

Announcement 3

Sitting of Tuesday 23 July 2024

“The waiving of the suspensions of Honourable Joanna Bérenger, Honourable Rajesh Bhagwan and Honourable Ehsan Juman may only be dealt with by resolution of the Assembly, following the appropriate motion being made in accordance with our Standing Orders.”

I shall now address the issue of the waiving of suspensions of Honourable Joanna Berenger, Honourable Rajesh Bhagwan and Honourable Ehsan Juman, from the service of the Assembly.

One can only regret that the Honourable Leader of Opposition has limited his endeavour to have the said suspensions waived, to mere statements made in the press, rather than by following established procedures, which are clearly laid down in our Standing Orders.

Let me remind the House that, the Speaker cannot, on his own volition, reverse or otherwise deal with the resolutions of the Assembly which suspended the said Honourable Members from the service of the Assembly. The said suspensions may only be dealt with by resolution of the Assembly, following the appropriate motion being made in accordance with our Standing Orders.

The onus is now on the Honourable Members, who stand suspended from the service of the Assembly, to tender unreserved apologies to the House or for an appropriate motion to be made in the House by their colleagues.

I deplore the approach taken by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, who has chosen to throw ultimatums on the House in the press, that is, that the Opposition shall abdicate from its role in the Assembly at today’s sitting, unless and until the suspension of Honourable Members is lifted, whilst being oblivious to due process, established by Standing Orders and practice.

For Parliament to properly function, the participation of Members of the Opposition in the business of the Assembly is essential.

I will also leave that matter to the appreciation of the House.