

**Launching Ceremony of the
“OSH Train the Trainer & Lead Implementer Course”**

SPS

Director, Safety and Health Unit

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Morning

It is indeed with immense pleasure that I associate myself with the launching of the **“OSH Train the Trainer & Lead Implementer Course”** for the Safety and Health Cadre of my Ministry.

As Minister of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, it has always been my priority to ensure that Public Officers are exposed to the latest trends in public sector reforms, develop skills and expertise to enable them to perform at their level best.

Today’s training programme demonstrates our endeavour to promote continuous professional growth and development of the Safety and Health Cadre.

You will all agreed that Training and capacity building is a very important pillar to have a professional public service committed to excellence. The mandate of my Ministry is not only to provide a quality service to the citizens but it is also duty bound to ensure that public officers operate in a safe and healthy work environment.

In line with the Government Programme 2020 – 2024, to strengthen democracy and governance, Government will put into effect a cohesive Public Sector Business Transformation Strategy which encompasses the implementation of an Occupational, Safety and Health Management System (OSHMS) across the public service.

The OSHMS aims at preventing work-related injuries and ill health and also proactively improving safety and health performance. It is also an opportunity for organizations to align their strategic direction and increase focus on continual improvement.

Undoubtedly, the OSHMS will bring cultural change in a planned and systematic manner. We should not forget that it is also our responsibility to systematically promote a safety culture within the Public Service and we are fully committed in achieving this goal.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

We recognize that this initiative requires not only resources or skills, but also competencies and as such this training programme has been so designed to provide a typical framework for implementing a management system that is aligned to internationally recognized best practice.

This Ministry, being the legal employer, has a prominent role to play as far as decent work conditions are concerned, because we have to ensure that all Ministries and Departments are complying with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005.

This is in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals 8 (SDGs) which aims at protecting labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

To conclude, allow me to quote Henry Ford

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.” End of quote

So keep learning to stay young. With this, I now declare this **“OSH Train the Trainer & Lead Implementer Course”** open.

Thank you for your attention.