

RE THE SITTING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CALLED FOR Friday,
16th. June, 2012.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPEAKER- Hon. Mary J. Lawrence, MBE, JP.

There seems to be considerable misunderstanding on the part of some members re the proceedings which will take place this morning. Unfortunately, instead of taking the matter up with the Speaker, these members went to the Press and passed their uninformed position on to the public.

The Sixth Meeting called for today was originally called for the 23rd. May and postponed.

There was considerable business circulated to members via Business Papers for this Meeting.

This Business would fall away with the Prorogation of the House if an Order was not made for it to be moved forward to the new Session.

In a Business Meeting held on Wednesday the decision was taken that at the Sitting scheduled for today, a Motion would be brought to move this business forward to the next Session which will begin after the Prorogation of this Session and the Proclamation to authorize the new Session.

While in our Standing Orders there is no provision for this, we are instructed in SO 88 (1) that in "matters not herein provided, resort shall be had to the usage and practice of the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".

This procedure has been accepted since Standing Orders were introduced into this House in 1976.

In the most recent issue of ERSKINE MAY PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE, on page 145, the effect of a Prorogation is noted.i.e

Over the years the effect of a prorogation has been to suspend all business, including committee proceedings, until Parliament is summoned again, and to end the sittings of Parliament.

Until recently all proceedings pending at prorogation were quashed, except for impeachment by the House of Commons and judicial proceedings before the House of Lords, and private bills and hybrid bills. The latter two could be suspended from one Session to another.

As a result of recommendations by the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons, the Commons passed a Standing Order in October 2004 to allow public bills to be carried over by order from one session to another, subject to certain restrictions. The House of Lords has also endorsed the carry-over of public bills in certain circumstances.

It is unfortunate that members did not take the time to acquaint themselves with this modern practice of the House of Commons.

Following today's Sitting, the Governor in consultation with the Premier may prorogue the Legislative Assembly signifying the end of the 2011-2012 Session. The Governor will then issue a Proclamation authorizing the beginning of the 2012-13 Session.

I hope this brief explanation will assist the public in understanding the procedures taking place today.