

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**Address by the Minister for Education Human Resource Development, Mr. Joel Morgan,
for the official launching of Careers Week 2017 and the opening of the National
Workshop on Entrepreneurship Education on Monday 14th August 2017, at
International Conference Centre of Seychelles.**

Ministers,

Principal Secretaries,

**Mr. Jens Dyring Christensen, Senior Specialist Enterprise Development and Job Creation from
the ILO,**

Ms. Severine Deboos-David, Employment Specialist from the ILO,

Directors General,

Invited guests,

Parents,

Students and teachers

Good morning,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this edition of Careers' Week which is being organized by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation, our partners from the public and private organizations and from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

On behalf of the Government of Seychelles, I extend a special welcome to our two international workshop facilitators, Mr Christensen and Ms. Deboos-David for making time to be with us and more importantly to make valuable contributions in this year's Careers' Week.

The main objective of this important event is to strengthen the relationship between educational institutions and workplaces and to provide information on training, employment and career development prospects to our students. Careers' Week creates opportunities for students to reflect critically on the skills, knowledge, qualities and commitments which are required for achieving a successful career upon completion of their studies and training.

This year, activities being organized at the national and organizational levels are: open days, exhibitions, attachments and professional guidance sessions to promote different careers. The

highlight of Careers' Week 2017 is a two-day national workshop on Entrepreneurship Education which is fitting with this year's Careers' Week theme, 'Building an entrepreneurial culture for enhancing youth employability'.

The workshop will be a means of sensitizing teachers, students and other participants on the concept and principles of Entrepreneurship Education and its integration into the curricula of educational institutions. It is also part of a project of Youth Entrepreneurship Development in Seychelles which is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation.

The theme for Careers' Week 2017, '**Building an entrepreneurial culture for enhancing youth employability**', was chosen on the premise that we recognize the importance of entrepreneurship in the economic development of our country. In that respect, our graduates are expected to be job creators rather than merely job seekers.

In the last mission of the International Labour Organisation in Seychelles in October 2016, emphasis was placed on the importance of developing a culture of entrepreneurship for in-school youth. One way of achieving this, is through experiential education across all levels of the system, which will also facilitate the transition from school to the world of work.

Subsequent to that mission, a decision was taken in March 2017 to integrate Entrepreneurship education in the curricula of all educational institutions, as well as in Teacher Education. In collaboration with our key partners, preparation is underway to sensitise teachers, students and the general public on the importance of Entrepreneurship Education, so as to develop an entrepreneurial mindset in our youth.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) goes hand in hand with entrepreneurship development. This came out strongly in a UNESCO regional TVET Forum held in Seychelles in March 2016, coined as the "Mahé Process" to address the problem of youth unemployment in the region. Two of the six key recommendations which emanated from the Forum and which will be discussed in the upcoming workshop are; strengthening the teaching of entrepreneurship, and facilitating transition to self-employment.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development is also mindful of the TVET Strategy 2016-2021 which aims to:-

- support the efforts of UNESCO Member States to enhance the relevance of their TVET systems;
- equip all youth and adults with the skills required for employment, decent work, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning and;

- contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole.

In the process of restructuring Secondary Education, the Cabinet of Ministers has recently approved alternative education pathways for middle Secondary school level. This implies that in 2018, Secondary students will have the opportunity to follow one of three credible learning pathways:-

- **An Academic Pathway** or Centre of Excellence for students with a strong academic base, who will most likely continue their academic education at the level of the School of Advanced Level Studies upon successful completion of the programme.
- **A Technical Vocational Education and Training Pathway** or Centre of Excellence for students with a strong academic base and interest in the technical and vocational fields of study, who will most likely continue their education and training at the level of the Professional Centres. The students will have the opportunity to follow relevant selected international technically oriented programmes and sit international examinations in these subjects.
- **A General Secondary Education Pathway** for students who do not meet the entry requirements for the Academic and the Technical Vocational Education and Training pathways. The students on this pathway will be offered opportunities to sit for international examinations at core or extended levels in the subjects that they have opted for, depending on their ability.

In addition, a new TVET Division has been set up within the Education Department, which in collaboration with its key partners will ensure that our youth is equipped with the skills, values and attitude required to access the world of work, including skills for self-employment.

The recent restructuring of our Ministry as a whole will undoubtedly provide the required support and guidance to sustain the development of all forms of education and training in our country. This will have a positive impact on the quality of education which the Ministry and its partners are striving for.

As we celebrate the diversity and wealth of career opportunities in our country, I call upon our youth to be more passionate about their chosen fields of study by developing the right aptitude and attitude required to succeed in their future careers and life in general. As a high income country, we must continue to be innovative and use all the resources at our disposal sustainably to meet the ever growing needs of our nation.

In this pursuit, the Ministry will continue to provide students with opportunities to develop the competencies and skills in preparation for higher education or the labour market. In collaboration with our local and international stakeholders, we will aim to strengthen Careers' Education and Guidance within Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education.

The theme chosen for this year's Careers' Week 'Building an entrepreneurship Culture for enhancing Youth Employability' is forward looking, but it requires a sense of enterprise, ingenuity, resourcefulness, determination and responsibility from both teachers and learners.

Such an aspiration is in line with our country's national theme, 'Seselwa en sel desten'. I call upon all our learners to devote quality time and be passionate towards their studies, so that they eventually reap the fruits of their efforts. Upon completion of their education and training, it is expected that the students should contribute not only towards their personal and professional growth, but also towards the socio-economic and sustainable development of our country.

The Government of Seychelles will continue to invest in education to ensure that we have a highly skilled workforce who is ready to face the challenges of the 21st century and to take Seychelles to greater heights. Although Seychelles is a Small Island Developing State, there are plenty of untapped opportunities and avenues in emerging fields such as the Blue Economy, Finance, renewable energy, human sciences and technology among others, which should be taken to the fullest advantage. I call on you teachers and parents to continue supporting the students along their career paths.

At this juncture, let me thank the ILO, the Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, all the agencies, financial and educational institutions, as well as other organisations participating in this year's Careers' Week. I am grateful and thankful for all the efforts that you have invested in making the event possible. I call on all our teachers and students to participate actively in the various activities.

Furthermore, I wish to convey my appreciation to the organising committee, all educational institutions and staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth organisation of this year's Careers' Week. A special thank you goes to the ICCS management and staff for the venue and all of you present here today for making time to support the Careers' Week 2017.

Ladies and gentlemen, it now gives me great pleasure to officially launch Careers' Week 2017 and open the National Workshop on Entrepreneurship Education which will be facilitated by the ILO specialists.

I wish you all a fruitful Careers' Week.

Thank you for your attention.