

## **PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

B/964 The Honourable Second Member for Grand River North West and Port Louis West (**Mrs Selvon**)

*To ask the Honourable the Attorney-General, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms –*

**Whether, in regard to the proposed reform in relation to provisional charges, he will state the expected date of introduction of the proposed Police and Criminal Evidence Bill in the House which purports to deal therewith, amongst others?**

## **REPLY**

Madam Speaker,

In reply to PQ B/601 a year ago, during the sitting of 24 October 2017, I informed the House of the progress made in relation to the drafting of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill with the services of a Commonwealth Secretariat drafting expert (His Honour Geoffrey Rivlin QC) having been retained for this purpose.

2. A lot of progress has been made since, and the Bill has reached near completion. It is renamed The Police and Criminal Justice Bill, to better reflect its contents and the emphasis it puts on better guaranteeing the rights of citizens under the Constitution. The Bill itself is accompanied by several Codes of Practice setting out in detail the parameters for police powers of search and seizure, powers of arrest and the conduct of interviews in places of detention.

3. The necessary consultations have been held and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Police Force are preparing themselves for the introduction of this innovative piece of legislation which is going to transform the criminal justice landscape for Mauritius. There will be specific time frames set for the charging of a suspect and time limits for time spent on remand by suspects.

4. The Police and Criminal Justice Bill will be introduced in the House in a very near future and once all the stakeholders are ready to implement it in practice. Guidelines are being finalised at the level of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Police regarding the charging of suspects, all with a view to the timely implementation of the Bill once it is passed in the National Assembly.