

PRESS STATEMENT  
BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER  
(FOR RELEASE ON 6-11-69 AT )



17 NOV 1969

In my radio broadcast to the Nation on the 29th October, of this year I intimated that it has come to my notice that the Opposition is endeavouring to present a false and misleading picture concerning the consequences of a dissolution of Parliament.

It is doubtful whether anyone of any intelligence will be misled by this kind of tactic but it is my duty nevertheless to draw attention to it and to point out the true position with reference to the provisions of the Constitution.

To begin with I reiterate what I have said before that a dissolution of Parliament brings about no change whatsoever as regards the functions of Government, the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Cabinet, or the Public Service.

A Prime Minister is appointed, as I was appointed nearly five years ago, under Section 76(3) of the Constitution. In terms of Section 72 of the Constitution a Prime Minister so appointed relinquishes office only in certain circumstances, viz. if a resolution of no confidence is passed by the National Assembly; if his Party loses an election; if he himself loses his seat in the House of Assembly; or if he dies or resigns: and the position in regard to Cabinet Ministers is, to all intents and purposes, the same.

A Cabinet Minister ceases to be a Cabinet Minister only if he loses his seat as a member of Parliament, dies, resigns, becomes a Senator or is removed by the King on the advice of the Prime Minister. A Minister will of course also cease to be a Minister if a Prime Minister resigns after a resolution of no confidence has been passed by the National Assembly. This, too, is laid down in Section 72 to which I have already referred.

Despite the fact that the Constitution deals with the matter in clear and unmistakable terms certain leaders of the Opposition and their newspapers have seen...../2