

**Republic of Seychelles
Office of the President**

PRESS RELEASE

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MINISTER MORGAN MOVES TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER IN PRISON

Following the President's assignment of the Prisons portfolio to Minister Joel Morgan today, the Minister has announced that Mr. Maxime Tirant has been appointed as the new Superintendent of Prisons; he was formerly Assistant Superintendent of Police. Mr. Tirant will report directly to Minister Morgan.

The Government has thanked the former Superintendent of Prisons Benediste Hoareau for his services and contribution to the prison system. Mr Hoareau has been assigned other duties in the public service.

As part of the first stage of the restructuring strategy of the prison system, Minister Morgan has stated that today he co-opted the Police force, backed by the Military Police, to restore law and order, as well as security in the prison in the public interest and in the interest of the inmates' safety.

All illegal materials, weapons, and substances are being removed from the Prison, so as to render the prison safe and to allow the new management to start its work with an orderly system in place.

Prison discipline is being restored in line with international norms for such.

During the operation special emphasis was placed on the professional conduct of the Police and the respect for the prisoner's human rights.

During the Search and Clean-up Operation, a number of prison inmates caused damage to prison infrastructure and attempted to leave the main prison building. They were restrained by the Police and instructed to return to their cells. Those that did not were given further instruction to return to their cells and eventually teargas was used to restore order.

There have been no injuries during the operation, with the exception of a few minor scratches and 10 persons were treated for tear gas exposure by a doctor on site. Two persons were subsequently referred to Victoria Hospital for further treatment. No shots were fired during the operation and there have been no escapes of prisoners from the Montagne Posée Prison.

