

Statement by Dr the Hon Prime Minister
on the alleged increase in the salaries of
Junior Ministers and Advisers
at the sitting of the National Assembly
Wednesday 25 June 2025

Madam Speaker,

I wish to make a statement relating to the publication in the press of alleged increase in the salaries of Junior Ministers and Advisers.

Let me first dispel a misunderstanding on allowances to be paid to Junior Ministers although this was clearly explained to the House yesterday by the Attorney General.

This subject has been widely misinterpreted by the opposition and in other quarters. They are arguing that the allowances to Junior Ministers are being raised while this is clearly not the case.

The National Assembly Allowances Act provides for the allowances to be paid to Ministers and other members of the National Assembly, including Parliamentary Private Secretary. However, no provision has been made in the

Schedule to the Act for the payment of allowances to Junior Ministers.

With a view to correct this anomaly, mention was made in the Annex to the Budget Speech 2025-26 that amendment would be brought to the National Assembly Allowances Act to cater for the payment of allowances to Junior Ministers.

As the House is aware, 10 Junior Ministers have been appointed and are in office since 22th November 2024. Administrative arrangement has been made for the payment of allowances to Junior Ministers at the same quantum payable to former Parliamentary Private Secretaries.

I wish to reassure the House that Junior Ministers are not being paid a single cent more than what Parliamentary Private Secretaries used to draw in the past.

Madam Speaker,

In respect of Advisers, I have noted the recent vile campaign to distil doubts in the mind of the population regarding what has been referred to as the “substantial” increase in their salaries.

This is clearly part of a campaign of disinformation and innuendos.

I would like to point out that under the MSM regime, there were 4 categories of Advisers namely:

- Special Advisers,
- Senior Advisers,
- Advisers on Information Matters, and
- Advisers on Public Relations Matters.

Government has decided to rationalise the categories of Advisers with the introduction of a category of Senior Advisers (Technical) to cater for specialised fields in for example, medicine, engineering, etc.

Government does not want to leave it to the discretion of whoever comes to power to decide on his own personal

volition, his personal wishes, how much of public money should be spent on people who have been recruited by them.

Government is simply being transparent in respect of the different scales of salaries applicable to Advisers.

Madam Speaker,

It should also be pointed out that except in a few cases where Advisers are serving on Boards, strict instructions have been given not to allow Advisers to be members of Boards of parastatal bodies and state-owned enterprises.

I wish to state that under the former government, there was a carefully crafted ploy to boost up the income of Advisers by allowing them to serve on numerous Boards. Very often, these Advisers were earning revenues from these Boards higher than their salary !

Let me give you a couple of examples to illustrate this point:

(i) One **Special Adviser** who was drawing a salary of Rs 163,250 was appointed Chairperson of:

- Mauritius Revenue Authority,
- SBM (Bank Holdings) Ltd,
- Mauritius Telecom,
- Multi-Carrier (Mauritius) Ltd, and
- Metro Express Ltd.

He was also the Director of:

- SBM Africa Holdings Ltd,
- SBM Bank (Kenya) Limited (paid in US dollars),
- Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Co Ltd, and
- Rodrigues Duty Free Paradise Co. Ltd.

(ii) Another **Special Adviser** drawing Rs 132,000 per month and Rs 20,000 as extra duty allowance was Chairperson of:

- Airports of Mauritius Co Ltd,
- Airport Terminal Operations Ltd, and

- Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Co. Ltd.

He was also a Member of numerous boards/committees including:

- 9 committees of SBM Holdings Ltd;
- State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd (SICOM) and two of its sub-committees,
- Air Mauritius Ltd,
- Air Mauritius Holdings Ltd,
- Airmate Ltd, and
- Mauritius Helicopter Ltd.

(iii) Another **Special Adviser** was drawing salary of Rs 119,500. He was appointed on the Board of the following:

- Gambling Regulatory Authority,
- Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Co. Ltd,
- Rodrigues Duty Free Paradise Co. Ltd,
- Airport of Rodrigues Ltd,
- Pointe Coton Resort Hotel Co. Ltd, and
- Metro Express Ltd

I could go on and on and refer to many others but the list would be far too long.

Madam Speaker,

To conclude, let me reiterate what I have stated on several occasions in this House: This Government will not renege on its pledge to ensure that the principles of good governance and accountability underpin all its actions.

Thank you.
