



MOTION OF PRIVILEGE AGAINST HON. MOHAMED ALI, M.P., MINISTER OF HOUSING AND WATER

Preamble

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., moved a motion of privilege with respect to a misleading statement made by Hon. Mohamed Ali, Minister of Housing and Water, during the consideration of the Financial Paper No. 6/2009 on the 11th January, 2010.

The Speaker informed the Assembly that a prima facie case was made out against Hon. Mohamed Ali, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water. Thereafter, the matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Verbatim

Mr. Ramjattan:

“WHEREAS the 109th Sitting of the 9th Parliament, held on the 11th January, 2010, the Hon. Member, Mr. Irfaan Ali, Minister of Housing and Water, during consideration of Financial Paper No. 6 of 2009 informed the National Assembly in response to a question from the Hon. Member Mrs. Sheila Holder that the provision of \$4 billion is ready to be spent for housing development.

WHEREAS specifically the Hon. Irfaan Ali was asked this question: “Hon. Minister could you indicate to the National Assembly how soon you will start utilising these funds?” The Hon. Minister’s answer was, “We are ready.” Thereby informing the National Assembly that the said sum is to be paid out or spent some time in 2010 and obviously only after approval by the National Assembly would have been obtained.

WHEREAS in the estimates for the year 2010, both under Capital Expenditure, page 429, Legend 1900900 and under Capital Project Profile at Reference 156, under the Programme 451, Housing and Water, it is stated that the amount was paid out and spent in 2009. More specifically the amount spent before 2010 totalling \$4,430,000,000.

WHEREAS the \$430 million has already been budgeted and voted for at the beginning of 2009 under this head as is evidenced in the Finance Paper No. 6 of 2009.

AND WHEREAS the estimates for the year 2010 under the said head, 451, Housing and Water, with Project Title: Infrastructure, Development and building, stated a



total of \$4,430,000,000 necessarily meaning that the said \$4 billion was spent before 2010; therefore in 2009.

WHEREAS the Hon. Minister Irfaan Ali on both the 11th January during consideration of Financial Paper No. 6 of 2009 and on the 25th February, 2010, when the estimates were being considered, evaded, avoided and flagrantly refused to answer questions put to him concerning when actually these \$4 billion were disbursed, thereby failing to offer any credible clarification thereto.

WHEREAS the Hon. Member Irfaan Ali, by his remarks referred to above on the 11th January, caused the National Assembly to be misled into believing that the \$4 billion will be disbursed on a date after its approval on the 11th January when the sum was already spent in 2009 as is evidenced in the estimates of 2010. The Hon. Minister Irfaan Ali has since given no explanation to the National Assembly for his said remarks which contradict the estimates of 2010.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Hon. House single its unanimous disapproval of the Hon. Member's misleading statement and that the matter be referred to the Privileges Committee in keeping with Standing Orders 26 and 32 for a finding of contempt of this Hon. House in relation to the said statement and a determination as to the sanction that should be taken against the Hon. Irfaan Ali for misleading this Hon. House."

Mr. Speaker (Hari N. Ramkarran): Thank you, Hon. Member. Like the last matter, I had the opportunity of considering this Motion, for some time, which I had before me. In this matter, I find a prima facie case has been made out and the matter is referred to the Privileges Committee. I want to make it quite clear that this is not a finding of guilt. This is an assertion, an allegation and the Hon. Member, Mr. Irfaan Ali, has not been heard on this matter as yet and the matter will be fully ventilated and trashed out at the Privileges Committee where the Hon. Member will have an opportunity to make a defence which the Privileges Committee will then consider and may or may not accept. The matter is referred to the Privileges Committee.