

**CEREMONIAL PARADE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT
OF
POLICE OFFICERS TO THE NEXT HIGHER RANK**

SPEECH BY HON PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH

PRIME MINISTER

**WEDNESDAY 01 JUNE AT 1100 HRS
(HON PRIME MINISTER TO ARRIVE AT 1100 HRS)**

VENUE: GYMKHANA GROUND

VACOAS

Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service,

Secretary for Home Affairs,

Commissioner of Police,

Officers of the Mauritius Police Force,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

I am deeply honoured to be in your midst today for this ceremonial parade held to mark the promotion of 700 Police Officers to the next higher rank. I extend my warm congratulations to all of you for this important moment of your career.

I have personally looked forward to attending this ceremony not only for recognising the tremendous job performed by the Mauritius Police Force, but also to reiterate the trust and support that the government has placed in the Mauritius Police Force to create a safer Mauritius.

Officers who have just been promoted have been expecting this exercise for a long time but have always

retained their enthusiasm and motivation to serve the country and our fellow citizens. Therefore, I would like to thank all these officers for their patience and selfless service to the Mauritius Police Force, and to our nation.

I am also delighted to note that officers who are being assigned with duties of the next higher rank, start from Police Corporals, and all the way up to Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Moreover, the promotion of the second cohort of Police Constables who have completed 20 years of service, to the rank of Police Sergeant is consistent with Government's commitment to fairly reward and motivate

dedicated officers for their loyal and exemplary service in the Mauritius Police Force.

The Police have the noble tasks of maintaining law and order in the country, and ensuring the safety of our citizens. It must, however, be recognised that this mission is a stressful and daunting one. The Police are always around when things get tough. This is why I have a profound respect and admiration for the Police, and the work performed by dedicated police officers.

The recent disturbances that the country has witnessed did demonstrate the resilience of our Police Force in the face of adversity. The bold strategic and operational decisions as well as the prompt responses to these

incidents have been critical in preventing the country from falling into anarchy.

As Prime Minister of this country, I would like to express my gratitude to the Commissioner of Police and all officers of the Force for the way they have been handling those situations. Thanks to your sense of duty, you have been able to prevent chaos in our country.

I would also like to congratulate the whole Mauritius Police Force and the Commissioner of Police for having bagged the Gold Award in the last Public Service Excellence Award 2021 for “Promoting an agile and responsive Public Service.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Societal and technological evolutions are constantly redefining the criminal landscape. Crime and criminals are becoming more sophisticated, and the traditional policing responses are being challenged. It is, therefore, imperative for the law enforcement agencies to review their strategies in order to maintain an edge on criminals.

Law and order remains high on Government's agenda, and we have spared no efforts to equip the Police so that they can effectively deliver their law enforcement and security mandates. Examples abound. The dwindling crime rates - through the implementation and upgrading of the safe city project - is tangible; the aerial support

provided by the new police helicopter DHRUV is enhancing police operational effectiveness; and the acquisition of the new Passenger Variant Dornier aircraft has improved our ability to patrol our exclusive economic zone.

The Forensic Science Laboratory has invested in DNA profiling to enhance its capabilities for better investigation.

Over the years, ADSU has been equipped with advanced technological tools which, coupled with additional manpower, has produced several spectacular operations leading to record seizures of drugs and cash money as well as arrests of both local and foreign suspects.

During the period 2015 to 2021, the value of drugs seized amounted to more than Rs 13,2 billion.

However, hardware alone can be of little value if they are not supported by smart people who optimise their use. Likewise, operational failure is likely to occur in the absence of informed strategic and operational direction, and due to uncoordinated actions on ground. Hence, it is critical to ensure the adequacy of leadership across the police structure. The current promotion exercise is meant to reinforce the command structure across the various echelons of the Mauritius Police Force.

Officers being promoted today will be part of the new leadership of the Mauritius Police Force.

As you assume new ranks, I would expect you to bolster the organisation's effectiveness and make your actions reflect the values of the organisation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to note that this exercise also includes women police officers. Some of them will be assuming middle and senior management positions. This commendable initiative is in line with government's commitment to empowering women and providing them with equal opportunities to assume top level positions.

At this juncture, I would like to place on record the initiatives undertaken by the Commissioner of Police to

establish gender balance in the Mauritius Police Force. The recent recruitment of one hundred women police constables - as part of the entire cohort of police constable enrolled in the Mauritius Police Force, constitutes a significant step in promoting gender equality in the organisation.

Dear recipients,

Promotion or assignment with duties of the next higher rank means more work, additional responsibility and higher accountability. Hence, there should be no room for complacency, mediocrity, and dereliction of work and responsibility. By assuming higher rank, you will be further seen as an epitome of trust, integrity, and

knowledge. You will be expected to be ethical in your approach and seen as role models at work and even in society. Do not forget that Law enforcement officials shall at all times respect and protect human dignity and uphold the human rights of all persons. Remember that police brutality hinders good law enforcement.

It is unfortunate that some officers misuse or abuse their positions and indulge in unethical and criminal activities.

Government will not condone undesired attitudes and behaviours which will spoil the image of the Mauritius Police Force, and that of our country. Departures from required standards of performance and behaviour across the Police Force will not be tolerated.

We are determined to rid the Police of deviant officers so as to ensure that the trust placed in the Police Force by the community is not eroded. I would urge all officers to be immaculate in their conduct.

A special word to Officers who are not among the group promoted following the present exercise. Be assured that we do appreciate the continuous effort that you have been putting in to serve the community. I would urge you to continue with your good work and you will be rewarded in due course.

Before concluding, I would like to say a special word for the families and relatives of all officers being promoted today. They are the ones who indirectly and silently bear

the hardships of policing, yet they continuously support our police officers. I would like to thank all of them for their understanding, support and sacrifice. I congratulate them as well for the success of their dear ones.

To the recipients, I extend once more my congratulations to you for your well-deserved promotion. I wish you all a successful career.

Thank you for your attention.
