



Mauritius National Assembly

Communiqué issued for the information of the public

Further to the Communiqué issued on 05 June 2021 by the undersigned and following the publication of a press article in the edition of l'Express on 07 June 2021, the present Communiqué is being issued to dispel and bring precisions to any misunderstanding, misinterpretation and misrepresentation that the said article might have given rise to in the mind of the public.

Re (1): According to the press article –

***“la convocation irrespectueuse du speaker qui n’aurait pas
été faite selon le decorum approprié” –***

Order Paper to be distinguished from Communiqué

(a) The Order Paper – Official Convocation

The public is kindly informed that the “**Order Paper**” for the parliamentary sitting of Wednesday 09 June 2021 at 6.00 p.m., stating the business to be dealt with at the said sitting, that is, the “**Observation of 1 minute of silence**” under the item of business “**Announcements**” to be followed by **Tribute to be paid to late Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCPG, QC, PC, former Prime Minister and former President of the Republic of Mauritius**, together with a procedural motion and the express mention that the said “**Order Paper has**

been approved by Mr Speaker under Standing Orders 77 and 1”, was issued in the manner in which all Order Papers are issued with all due respect (<http://mauritiusassembly.govmu.org>).

(b) **The Communiqué**

Moreover, the purpose of the Communiqué issued on 05 June was for the general information of the public. The purported disrespectful nature of the use of the word “thereto” as mentioned in the press article is baseless inasmuch as, the word “thereto” is an often-used word in parliamentary jargon referring to “something just mentioned” and, in the present instance, the word “thereto” was used to refer to the words “on the occasion of the demise” of the deceased who was earlier mentioned by name in the one and only paragraph of the said Communiqué and not to the deceased *per se*.

***Re (2): According to the press article – “le Speaker est allé à l’encontre de la section 10 sous-section 11 qui se lit comme suit:
“Whenever the Assembly stands adjourned and it is represented to the Speaker by Government that the public interest requires that the Assembly shall meet at a time earlier than that to which the Assembly stands adjourned, the Speaker, if he or she is satisfied that the public interest so requires, may give notice, that being satisfied, he or she appoints a time for the Assembly to meet and the Assembly shall accordingly meet at the time stated in the notice and only Government business shall be transacted on that occasion.”.***

In regard to the procedure, paying tribute on the occasion of the death of a Member, past or present, or of a statesman is more of a tradition and practice taken under the item of business “Announcements” as provided for under Standing Order 17(1)(c).

In this instance, the recall of Parliament has not been made pursuant to Standing Order 10 paragraph (11) which cannot apply inasmuch as same is restricted to the carrying out of **urgent Government business of public interest as opposed to private business**, but rather pursuant to –

(i) **Standing Order 77** which reads as follows: *“The Speaker shall have power to regulate the conduct of business in the Assembly in all matters not provided for in these Orders.”*; and

(ii) **Standing Order 1** which reads as follows, under the heading –

**STANDING ORDERS AND RULES OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

Adoption of Practice of House of Commons

1. (1) *In cases of doubt these Orders shall be interpreted in the light of the relevant practice of the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*

(2) *In any matter for which these Orders do not provide the said practice shall be followed, but no restrictions which the House of Commons has introduced by Standing Order shall be deemed to extend to the National Assembly, hereinafter referred to as the Assembly, or its Members, until the Assembly shall have provided by Standing Order for such restriction.”*

The practice in the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain, as can be gathered from Erskine May Parliamentary Practice is that, as a mark of respect on the occasion of the death of a distinguished Member, past or present, or of the death of a distinguished statesman of another country, one or both Houses have either been adjourned or recalled to hold tributes.

Finally, any controversy that may have been created by the said article, on such a solemn occasion, is most inappropriate.

**Clerk of the National Assembly
Parliament House
Port Louis**

07 June 2021