

**Address of the Minister for Social Development and Culture, Bernard Shamlaye
For the Inauguration of the Women's Hall of Fame, National Cultural Centre,
International Women's Day, 8th March 2012, 10 a.m.**

Designated Minister,
Ministers,
The Ambassador for Women and Children's Issues,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Distinguished Guests, Relatives and friends of the Women we honour today,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Children and Young People,

Today, 8th March, in countries all over the world people are celebrating International Women's Day; in many different ways. In Seychelles the President has sent a special message to women and girls. Several workplaces have their own ways of showing appreciation for their female staff and their contribution to their organisations and society. I'm sure that in many homes, husbands and children have a special word or other way of showing love and appreciation to wives, mothers, daughters and sisters.

The celebration recognizes the long struggle for women's emancipation and the progress made as well as the continuing efforts to eradicate all forms of discrimination against women wherever they exist and all remaining situations where women are victims because they are women.

The celebration should also be a celebration of women for who they are. I invite each one of us to take some time to reflect on the importance the women in our lives have had and have on us. The woman or women could be our mother, grandmother, wife, sister, cousin, daughter.... It could also be someone well-respected in the community, a teacher, a nurse, a social worker, a nun, an artist... Somebody who has inspired us or somebody who has, at one point or other, given us a helping hand or an attentive ear... Let us reflect and say 'thank you' to them.

Our celebration of Women's Day this year is also the occasion for the launching of the Hall of Fame to honour women who have made a meaningful contribution to society and deserve to be recognised and known, now and in the future. I thank the committee, the group of women led by Ambassador Marie-Pierre Lloyd, who have been working on the Hall of Fame initiative since last year and I am certain that they will continue this important work of recognition and inspiration.

Madanm, Manmzel, Msye, letablisman sa 'Hall of Fame' – sa Galeri Laglwar oswa Galeri Rekonesans - i en travay neser pour rekonnet madanm kin fer en kontribisyon ki konte dan nou sosyete; en kontribisyon ki'n fer en diferans, ki'n tous lavi dimoun. Me sa Galeri Rekonesans i pa konsern zis lepase. I osi konsern leprezan. Nou souete ki i enspir leprezan ek lavenir.

Nou souete ki zanzan ek zenn, enkli zenn fiy byensir, i trouv dan zistwar, dan lavi, sa bann madanm bon legzanp ek lenspirasyon pour zot prop lavi. Nou souete ki zot servi tou loportinite ki zot annan – loportinite ki sa bann madanm ti napa - pour zot devlopman. E dan nou pei Sesel, loportinite ek servis pour zenn pa manke; ki swa ledikasyon, lasante, sport, kiltir, pti biznes ek lezot ankor; loportinite ki dan bokou pei zenn i zis reve.

Tenm enternasyonal pour Lazournen Madanm sa lannen i 'Connecting girls; inspiring futures' – Konekte bann fiy; enspir lavenir. I annan plizyer fason ki nou kapab enterpret sa tenm. Nou konekte bann fiy e enspir zot lavenir ek lavenir lasosyete par donn zot diferan loportinite pour devlope e kontribye.

Mon ti a kontan sizere ki i osi enportan, i tre enportan, ki zenn fiy i konekte avek bann valer ek bann bon labitid ki pour ed zot epanouir e vin bann adilt, bann manman, bann madanm, bann sitwayen, responsab, kapab e fyer.

I enportan ki zot konekte avek zot prop etr, avek zot konsyans, zot lanm. Ki zot apresye sa don Bondye ki zot ete; zot apresye zot valer; e zot gard zot lanmourprop, zot *self-esteem*, e pa les zot ganny trennen pour abes zot lekor e perdi zot dinnyite.

En lavenir briyan, en lavenir vo lapenn, i depan lo lenvestisman ki ganny fer ozordi. Mon envit bann zenn fiy pour investir depi pti, investir ozordi menm, dan zot lavenir. Pa tay avek lavi; pran letan pour grandi e pour aprann. Aprann fer bon swa ki pa pou anpay zot demen; ki pa pa pou anpay zot demen. Investir dan devlopman zot konesans, konpetans ek personalite.

E mon envit paran, ansennyan, travayer sosyal, tou adilt, pour pa zanmen abandonn bann zenn; *never give up on them*. Konekte avek zot toulezour. Ed zot leve si zot tonbe. Ankouraz zot pour regard demen avek konfyans ki zot annan zot plas ladan e pour investir ladan. Enspir zot pour fer sa ki byen, sa ki bon, sa ki anbelir lavi.

Ozordi nou selebre madanm ek fiy. Sa i byen e i neser.

Avan mon fini, mon ti a kontan sizere ki dan sityasyon nou sosyete aktyelman, i osi annan nesite pour annan mezir spesyal ek latasyon partikilye konsernan zonn ek garson.

Mon oule sizere ki Departman Devlopman Sosyal, Devlopman Kominoter, Ledikasyon, Lasante ek Lanplwa ansanm avek lezot partner dan lasosyete sivil i ranforsi travay konserte pour adres problemn e devlop potansyel zonn ek garson Seselwa pour ki zot pran zot plas e kontribye plennman dan lafanmir, lakominote ek lasosyete.

E ki le 19 Novanm Sesel i zwenn lezot pei ki pe deza mark Lazournen Enternasyonal Zonn e servi li pour selebre zonn ek garson ek zot rol enportan.

Madanm, Manmzel, Msye, Departman Kiltir i fyer pour abrit Galeri Rekonesans Madanm. E mon annan gran loner pour inogir sa Galeri.

Je vous souhaite toutes et tous une bonne et heureuse Journée internationale de la femme.