

## Announcement

### Honourable Members

I have an announcement to make.

I have to inform the House that, on Wednesday 27 April, 2022, I received a letter from the Hon. Fourth Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East (Mr Juman).

In the said letter, the Hon. Member referred to the reply given by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister, at the sitting of Tuesday 19 April, 2022, to Parliamentary Question B/315, in regard to an overseas mission undertaken by Mr Dick Ng Sui Wa, Chairperson of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority.

Moreover, Hon. Juman has, on the basis of copy of a Purchase Order issued by the ICTA which he annexed to the said letter, stated that the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister has, I quote – “**misled the House**”. I am of the view that, in so doing, the Hon. Member formed the **opinion** that the Purchase Order *de facto* challenges the reply given to the House by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister which was to the effect that, inasmuch as the trip effected by the Chairperson of the ICTA to which the Parliamentary Question referred, was a private trip, neither Government nor the ICTA was responsible for any attended costs.

## Honourable Members

**On a procedural note**, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the following –

- **Firstly**, Hon. Juman addressed to me a letter containing serious allegations against the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister in no equivocal terms, which is tantamount to challenging the conduct of the latter and requested me to call him to order.
  
- **Standing Order 40(5)** lays down the procedure available to a Hon. Member wishing to challenge the conduct of another Hon. Member before the House, and which reads as follows, I quote –

***“The conduct of the President and the Vice-President of the Republic or the person performing the functions of the President’s Office, the Speaker, Members of the Assembly, Judges, Members of Statutory Commissions or other persons engaged in the administration of Justice shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion moved for that purpose; and in any amendment, question to a Minister, or remarks in a debate dealing with any other subject, reference to the conduct of the persons aforesaid shall be out of order.”***

In the light of the aforesaid, the course of action initiated by Hon. Juman is, to all intents and purposes, procedurally incorrect.

**Moreover**, I wish to apprise the House that, by letter dated 29 April, 2022, the attention of Hon. Juman was drawn to the fact that the procedure that obtains in relation to the subject matter and tenor of his letter dated 27 April, 2022, is contained in Standing Order 40(5).

### **Honourable Members**

**On another note, however**, I have to inform the House that I view with much concern the fact that the letter which Hon. Juman addressed to me found its way in the edition of *L`express* dated 28 April, 2022, inasmuch as same is deemed to be of private nature and to which I had not yet replied.

### **Honourable Members**

While, **on one hand**, Hon. Juman acted in complete oblivion of the provisions of Standing Order 40(5), he has, **on the other hand**, defied elementary and basic principles of parliamentary etiquette and traditions by causing to be published a letter containing serious allegations against another Hon. Member, thus bringing Parliament, the temple of democracy which epitomizes the will of the people, into disrepute.

## **Honourable Members**

It has, **regrettably**, been observed that some Hon. Members have taken the habit of bringing procedural issues in the public domain through the media while same can best be dealt with in Parliament, oblivious of the grave consequences that same can have in the mind of the public and on the institution, and what same can entail for themselves.

I can only appeal to Hon. Members to stand guided by such a conduct as to glorify the decorum and dignity of this august Assembly, which we have, all, humbly pledged to uphold at all times.

**I thank you for your attention.**

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