MINISTER’S MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF “WORLD DONOR DAY”
14th JUNE 2018.

Every year the 14th of June is celebrated as “World donor Day.” Around the world activities are organized to raise awareness of the importance of blood donation as well as to recognize the contribution of voluntary unpaid blood donors in saving and improving health.

The theme for this year’s World donor day celebration is “Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life.” Today provides a unique opportunity to thank those special people that have voluntarily given their blood to save lives and all our current blood donors. Donating blood is a very noble act and for those of you who are willing to assist your fellow human beings, often people you do not know, this is one of the greatest gift to human mankind, it can only come as a gift from such wonderful and selfless people like you.

Hundreds of lives are saved each year through blood transfusion. In many countries, including Seychelles, one of the strategies for ensuring the safety, quality and availability of adequate blood supplies is by the collection of blood from voluntary non-remunerated donors. Evidence from around the world demonstrates that patients who receive blood from voluntary non-remunerated donors, are at the lowest risk of acquiring blood-borne infections through blood transfusion.

The need for blood is constantly growing and maintaining a constant supply of blood is a real challenge. We need to acknowledge that at times it is not easy to meet the demands due to the small size of the blood donor population in Seychelles. It is for this reason that I would like to take this opportunity today to make a special appeal to all eligible people across the
country to enlist as voluntary blood donors in support of our quest to save lives and provide quality care to those in need.

Providing safe and adequate blood is an integral part of every country’s national health care policy and infrastructure. The Ministry of Health is aware that we need to work with different partners to maintain and strengthen our blood donation programme. In this regard we are proud to partner with World Health Organization (WHO), Seychelles Red Cross, Communities, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and religious groups in spreading the message to encourage more people to donate blood. We are also happy that more organizations are willing to assist by encouraging their employees to become blood donors so as to maintain and improve our achievements and ensure a sustainable and safe blood supply.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the significant role the mass & social media can play in drawing the public attention to the importance of blood donation and recognition of the individuals who donate their blood for people unknown to them.

Once again I would like to use this opportunity to thank every blood donor in Seychelles for their self-sacrifice and their invaluable contribution to improve the health of so many. Donating blood is an act of solidarity, generosity and humanism.

I would like to appeal to everyone to please pass on the message, “Be there for some else. Give blood. Share life”

Thank you.