

BALI TRAGEDY

217. Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO to the Premier:

In the light of the Bali tragedy, has the State Government made any arrangements to assist people to observe Sunday's official day of mourning?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

The State Government is putting into place arrangements that it believes will be appropriate. The arrangements will be low key, but I believe it is appropriate to have low-key arrangements for Sunday. We do not want to take the focus away from the many religious services and other observances that will be held on that day by many community groups throughout the State. Although we will formally recognise the occasion, we respect the fact that many people will wish to express support privately in their own way. Government House gardens will be open this Sunday. I thank His Excellency the Governor Lieutenant General John Murray Sanderson for cooperating in what will be a very appropriate observance. Western Australians will be able to lay floral tributes and sign a condolence book. I will join the Governor and other dignitaries to acknowledge a statewide one minute silence at noon in a very brief ceremony at Government House.

I once again remind people that floral tributes can continue to be laid on the steps of Parliament House. All members would agree that it is a means by which everyone in Western Australia can express their solidarity with all those families that have been devastated by the horrific act in Bali on Saturday. I believe what we are doing on Sunday is appropriate. I thank His Excellency the Governor for his cooperation. I believe that Government House gardens are a fitting venue in which Western Australian citizens can pay their respects. It is very important for those of us who are in positions of power to give that opportunity to the people.