

16.04.2019

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/147

The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East
(Mr Ameer Meea)

To ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and Economic Development –

Whether, in regard to the proposed introduction of the Freedom of Information Bill, he will state where matters stand?

REPLY

Madam Speaker,

As I have already stated previously in this House, the draft Freedom of Information Bill, submitted by the Attorney General's Office, is being examined at the level of my Office.

In my statements, I also highlighted the complexity of this exercise, given the numerous and far-reaching implications of this piece of legislation, ranging from constitutional to public interest issues, impact on the working procedures of the public service, preservation of sensitive commercial information, cost implications, amongst others. I also mentioned the need to draw inspirations from best practices in other jurisdictions so as to avoid any pitfalls or negative unintended consequences. But at the end of the day, the law has to be home-grown and adapted to our local context, taking into account our local realities, including the required resources and its impact on public service delivery. Hence, the need to proceed with great care and caution.

Madam Speaker,

This exercise of internal examinations of the Bill is ongoing and once completed, all stakeholders will most certainly be consulted prior to its introduction into the National Assembly.