

Honourable Members,

I have considered the Point raised by the Hon. Minister of Land transport and light Rail and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Hon. Ganoo) and consulted the relevant extract quoted by the Honourable Minister from the 25th Edition of Erskine May under the caption “Remaining in place for other speeches”.

This principle emanates from the “Rules of behavior and courtesies in the House” of the UK House of Commons.

The rule referred to by the Honourable Minister is to the effect that there is a set principle in the UK House of Commons that with a view to encouraging lively debate I quote:-

“a Member wishing to speak in debate should plan to be present for most of the debate and in particular should be present for the opening speeches.”

This has been set out as a guidance issued under the authority of the Speaker in the UK House of Commons.

Honourable Members who were absent when the mover of the bill was presenting the bill and commending same to the Assembly and wishing to speak in the debate may, in order to maintain the **cut and thrust of debate**, refute the arguments of the preceding Orator and, out of courtesy, are not expected to refute the arguments of the mover of the bill.

Honourable Members speaking in the debate are also expected to remain for at least the next two speeches after their own, and be present for the winding-up speech.

I rule accordingly.

However, this being a guidance, I rule that Members who were not present when the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness presented the Bill, can only participate in the Debate to refute the arguments of the preceding Orator.

It is expected that after his or her speech, a Member should remain for at least the two speeches after his or her own.

This principle is now clearly set out in guidance issued under the authority of the Speaker which indicates that a Member wishing to speak in debate should plan to be present for most of the debate and in particular should be present for the opening speeches, should remain for at least the next two speeches after their own, and should return for the winding-up speeches.