



SPEECH

**His Excellency Mr Dharambeer Gokhool G.C.S.K.,
President of the Republic of Mauritius**

**EVENT: OPENING CEREMONY OF CIVIL SERVICE
KERMESSE 2025**

VENUE: GYMKHANA CLUB, VACOAS

DATE: 30 NOVEMBER 2025

TIME: 09:30 HOURS

Protocol

Honourable Mr. Raj Pentiah, Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms

Honourable Ministers and Junior Ministers

The Secretary for Public Service;

Honourable MP's,

Ms. Asha Koonjul, Chairperson, and all Board Members of the Public Officers' Welfare Council;

Representatives of Welfare Associations and the Private Sector;

Distinguished Guests, Friends and Families,

Members of the media,

All protocol observed.

Introduction

Bonjour, good morning.

Thank you for the opportunity to be among you and to address this distinguished gathering.

I am truly delighted, together with my wife Brinda, to join you today to mark the opening of the 30th edition of the Civil Service Kermesse.

Allow me, at the outset, to convey my sincere appreciation to Honourable Minister Raj Pentiah, the Public Officers' Welfare Council, and all organisers for their kind invitation and for the effort invested in bringing this annual event to life.

My presence to-day in your midst is a sign of my recognition and appreciation for the vital role that Public Officers play in the progress and prosperity of our Republic. You have the important

responsibility of implementing government policies and programmes that shape the development of our society.

You ensure that essential services run smoothly and that citizens' needs are met with professionalism and integrity.

Yet, behind your duties, the long working hours and the constant demands of the public, we must recognize that public officers are human beings-individuals that deserve care, encouragement and opportunities for growth.

Civil Service Kermesse 2025 Backdrop

As you are aware, over the years, our public sector has had to navigate demanding phases of modernisation and shifting societal expectations, respond to the unprecedented disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, and confront the growing impacts of numerous challenges that confront all societies: economic disruptions, climate change, and digital transformations amongst others.

Events like flash-floods and extreme weather conditions, moments of public unrest, growing family and social responsibilities have placed our officials' under sever pressures and often at risks safety at risk, but you have continued to serve with courage, dedication, and professionalism.

For over 30 years, the Public Officers' Welfare Council has accompanied the welfare and well-being of public officers and their families, guided by the understanding that those who shoulder the responsibilities of the State must be supported, valued, and encouraged.

You have regularly organized a variety of recreational, cultural and health oriented activities for your members.

You have been a vital life line for our public officers and you have endeavored to help our Public officers by creating opportunities to reduce burnout and stress and maintain a healthy work life balance.

Civil Service Kermesse

And this Civil Service Kermesse which brings together some 57,000 public officers and their families and attracts some 100,000 and 100,000 visitors comprising public officers, their families as well as, the public at large **has emerged as a landmark feature of our Mauritian culture and tradition.**

It is a testament of an enduring philosophy: a tangible expression of solidarity that reinforces unity across the public workforce and highlights the human dimension of public service.

This Kermesse is an ideal moment for public officers and their families to come together, interact and relax in a friendly atmosphere.

Best Stall Competition

I understand that, like in previous years, this edition also features a rich variety of stalls, games, and activities organised by Staff Welfare Associations across Ministries and Departments which contribute to raise funds for the benefit of their members.

I am particularly pleased to note the Best Stall Competition, which recognises creativity, presentation, and teamwork, fostering motivation, pride, and camaraderie among public officers and a healthy sense of achievement.

I also warmly welcome the free distribution of toys to the first 1,000 children- a wonderful continuation of the Kermesse's spirit of joy, generosity, and shared celebration.

Tribute to Public Officers

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this special occasion, I would like to associate myself with the Honourable Minister - himself a career public official dedicated to service - in acknowledging and commending all our public officers for their dedication and unwavering commitment to serving our nation.

I also commend the Public Officers' Welfare Council for its continued efforts in bringing our workforce together through activities such as sports, excursions, and competitions that nurture wellbeing, teamwork, and esprit de corps.

Reflections

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As your President of the Republic, as you may be aware, my foremost mission is nation-building, central to which is the dedication, skill, and resilience of our public officers and their contributions in building strong, vibrant, accountable, customer centric and innovation oriented public institutions.

Yet I firmly believe that the true measure of the advancement of our society lies in the well-being, resilience, and state of mind of our people, especially our Public officers.

In fact, in my meetings with Honourable Raj Pentiah at State House, we often reflect on the public sector reforms underway to build a high-

performing, people-centric civil service, in line with our Government Programme 2025–2029.

And the critical role that is expected of our Public officers, at all levels.

It is therefore imperative that we continue to foster a culture of trust and empathy, teamwork and collaboration, and holistic wellbeing.

In this context I would like to commend the Public Officers' Welfare Council for its numerous initiatives in building a supporting ecosystem where our public officers can evolve in a spirit of professionalism combined with personal and social satisfaction.

Conclusion

On this optimistic note, allow me to conclude by wishing you all a very enjoyable and fun-filled Kermesse 2025.

I also extend my warm wishes to you all for a joyful festive season; a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year 2026.

And may we continue to build a resilient, dynamic, and inclusive public service - As One People, As One Nation.

It is now my pleasure to declare the Civil Service Kermesse 2025 officially open.

Merci et bonne continuation.