



Mauritius National Assembly

05.05.2020

ANNOUNCEMENT

COVID-19 PANDEMIC - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY - POSTPONEMENT RENOVATION WORKS

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, at the Sitting of Friday 20 March 2020, on motion made and seconded, the House resolved to meet on Friday 03 April 2020.

However, on 31 March 2020, the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness made a Curfew Order under regulation 14(1) of the Prevention and Mitigation of Infectious Disease (Coronavirus) for the purpose of preventing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the light thereof and in view of the serious challenges posed by the holding of an Assembly sitting in that context in relation to the health and safety of all those concerned herewith, that is, Honourable Members, officers of the National Assembly and other authorised persons attending the parliamentary precincts or the Chamber for the purpose of the good conduct of the business of the House and for administrative purposes, the Sitting of the Assembly of Friday 03 April 2020 was postponed.

In the meantime, major renovation works have been undertaken in the Chamber to accommodate Honourable Members and officers serving in the Chamber in a new configuration that allows physical distancing. Moreover, various other health and safety measures have also been undertaken.

All the measures taken and guidelines in relation thereto have been embodied in a protocol prescribed by my good self, pursuant to Standing Order 77 of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly (1995) which are required to be strictly adhered to.

However, I hasten to add that the new configuration will be workable only with the precondition that Honourable Members participate in the proceedings of the House from a sitting position and by wearing the face masks at all times.



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In order to enable this possibility today, it is imperative that Standing Orders 25(2) and 39(2) be suspended insofar as Honourable Members being required to rise to address the Chair for the purposes of asking Parliamentary Questions and participating in debates are concerned.

I shall, therefore, invite the Honourable Leader of the House, the Honourable Prime Minister, to present the motion accordingly, in terms of Standing Orders 17(3) and 29(1).

Kindly do so from a sitting position, Leader of the House.