



## MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### **ANNOUNCEMENT 2 – PRIVILEGE COMPLAINT SITTING OF TUESDAY 05 December 2023**

“Privilege Complaint raised by Honourable Nuckcheddy, Parliamentary Private Secretary against Honourable Foo Kune-Bacha for having in the course of an interview given to the daily newspaper L’Express on Sunday 03 December 2023 made certain comments reflecting on the conduct of the Speaker in the discharge of his duty – alleged breach of section 6(1)(s) of the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act – matter referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions – Standing Order 74(4)”

Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that the Hon. Nuckcheddy, Parliamentary Private Secretary has, in writing today, given me notice of a privilege complaint under Standing Order 74(1) arising out of an interview given to the daily newspaper L’express on Sunday 03 December 2023 by the Hon. Foo Kune-Bacha.

In the said interview, the Hon. Foo Kune-Bacha has made comments reflecting on the conduct of the Speaker in the discharge of his duty.

The Hon. Nuckcheddy is of the view that the comments made by the Hon. Foo Kune-Bacha may amount to a contempt of the Assembly under section 6(1)(s) of the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act for uttering a statement reflecting on the conduct of the Speaker in the discharge of his duty.

Hon. Members, I have perused the press interview and the Hon. Foo Kune-Bacha has in fact uttered the following words to my address,

I quote –

“Il nous empêche de travailler. Sooroojdev Phokeer est un partisan du MSM, il fait le jeu du MSM, c’est un agent du MSM ! Il n’y a même pas un semblant de neutralité chez lui.” Unquote.

Hon. Members,

I take the view that an offence may have been committed under section 6(1)(s) of the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, which reads as follows–

#### “6. Contempt of the Assembly

(1) Subject to subsection (2), each of the following acts, matters and things constitutes the offence of contempt of the Assembly”

Subsection (s) reads as follows –

“Uttering or publishing any statement reflecting on the conduct or character of, or containing or amounting to an accusation of partiality in the discharge of his duty by the Speaker, ………”

Thereafter, the Hon. Nuckcheddy, will move as follows –

“Mr Speaker Sir, in the light of your ruling, I move that the matter whereby the Hon. Foo Kune-Bacha made comments reflecting on the conduct of the Speaker in the discharge of his duty in the course of an interview in daily newspaper L’express on Sunday 03 December 2023 be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for appropriate action pursuant to Standing Order 74(4) of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly.”

The Hon. Nuckcheddy will file copy of the extract of the press interview.

The motion must be seconded.

Mr Speaker will put the following question: -

“The Question is that the matter whereby the Hon. Foo Kune-Bacha made comments reflecting on the conduct of the Speaker in the discharge of his duty in the course of an interview in daily newspaper L’express on Sunday 03 December 2023 be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for appropriate action pursuant to Standing Order 74(4) of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly. Those in favor say AYE. Those against say NO. The AYES have it.”

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