

MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

SECOND REPORT

OF THE

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

31 May 2016

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Second Report of the Standing Orders Committee

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

- 1.1 Your Committee consists of the undersigned, Speaker of the National Assembly as Chairperson, Honourable Adrien Charles Duval, MP, Deputy Speaker and four other Members who were nominated by the Committee of Selection to serve thereon, namely, Honourable Satyaprakashsing Rutnah, MP, Deputy Chief Government Whip, Honourable Rajesh Anand Bhagwan, MP, Opposition Whip, Honourable Mrs Roubina Jadoo-Jaunboccus, Parliamentary Private Secretary and Honourable Vedasingam V. Baloomoody, MP, and Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee.

2. NOTICE OF MOTION

- 2.1 On 22 March 2016, the Rt Honourable Prime Minister gave notice of the following motion which stood in his name and the motion was circulated to the Honourable Members on the same day –

“This Assembly is of opinion that, with a view to implementing the live broadcasting of the proceedings and debates of the House, it is necessary and expedient that the Standing Orders Committee be empowered, and it is hereby empowered, to look into the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly 1995 presently in force, more specifically Standing Order 69, to make recommendations for the setting up of a Committee to be known as the Broadcasting Committee for the monitoring of the live broadcasting of the proceedings and debates of the House and matters ancillary thereto.”

- 2.2 The draft proposed amendment to Standing Order 69 was also circulated on 22 March 2016 and read as follows –

To add the following paragraph –

“(5) Broadcasting Committee

There shall be a committee to be known as the Broadcasting Committee to consist of a Chairperson and eight members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection at the beginning of every session. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider and report on all matters relating to the Live Broadcasting of the Proceedings of the House and matters ancillary thereto, including prescribing the Rules of Coverage, the Guidelines for the Use of Signal/Footage and the Rules/Guidelines to use Parliamentary proceedings from the National Assembly on the Internet, to monitor the implementation thereof to hear any complaint for breach thereof and advise accordingly.”

3. ADOPTION OF THE MOTION INVOLVING PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF THE STANDING ORDERS

3.1 At the sitting of the Assembly held on 29 March 2016, the House agreed to the motion which stood in the name of the Rt Honourable Prime Minister and the proposal for amendments stood referred to the Standing Orders Committee.

4. MEETING

4.1 Your Committee has held three meetings, on –

- Thursday 14 April 2016 at 1.30 p.m.
- Monday 23 May 2016 at 11.00 a.m.
- Thursday 26 May 2016 at 1.45 p.m. ; and

a working group meeting on Thursday 28 April, 2016 at 11.30 a.m.

5. SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE

5.1 Your Committee was served by Mrs Bibi Safeena Lotun, Clerk of the National Assembly who was assisted by Ms Urmeelah Devi Ramchurn, Deputy Clerk, National Assembly and Mrs Saseeta Rakha, Ag PICT Manager, National Assembly. The Committee proceedings were taken down verbatim by *Hansard* Reporters and Sub-Editors. Mr Ram Ranjit Dowlutta, Adviser to the Speaker also attended Your Committee and the Working Group Meeting.

6. METHODOLOGY

6.1 Your Committee reviewed the draft of the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly 1995 which was circulated to Honourable Members when the notice of motion was circulated.

7. EXPERT ASSISTANCE

7.1 Your Committee considered it fit to hear the Solicitor General, who was invited to provide expert assistance on the proposed amendments. Mr Dheerendra Kumar Dabee, GOSK, SC, Solicitor General, attended the Committee meetings and the Working Group meeting, together Mr Rajesh Ramloll, Assistant Solicitor General.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Your Committee recommends the adoption of the amendment proposed to Standing Order 69 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly 1995, as per amendment circulated, subject however to the further amendments as discussed and approved at the last meeting, as reproduced hereunder –

“(5) Broadcasting Committee

- (a) *There shall be a committee to be known as the Broadcasting Committee to consist of a Chairperson and eight members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection at the beginning of every session.*
- (b) *It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider and report on all matters relating to the Live Broadcasting of the Proceedings of the House and matters ancillary thereto, including, recommending to the Speaker, who shall prescribe same –*
 - (i) *the Rules of Coverage;*
 - (ii) *the Guidelines for the Use of Signal/Footage; and*
 - (iii) *the Rules/Guidelines to use Parliamentary proceedings from the National Assembly on the Internet.*
- (c) *The Committee shall monitor compliance with those Rules and Guidelines, hear any complaint for breach thereof and impose such sanctions as it deems appropriate, including censure, restriction of access to the press gallery, suspension or cancellation of licence to broadcast audio or video signal/footage and recordings or to use such audio or video signal/footage and recordings on the internet.”*

8.2 Your Committee further recommends that the words “**Mr Speaker**” be deleted and be replaced by the words “**the Speaker**”, wherever they appear in the Standings Orders and Rules of the National Assembly 1995.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your Committee expresses its thanks to all the persons who have provided assistance thereto.

Hon. Mrs Santi Bai Hanoomanjee, GCSK
Speaker of the National Assembly and
Chairperson of the Standing Orders Committee

31 May 2016