

**National Assembly**

**Sitting of Tuesday 23 July 2024**

**ANNOUNCEMENT 6**

*“Privilege complaint against Hon. Bhagwan, Hon. Juman and Hon. Joanna Berenger arising out from an incident at the Sitting day of Thursday 18 July 2024 – Mr Speaker viewed that offences may have been committed under section 6(1)(c), (h) and (i) of the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act”*

*“The Assembly resolves that the matter be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for appropriate action pursuant to Standing Order 74(4)”*

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**Mr Speaker:**

**Honourable Members,**

**I have to inform the House that the Honourable Acting Prime Minister has, earlier today, given notice in writing of a privilege complaint under Standing Order 74(1) against Honourable Bhagwan, Honourable Juman and Honourable Joanna Bérenger, presently suspended from the service of the Assembly, who have forcefully entered in the precincts of the National Assembly to access the Chamber and who have also created disturbances outside the Chamber with a view to obstructing and interrupting the proceedings of the House on Thursday 18 July 2024.**

**Honourable Members,**

**I have considered the matter and take the view that offences may have been committed under section 6(1)(c), (h) and (i) of the National Assembly (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, which reads as follows-**

## ***“6. Contempt of Assembly***

***(1) Subject to subsection (2), each of the following acts, matters and things, constitutes the offence of contempt of the Assembly”.***

***Paragraph (c) reads as follows-***

***“refusing or wilfully failing to obey any rule or order of the Assembly, or any order of a committee acting within the scope of its authority”,***

***Paragraph (h) reads as follows-***

***“creating or joining in any disturbance which interrupts or is likely to interrupt the proceedings of the Assembly or of any committee while the Assembly or committee is sitting”,***

***Paragraph (i) reads as follows-***

***“misbehaving in a disrespectful, indecorous, improper or disorderly manner, within the precincts of the Assembly at any time between the commencement and final termination of a sitting on any day on which the Assembly meets”.***

**Acting Prime Minister:**

**Mr Speaker Sir, in the light of your ruling I move that the matter whereby Honourable Bhagwan, Honourable Juman and Honourable Joanna Bérenger, presently suspended from the service of the Assembly, who have forcefully entered in the precincts of the National Assembly to access the Chamber and who have also created disturbances outside the Chamber with a view to obstructing and interrupting the proceedings of the House on Thursday 18 July 2024, be referred to the Director of Public**

**Prosecutions for appropriate action pursuant to Standing Order 74(4) of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly.**

**The Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management seconded.**

**Mr Speaker put the following question: -**

**“The Question is that the matter whereby Honourable Bhagwan, Honourable Juman and Honourable Joanna Bérenger, presently suspended from the service of the Assembly, who have forcefully entered in the precincts of the National Assembly to access the Chamber and who have also created disturbances outside the Chamber with a view to obstructing and interrupting the proceedings of the House on Thursday 18 July 2024 ,be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for appropriate action pursuant to Standing Order 74(4) of the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly. Those in favour say Aye. Those against say No. The Ayes have it”.**

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