

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 United Nations Public Service

Day - 23 June 2008

It gives me great pleasure to address this message to all public officers on the occasion of the Africa Day of the Civil Service and Administration and the United Nations Public Service Day, which is being celebrated for the seventh successive year in Mauritius.

2. The Africa Day of the Civil Service was instituted by the African Ministers of Public Service during the First Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Civil Service held in Tangier, Morocco in June 1994. This same date was later retained for the celebration of the United Nations Public Service Day.

3. The Africa Day of the Civil Service and Administration and the United Nations Public Service Day is meant to recognise the efforts and contribution of Public Officers for the well being of citizens. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the functions of the Civil Service, its mission and objectives as well as its challenges. The public sector has a preponderant role to play in the developmental process of the country. Experience demonstrates that without good governance, nationally or internationally, and an efficient, competent, professional, responsive and dedicated public service, sustainable development and livelihood are jeopardized.

4. The theme chosen to mark this year's celebration is "From Policy to Result-Based Implementation". This theme aptly reflects the importance of the public service in translating government policies for the benefit of the population and the development of the country. I need not stress on the crucial role played by the Civil Service in the successful execution of government programmes and projects taking on board all stakeholders. The onus of providing an enabling environment for the private sector and the civil society to thrive and develop also rests on the public sector.

5. I seize the opportunity to remind public officers that the aim behind every policy is the provision of timely and quality services to the public. To meet this challenge and the onslaught of globalization, the Civil Service has been encouraged to pursue reforms, both at administrative and sectoral levels, so as to revisit existing practices and re-engineer processes and procedures to further improve service delivery and overall performance. The transformation

of the Civil Service into an effective and efficient vehicle for serving the people is indeed a formidable challenge.

6. Since Independence our Civil Service has diligently and relentlessly served the government of the day and it has been instrumental in the process of nation building. The profound changes which are presently underway should further inspire us to look to the future with more assurance and optimism. We need to continue on this path to make of the Civil Service a powerful instrument for the implementation of government policies.

7. On this special day, allow me to convey my best wishes to one and all. Let it be not only a day of recognition and celebration, but one of reflection that will steer us on to the changing path of reforms and the road to excellence.

23 June, 2008