Did you know? Public Officers in Mauritius spend around 1,546 hours at work per year, which represents an average of almost half of their active lifetime.

This issue portrays seven of SM staff who retired from the service during the period 2013/14 after dedicating at most 61,830 hours of their time to their respective professional career.

**Mr. Narain LALLJEE** started with us as a Statistical Clerk on 12 January 1976, where he was rapidly promoted to the post of Statistical Assistant (now Statistical Officer) on 03 February 1978. Today, Mr. Lalljee embraces a full sense of satisfaction after 37 years of service, leaving behind this image of him as being the referee of the CSO football team.

**Mr. Geenachund KHAYTOO** joined the Public Service as a Relief Worker on 09 September 1970. After spending 43 years working in the administrative environment, he penned down as a Management Support Officer. Like the old dictum, “words fly away, writings remain”, and so will remain his beautiful handwriting in SM’s Registry files.

**Mr. Mohamed Safik BOODOO** joined the then CSO as Statistical Assistant on 21 October 1974. Through his insatiable appetite for challenges, he advanced steadily on the professional level until his promotion as Statistician on 15 May 2000. His fragile figure belies his biggest forte – his wisdom and determination. He called it a truce after 39 years in the service.

**Mr. Pradooman SEENAUTH** commenced his career as a Clerical Assistant on 03 October 1973 and shifted to the technical cadre as Statistical Assistant on 04 June 1975. He climbed the promotion ladder and was nominated Senior Statistical Assistant (now Senior Statistical Officer) on 01 September 1981. Still today we can catch a whiff of flowers’ fragrance left by his departure.

**Mr. Smet CHAUMOO** was one of the very first Principal Statistical Officers nominated on 01 July 2013. His 40-year journey kicked off when he joined the service as Statistical Assistant on 21 January 1974. He knows SM as the back of his hand, and those who want an answer on the nitty-gritty of productivity, he is your man!

**Mrs. Surekha BHIAJEE** debuted as a Trainee Clerical Officer on 02 July 1990. On 01 July 1992 her career took a new turn when she was nominated Statistical Clerk. Soon, in 1993, she moved a step further after her promotion as Statistical Assistant. The only thing that shines brighter than her hard work is her sweet smile and positive attitude.

**Mr. Anwar BAHADOOR** took employment as Clerical Officer/Higher Clerical Officer in the Public Sector on 02 May 1972. His career flourished year by year until on 26 March 2005 he was assigned the post of Senior Financial Operations Officer. Who has never bumped into this 5-ft man who would greet you with a joke? An extreme combination of zen attitude and professionalism is what makes him so special.

On Wednesday 14th of May 2014, a farewell party was thrown in their honour, an initiative of the President of the CSO Staff Welfare Association endorsed by the Director. It did not go unnoticed that almost every SM staff called present up to a point that the briefing room was packed. A day marked with moments of intense emotions: from the Director’s heartfelt speech to our retired friends’ touching words. Captured in images are some good memories: laughter, gifts and shields, cakes and drinks!