SEMinar on public management in collaboration with the Chinese authorities

Address and official launching by honourable A. Wong.

03 November 2015

09 00 hrs

Open University of Mauritius, Curepipe (Ex MBC)

Mr Li

His Excellency, the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China in Mauritius

Mr Wang

Economic and Commercial Counsellor,

Mr Zou

Vice President, Academy of the international Business Officials, Ministry of Commerce of China

Mr Jhugroo

My Senior Chief Executive,

Mr Hoolass and Mrs Capery

Permanent Secretaries of my Ministry

Mr Dubois

Chairperson, Civil Service College, Mauritius.

Mr Durbarry

Director-General, Civil Service College, Mauritius

Dr Sukon

Director-General, Open University of Mauritius

Representatives of Trade Unions,

Officers from my Ministry,
Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be in your midst for this historical event between the Ministry of Commerce of China and the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of Mauritius. As you are aware, the Chinese Authorities have been offering regular capacity building programmes in China under the “Multilateral Training Programmes for officers of African countries”.

As at date some one thousand five hundred Public Officers have undergone training in China under the Technical and Bilateral Agreements. Those officers have been exposed in various domains such as Health Care, Agriculture and Fisheries, Infrastructural planning, Climatic Change, renewable Energy and Public Management, among others. In parallel, many Mauritians are pursuing higher studies with renowned universities in China.

This is the first time that such courses are being run in Mauritius and they will be highly favorable, as a greater number of officers will benefit from the different programmes which are starting today. I seize this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the delegates and resource persons from the People’s Republic of China, for mounting these training courses.
This occasion which is unique represents a golden opportunity to further strengthen the ties between our two countries. As a clear indication of the growing relationship between our countries, the Chinese Authorities have willingly delegated four experts to impart their knowledge and skills to our public officers. This collaboration is a proof of all our efforts to attain new heights in achieving the 2030 vision as spelt by our Prime Minister. You will recall that the Government in, all its wisdom, capitalize on the need for long term economic success crafted on transformational change and visionary leadership.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

There is not one but three factors which make us believe fervently in the positive outcome of our partnership; Firstly, Historical; Secondly, Economic; and thirdly Strategic. These last few years hold testimony to the fact that China and Mauritius have been evolving in a complementary manner. There are no two countries more Yin and Yang than China and Mauritius. That is, we share some common values and practices.

The world now is constantly referred to as a global village where everyone is connected to each other. In the wake of global changes and challenges ahead of Mauritius, international cooperation in the form of expertise from China is the much
needed lifebuoy which our country need to ensure a favorable position among the emerging economies. Mauritius can become a gateway to Africa. However, for this development to be possible, capacity building is essential.

In this modernized and complex world we live in, it is crucial to ensure that our people, who are our only resource, are efficient and productive. This goal can only be achieved through continuous capacity building. Only then, will it be possible for them to contribute positively towards socio-economic development.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Education is the key to success and let me share with you the Chinese quote:

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day

Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.

In this process of capacity building, the Civil Service College Mauritius has been set up to cater for the growing training and development needs of the Public Officers at all levels, including those from local Authorities and Parastatals. The Board is currently working on its first training programmes and is giving priority to Customer Service Excellence and Leadership for Change, courses
which will be launched shortly. The college will surely work in collaboration with the Chinese Authorities in order to contribute to translating the vision of Government to bring transformation and positive changes though continuous professional development and growth in the Public Sector. I invite the Director of the Civil Service College, Mauritius to establish links with the Ministry of Commerce of China to pursue our common human resource development mission.

*Ladies and Gentleman,*

We are also coming up with an E-learning system, an online platform for learning which will be launched in due course. Public Officers will be encouraged to learn at their own pace through the use of web based technologies and systems that maximize the potential of the global network as a learning platform. In this respect, we can explore possibilities of technical support from the Chinese Authorities.

If China is strong in manufacturing and infrastructural development, Mauritius capitalizes on tourism and hospitality services. However as a common denominator, both countries have always attached high importance to human capital investment and recognize the significance of human resources as an asset which can give our nations a comparative edge. This reminds me of the
following proverb which is based on the ever-lasting Confucian principles:

If you want one year’s prosperity, grow rice.

If you want ten years’ prosperity grow trees.

If you want hundred years’ prosperity, grow people.

Before ending I would like to thank Dr. Sukon, the Director-General of the Open University of Mauritius and his staff for all the facilities extended to us. I also seize this opportunity to thank his Excellency Mr Li Li, the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China in Mauritius and officials of the Chinese Embassy and kindly convey our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of China.

I now have the pleasure to declare open this seminar on Public Management and I thank you for your kind attention.

A.W

Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms