

Message of the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service
on the occasion of the Africa Day of the Civil Service and
Administration and the UN Public Service Day 2007

On the occasion of the joint Celebration of the Africa Day of the Civil Service and Administration and the UN Public Service Day on 23 June 2007, it gives me great pleasure to address this message to all public officers.

As you may be aware, the first Pan African Conference of Ministers of Civil Service held in Tangier, Morocco in June 1994 decided that the Africa Day of the Civil Service should be celebrated on 23 June each year. This same date was subsequently retained for the celebration of the United Nations Public Service Day.

To sensitise the public officers on current challenges, the theme chosen to mark this year's celebration is "Promoting Good Governance with Emphasis on anti-Corruption and Ethics. Good governance indeed plays a central role in the realization of development objectives. Whether in small and Island states or large nations, rich or poor, it is increasingly acknowledged that development is a by-product of good governance.

You will surely recall that the NEPAD was hailed as a blue print for good governance and a comprehensive development framework for continental Africa. To achieve the NEPAD's objectives and the Millennium Development Goals, there is a need for considerable increase in productive investment, improving political and economic good governance and building institutional and human capacity. But the goals of NEPAD can only be realized through a vibrant and achieving

Public Service across the African Continent- a corruption-free Public Service that can act with integrity, propriety and impartiality.

The private sector and the civil society will certainly have an important role to play. But it is only the Public Service that can, and will have to, address the most daunting challenges facing Africa today, viz. hunger and malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, malaria, corruption and illiteracy. There is no doubt that a strong and professional public service is critical in promoting good governance and creating an enabling environment for development to take place.

It is in this context that we have recently launched the new Code of Ethics for Public Officers. This code seeks to uphold and further consolidate the values that underpin our Public Service. Ethical Standards are indeed a pre-requisite for building public trust in service institutions. I therefore invite all public officers to observe the principles embodied in the Code of Ethics.

It is imperative that a New Public Management culture be put in place along with apposite change in mindset. We need to build a sound Public Service that ensures the efficient and economic utilization of scarce resources for an improved service delivery at all levels. Through our actions, we should not only gain public confidence and trust but be seen to be doing our rightful job, contributing to the development and prosperity of our nation.

On this Special Day, allow me to offer my best wishes to each and every member of the Public Service. Let it be not only an occasion to celebrate, but also an opportunity for us to renew our commitment for building an Ethical Public Service for a just and modern Mauritius.

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