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Raminai concerned with Fr Czuba's statement

MINISTER for Sports and Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology Wesley Raminai (pictured) is quite concerned about the manner in which Department Secretary Fr Jan Czuba has come out in the media discussing confidential matters concerning the department.

"As a portfolio minister I have a responsibility to protect the interest and integrity of the department and the ministry.

"That is what prompted me to pursue a series of actions when I was appointed as DHERST Minister," Mr Raminai said in a statement.

"These includes my letter to the Secretary to step aside (dated March 26, 2021) which is based on the fact that he has been criminally charged, which is before the competent courts.

"As part of good governance we should not allow departmental heads whose integrity is being brought into question but continue to perform their respective official duties.

"That is exactly what I have set out to do with this particular case.

"Under my leadership I will not condone and tolerate corruption in DHERST, in universities and colleges, and research institutions.

"I want to assure all stakeholders that the secretary's disciplinary process is in progress.



"May I also add that on the same token the natural course of justice is always there as the matter is before the courts."

However, Mr Raminai said that the secretary's recent statements in the media were unwarranted and unnecessary.

He said the secretary's media statement in the *Post-Courier* on Wednesday April 7, 2021, carried on Page 7 under the headline "Fr Czuba reports Minister for unethical conduct", is contrary to ethical and professional conduct, unbecoming of a professional and a Catholic priest.

"In fact it is insubordination on the part of the Secretary to be making such public statements in the media against the Minister he reports to," he said.