

ANNOUNCEMENT

My attention has been drawn to a statement made by the Hon. Patrick Assirvaden during the “Face à Face” program on Radio One yesterday the 12 July in which he almost accused me of not allowing Hon. Members to raise points of order.

The Hon. Assirvaden was referring to the sitting of 09 July when, in the course of the winding up speech of Dr the Hon. Jagutpal, Minister of Health and Wellness on The Optical Council Bill, Dr the Hon. Aumeer attempted to raise a point of clarification to which I did not accede. The Hon. Aumeer insisted to which I once again informed him that he did not have the floor and I requested the Minister to continue with his speech. However, the Hon. Aumeer continued to insist to which I once again informed him that I have already

given my ruling and in view of his continued insistence I ordered him out of the House.

I have to draw the attention of the House to Standing Order 39(13)(a) according to which no Member shall interrupt any other Member except on a point of order.

Clearly since the Hon. Aumeer was not raising a point of order, I could not give him the floor unless he had sought and obtained that the Minister give way for him to raise his point of clarification.

I must also add that the Hon. Assirvaden attempted to compare the above situation to one which arose during a meeting of the Committee of Supply on the Appropriation Bill where he averred that on 22 June, the Deputy Speaker who was in the Chair at Committee of Supply **apparently** gave

permission to the Hon. Minister Ganoo to comment on a ruling which he had given.

I must state that this attempt to compare what took place before the Committee of Supply on 22 June and what happened on the 09 July is totally inappropriate as the circumstances are not the same. In fact according to Hansard the Deputy Speaker never gave the floor and the permission to the Hon. Minister to comment on his ruling.

It is regrettable that the Hon. Assirvaden did not take the necessary precaution to consult the relevant Hansard before making such a statement on the radio which I consider serious, misleading and a deliberate attempt to cast aspersion on the authority and the integrity of the Chair, which amounts to an offence of the contempt of the Assembly under section 6(1)(s) of the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act.

Thank you.