



The specific issues summarised above, which the National Assembly is being moved to approve, are referred to collectively in the rules as a matter. If the matter (collectively) was raised before and specifically decided upon by the National Assembly, I should be most obliged if you would point out the occasion. Until such time, I regret that I cannot agree with your request that the Motion be disallowed.

This rule must not be confused with the general discretion of the Speaker who can properly disallow a Member from *reviving discussion of a matter* which has engaged the National Assembly in the past.

Request for Leave to Move the Adjournment of the Assembly on Definite Matters of Urgent Public Importance

40th Sitting dated February 14, 2008

SERIES OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE SLAUGHTER OF ELEVEN (11) PEOPLE, INCLUDING FIVE CHILDREN AT LUSIGNAN ON 26th JANUARY, 2008

Preamble

A request by the Minister of Home Affairs to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the above matter was ordered to stand down by the Speaker until 16:30 hrs. when the debate on it was to commence. The motion accordingly stood over until the resumption of the Sitting, following the suspension thereof.

Verbatim

The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs (Hon. Clement J. Rohee): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order No. 12 (1) and (2), I hereby seek leave to move the adjournment of today's Sitting to discuss a matter of definite urgent and public importance to wit the events together with the surrounding circumstances, which occurred on the 26th January, 2008, at Lusignan, East Coast Demerara.

The Speaker (Hari N. Ramkarran): Thank you, Hon. Member.

Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman: Mr. Speaker, may I inquire only whether the Hon. Minister has met all the requirements of that Standing Order by submitting written notice prior to the commencement of this Sitting?



The Speaker: Hon. Member, I find that question extraordinary.

Mr. Trotman: Mr. Speaker, I just asked as a Member of this House.

The Speaker: I find that question rather extraordinary.

Mr. Trotman: It is not an objection. I just asked as a Member of this House. Am I not entitled to?

The Speaker: No, Sir.

Mr. Trotman: I am not entitled to know whether or not...

The Speaker: Hon. Member, not all questions are allowable.

Mr. Trotman: I see, thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Member, I think you should have learnt by now that I rule according to the Standing Orders; I do not rule on any other basis. That is the basis on which I rule - Standing Orders, nothing else.

Mr. Trotman: You have made the wrong ruling just now.

The Speaker: That is because I interpreted the Standing Orders incorrectly. I apologised to you, Hon. Member.

Mr. Trotman: [*Noisy Interruption*]

The Speaker: No, you did not ask me for... You asked me if the Hon. Member has satisfied the requirements and I find that to be an improper question.

Thank you very much. [*Pause*]

I was duly informed, in sufficient time, as required by a ruling made by Mr. Sase Narine many years ago, about the intention of the Hon. Member, Mr. Clement Rohee, as well as by Hon. Member Mr. Corbin.



I find and indicated long ago to Mr. Corbin, when he initially made the application, that I would favour such an application. So that was made to Mr. Corbin and I do favour the application. I need now to put it.

Question -

That the Honourable House be adjourned on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

Put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

The Adjournment Motion shall stand down until 16:30 hrs. when the debate on it shall commence. I refer Members to Standing Order No. 12 (3) for the other particulars in relation to how the matter should proceed.

Announcements by the Speaker

51st Sitting dated March 27, 2008

MOTION BY MR. MURRAY PROPOSING A LIMIT ON THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF DEBT OBLIGATIONS – Questioning Speaker’s Ruling

Preamble

The Speaker made a statement with respect to the questioning of his decision to allow a motion by Mr. Winston Murray, M.P., proposing a limit on the Aggregate Amount of Debt Obligations.

Verbatim

The Speaker (Hari N. Ramkarran): One of the best known rules of parliamentary procedures, familiar to parliamentarians worldwide, is that the conduct of certain officials cannot be questioned except by way of a motion tabled for that purpose. This rule applies to Speakers and is or ought to be known to every Parliamentarian.

It came to my attention yesterday that my decision to allow Hon. Member Winston Murray’s Motion proposing a Limit on the Aggregate Amount of Debt Obligations under section 31 (3) of the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act would be questioned and that an attempt would have been made to demonstrate that my decision violated the Standing Orders and Article 171 of the Constitution.