This is for use on your personal website.
- Only the supplied code can be used.
- The video or audio of the recordings cannot be edited in any way.
- The Mauritius National Assembly can remove the recording without notice.
- The Mauritius National Assembly makes this recording available at your own risk.
- The Recordings cannot be placed on sites that contain illegal or offensive material.
- The Recordings cannot be placed on certain sites that contain advertising.
- The embedding of The Mauritius National Assembly recordings is not a The Mauritius National Assembly endorsement of your website.

The Mauritius National Assembly **Embedded Recording Licence Terms**

By embedding The Mauritius National Assembly Recordings on your website ("Site") you agree to the terms set out below.

1. Approval of the Office of the Clerk of the Mauritius National Assembly

- 1.1 Subject to these Terms the Mauritius National Assembly grants you a non-exclusive *approval* to display on your Site recordings of the Mauritius National Assembly Proceedings.
- 1.2 All rights including intellectual property rights shall remain the property and copyright of The Mauritius National Assembly.

2. Use of the Mauritius National Assembly Recordings

- 2.1 You may only embed the Mauritius National Assembly Recordings on websites that are not excluded by The Mauritius National Assembly.

The categories of website that are excluded are set out below. Sites that:

Advertise or Promote Commercial activity.

- Promote, encourage or facilitate illegal activity. Encourage hatred on grounds of race, religion, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation or promote, encourage or facilitate anti-social behaviour.
 - Lower the dignity of either House or that of individual Members.
- 2.2 Unless expressly permitted by Mauritius National Assembly in writing, the recordings are for personal non-commercial use only and may not be used for corporate, commercial or professional purposes. Whilst you may use the recording on an ad-enabled blog or website, you may not charge users to view the recording.
- 2.3 There should be no advertising displayed on the same screen as the embedded video recording comprising the Services where that video recording represents the majority of the content on any page of the website or where the page would not exist without the video recording. In other cases, advertising may be permitted, but not where there is any connection between the advertising and the video recording.
- 2.4 You may not alter or add to the Mauritius National Assembly Recording in any way, nor combine the Mauritius National Assembly Recording with any other material.
- 2.5 You may not suggest any endorsement or approval by the Mauritius National Assembly or any individual Member of your Site.
- 2.6 You may not use the Mauritius National Assembly Recordings in any way that could bring the Mauritius National Assembly or any individual Member into disrepute.
- 2.7 You accept and agree that Mauritius National Assembly has sole editorial control over all Mauritius National Assembly Recordings at all times and it may change or remove any recording at its sole discretion.

3. Warranties & Liability

- 3.1 You warrant that your Site fully complies with all applicable laws and regulations.
- 3.2 Mauritius National Assembly Recordings are made available on an "as is" and "as available" basis and Mauritius National Assembly gives no warranty of any kind in relation to the availability and use of the Recordings.
- 3.3 Mauritius National Assembly has taken reasonable care to ensure that the recording and any related software code contains no errors, viruses or defects, however Mauritius National Assembly does not warrant that this is the case. You use Mauritius National Assembly recording at your own discretion and risk and you are advised to take all reasonable precautions to protect your computer from virus infection.
- 3.4 Mauritius National Assembly will not be liable for any loss or damage which you may suffer as a result of, or connected to, your use of the Mauritius National Assembly recording.
- 3.5 Each provision of this Clause 3 operates separately in itself and survives independently of the others.

4. Indemnity

- 4.1 In the event that a third party commences legal proceedings against the Mauritius National Assembly as a result of your use of the Mauritius National Assembly Recording in breach of these Terms you agree to indemnify Mauritius National Assembly in respect of any and all damages, costs and expenses, including reasonable legal fees and litigation expenses, Mauritius National Assembly suffers or incurs as a result of such action.

5. Termination

- 5.1 Mauritius National Assembly may restrict, suspend or terminate any or all Mauritius National Assembly recordings or your access to the recordings at any time at its sole discretion without liability.
- 5.2 Clauses 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall survive termination of these Terms.

6. General

- 6.1 You may not transfer or sublicense any of your rights or obligations under the *Licence Terms* to any third party.
- 6.2 Any failure or delay by the Mauritius National Assembly in exercising its rights under these Terms shall not be construed as a waiver of those rights.

DRAFT



MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

GUIDELINES

ON

USE OF ARCHIVE MATERIAL

FOR

BROADCAST AND

NON-BROADCAST PURPOSES

- (a) Archive material should not be used in any way likely to lower the dignity or damage the reputation of the House, or of any individual Member.
- (b) Archive material should 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;
- (c) That, in the case of compilations or summaries of proceedings distributed in video- or audio-cassette form, 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;
- (d) That no archive material should be used in any form of advertising or publicity.
