

April 10, 2020

Members and Editors of NBA

Re: Advisory relating to news reporting in respect of interviews of persons kept in isolation due to COVID-19.

As you are aware there is a nationwide lock down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The purpose of the lockdown is that there should be no interaction and there should be social distancing amongst the people to obviate the spread of the deadly virus.

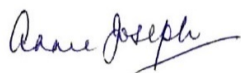
In these circumstances, the media is playing a very important role in the dissemination of information to keep the public informed of all the developments relating to COVID 19.

It has been brought to the notice of NBSA that some channels are entering hospitals /isolation wards and hotels and interviewing patients and / or medical personnel in relation to the virus.

All reporters/ camerapersons and other editorial staff are strictly advised not to enter hospitals /isolation wards or any other place where patients who have tested positive to COVID 19 have been kept in isolation to contain the spread of the virus in order to avoid putting other persons lives at risk. They are also advised not to interview medical personnel, who have been kept in hotels or similar places in relation to COVID 19.

Please note that special sensitivity and care needs to be taken while covering news relating to persons isolated in hospitals and other places to ensure that the privacy and dignity of patients/ medical personnel is maintained. The right to privacy and confidentiality of the patient/ medical personnel is paramount.

Members and Editors are requested to ensure strict compliance of the above advisory.



Annie Joseph
For and on behalf of the
News Broadcasting Standards Authority

CC: Legal Heads of NBA