

## **Announcement**

**Honourable Members**

**I have an announcement to make.**

**I am informed by the Clerk of the National Assembly that she had yesterday received several emails on her official email address and one similar mail on the email of one officer serving her office from the Honourable First Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East (Mr Shakeel Mohamed), which the Hon Member referred to as a “Note to Mr Speaker”.**

**The Hon Member purportedly addressed himself to the Honourable Speaker - wherein he referred to his suspension from the service of the Assembly for the sitting of 10 December 2021 and the next four sittings, unless apologies are tendered to the House, followed by several other paragraphs, in which he stated the background against which he had decided to comply with the condition of his suspension and tender his apologies to the House, requesting that his suspension be cancelled and that he be allowed to take his seat at today’s sitting.**

**My attention has also been drawn to the fact that the whole matter has been reported in the media by the said Honourable Member.**

**Honourable Members**

**Indeed, in terms of the resolution of the House, on 10 December 2021, the Hon Member would be allowed to resume his seat before the expiry of the suspension period should he tender his apologies to the House.**

However, I rule that the form and tenor of the “Note to Mr Speaker” is not befitting the manner of addressing the Chair and the House to consider the tendering of apologies with a view to resuming one’s seat when same has had to follow strict procedural rules.

Besides, the “Note to Mr Speaker” was sent to the Clerk beyond normal office hours and, since this morning, Mr Speaker has been fully taken up with priority issues pertaining to today’s sitting, explaining why the aforementioned matter hasn’t yet been determined.

On the other hand, the procedure that obtains normally in similar situations is for –

- (1) a Member to tender unreserved apologies and not to qualify same, as can be gleaned from the emails sent, which are being tabled; and
- (2) since same are to be presented to the House, the matter ought to be brought before the House for the House to bring a motion to consider the reinstatement and, if satisfied, to resolve accordingly,

for same to be effective.

To conclude, in order for the House to entertain a request from the Hon Member to consider his apologies for the purpose of resuming his seat before the expiry of his term of suspension, the Hon Member is invited to address a proper request to the House through the Speaker presenting his unconditional apologies.