

ANNOUNCEMENT

Hon. Members I have an announcement to make. My attention has been drawn to an article in today's daily L'Express under the caption:

“L'expulsion de Patrick Assirvaden intrigue l'opposition.”

in which it is mentioned, I quote:

“L'opposition ne comprend pas pour quelle raison il (Hon. Assirvaden) a été expulsé.”

For the benefit of Hon. Members, I wish to set the record straight.

During his intervention at the sitting of Tuesday last in the course of the debate of the motion of No Confidence in Government, the Hon. Assirvaden made reference to the case of a journalist at the MBC who lost her job, I quote:

“Puisqu’une journaliste n’a pas pris la carte de visite d’honorable Dhunnoo, elle est suspendue; elle perd son emploi a la MBC....”

After some interruptions, the Hon. Dhunnoo asked to raise a point of order to which the Hon. Assirvaden replied he was not giving way.

In fact, according to the provisions of Standing Order 39(13)(a), it is obvious that when any Member wishes to raise a point of order, the Member intervening should allow the Member to do so and cannot state he is not giving way.

The Hon. Assirvaden insisted that he was not giving way on the ground that the Hon. Dhunnoo, I quote:

“Il est en train de m’interrompre!”

wherefore, I had to intervene to give the floor to Hon. Dhunnoo who raised his point of order to the effect that

the Hon. Assirvaden was imputing motives on him in breach of Standing Order 40(5) the more so that there has been an enquiry.

At that stage on no less than 3 occasions, I requested the Hon. Assirvaden to withdraw what he said but he categorically refused.

Unsatisfied, the Hon. Assirvaden uttered the following, I quote:

“Il protège le député!”

As this was tantamount to casting aspersion on the Chair and to challenging the authority of the Chair, I ordered the Hon. Assirvaden to withdraw from the Chamber.

I hope that this announcement clears this matter.

I thank you.