ADDRESS

BY

Hon. Alain Wong Yen Cheong, M.S.K

MINISTER OF CIVIL SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

&

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND DISASTER AND BEACH MANAGEMENT

Launching Ceremony of Breast And Cervical Cancer Screening

Day & Date : Thursday 22 September 2016

Time : 12 00 hrs

Venue : Sir Harilal Vaghjee Memorial Hall

New Government Centre

Port Louis
My Colleague, Honourable Anil Gayan, Minister of Health and Quality of Life.

Mr Pather, my Senior Chief Executive

Mr. Gunesh, Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life

Supervising Officers and Permanent Secretaries present

Doctors and Resource Persons present

Chairperson and Members of the POWC

Members of the Press

Distinguished Guests

Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning.

It is an immense pleasure for me to be in your midst today for the launching ceremony of this programme, mounted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. Allow me first and foremost to thank Honourable Anil Gayan and his team, for their laudable initiatives in organizing this important event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
My Ministry has always been at the forefront to maximize the welfare and well-being of Public Officers. I am glad to note that several initiatives have been taken by the Public Officers Welfare Council, in line with our vision to promote work-life balance, without any gender discrimination. A series of activities are being organized and let me highlight some of them.

- Information, Education and Communication activities, which include sensitization programmes and awareness campaigns.
- Sports, recreational and leisure, including keep-fit activities like Yoga, Tai-chi, Self-defence, Zumba and aerobic.
- Literary, artistic and cultural, including Essay and Public Speaking competition.

The Programme of today is yet another emerging activity which is part of our Education and Communication Strategy, and I am pleased to note that the response to our invitation has met with a resounding success. More than six hundred applications have been received across all Ministries and Departments. Screening would be done at Emmanuel Anquetil Building and Atom House in Port Louis and at
the Civil Service House in Vacoas as per their respective appointments. Dear Participants, you may rest assured that the results will be kept strictly confidential.

Furthermore, I am confident that the benefits derived from this exercise will help you live a better life and that it will also encourage other Public Officers to follow the same path.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

In a democratic society, **a healthy and safe working environment is not a privilege, it is a legitimate expectation.** This is why as, Minister of Civil Service, I have always ensured that Public Officers at all levels, feel happy in their own self and in their job. **With a “high commitment” approach, we place much emphasis on the human aspect of HR with deep concern for staff well-being and commitment for mutually beneficial practices.**

To this end, My Ministry has embarked on the implementation of **three main projects:**

- The implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Management System designed to strengthen a safety and health culture in the Civil Service.
• The Enhancement of Work Environment Programme to assist Ministries and Departments to improve and enhance the working environment and to make workplaces comfortable and tuned to productivity.

• In the same breath, a major reform currently undertaken to further improve service delivery and at the same time aimed at striking the right work-life balance, is through the introduction of Flexible Work Arrangement system for public officers. The main objectives of this system are to:-

• Provide more social life to staff.

• Give flexibility to officers to choose the slots which suits them better.

• Bring efficiency in the service as office premises will be open earlier and for longer hours.

• Have a positive impact on productivity and on the economy, and

• Reduce traffic jam in the long run.

All these reforms, Ladies and Gentlemen, are meant to bring as much efficiency gains both for the Civil Service and the Civil Servants.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Allow me also to seize this opportunity to highlight some of our strategies to further modernize and transform the Public Service, in line with our National Vision 2030. My Ministry has taken some initiatives that will enable officers across the service to better perform their duties and at the same time facilitate and modernize Public service delivery. In fact, a vast programme of modernization and transformation of the Civil Service is underway. I am confident that this will carve out a new landscape for a re-engineered Civil Service.

In today’s context, when all citizens are aspiring for a quality service, no organization can afford to fail in customer care both, to internal and external customers. We know that times have changed and will continue to change. The external environment of organizations is fluctuating at an increased rate in the wake of a volatile, uncertain, complex and turbulent world. Management of Public sector organizations are bound to re-invent their services to adapt to the changing circumstances.

For many people and organizations nowadays, a high standard of quality and customer care is taken for granted. It is no secret that the quality of service matters greatly in creating a positive experience with both the internal and customers.
With a view to nurturing a performance-oriented and customer-centric culture in the public service, Government has decided that it is mandatory for all Ministries and Departments to have their respective Customer Charter and also to comply with the established norms and standards.

We have, in this regard, committed ourselves to transform our systems to respond to the needs of those we serve to ensure value for money. To harness the energies of our employees to improve service delivery, we will encourage innovation and creativity on one hand, and reward loyalty, excellence and commitment on the other. Over and above that, we will continue to review and re-evaluate our own performance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To reinforce capacity building at the level of organizations, the Civil Service College, Mauritius has been set up to meet the growing training needs, to provide the right set of skills and management tools and ultimately to bring about behavioural change through a lifelong learning culture.
Once again, I thank the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Public Officers Welfare Council and all those who directly or indirectly put up their synergistic efforts and collaboration to crystallize such an important activity.

I seize this opportunity to invite you all for our annual Civil Kermesse scheduled for Sunday 6 November 2016 and I hope to see you all in great number, along with members of your family and relatives on that day.

Let me remind you that the Kermesse is a national activity attracting all Public Officers and the Mauritian public at large and aims at fostering an enabling environment for interaction, mutual advantage and empowerment, and providing Public Officers and their families with innovative, stress-free and enriching activities and

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Government, as the greatest Employer, has the obligation to provide to its employees a safe, healthy and risk free workplace where welfare maximization prevails over other goals.

On that note, let me quote Mr Bernard Glassman, an American Entrepreneur who said, I quote:
“It is more important to minimize risk than to maximize profit” (Unquote)

With these words, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind attention and wish you a fruitful and rewarding programme.

A.W