Mr. Maghooa, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions
Mr. Seebaluck, Senior Chief Executive of my Ministry
Mrs. Oree, Ag. Permanent Secretary of my Ministry
Officers of the DPP’s Office
Officers of my Ministry
Dear Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!
It’s a pleasure to be here this morning for the official launching of the training course on Prosecution Matters for prosecutors and enquiring officers.

Mauritius is a sovereign state, a democracy valuing the rule of law. As a nation, we have ratified many
international conventions and we have a commitment to translate the spirit of the international instruments through policies that aim at protecting our citizens, especially the most vulnerable segments of the population.

These require a regulatory and operational framework and government provides such frameworks wherein public sector organizations, economic operators and citizens transact and interact. However, in any society, there are a few individuals, organizations and enterprises that happen to adopt practices that do not conform to legislation, societal norms and value systems.

Dear participants, this is where your effectiveness in the role of prosecutors and enquiring officers
becomes important. And, my ministry is very sensitive to the fact that you should be given more exposure and training to:

- sharpen your skills to better represent the state through your respective departments against unscrupulous and shrewd economic operators;
- stand the challenges of professional legal representatives hired by such operators;
- respond to queries of presiding magistrates in the different courts; and
- defend victims of the system, especially those who do not have the means to resort to services of barristers of their own choice or to go for civil proceedings.

This is why my ministry has diligently responded to the request from the Director of Public Prosecutions
to mount the 5-days’ training programme for prosecutors and enquiring officers.

Dear participants, we have chosen specialists in the field of prosecution from the DPP’s Office to share their knowledge and experience so as to enhance your skills and abilities to do your jobs more professionally. We expect that after completing this 5-days course you would be able to:

- proceed with the enquiry stage and the pre-trial stage by drafting information correctly and charging the accused in such manner that justice may not be denied;
• record statements from witnesses and assume the role of an enquiring officer in the cross examination of witnesses;

• produce the necessary evidence to support the charges against the accused party and handle such evidences with utmost confidentiality; and

• fulfil your role as prosecutor and enquiring officer with greater efficiency.

You will certainly agree that the trial of an accused party is not without costs. It is not the aim of government or the judiciary to recover these costs by imposing fines or prison sentences on the accused party if found guilty. In fact, the aim of the judiciary is to ensure that all citizens and economic operators, local or foreign, abide by the law of the land. We
often say that no one is above the law. This should not only appear to be so. It should in fact be so.

We are conscious that your work is not easy. You face a lot of difficulties and very often you are faced with unscrupulous economic operators, suppliers, and dishonest businessmen who do not care for customers, our environment as well as marine and land resources. They believe that money can do everything. So, they hire the best practitioners from the field when, for example, goods are seized, stop orders are issued, employee and consumer rights are denied.

Dear participants, you are certainly required to be tactful and skilful to enable you do your job correctly. We hope that during these five days you
would have the opportunity to interact actively with the resource persons, ask questions to clear your doubts and participate actively in the mock trials and acquire new skills in prosecution and enquiry matters.

I sincerely hope that you will leave this training programme, on Friday, with a new set of tools and skills to help you do your job more efficiently.

Ladies and gentlemen, my Ministry believes in the benefits of training. We are in an era of life-long learning and continuous professional development. In order to create more opportunities for training of public officers, government has decided to set up a Civil Service College which will be operational in a few months. I am convinced that
this institution will play a major role in transforming our civil service as we are expected to meet the increasing expectations of our customers.

Before ending, I would like to wish you a very fruitful learning experience during the five days at the Training Unit. You will certainly have the benefit of new theories and practical skills from the resource persons. However, what is more important is that you walk out of the Training Unit on Friday next as more knowledgeable prosecutors and enquiring officers who will apply all the learning in your different work stations as from next week.

Ladies and gentlemen, I now have the pleasure to declare the course on Prosecution Matters open. Thank you for your attention.