

THE POLICY ON DISSEMINATION OF NEWS AND INFORMATION BY VOICE OF MALDIVES AND TELEVISION MALDIVES

The policy on dissemination of news and information by Voice of Maldives and Television Maldives is, without harming in any way:

- the religion of Islam and the sovereignty of the Maldives;
- the Constitution of The Nation and its laws;
- the honor and veneration of the Maldivian Government;
- national security and harmony;
- the Maldivian language, culture traditions and;
- the national character;

Voice of Maldives and Television Maldives shall try to become two institutions which;

- possess reliability, respect and honor;
- hope to reach the highest esteem in journalism;
- encompass the whole society;
- disseminate news and information with accuracy in a timely manner;

BASIC GUIDELINES TO UPHOLD THE POLICY ON DISSEMINATION OF NEWS AND INFORMATION

1. THE PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM;

To enliven and revive the principles of Islam and to refrain from doing anything that would differ from these principles or that may defile the religion or that may lead to religious disharmony.

2. UPHOLDING THE NATIONAL CHARACTER;

(a) To enliven and revive the Maldivian National Character and to refrain from disseminating any information that may impair the National Character.

(b) To enliven and revive the Maldivian national harmony and to refrain from spreading any information that may impair the national harmony.

3. PEACEFULNESS;

The Editorial Board shall have the choice:

(a) To carry on or drop a news item after judging the effect it may have on the majority of the general public.

(b) To refrain broadcasting any news item that may hinder an activity or an investigation by the National Security Agencies or that may harm the nation's peace and security.

4. EQUALITY;

To avoid discriminating an individual or a group or a party for being or belonging to a certain class in society, ethnic race, nationality, age, gender, or social status or political ideology. Likewise, no news should be broadcast by targeting a business with the intention of promoting the business.

5. DHIVEHI LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND CULTURE;

(a) To be observant on factors that may be detrimental to Dhivehi Language, history and culture.

(b) To uphold The Maldivian tradition.

6. PERSONAL FREEDOM;

To avoid interfering in anyone's personal freedom. However, if the activity of an individual or a group is either related or answerable to the public, then the truth should be disseminated.

7. AVOID STEREOTYPING;

To refrain from trying to enforce stereotyping of news and information.

8. SEXUAL AND IMMORAL ACTS;

To refrain disseminating news and information on sexual and immoral acts. Such news and information should be disseminated in a manner that they cause no harm to the society.

9. SOURCES OF INFORMATION;

To obtain information from a variety of sources, paying special attention to:

- a. official sources;
- b. reliable sources;
- c. related sources;
- d. eye witnesses;

If the time and circumstance dictate the source to be kept confidential, then it should be so.

10. NOT TO IGNORE DIVERSE OPINIONS;

To give priority to the opinions of those who are closely related to the incident. Avoid inclusion of the writer and presenter's own opinion and should refrain pushing forward an individual's or group's view.

11. VERIFICATION;

To work towards disseminating the truth as much as possible. In case the truth couldn't be authenticated it should be mentioned so. If unauthenticated information had been delivered, truth should be communicated as soon as possible.

12. COMMUNICATION;

To abstain from disseminating any news, information or image that may defile an individual's or a group's respect and dignity.

13. RESPECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS;

To refrain from disseminating any news, information or image that may defile dignity of children. In case breaking news had to be delivered, it should be disseminated in manner that children do not face any adverse effects of it.

14. UPHOLDING CREDIBILITY OF THE INSTITUTIONS;

To continue working towards upholding the due honor and respect from the public.

15. COVERING POLITICAL PARTIES' ACTIVITIES;

The news and information about the activities of political parties registered in the Maldives shall be disseminated mindful of the fact that disseminated information:

- a. shall not instigate illegal activities;
- b. shall not support rivalry between political parties;
- c. shall not include information that prompts or pave way for the public to join a political party.
- d. shall not disseminate any news or information that may harm the peaceful co-existence of political parties.

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