



**Friday-13-September-2024**

**Press Statement**

**SBC Board responds to the President's statement about an SBC Journalist being an 'Agent Provocateur'**

The President of the Republic has asserted, during the live Presidential Press Conference yesterday evening, that a journalist from the SBC is 'one of the *Agents Provocateur*', in relation to an article that appeared in an international newspaper, namely *The Guardian*, concerning the protection of tortoises and the ecosystem of Assomption and the Aldabra group of islands.

In response, the Board of Directors of the SBC would like to make the following statement:

Neither the SBC nor any of its journalists have been acting as "Agent Provocateur" to any group.

It is regrettable that one journalist has been singled out for the collective work that the media, whether here or abroad, is doing to help inform (and educate) the public, especially on issues that they would otherwise have not been aware of, as is mandated under the SBC Act.

Such a statement also serves to intimidate and dissuade journalists from doing the work for which they have been entrusted to do in our young democracy

It is declarations such as this, towards members of the media, that have caused Seychelles' position on the World Press Freedom Index to tumble in recent years.

The Board, therefore, calls on all stakeholders to be judicious and fair in the treatment of journalists and the media in general, especially as we approach elections in 2025.

The SBC Board also encourages all journalists to continue to report truthfully and objectively on all matters of public interest and reaffirms its commitment to support and defend its journalists and all media practitioners in the noble and important responsibility that they have to inform and educate our people on all matters that concern them.