

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

Issued jointly by:

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AUTHORITY (ICTA)

INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (IBA)

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY COMMITTEE (NCC)

Promoting Responsible Communication and Preserving Social Harmony

Port-Louis - The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) and the National Cybersecurity Committee (NCC) jointly reaffirm the importance of responsible communication, accurate information and mutual respect in preserving social harmony and public confidence in Mauritius.

Recognising the fundamental importance of freedom of expression and the public's right to information, the three bodies appeal to members of the public, media organisations, social media users and online content creators to exercise discernment and responsibility in the dissemination of information, particularly on matters of public interest.

In this regard, attention is drawn to the following statutory provisions:

Section 18(1)(m) of the Information and Communication Technologies Act provides that the ICTA shall *“take steps to regulate or curtail the harmful and illegal content on the Internet and other information and communication services”*.

Section 23(1) of the Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Act 2021 provides that *“It shall be the responsibility of the administrator of an online account to moderate and control undesirable content that has been brought to his attention by an investigatory authority.”*

Section 4(i)(i) and (iii) of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act provides that the IBA shall ensure that broadcasting services *“are of such a nature as not to encourage or incite crime or racial hatred leading to disorder or offending public feeling”* and *“are impartial and accurate”*.

These provisions highlight the importance of responsible communication and the statutory obligations applicable within the respective legal frameworks.

The ICTA, the IBA and the NCC jointly appeal to all concerned to verify information before sharing it, refrain from disseminating unsubstantiated allegations or misleading content, and avoid any communication that may fuel misunderstanding or unnecessary tension.

Media organisations and online account administrators are likewise encouraged to uphold accuracy, impartiality and responsible content management, in accordance with their respective obligations under the law.

The three bodies reaffirm their commitment, each within its respective statutory mandate, to promoting a responsible and informed communication environment, while upholding freedom of expression, the rule of law and the public interest.

Responsible communication is a shared responsibility. Through mutual respect, vigilance and collective effort, we can all contribute to preserving peace, public confidence and social harmony in Mauritius.

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