

**Address of Mr Krish Ponnusamy, member of the Panel of Jury of the
Public Service Excellence Award 2007 at the Award Ceremony held on
3rd July 2008 in the Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall.**

The Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service.

The Chairman of the Panel

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been called upon to motivate the decision of the Panel to award special prizes to some of the participants in this year's competition.

Before doing so, I should like to motivate Public Officers by referring to the words of someone you know well. I was given a book earlier this year on the occasion of my 60th anniversary birthday. Its title is 'GIVING'. The book is written by former United States President Bill Clinton. It deals essentially with the network of donors supporting the noble activities of the Clinton foundation. But listen to what Mr Clinton had to say on the role of Government services.

"No book about public service by private citizens would be complete without recognizing the essential role of government - its laws, regulations, programs and grants in advancing the common good and the importance of citizen activism in securing good government. Good economic policies can enhance business and job creation, decrease inequality of incomes, ensure the benefits of free and fair trade and accelerate the development of new technologies".

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The Panel has seen the diverse aspects of the Public Service through this competition. We have visited twenty five organisations, varied in size, nature, mission and vision statement and location as entries were received from organisations in all parts of the island. These organisations represent a good cross section of the Public Service.

By receiving the Panel in their workplace, the staff of participating organisations wanted us to take stock of what they were capable of doing despite their limited human and financial resources. They did not put their constraints in the forefront. Instead, they used their creative power to deliver goods in an effective manner to the community with the participation of local residents and the support of sponsors. Some organisations proudly showed us how they were offering top level services to other countries, regional and international organisations.

We have seen a vibrant and robust Public Service staffed by men and women, conscious of the need to serve the community with the highest degree of professionalism and not in search of recognition at any cost. They allowed us to witness the silent march of the Public Service towards Excellence.

As mentioned by the Chairman of the Panel in his address, it was difficult to choose the best among the many deserving participants. Having drawn up the list of winners in the four categories and selected the Grand Winner, the Panel felt that it had to create additional space to reward a few other organisations in view of the high quality of their submission and their performance in the field.

After long deliberations, the Panel unanimously decided to single out three organisations for the new category '*Special Mention*'. The '*Special Mention*' will do justice to the immense commitment and the remarkable leadership displayed by the Public Officers concerned.

The Panel hopes that the '*Special Mention*' will encourage more organisations to file in their participation in next year's competition and thus contribute the emergence of the world class Public Service we have been dreaming of.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this dream is being realized at a sure pace.

It now remains for me to declare the winners in the '*Special Mention*' category.

Thank you for your attention.