

PROMOTION CEREMONY
AND
PRESENTATION OF NEW POLICE UNIFORM

SPEECH BY HON PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH
PRIME MINISTER

MONDAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1030 Hrs
(HON PRIME MINISTER TO ARRIVE AT 1030 HRS)

VENUE: LINE BARRACKS, PORT LOUIS

**The Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the
Civil Service**

The Secretary for Home Affairs

The Acting Commissioner of Police,

Members of the Police Force,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning

I am pleased to be with you today, at the Parade of officers who are promoted to the rank of Police Sergeant. This day is a momentous occasion for them. They are making history by being part of the first cohort of Police Officers to be automatically promoted after completing 20 years of service.

I would like to congratulate the newly promoted police sergeants and their families for this well-deserved achievement. As dedicated professionals, they worked hard for this promotion.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very proud of our Police Force and wish to express, on this occasion, my deepest gratitude to all

our law enforcement officers for their hard work, dedication, loyalty, and commitment to protecting and serving the public.

All too often, we fail to realise and recognise the value of our Police Officers who brave the odds to ensure our safety and our wellbeing.

They are the first to face the brunt when disasters strike; they put their lives at risk to save and rescue others; they protect the most vulnerable, tackle the most hardened criminals, and even protect families from being torn apart.

To fully gauge the importance of the Police Officers who perform their duties on the frontline, one should

reflect on how a day would have looked like without any Police Officer on the street or responding to emergencies. Such a situation would quickly turn to chaos.

We are all aware of the challenging nature of police work, and the toll it takes on Police Officers. That is why in our 2019 electoral manifesto, we pledged to value and reward the Officers who have toiled for several years but were unfortunately unable, for one reason or another, to clear the competitive examination and qualify for promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

As I stand here today, I am proud to see this project coming to fruition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Law and order has always remained high on Government's agenda. The role of the Mauritius Police Force in the maintenance of law and order cannot be overstated. This is evidenced by the record drug seizures during the recent years, the prompt arrest of offenders shortly after they commit their misdeeds, and the downward trend in the crime rate in Mauritius.

I wish to congratulate the Acting Commissioner of Police and all members of the Mauritius Police Force for showing courage, determination and resilience in fighting the drug and other scourges and keeping us safe.

The ability of the Mauritius Police Force in creating a secure and safe environment has been instrumental in the strides Mauritius has made in developing its economy. As a result, Government has been investing heavily in a number of projects aimed at providing the organisation the required infrastructure, technology, and equipment to effectively accomplish its mission.

During the recent years, new police stations, such as those in St Pierre, Camp Diable, Pamplémousses, and Poudre D'or, have been built to meet current policing demands and community expectations. These infrastructural projects have been geared to reinforce police proximity with the community, thus ensuring better service delivery while providing police officers

with a more congenial working environment to bolster their effectiveness.

The Abercrombie Divisional Headquarters and Piton Detention Centre will be inaugurated very soon. The setting up of new police stations at Vallee Pitot and L'escalier, demonstrates the resolve of Government to ensure safer neighbourhoods and easy access to police services across the island.

Government is also supporting the Mauritius Police Force in developing its operational capabilities and effectiveness. The renewal of the fleet of police vehicles is a step in this direction.

I am also pleased to announce that the police aerial capabilities will be enhanced with the acquisition of new police helicopters and a Dornier aircraft. These state-of-the-art aircrafts will assist in the conduct of search and rescue missions as well as the surveillance of our Exclusive Economic and maritime Zones.

We are also continuously exploring the opportunities for assistance from friendly countries such as Japan, to enhance the police operational capacity.

The fruits of these ongoing government's investments are tangible. For example, the Safe City project is not only deterring criminals but is also enabling police to increasingly detect crime. A drastic fall has been noted in street crimes. On the other hand, the number of

offences detected has increased through CCTV monitoring.

We are living in a dynamic society and the ways in which criminals operate constantly evolve. Law enforcement agencies are called upon to reorient their strategies, adapt to new situations, and develop their human resources.

The Mauritius Police Force has been able to adapt to the evolving policing environment. This is demonstrated by the way it handled the COVID-19 pandemic despite being overstretched.

I am pleased to note that the appointment of a new Acting Commissioner of Police has given new impetus

to the organisation. The changes have brought new energy and inspired fresh ideas for service.

The Mauritius Police Force has embarked on the development of a new strategic reorientation plan. This strategy, founded on ground experience and contemporary policing concepts, will revitalize the Mauritius Police Force.

It will help in professionalising further the organisation. Government welcomes and supports the initiatives taken by the Acting Commissioner of Police. We will provide the necessary support for the early and effective implementation of the new plan.

As regards the human resources capabilities, provision has been made for addressing the shortage of manpower and expertise in the Mauritius Police Force. In July 2021, 447 Trainee Police Constables have been recruited to fill the vacancies in the Mauritius Police Force.

In order to keep abreast of the sophistication of criminals and adhere to international policing and investigative standards such as those recommended by the Financial Action Task Force, our Police Force is developing skills to deal with transitional and technology driven crimes.

The public demands and expectations for enhanced service delivery have increased exponentially. There is no place for complacency. I would urge you, Police Officers, to bear in mind the huge expectations for a more professional approach in the way you deal with your customers and the way you handle each situation. You should be mindful that your actions are being observed and that you are just one incident away from having your organisation and even our country making headlines.

There is no doubt about the integrity, dedication, and commitment of most Police Officers. However, the good work you perform is sometimes overshadowed by unprofessional behaviours of a few. While

government is ready to support the Police in its endeavours towards enhanced professionalism, it should be equally clear that we will not tolerate Police Officers who engage in any misconduct.

To all those who are being promoted today, let me tell you that this promotion entails working hard, sacrificing, and embracing new challenges. You are being given an opportunity to stand out and lead others. You have the responsibility to live up to the expectations which Government and your Organisation have placed in you. Use your experience, knowledge, and discipline to become role models for your juniors.

Remain on the righteous path, always. More importantly, use this opportunity as springboard for yet greater achievements in the professional arena. I wish you success in your career.

Thank you all for your attention.
