



Improving Public Services for the People of the Caribbean

June 22, 2010

Release date: June 23, 2010

Statement by Ms. Jennifer Astaphan, Executive Director of the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) to mark Public Service Day-June 23, 2010

Public Service Day gives us the opportunity to recognise the commitment, dedication and often unheralded efforts of public officers, who work tirelessly with little recognition and for the most basic of pecuniary rewards. We should acknowledge that the public services in the region are at the heart of our governments' efforts to realise the Millennium Development Goals by ensuring that they are appropriately included in national policy.

The Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) is the regional intergovernmental institution specialising in the transforming and modernising the public sectors of CARICOM states. During its 30 years of existence, CARICAD has sought to facilitate and enhance the development and sustainability of a strong leadership and governance framework within the public sector of the Caribbean Community, effectively encouraging social partnerships in the process. Many CARICOM Members States have recorded significant improvements in their public administrations and delivery of service as a direct result of CARICAD's interventions and technical assistance.

One of the key programmes of CARICAD is the development and implementation of the CARICOM eGovernment Strategy that aims to provide our public services in the region with the tools and capabilities that are necessary to meet the expectations of citizens in the 21st century.

Another key initiative is the development of strategic partnerships between the public, private and non-government sectors which reduces the prospect of duplication and waste of scarce human and financial resources, especially in developing states such as those in the Caribbean.

The role of the public service is often understated and undervalued because much of the work is done outside of media spotlight. As Executive Director of CARICAD, I take this opportunity to commend all public officers who continue to display the competence, commitment and dedication required to ensure that our CARICOM member states continue to make progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

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