Honourable Members,

Before we proceed with the debate, I wish to draw the attention of Honourable Members that in March 2015, an amendment was brought to Standing Order 52(1) by adding paragraph (b) and I quote –

"A Finance Bill may, in addition to the measures relating to taxation and national finance announced in a Budget Speech, contain provisions relating to the other measures announced therein and provide for matters connected, consequential or incidental to those measures."

Keeping with past practice, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development has worked out Explanatory Notes on the provisions of the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2023 for ease of reference of Honourable Members to the relevant paragraphs of the Budget Speech and the Annex thereof to which the amendments relate and same has been circulated to Hon. Members on Wednesday last together with the existing legal provisions.

Moreover, your kind attention is also drawn to the provisions of Standing Order 42(1) in regard to relevancy in debate.

In the light of the above, Hon. Members are expected to confine their observations to the proposed amendments contained in the Finance (Miscellaneous) Provisions Bill and should not open the debate on policy matters which have already been canvassed during the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

In view of the technicality of the amendments, I appeal to Honourable Members to kindly indicate the Clauses on which they are offering their observations for the orderly conduct of the debate.

Honourable Members are invited to kindly stand guided accordingly.

I thank you.
