

Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reforms

14 March 2003

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From: Secretary for Public Service Affairs

To : Supervising Officers in-Charge-of Ministries/Departments

Celebration of Africa Day of the Civil Service and Administration

The Africa Day of the Civil Service and Administration will be celebrated in African countries on 23 June, 2003 around the theme; "Strengthening Civil Service Capacity for Sustained Achievement of NEPAD's Goals".

2. The main objectives of the celebration of the Africa Day of the Civil Service and Administration are:

- To assist citizens in getting a broader understanding of the work of the Civil Service;
- to publicise the Charter For The Public Service in Africa; and
- to create awareness of Public Officers regarding the Windhoek Declaration which was adopted at the 3rd Meeting of Pan African Ministers of the Public Service and Administration held in Windhoek, Namibia, in February 2001. A copy of the Declaration is enclosed.

3. This Ministry is proposing to organise a one-day celebration on Sunday, 22 June 2003, and to publish a special magazine to mark the event.

4. I should be grateful for your views and suggestions on activities (such as Open Day, Round Table/Meetings/Talks or Exhibitions) that could be organised for the occasion. You are also invited to send in articles on activities pertaining to your sector for inclusion in the special magazine.

5. It would be appreciated if your views/suggestions and articles could be submitted to the Ministry by 28 March 2003.



(D.P. Ruhee)

Secretary for Public Service Affairs



**WINDHOEK
DECLARATION**

We, African Public Service Ministers, meeting on the occasion of the Third Pan-African Conference of Public Service Ministers held in Windhoek, on 5-6 February 2001.

Recalling Resolution 50/225 of the United Nations General Assembly on "Public Administration and Development" adopted at its 50th Resumed Session.

Reaffirming the need to strengthen national public administrations in order to promote social and economic development and to meet the challenges of globalization through access to modern information technology.

Recalling the recommendation of the Rabat Declaration on the elaboration of a Charter for the Public Service in Africa, which affirms the professional values of the public service in Africa, redefines its objectives and missions and specifies the fundamental conditions required for strengthening its role, competence, ethical values and image, including a code of conduct for African public service employees.

Having considered and amended the draft of the Charter elaborated by the Working Group established by the 2nd Pan-African Conference supported by CAFRAD and UNDESA.

1. Adopt unanimously the Charter for the Public Service in Africa which:

- Defines a framework to guide the public services in Africa in taking such legislative, regulatory, technical and practical measures as may be required to create propitious conditions for the proper functioning of the public service and improve the quality of its services:

- States and defines the principles and rules of conduct for public service and State employees, who shall foster a neutral and stable environment conducive to the strengthening of ethical values and the image of the public service, as well as the professionalism of its employees;

- Expresses the will of African States and underscores their political and moral commitment to improve the services provided to citizens and ensure the efficient use of the resources allocated for such services;

2. Request the Chairman of the Conference to submit the text of the Charter to the 56th session of the General Assembly, which will review the implementation of resolution 50/225.

3. Commit to establish and/or strengthen at the national level mechanisms for the implementation and dissemination of the Charter by involving the highest levels of Government and ensuring the wide participation of all stakeholders in order to ensure respect for the principles, values and rules defined in the Charter.

4. Request CAFRAD, in cooperation with African regional and sub-regional institutions and groupings to develop strategies, plans, tools and monitoring mechanisms to assist the African Countries in the implementation of the Charter.

5. Request UNDESA in cooperation with ECA to assist the national and regional efforts by providing advisory services and appropriate tools such as training modules and materials, audio-visual instruments and methodologies and make available, and if necessary expand, the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) its facilities and connectivity for the implementation of the Charter.

6. Reaffirm the crucial role played by the national public administration, schools and institutions and the need to develop and strengthen their ability to prepare the public servants of the future to deal with the challenges of globalization.

7. Request the sub-regional, regional and international institutions in public administration pool and co-ordinate their efforts in order to support the national institutes.

8. Request UNDESA in co-operation with CAFRAD and other organizations to support the emergency training needs in public administration through the utilization of ICT and distance learning technologies.

9. Request UNDESA to exercise its good offices to seek appropriate resources from international institutions and bilateral donors to support the efforts for the implementation of the Charter for the Public Service in Africa and for new capacity building needs of African countries in the face of globalization.

10. Express profound gratitude to the Government and people of Namibia for their warm reception and their effort to host and facilitate this historic Conference.