

**Address by the Hon. Ashit Kumar GUNGAH,
Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms
Republic of Mauritius**

on

Wednesday 15 June 2011 at 14:00 Hours

SIR HARILAL VAGHJEE MEMORIAL HALL, PORT LOUIS.

***Celebration of the Award of the First Prize (Mobile Clinic) of the
All Africa Public Sector Innovations Awards 2010***

- **My Colleague and good friend, the Honourable Mrs. Hanoomanjee, Minister of Health and Quality of Life,**
- **Mr. Jhugroo, Supervising Officer, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life,**
- **Mrs. Oree, Ag Permanent Secretary, of my ministry**
- **Members of the Press,**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honoured to be party to this event organized to celebrate the success of the Mobile Clinic which has been awarded the **All Africa Public Sector Innovations Award (AAPSIA) 2010.**

The AAPSIA initiative was formulated at the 4th Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public/Civil Service that took place in South Africa in 2003.

However, the Award was officially launched in December 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the 5th Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public/Civil Service.

The purpose of the AAPSIA Award is to:

First: Promote and encourage innovative practices in the public sector for improved service delivery;

Second: Promote regional and cross-sector collaboration towards promoting good governance on the continent;

Third: Create a platform for information sharing, lesson learning, partnerships and possible replication of successful initiatives across the African continent;

And Fourth: To coordinate and celebrate Africa's contribution to the global repository of innovative practices.

The 5th Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public/Civil Service designated Mauritius as champion for the AAPSIA 2008. A working Committee consisting of representatives of my Ministry, the **South African Department of Public Service and Administration**, the **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)** and the **Centre for Public Service Innovation**, South Africa, was hence set up to steer the implementation of this initiative.

Mauritius, through my Ministry, took the lead as Champion of the first edition of the AAPSIA and actively participated in the conception and marketing of this initiative, among other things.

The first edition of the award attracted 59 entries from 10 countries across the African continent, including Mauritius. We should all be happy to note that the **Biodiversity Unit of the Mauritius Forestry Service** obtained the 1st Runner-Up Award in the first edition of the AAPSIA in the category *Innovations in Systems and Processes of Governance* for its project on '**Environmental Education and Public Awareness**'.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Ministry acts as the focal point for AAPSIA. We thus encourage Ministries and Departments to participate in international and

regional awards such as the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM), United Nations Public Service Award (UNSPA) and AAPSIA.

This falls in line with the policy of my Ministry to encourage innovation and excellence in the delivery of public services. Participating in National, Regional and International Awards is an excellent means to recognize and reward those Ministries and Departments that have excelled by adopting innovative approaches in management and service delivery.

I am pleased to note that there has been a good response in the past editions where different organizations took up the challenge to compete with public organizations of the African Region and have upheld the good reputation of the Mauritian Public Service by either being shortlisted as finalists or winning awards.

The Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms won the Silver Award of the AAPAM Awards for Innovative Management in 2006, the Biodiversity Unit of the Forestry Services was the first Runner up of the AAPSIA 2008 as I stated earlier, and the Civil

Aviation Department won the Bronze Award for the 4th AAPAM Awards for the Innovative Management in 2010.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Mauritius we already have a well structured and performing Public Sector. Our present reform strategy geared towards a quality public service and excellence in delivery of public services has proved its worth. Our achievements on the International Fronts for example as per surveys conducted by the Mo Ibrahim Index, the Ease of Doing Business, just to mention a few, speak of itself. We have many countries visiting us today on study tours to benchmark on our Civil Service. We therefore do not need a to reach for the moon to reform the civil service, and I am of the view that we just need to refine some of our systems and procedures and get our Public Officers properly trained and having the right attitude.

“Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.”

As John W. Gardner, an American Educator said.

It is in this context that we are now working on a **New Reform Strategy** that will also incorporate a **Human Resource Strategy**, **Capacity Building** and the **Civil Service College**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the AAPSIA 2010, there were more than 130 entries including the following seven public service organizations from Mauritius, namely:

- The Waste Water Management Authority,
- The Companies Division,
- The Mauritius Qualifications Authority,
- The Department of Civil Aviation,
- The Biodiversity Unit,
- The Mobile Clinic, and
- The Quality Control of Pharmaceuticals

It was indeed a moment of pride and intense emotion for the Mauritian delegation that I led to attend the 7th Conference of African Ministers for Public/Civil Service held in Kenya from 9 to 14 May last, and more particularly for me, when the winner of this prestigious award was announced and the trophy for the first prize handed over to the delegation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the whole team of the Mobile Clinic, especially those who have worked on the participation in the AAPSIA project.

I sincerely hope that the achievement of the Mobile Clinic will motivate other public organizations to follow suit and invite them to participate in the international awards.

Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that my ministry will soon launch the 2011 edition of the **Public Service Excellence Award**. There are several ministries and departments who held the level high to improve their services last year. I was myself impressed by their performance, and I am looking forward for this new edition, which I am sure will motivate even more ministries and departments to participate in this competition.

Before ending, I invite you to stand guided by what Shiv khera said, I quote:

**“Winners don’t do different things,
They do things differently.”**

Unquote.

I thank you for your attention.