SPEECH OF HONOURABLE MARIE ROLAND ALAIN

WONG YEN CHEONG, M.S.K.

MINISTER OF CIVIL SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

Workshop 2015

The Public Officers’ Welfare Council (POWC)

ON TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER 2015 AT 18 00 HRS

CIVIL SERVICE HOUSE

GYMKHANA, VACOAS
Mr Seebaluck, Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service

Mr Jhugroo, Senior Chief Executive of my Ministry

Senior Chief Executives and Permanent Secretaries of Ministries/Departments

Mr Duval, Chairman of the Public Officers’ Welfare Council

Board Members of the POWC

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening

I am indeed very pleased and honoured to be amongst you today for the launching of the Public Officers’ Welfare Council Magazine.

It is worth highlighting the fact that POWC is not merely alphabets but it is in itself the epitome of well-being of all public officers and their families. The Council has undoubtedly achieved maturity over the years. Since its
inception, the Council has come forward with innovative and diversifying activities with a view to rope in maximum public officers and their families.

I can proudly state that the Council has been working towards expanding its activities with emphasis laid on a culture of innovation and perfection. This would have never been possible without the ceaseless effort and dedication of the Chairman, the board members and the staff of POWC. They do deserve all our appreciation and admiration.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The vision of government is 'Achieving meaningful change' and the onus of its success lies largely on the Public Service. Government is fully conscious of the potential within the civil service and hence, our ultimate vision is to create a smarter Civil Service and a community of motivated public
officers who take initiatives to bring changes for the best of everyone.

As part of promoting a vibrant and dynamic Civil Service, measures are in place to promote a standard of quality work life balance capable of creating and sustaining a strong, healthy and committed Civil Service. This will help the Civil Service to both attain high degree of commitment and professionalism along with less stress.

Since my assumption of office as Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms I am striving to create a friendly working environment for public officers.

In this line, at my Ministry we are implementing, on a pilot basis, a flexible hours of attendance system. We are allowing Public Officers to reach office at their preferred time schedule. This will not only allow services offered by
Government to be available for a longer period, but at the same time we are addressing the problem of traffic congestion to a certain extent. However, once the project takes off and is replicated to other Ministries and Departments, definitely the aspect of security and availability of transport would have already been tackled.

We are also in the process of setting up a gym at the Ministry to allow our officers to exercise before or after working hours. Other projects in the pipeline are a canteen where balanced diets would be available at low cost and the introduction of a Medical Insurance Scheme for public officers to allow them to have access to health services of their choice. To further enhance the skills of public officers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad that the long awaited Civil Service College has been set up. We expect that the College will give a
greater impetus at building new competencies and adopting a meticulous and systematic approach to induct the best talents to better serve in the public service.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

You will agree with me that POWC is set up with a view to providing public officers with a platform to interact in a friendly environment. The various activities organized by the Council, be they literary, cultural, recreational or keep fit, have provided public officers and their families with a gamut of opportunities to interact in a congenial environment. These activities alongside, bringing together public officers, also promote teamwork and strengthen the ties between colleagues. My Ministry does not just believe in creating an army of workers but rather it aspires to give rise to an army of public officers who work in harmony and team spirit.
Last year, on this very same date and at the same place, as newly appointed Minister, I gave you the assurance that I shall give you all my support and encouragement in our common quest to provide first class, timely and quality services to the population at large. You will concur with me that this promise has been honored through various initiatives and measures undertaken during the year 2015. These measures are already bearing their fruits, but tangible results will undoubtedly require some more time. I also assured my unflinching support to the P.O.W.C for its initiatives aiming at offering a better work – life balance to all public officers. Today, I am once again reiterating this support to all of you and I hope that you will also do your best to help government in its mission towards achieving the Second Economic Miracle, and offering a better life to all our citizens.

Today, I indeed feel privileged to launch the official magazine of the POWC. This souvenir magazine highlights all the activities covered during the year 2015. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. I invite you all readers to
go through the magazine and the snapshots may bring back fond memories of those who have participated in the activities.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

On this note, I wish you enjoy today’s get together and I seize this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy New Year 2016.

I thank you for your attention.

A.W