

**SPEECH BY DR THE HON ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER  
OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING**

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES – BASIC SAFETY COURSE**

**MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2007 AT 1330H**

**LUNCH ROOM, SIR HARILAL VAGHJEE HALL**

The Senior Chief Executive

Capt Moorghen, Principal of the Sea Training School,

Mr Elliah of Mediterranean Shipping

Trainees of the Sea Training School

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome and congratulate the 24 candidates who have successfully completed the Basic Safety and Crowd Management Course and are now ready to start their employment on board passenger ships.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Captain René Sanson and Mediterranean Shipping Ltd and Société de Gérance Maritime for their assistance in securing employment

opportunities for Mauritians through their linkages with international shipping companies.

I understand that 60 Mauritians are already employed in passenger ships abroad and that in November last, about 100 candidates have been selected out of 400 applicants who were interviewed and will start their new employment during the course of this year after completing their training. I am also informed that this number will be increasing as there are more demands for Mauritian staff on board passenger vessels.

The maritime sector offers a wide range of employment opportunities. It employs more than 1.25 million persons and according to some statistics, there is now a trend for more women to join this sector. In some countries, such as Germany and Indonesia, the number of women working in the shipping sector has reached 5%, in UK, it is around 8%.

In Europe, it has been noted that the number of vacancies has been increasing by 25% and the workforce is getting older, whereas there is a shortage of skilled manpower in the sector. The industry is getting more complex with new technology and operation techniques.

There is an urgent appeal to young persons to join this sector, which is now much more attractive than it was several years ago. The reluctance to join this sector is influenced by the wrong image that jobs in this industry are for people who are less educated, for drop outs with no qualifications and for people with no interest in family life. This image is totally incorrect.

The Shipping industry today is a professional industry, with well-trained staff. It is guided by strict professional standards, regulated by international regulations and conventions and with very rigid safety and security requirements. It offers a motivating career path with a certain degree of flexibility as

well as opportunities to work both inland and at sea. Employment in this sector is backed by maritime colleges and the shipping industry. In the case of the present recruitment, we know that Louis Cruise Lines, the recruiting company hosts major international events, attended by heads of states and celebrities on board its vessels.

It is important for private and public sector collaboration in attracting young people to this sector and offering training as we need highly qualified and experienced people to run the maritime administration, flag and state port control and other related activities. The collaboration of ship owners, operators, unions and Government is required to address the issues of skills and training and developing maritime clusters.

With the coming into operation of the new Maritime Training Centre, we expect to develop a new and long term vision for maritime training so that the centre may respond to

our needs. I am pleased to mention that an IMO expert will be here for 3 months to advise us on this matter.

I would like to conclude by extending my appreciation to the trainees who have decided to join a career in the shipping sector. I would invite them to work with integrity, professionalism and discipline, not only for their own progress but to enable their employers to appreciate and look for more Mauritian skills.

Thank you.