Message to Public Officers by the

Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms

Hon. A. Wong

On the Occasion of the

Africa Public Service Day 2015

It is a pleasure for me to reach you today through this message on the occasion of the Africa Public Service Day to share with you my vision of the Civil Service and how we can work together to better serve the citizens and strive towards an inclusive and sustainable society.

The Africa Public Service Day is celebrated throughout the African Continent on 23 June every year and provides an opportunity to showcase the values and virtues of the public service towards the community and its contribution in the development process. It is also the time to convey a strong message that universal services can be delivered to all citizens as a right and in the most equitable manner.

The new Government in place since December last, has set clear objectives to bring about meaningful changes for the Civil Service to become more efficient and effective. This cannot, however, be achieved without the collaboration and involvement of one and all. There is also the need for a new mind-set to provide greater impetus to improve the quality of services delivered to the citizens. The quality of our services should reflect our humanity and our commitment to higher values. It is my wish and desire that we should excel in service delivery and delight our citizens at no cost to them. The public service must always be the first choice and not only a consolation prize.

This is why I have given priority to the operationalisation of the Civil Service College and the Reforms Steering Council since I took office as Minister. In fact, a vast
programme of modernisation and transformation of the Civil Service is underway. I am confident that this will carve out a new landscape for the Civil Service.

This year the Africa Public Service Day has been unfurled under the theme: “The Role of the Public Service in Women Empowerment, Innovation and Accessible Service Delivery”. Let me assure you that Government is leaving no stone unturned in its drive to further empower women officers who now constitute a major component of the Public Service workforce. In fact, all policies in the Civil Service are gender neutral which leave no room for discrimination against women officers. Women are indeed playing a crucial role at various levels across the Civil Service. I seize this opportunity to commend the good work being done by them.

To conclude, I invite all Public Officers, irrespective of their grades, to join hands with me in building a strong Civil Service for our country to better face the challenges of global environment.