



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PROTOCOL ON CONDUCT OF SITTINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND OTHER PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A. BACKGROUND

In furtherance of the measures taken by the Government of Mauritius and with a view to ensuring the smooth conduct of the sitting of the Assembly and of its Committee Meetings amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, appropriate measures are being taken to ensure the safety of Honourable Members, officers of the Assembly and other authorized persons accessing the parliamentary precincts and the Chamber.

B. THE GUIDELINES

In the light of the above, pursuant to Standing Order 77 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly (1995), Mr Speaker has prescribed the following Guidelines regarding the precautionary measures to be taken in the Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic which shall be strictly adhered to by all those concerned therewith.

Parking Management and Proceeding to the Chamber

- (i) The Honourable Ministers whose offices are located in Port Louis but outside the Government House will be dropped off and picked up near the Stevenson statue situated inside the parliamentary precincts by their drivers with the understanding that their cars will return to their respective parking at their Ministry. They will thereafter proceed to the Chamber through the **Health Corner** found in the *Receptorium* for a **first temperature test** to be administered by a **Public Health and Food Safety Inspector** of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the issue of a **Sanitary Kit**.

- (ii) The Honourable Ministers whose offices are located outside Port Louis will be dropped off and picked up near the Stevenson statue situated inside the parliamentary precincts by their drivers who will proceed to allocated parking slots in the parking area of the Government House. They will thereafter proceed to the Chamber through the **Health Corner** found in the **Receptorium** for a **first temperature test** to be administered by a **Public Health and Food Safety Inspector** of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the issue of a **Sanitary Kit**.
- (iii) The Honourable Parliamentary Private Secretaries will be dropped off and picked up near the Stevenson statue situated inside the parliamentary precincts by their drivers with the understanding that their cars will return to their respective parking slots at the National Development Unit. They will thereafter proceed to the Chamber through the **Health Corner** found in the **Receptorium** for a **first temperature test** to be administered by a **Public Health and Food Safety Inspector** of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the issue of a **Sanitary Kit**.
- (iv) There is no parking issue for the Honourable Ministers whose offices are located within the Government House and are allocated dedicated parking slots within the parking area thereof. They will however proceed to the Chamber through the nearest Health Corner, that is –
- either through the ground floor main entrance of Old Government House found near the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (near the foot of the staircase leading to the Chamber);
 - or at the Lobby of the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall,
- for a **first temperature test** to be administered by a **Public Health and Food Safety Inspector** of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the issue of a **Sanitary Kit**.
- (v) Similarly, there is no parking issue for the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Chief Government Whip, the Honourable Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee and Honourable Paul Raymond Bérenger, GCSK, who will be dropped off and picked near the Stevenson statue situated inside the parliamentary precincts by their drivers who will proceed to allocated parking slots in the parking area of the Government House. They will however proceed to the Chamber through the **Health Corner** found in the **Receptorium** for a **first temperature test** to be administered by a **Public Health and Food Safety Inspector** of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the issue of a **Sanitary Kit**.

- (vi) There is also no parking issue for the other Honourable Members who are allocated parking slots in the parking area of the Government House, as per normal practice. They will however proceed to the Chamber, through the nearest Health Corner, that is –
- either through the ground floor main entrance of Old Government House complex found near the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (near the foot of the staircase leading to the Chamber);
 - or at the Lobby of the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall,
- for a **first temperature test** to be administered by a **Public Health and Food Safety Inspector** of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the issue of a **Sanitary Kit**.
- (vii) Kindly note that each Sanitary Kit comprises an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, two pairs of disposable rubber gloves, two washable facemasks and a pocket-pack tissue paper.
- (viii) Moreover, hand sanitizers will also be placed at different locations throughout the Parliament House for the convenience of one and all.
- (ix) All Honourable Members, officers of the Assembly and other authorized persons accessing the precincts of the Assembly and remaining thereat shall wear a facemask and shall maintain a minimum social distance of at least **1 metre** from each other at all material times.

Access to the Chamber

- (x) On entering the Chamber, Honourable Members, officers of the Assembly and other authorized persons will go through a **second temperature test** by means of a **Thermal Camera**.
- (xi) In the event any person is tested with a temperature of 37.8 Degrees Celsius or above, as recommended by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the said person will be taken charge of and directed to the Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital or otherwise for medical treatment in accordance with established Protocols and in accordance with the standing agreement that the National Assembly has with the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
- (xii) New seating arrangements have been made for the Honourable Members as per the attached Seating Plan.
- (xiii) With a view to minimizing close human interactions, Honourable Members are encouraged to communicate with each other digitally instead of communicating by way of small notes, as far as possible.

- (xiv) Sanitisation of the seats, tables and microphones of Honourable Members will be carried out during the breaks by the Cleaning Services such that Honourable Members are advised to keep all their tables clear of all personal belongings which can be stored in their respective drawers.
- (xv) A limited number of officers will have access to the Chamber inasmuch as the space which was available thereto has been used for the purpose of the new seating arrangements of Honourable Members
- (xvi) A limited number of ushers will be present in the Chamber to service the Honourable Members inasmuch as the space which used to accommodate the said officers has been used for the purpose of the new seating arrangements of Honourable Members.
- (xvii) Visitors and members of the public will not have access to the Chamber to follow the proceedings inasmuch as the space which used to accommodate the VIP Gallery and the Public Gallery in the Chamber have been used for the purpose of accommodating the Honourable Members.
- (xviii) Only eight (8) accredited members of the Press can be accommodated in the Press Gallery at any given time on a roster basis whilst the other ones will, in the meantime, be accommodated in a dedicated Press Room to which they will be directed.

In the Lunch Room

- (xix) New seating arrangements have been made for the Honourable Members in the Lunch Room and in the space located at the entrance of the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall to adhere to the principles of social distancing wherein food will be served in packed presentations with a view to enhancing security.

Parliamentary ICT Support Services

- (xx) Honourable Members are encouraged to seek ICT support digitally as far as possible.
- (xxi) All electronic devices which are brought to the Parliamentary ICT Unit for support need to be sanitized prior to handing over and will be sanitized on return to the Honourable Members.

Parliamentary Library Services

(xxii) Honourable Members will be provided with digital copy of the main newspapers on their I-Pads.

(xxiii) Honourable Members are advised to submit requests for information by phone, on 201 1340, or by email on the following email addresses, as far as possible:

pjeewoonarain@govmu.org

paubeeluck-sreeruttun@govmu.org

ncpallen@govmu.org

(xxiv) Should Honourable Members need to physically access the library the attention of Honourable Members is drawn to the following –

- Entrance to the library will be made from one door and exit from another.
- A maximum of five Honourable Members can access the library at any given time.
- Honourable Members are kindly requested to minimize their stay in the library to allow access thereto to a maximum number of Honourable Members.

C. CONCLUSION

These guidelines shall remain in force in respect of all sittings and committee meetings amid the prevalence of the Covid-19 Pandemic, or until revised or suspended, as the case may be.

Made by Mr Speaker pursuant to Standing Order 77 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly (1995) on 04 May 2020.

National Assembly Chamber Seating Plan

