



SAINT CHRISTOPHER (ST. KITTS) AND NEVIS National Assembly

Hon. Konris G. Maynard
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

15 February 2018

The Speaker of the National Assembly
Office of the Speaker
Government Headquarters
Church Street, P.O. Box 164
Basseterre, ST. KITTS

Subject: Purported Suspension on Tuesday 13 February 2018 is Unlawful and Invalid

Dear Sir

Your decision to suspend my service in the Parliament for 10 days on Tuesday 13 February was unlawful, invalid and in violation of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly of St Christopher and Nevis on the following grounds:

1. At no time did I engage in any grossly disorderly conduct.
2. For any motion to take effect in the National Assembly, a question must be put, and a vote MUST be taken!
3. No motion for my suspension was carried as there was no question put and no vote taken at the sitting of the Parliament on Tuesday 13 February 2018 as required under section 49(4).
4. The MINUTES of the house show no previous suspension of 5 days of my service in the Parliament as required under section 49(4)(c) in order to suspend a Member for 10 days.

At no time did I engage in any disorderly conduct

I object to any notion that I was grossly disorderly while my colleagues and I were exiting the Parliamentary Chambers when you purported to have my service suspended. You made a ruling and I simply repeated the ruling as I was exiting the Chambers. I did not at that time disregard your ruling which I understood to be that no one was to speak while the member from St. Christopher One (1) was speaking.

For any motion to take effect in the National Assembly, a question must be put, and a vote MUST be taken!

This is the basis of the very existence of any Parliament. Any decision to be taken by the Parliament must be carried by a vote after a question is put to the Members of the Parliament!

No motion for my suspension was carried as there was no question put and no vote taken at the sitting of the Parliament on Tuesday 13 February 2018 as required under section 49(4).

I draw your attention to Section 49(4)(a) which reads: *"if the offence has been committed in the National Assembly, the Speaker shall call upon a Minister to move "That the Mr..... be suspended from the service of the National Assembly"; the Speaker shall put the question on such motion forthwith, no seconder being required and no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed;"*

The records will clearly show that you **DID NOT** put a question to the Honourable House and there was **NO VOTE** on any motion for suspension. Further, the Speaker does not have the authority to unilaterally suspend a member beyond the rest of a day. Suspensions **MUST** be approved by a vote in the Parliament.

The MINUTES of the house show no previous suspension of 5 days of my service in the Parliament as required under section 49(4)(c) in order to suspend a Member for 10 days.

On the Adjournment of the Parliament on Tuesday 13 February 2018, you stated that I was named and suspended from the House for 5 days during the sitting of Parliament on Wednesday 11 July 2017. I attach hereto a copy of the MINUTES of the 22nd sitting of the National Assembly. I draw your attention to page 6 of the MINUTES to the 3rd paragraph after the heading ADJOURNMENT which reads, *"The Speaker then considered that the Honourable Maynard continued to disrupt the proceedings from his seat, and at that time the Speaker proceeded to name the Honourable Maynard under Section 49(2) and directed him to withdraw immediately from the Assembly for the rest of the day's sitting."* Clearly, the MINUTES of the sitting of the House in question **DO NOT** corroborate your statement in Parliament that my service was suspended for 5 days. Additionally, at **NO TIME** during Parliament on Wednesday 11 July 2017 was a question put on any motion for my suspension and as such **NO VOTE** was ever taken or carried on any such a motion.

Given the facts outlined above, I humbly submit that I have never been lawfully and validly suspended from the Parliament. Consequently, I request that you reverse your decision and direct that the records of the National Assembly so reflect.

As a sitting of the National Assembly is scheduled for Wednesday 21 February 2018, I humbly request a reply to this letter by the end of day on Monday 19 February 2018.

Yours respectfully



Hon. Konris G. Maynard
Member of Parliament, Saint Christopher #3
National Assembly

cc: Mr. Akbar Khan – Secretary-General, CPA
Mrs Heather Cooke – Regional Secretary, CPA
The St. Kitts and Nevis Bar Association
The Evangelical Association
The Christian Council
Chamber of Industry and Commerce
The Media