بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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The Parliamentary Group of the Maldivian Democratic Party strongly condemns the unconstitutional and undemocratic conduct of the People's Majlis in a deliberate attempt by the Speaker, President Mohamed Nasheed to avert the no confidence Motions of Deputy Speaker Eva Abdulla and the Speaker himself, signed by fifty and fifty-four members of the Parliament respectively.

In a press conference on Monday, 19 June 2023 the Speaker attempted to mislead media and public by stating that the no confidence motions of both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker submitted concurrently had driven the Parliament to a halt when article 44 of the Standing Orders of the Parliament pave way for the continuity of the parliament in the event the Speaker recuses himself from chairing the parliament sittings for any reason. Additionally, Article 205 (e) of the Standing Orders only restricts the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker to preside over the sittings of the parliament scheduled to deliberate upon their respective no confidence motions only. Hence the statements Speaker issued to the media and public on Monday, 19 June 2023 are not only inaccurate but also deceptive. It is also to be noted that the no confidence motions of the Deputy Speaker and Speaker of the Parliament were submitted fourteen days apart, on 23 May 2023 and 7 June 2023 respectively bearing no consequences on the procedural scheduling of one or either of the motions.

We further condemn the unlawful suspension of the Standing Committees of the Parliament led by the Speaker in collaboration with the opposition members of the parliament, in violation of article 106 (a) of the Standing Orders to prevent the scheduling of the no confidence sitting of the Deputy Speaker who happens to be his cousin and the subsequent disruption of the parliamentary processes and procedures in a bid to drive the parliament to a deadlock.

The MDP Parliamentary Group also expresses concern regarding the unconstitutional abuse of parliamentary powers by the Speaker President Mohamed Nasheed to remove an already scheduled no confidence motion of the Attorney General Honourable Ibrahim Riffath in violation of the order of business stipulated in the Standing Orders, while also failing to schedule the no confidence motion against the Foreign Minister Honourable Abdulla Shahid in accordance with Article 205(e), both of which were submitted to the parliament by the opposition in collaboration with the Speaker. We also raise concern over the Speaker's refusal to schedule the amendments proposed to the Standing Orders by the Parliamentary Group Leader of this party to resolve the current suspension of the Standing Committees of the Parliament in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Parliament.

We urge the Speaker of the Parliament to discharge his duties in full compliance with the constitution and standing orders of the Parliament and facilitate the lawful continuity of the Standing Committees, the Parliament and uphold the Constitution.