

24.09.19

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/878

The Honourable Fourth Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (**Mr Quirin**)

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

Whether, following the suspension and replacement of Jockey D. H. during the 21st Horse Racing Day, on 10 August 2019, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Gambling Regulatory Authority and the Mauritius Turf Club, respectively, information as to the subsequent actions taken in relation thereto?

REPLY

Madam Speaker,

I am informed that:

- (i) On 9 July 2019, the Racing Stewards had sanctioned the Jockey D.H for careless riding during the 8th race on 6 July 2019 and he was suspended for a period of two weeks. Since, on the same day, the Jockey lodged an appeal against the decision of the Racing Stewards, the suspension was not executed.
- (ii) On Thursday 8 August 2019, Jockey D.H appeared in the Official Race Fixtures and he was supposed to ride two horses for stable Maingard in Races 2 and 6, respectively during 21st Race Meeting on 10 August 2019.
- (iii) At a meeting held at 1700 hrs on 8 August 2019, the Appeal Committee of the MTC maintained the sanction of suspension of

two weeks against Jockey D.H. Thereafter, the MTC issued a communiqué informing the public that the Jockey D.H has been suspended for two race meetings effective as from Sunday 11 August 2019.

- (iv) On 9 August 2019, in the morning, the MTC issued another communiqué to the effect that the suspension of Jockey D.H for two weeks was effective as from 10 August 2019 and that he will be replaced by two other Jockeys. The replacement of the Jockeys was done by MTC on its own initiative without consulting GRA.
- (v) At around 1300 hrs on the same day the GRA informed MTC that it was not in order to replace Jockey D.H on the races scheduled for Saturday 10 August 2019.
- (vi) According to yet another communiqué issued by the MTC on 9 August 2019 at around 1430 hrs, the Appeal Committee had agreed to the suspension of Jockey D.H for two weeks as from 10 August 2019 and that he will be replaced by two other Jockeys.
- (vii) On 9 August 2019 at around 2140 hrs, the GRA issued another correspondence that should Jockey D.H not ride, the two horses would have to be scratched from the race card.
- (viii) On Saturday 10 August 2019, upon insistence from GRA, the MTC finally agreed that Jockey D.H will ride in the two races as

initially decided. All previous bets were cancelled and started afresh.

- (ix) On Monday 13 August 2019, the MTC issued a communiqué to the public apologising for confusion and uncertainty caused and also informed that the suspension of Jockey D.H will be served as from Saturday 17 August 2019 to 24 August 2019.

Madam Speaker,

I am further informed that, in view of the controversy on the whole matter and complaints received from bookmakers especially as one of them has entered a Court case, and pursuant to section 7(n) of the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act 2007, the GRA has instituted a Committee of Enquiry to investigate into the whole issue. The Enquiry is expected to start as from today 24 September 2019.