

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/971

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

To ask the Honourable Attorney-General:-

Whether, in regard to the certificate of morality, he will state if the committee set up to consider the measures to improve the service of the delivery thereof has submitted its recommendations and, if so, give details thereof, indicating when they will be implemented?

REPLY

Mr. D. Speaker Sir,

In 2010, the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Civil Service was entrusted by Government the responsibility to look into ways and means to curtail the delay in the issue of certificates of morality. Two meetings were chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Civil Service and I am informed that, at both meetings proposals were made to amend the Certificate of Morality Act. A copy of the recommendations was copied to my Office on 18 February 2011.

When I received the recommendations, I set up a committee under my chairmanship and with the representatives of the Prime Minister's Office, the representative of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the representatives of the Commissioner of Police and officers from my office.

Meetings were held on 31 May, 15 June and 7 September this year.

Mr. D. Speaker Sir,

In the light of all recommendations made, Government approved the amendments to be brought to the Certificate of Morality Act on 30 September 2011.

Proposed amendments relate to the following:

- (i) Introduction of the concept of spent convictions
- (ii) Imposition of a time frame to obtain a certificate
- (iii) Online application
- (iv) Certificate to remain valid for a prescribed period
- (v) Renaming the certificate as certificate of character
- (vi) Payment of fees upon application.

Mr. D. Speaker Sir,

I would like to inform the House that my office is working on a Certificate of Morality (Amendment) Bill, which will be ready by early next year and will thereafter be introduced in the National Assembly once Cabinet approval has been obtained.