

**MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER  
PRIVILEGE COMPLAINT  
SITTING OF TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023**

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**"Privilege Complaint raised by Honourable Dhunoo against Honourable Shakeel Mohamed for having in the course of a Press Conference of Tuesday 07 November 2023 made certain allegations against the Speaker - 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)"**

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**Mr Deputy Speaker –**

Honourable Members, I have to inform the House, that the Honourable Dhunoo has in writing, earlier today, given notice to raise a privilege complaint under Standing Order 74(1) against Honourable Shakeel Mohamed for having in the course of a press conference on Tuesday 07 November 2023 made certain allegations against the Speaker which according to Honourable Dhunoo are tantamount to, I quote

–  
*“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”*

The matter has been referred to me by Mr Speaker. The transcript of the said Press Conference has been perused, the relevant part of which are being tabled as annex to this Ruling.

Honourable 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, Deputy Speaker or Chairperson of any committee.”

**The Honourable Dhunoo moved the following motion –**

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the light of your ruling, I move that the matter whereby the Honourable Shakeel Mohamed made comments reflecting on the conduct of the Speaker in the discharge of his duty during a Press Conference on Tuesday 07 November 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.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am tabling copy of the video recording and transcript of the press conference.

**The Honourable Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation seconded the motion.**

**Mr Deputy Speaker put the following question: -**

**“The Question is that the matter whereby the Honourable Shakeel Mohamed made comments reflecting on the conduct of the Speaker in the discharge of his duty during a Press Conference on Tuesday 07 November 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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