

## **Announcement - Parliamentary Questions**

**Honourable Members**

**You will recall that on 08 December 2020 and 18 May 2021, respectively, I informed the House that my attention had been drawn to the fact that some Honourable Members had expressed concerns in regard to the manner in which notices of Parliamentary Questions are being received by the Clerk of the National Assembly and the way same are being treated prior to finding the order in which they appear on the Notice of Questions.**

**I also drew the attention of the House to the fact that the procedure of giving notice of Parliamentary Questions stands governed by Standing Order 24 and that the internal arrangement at the Clerk's Office is purely an administrative matter. In effect, the order in which Parliamentary Questions have been appearing on the Notice of Questions were determined by the order in which same were being received, in other words, on a first come first serve basis.**

**In the light of the aforementioned, I invited the Whips of both sides of the House to thrash out the issues with all the stakeholders and submit concrete suggestions to review the process.**

**I have to inform the House that, I received a written Agreement dated 18 March 2022, co-signed by the Honourable Chief Government Whip and the Honourable Whip of the Opposition, to the effect that Parliamentary Questions of which notice are given for a particular Tuesday sitting be the object of a drawing of lot for the purpose of determining the order in which same would appear on the Notice of Questions and that same would be conducted in the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly, in the presence of the Honourable Chief Government Whip or any Government representative MP and the Honourable Whip of the Opposition or any Honourable Opposition representative MP.**

**Copy of the said agreement is hereby being tabled.**

**I agreed to the implementation of the said agreement, pursuant to the provisions of 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, the Notice of Questions for today’s sitting contain Parliamentary Questions set in the order determined by the drawing of lot conducted on Wednesday last.**

**Moreover, should Honourable Members have further queries on the matter, they are kindly invited to see me privately in my office.**

**I thank you.**

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