



## Public Officers' Welfare Council

Promoting the welfare of Public Officers and their families

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Our ref: POWC/VPS/21

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

From: Organising Secretary, Public Officers' Welfare Council

To: Supervising Officers i/c Ministries/Departments

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION 2021

In the context of the United Nations Public Service Day which is celebrated annually on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, the Public Officers' Welfare Council (POWC) is organising a Virtual Public Speaking Competition for public officers to be held during the month of June.

2. The theme for the preliminary session is "**Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19): The Impact and Role of Mass Media during the Pandemic**". The theme for the finals will be communicated in due course based on the United Nations Public Service Day theme.
3. An online training session will be conducted by appropriate resource persons to familiarise all participants on the technicalities of public speaking via the Zoom web client software. During the session, participants will also be briefed on the rules and regulations (*Annex A*) governing this competition.
4. Time slots for the online training session and competition will be communicated to each participant after the closing date. **Please note that only 6 best candidates will be qualified for the finals.**
5. After the closing date, the training sessions, the preliminaries and the final will be held on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as per the following time frames:
  - Weekdays - 7pm - 9pm
  - Saturdays - 1pm - 4pm
6. A cash prize of Rs 7 000 will be awarded to the winner and cash prizes of Rs 5 000 and Rs 3 000 will be awarded to the second and third prize winners respectively.
7. Public Officers interested to participate in the competition should fill in the participation form (*Annex B*) and submit same to the Organising Secretary, Public Officers' Welfare Council, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atom House, 16, Royal Street, Port Louis by **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 at 1500 hours at latest.**
8. A photocopy of a recent payslip or top part of the payslip indicating the name, paysite code or any other document certifying that the participant is a serving public officer will have to be submitted together with the participation form.
9. The POWC reserves the right to cancel the competition in case of low level of participation or in case of unforeseen circumstances.

10. It would be appreciated if you could arrange for the contents of this circular letter to be brought to the attention of all public officers serving in your Ministry/Department.

11. This Circular has been posted on the website of the POWC:  
<https://powc.govmu.org/SitePages/Index.aspx>

Yours faithfully



V. Ramburuth  
Organising Secretary

**PUBLIC OFFICERS' WELFARE COUNCIL**  
**Virtual Public Speaking Competition 2021**  
**Rules and Regulations**

1. All participants must speak in English.
2. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name.
3. The contest will be done online. All contestants must use a webcam and microphone to ensure that they are visible and audible while delivering their speech. Contestants are responsible for providing their own technology at their own expense if there is a fee for use. **It is highly recommended not to use mobile phones for the competition and to have a back-up plan in case of technology failure.**
4. In the event of a contestant's technology failing during their presentation, he/she will be given one opportunity to reconnect and continue, as follows:
  - The contestant will be given a maximum of 3 minutes to regain his/her connection and to continue his/her presentation from the point he/she dropped out.
  - The contestant will be given an extra 30 seconds before being disqualified for going over time. As is normal practice, judges will not take timing into consideration and score the contestant as best they can on what they have heard.
  - Contestants will be disqualified on time following the standard contest rules, with the extra 30 seconds taken into account.

Process for managing the drop out:

- The Chief Judge will ask the timers to pause the timing.
- The Timer takes note of the time the contestant drops out.
- A maximum of 3 minutes will be allowed for a contestant to regain connection.

**If the contestant reconnects within the allowable time**

1. The Timers restart the timing, from where contestant dropped out, and allows an extra 30 seconds.
2. The contestant resumes speaking from where he/she dropped out.
3. The Timer records the speaker's final time on the Timers sheet noting that the extra time is given.
4. If the contestant goes over the extra time allowed, he/she will be given a time disqualification.

**If the contestant fails to reconnect within the allowable time**

1. The Timer records the time the contestant drops out on their timing sheet.
2. The Zoom Master will ask for 1-minute silence for all the judges.
3. The judges score the contestant based on what they have heard.

4. If the contestant fails to reconnect and has not reached the minimum speaking time, he/she will be given a time disqualification.

**If the contestant drops out for a second time, judges score them based on what has been heard**

1. The Timer records the time the contestant drops out on their timing sheet.
  2. The Zoom Master will ask for 1-minute silence for all the judges.
  3. The judges score the contestant based on what they have heard.
  4. If the contestant has not reached the minimum speaking time, he/she will be given a time disqualification.
5. The time allotted **will not** be less than 4 minutes 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes 30 seconds.
  6. Virtual backgrounds by the timer to indicate timing. All contestants are to pin the timer prior to giving their speeches so that they can see the timer on the Zoom platform. Timing protocol is as follows:
    - Timing will begin with the first definite verbal or non-verbal communication with the audience.
    - Any visually-impaired contestant is permitted to request, and will be granted a form of timing of their own choosing, (e.g. bell or similar)
    - Contestants going over or under the allotted time will not be cautioned and will be penalised one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under allotted time.
    - The penalty will be determined by the official timekeeper.
      - A green light will be displayed at five minutes to the allotted time and will remain displayed for one minute.
      - A yellow light will be displayed at six minutes to the allotted time and will remain displayed for one minute.
      - A red light will be displayed at seven minutes to the allotted time and will remain displayed until the conclusion of the speech.
  7. Any protest in the conduct at any level of the contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protest made after the contestant has been introduced or in the case the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any condition.
  8. Contestants will be assessed on the following criteria:
    - 8.1 Content**
      - Speech development (20 marks)
      - Effectiveness (15 marks)
      - Speech value (15 marks)
    - 8.2 Delivery**
      - Physical (10 marks)
      - Voice (10 marks)

- Manner (10 marks)

### **8.3 Language**

- Appropriateness (10 marks)
  - Correctness (10 marks)
9. A contestant who fails to appear on time as per the scheduled date and time according to the fixtures will be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.
  10. The decision of the adjudicating panel will be final and binding.

**PUBLIC OFFICERS' WELFARE COUNCIL**  
**Virtual Public Speaking Competition**  
**Participation Form**

Name: (Mr./Mrs./Miss).....

Ministry/Department/Division:.....

Designation: .....

Residential Address:.....

.....

Phone No: (Mob).....(Res).....(Off).....

Email Address: .....Fax No: .....

Signature: .....

Date:.....

**To be certified and sealed by Supervising Officer of the Ministry/Department/Division**

<b>Name</b>	..... .....	
<b>Post Held</b>	.....	
<b>Telephone No</b>	<b>Office:</b> .....	<b>Mobile:</b> .....
<b>Signature:</b>	.....	<b>Date:</b> .....