

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr Speaker:-

Honourable Members,

I wish to refer to a matter reported in the press in relation to a correspondence addressed to me by Hon E. Juman, dated 15 July 2021, expressing his views and concerns on the fact that the Hon. Minister of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms had, when replying to PQ B/659 and B/680 on 13 July 2021, cited the full names of the public officer whose death was the subject matter of the said PQs - seeking information as to if an inquiry had been conducted by his Ministry thereinto.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that –

- Standing Order 22 provides that questions shall not include **the names of persons or statements of facts unless they are necessary to make the question intelligible**; and

The same principle applies to the other parts of the proceedings of the House, including replies to questions by Hon Ministers, as a matter of practice.

In the light of the aforesaid –

- Should Hon Juman or any other Member, at the time the Hon Minister of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms mentioned the name of Mrs F.M. in disregard of the aforesaid principle, in the view of the Hon Member, **the said Hon Member** or any other Hon Member for that matter, **had the duty to draw my attention thereto**, as is provided for regarding the procedure for drawing the attention of the Chair when a breach of Standing Order is purportedly being committed, **there and then**.
- As such, Hon Juman is not entitled procedurally to draw my view thereto at an ulterior time, the moreso, as the full names of Mrs F.M. and the tragic circumstances of her death had already been the subject matters of wide press coverage and, therefore, well in the public domain.
- Moreover, regarding the private correspondence addressed to me by Hon Juman, **it is a matter of grave concern that the private verbal reply I made to him, in line with the above, had found it's way in the press and in the public domain – this is squarely not in order**.

- May I also, at this juncture, inform the House that, the finality and purport of the aforesaid correspondence from Hon Juman was **requiring me to order the Hon Minister to tender his unreserved apologies in the Assembly, which is also squarely not in order.**

Notwithstanding the above, should the Hon Minister wish to react to the views and concerns expressed by Hon Juman in the official letter he had addressed to me and which is now in the public domain, the Hon Minister may do so by way of Statement.

I thank you.