



MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

RULES OF

COVERAGE

OF

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE

RULES

Prescribed by the Speaker under Standing Order 69(5) of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly

INTRODUCTION

The rules of coverage of parliamentary broadcasting are designed to uphold the dignity of Parliament.

The Broadcasting Committee may review and amend the Rules from time to time as and when required.

1. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

It shall be the duty of the Manager of Broadcast 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 be free of all subjective commentary and editing techniques likely to produce entertainment rather than information.

These Rules shall also apply to any person assisting the Manager of Broadcast in performing his/her tasks and fulfilling his/her obligations under these Rules.

2. SPECIFIC RULES FOR PICTURE DIRECTION

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

- (i) The press and public galleries, the officials' and visitors' galleries, 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. An exception may, however, be made in the case of foreign Parliamentary Delegations seated in the Visitors' gallery.
- (ii) Great care should be exercised in showing the occupant of the Chair. 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.

- (iv) 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 (b)(i): the putting of the Question, any points of order which may arise, together with any response by the Chair; and the announcement by the Clerk and the Chair of the voting figures.
- (v) Roving or reaction shots should be allowed only under the following circumstances:
 - When a Member has sought information and the Member from whom the information has been sought is supplying same;
 - When a Member is referred to in debate.
- (vi) The camera should concentrate on the occupant of the Chair whenever he/she rises.
- (vii) 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 Manager of Broadcast 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 Manager of Broadcast should switch to a picture of the occupant of the Chair whenever he or she rises;
- (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 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 Manager of Broadcast 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 disorder for as long as the sitting continues, but only subject to the following Rules:

- (i) On occasions of disorder, the Manager of Broadcast should cut to wide angle shots until order has been restored.

However, televising of the proceedings should be a **true reflection** of what is happening in the House including the scenes of disorder. On occasions of such disorder in the House, the cameras should focus on the spots of disorder

in the Chamber.

In such situations, the Chair may be shown occasionally, either through wide angle or close-ups.

- (ii) In cases of disorder, the Manager of Broadcast should cut to wide angle shots.

But still, with the objective, of providing a true reflection of the proceedings of the House, the scenes of disorder (individual or collective) are to be shown through periodic close-ups.

Prescribed by the Speaker on the Twenty-Fifth day of March, two thousand and nineteen.

**Santi Bai Hanoomanjee, GCSK (Mrs)
Speaker**

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