

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Sitting of Tuesday 25 June 2024

ANNOUNCEMENT 2

“Members whose question has been refused or amended, must make representations privately on the matter to the Speaker.

By reporting the matter to the press and further casting aspersions on the Speaker thereto, Hon. Joanna Bérenger has breached Standing Order 21(4) and offended the dignity of the House.

Mr Speaker requests the Hon. Member to present her unconditional apologies to the House”

Hon. Joanna Bérenger apologies.

Hon. Members

I have another announcement to make regarding two press articles which appeared in:-

- **first, the weekly, Le Défi Plus of Saturday 22 June 2024 under the caption– *Séance Parlementaire du mardi 25 juin: Une question de Joanna Bérenger sur les activités notariales du ministre Ramano rejetée; and***
- **second, the daily L’Express, in its edition of Monday 24 June 2024, under the caption - *La question de Joanna Bérenger et tant d’autres qui disparaissent.***

The said press articles purport to cast aspersions on the Speaker in the discharge of his duties regarding admissibility of questions.

Hon. Members,

I have to once again reiterate that pursuant to Standing Order 27, admissibility of questions rests with the Speaker.

A Member whose question has been refused or amended, must make representations privately on the matter to the Speaker.

Notwithstanding the above, it is regrettable that some Hon. Members instead choose to go to the press which is in violation of Standing Order 21(4).

I have to draw the attention of Hon. Members that the Speaker ensures that all questions conform to the rules as provided for under Standing Orders 21 and 22.

In the present matter, the Parliamentary Question of the Hon. Member had already been the subject matter of a Private Notice Question from the Leader of the Opposition on Wednesday 12 June 2024.

Consequently, in accordance with Standing Order 22(1)(b), the question could not be entertained.

Hon. Members,

By reporting this matter to the press, it is clear that Hon. Joanna Bérenger has breached Standing Order 21(4).

Moreover, for criticising and casting aspersions on the Speaker in the press, the Hon. Member has verged on a potential contempt of the National Assembly.

In so doing, the Hon. Member has offended the dignity of the House.

Hon. Members,

In the light of the above, I am therefore requesting the Hon. Joanna Bérenger to present her unconditional apologies to the House, failing which I will have no other alternative than to request the Hon. Member to withdraw from the Chamber.

At this stage, Hon. Joanna Bérenger apologises.
