

ANNOUNCEMENT – No 2

Sitting of Tuesday 14 November 2023

Announcement No. 2 – Ruling by Mr Speaker on Tuesday 07 November regarding unfounded statement by Hon. Juman to the Press, later, in a press conference, Hon. Shakeel Mohamed expressed the view that the matter should have been referred to the DPP and further made unwarranted remarks towards the Chair

Secondly, Hon. Members will recall that on Tuesday last, I gave a ruling requesting the Hon. Juman to tender his unreserved apologies to the House following an unfounded statement he made to the press on 05 November 2023 regarding the use of one of the Committee rooms of the National Assembly.

Later, after my ruling, during a press conference, Hon. Shakeel Mohamed expressed the view that I ought to have referred the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions for appropriate action under the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act.

I wish to bring the following clarifications.

Hon. Members,

For the House to proceed under the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, the Speaker must be in presence of a Notice of privilege complaint under Standing Order 74(1) from a Hon. Member requiring the intervention of the Speaker thereon and I must point out that no such notice had been given.

However, having regard to the serious misrepresentations of the facts by the Hon. Juman, I was bound to take immediate action in view of the responsibilities conferred upon me under Standing Order 78 and I could not allow this matter to remain unattended which would otherwise bring Parliament into disrepute.

Hon. Members,

I must also draw the attention of the House to the fact that during the said press conference Hon. Shakeel Mohamed further made certain unwarranted remarks towards the Chair.

I thank you for your attention.
