

LETTER OF THE DAY

Decent dressing will improve public servants image, efficiency

There has been controversy surrounding the directive by Public Service Ministry Permanent Secretary on how public servants should present themselves in terms of dress code. The directive came following an observation that public servants have continued to dress in a manner that does not portray a good image of civil service and does not fall within the generally acceptable standards of the community.

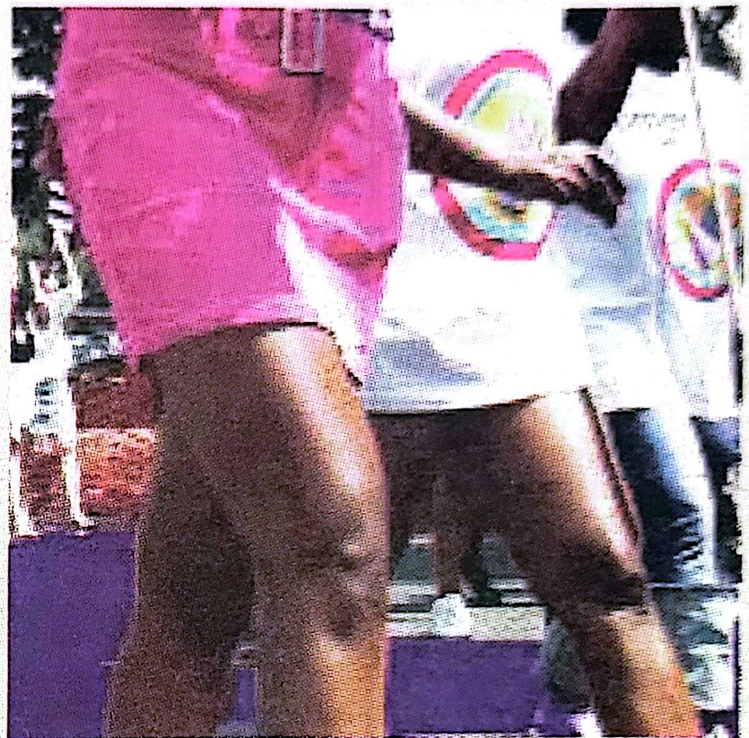
Some public servants, for example, the female workers, have been wearing miniskirts, exaggerated jewelry, short blouses showing cleavage, open shoes, and indecent hairstyles, among others.

On the other hand, their male counterparts have been wearing jeans and open shoes on working days, and this has tarnished the otherwise good image of public service. This has also caused decline in performance, especially on the side of the male workers, who complain of being distracted by females who dress indecently.

I believe the directive is a good move, which unfortunately has been misunderstood by sections of the public. While some people regard the requirement as a violation of human rights, I beg to disagree because morally decent dress code does not only portray a person as respectable, but it also speaks volumes about them.

Therefore, the government's emphasis on decency is well-intentioned, especially for the image and brand of public service in particular and the country as a whole.

In addition, if implemented, the directive will increase



the efficiency and effectiveness of public servants since they will be able to work without any distractions that come with indecent dressing.

Therefore, I call upon all stakeholders to enforce the directive so as to protect the good image of public service as well as the country.

**Natasha Mariam,
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