

President Danny Faure

Three Years in Office

Key Achievements

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Foreword



On 16 October 2016 I was sworn in to office. I took the Oath of Allegiance and the Presidential Oath, and pledged to keep the Seychellois people at the centre of all development. I shared my principles of a country where every citizen lives in dignity, and our policies are based on principles of fairness, equal opportunities, and social justice. I promised to promote national unity, creating space for honest discussion, dialogue, and cooperation.

Over the last 3 years, I have remained sincere to my promises. The country is more stable. Families, workplaces and communities are less divided by politics. There is space for dialogue and different ideas to co-exist. I exercise a leadership of non-interference, empowering decision-makers to deliver on their objectives in line with transparency, accountability and good governance. I run an open government, where policy-making is transparent and there are consultations with the public. I do not hesitate to review decisions if they are not benefiting the people we serve.

We have legislation in place to ensure everyone has access to information. We strengthened the media and our communications with the public. We have created reporting mechanisms to hold institutions accountable. Our development is guided by Vision 2033 and a National Development Strategy. We have new international partners, ready to support the country as we continue to nurture our Blue Economy agenda. I have encouraged the growth of the private sector and its rightful contribution to the creation of wealth and economic prosperity. At the core of all decisions is commitment to the social, economic and overall wellbeing of our population.

Our progress is a result of working together, united in the belief that Seychelles is greater than us all. Our development proves that the road to national unity is not one of partisan politics or aggression, but one of dialogue and compassion. When each one of us does good, collectively our society becomes a stronger, happier one.

We are a country of less than 100,000 people, one big family. An act of ill-will or malice against one person is a crime against us all. We must continue to nurture the harmony, peace and unity that defines our country, and resist any efforts to create discord and divide us. As a nation, we will continue to promote peace, freedom and the fundamental right of all people to live in dignity.

During the course of our journey together over the last 3 years, I have learnt from you to always keep our sights focused on the issues greater than ourselves: the welfare of our people and our country.

I pledge to continue working for you. I remain committed to the sustainable development of Seychelles, where your well-being is at the centre. It is a privilege to serve my country and people, strengthened by the conviction that Seychelles is greater than us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Faure', with a stylized circular mark at the beginning.

Mr. Danny Faure

President of the Republic of Seychelles



1,574

Number of students that have benefited from the laptop scheme since 2017

1,500

Number of youths who benefited from the holiday programme in 2019



100%

100% of schools provide free Wi-Fi

Education

“

We need to make sure that our children and our young people do not just learn in school, but that they learn in their homes and in their communities too; appreciation and respect for human rights, respect for authority, respect for those close to them, and most importantly, self-respect. Let us recommit ourselves to ensuring our children also learn about our local traditions and heritage, which are so rich and form the foundation of our shared identity. If we fail to act, we will lose our culture.

President Faure SONA 2019

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Summary of Cabinet decisions - Education and Human Resources

Behaviour Intervention Programme

Cabinet approved provisions proposed by the Education Department to support pupils with difficult and problematic behaviours. Three Behaviour Intervention Programmes were implemented for students with unruly behaviour in secondary schools. There was noted improvement in students' behaviour at the end of the programme. Parents were eager for their children to be enrolled on the programme.

The Youth Engagement Programme is still being implemented. There is noted positive influence on both parents and students behaviour.

The Day Programme which provided for students from Mahé only, helped to improve the students' sense of discipline. Students ensured that they arrived early on the programme despite having to take the public bus.

The Youth Integrated Support Programme (residential) catered for larger groups from all secondary schools. Students who had dropped out had the possibility of being integrated in their respective secondary schools. It helped to develop their life skills.

Amendment to the Language Policy for Maths instruction

Cabinet approved for English to become the language of instruction for Maths from Primary One and for Creole to remain as a language of support for the subject and as the medium of instruction for all subjects in the National curriculum.

Since the implementation of the new policy, the Key stage one analysis for Mathematics indicates that English as a medium of instruction for Mathematics is an advantage for primary one and two learners as there has been an improvement in the results.

Introduction of a Teacher Appraisal Performance Allowance

In order to recognise the hard work of teachers and middle leaders, Cabinet approved for the introduction of an allowance system in line with the approved teacher appraisal policy (2015) that would remunerate teachers with excellent performance on their appraisal. The allowance was implemented in October 2017. A total of 597 teachers from primary schools and 224 secondary school teachers benefited from the performance allowance. In order to continue to improve on the system the appraisal policy is being reviewed. The review is based on an evaluation carried out on the implementation of the appraisal system. The revised system will be implemented in 2020.

2018 Annual International debate for children

Cabinet approved the hosting of the 2018 Annual International debate for children in Seychelles by the Ministry of Education & Human Resource development, in collaboration with international partners. The debate took place in July 2018. Seychellois students participated in the different discussions alongside international students and they learned from the experience. A few were awarded prizes for the different categories.

Social Contract

Approval was given by Cabinet to amend the Education Act to include provision to sanction parents/legal guardians who fail to honour their obligations to the school management on behalf of their compulsory schools aged children. The Education (Amendment) Bill 2017 was passed by the National Assembly in December 2017. Revision of the SI 65 on School Governance has been done subsequent to the enactment of the Education Amendment Act 2017.

Emanating from the decision, the Education (Contractual Obligations Regulation) 2019 has been developed and will be implemented in 2020. The Education (Contractual Obligations Regulation) 2019 is in its final phase before gazetting where a clause on mandatory screening of children and sanction for parents failing to honour their obligations as defined in the Education (Contractual Obligations Regulation) 2019.

Increasing access to University level education and training

In order to provide more access to training and internship to graduates of professional Centres, the President announced that the top five students in each professional Centre would be awarded with a scholarship. In October 2017 Cabinet approved the process for implementation of these awards. More graduates from Professional Centres now have access to University level education and training. From 2017 to 2019 a total of 124 students from Professional Centres have been awarded Government of Seychelles (GOS) scholarships in various fields.

Proposal to amend the Government of Seychelles Scholarship Scheme

In order to provide more transparency and equity in the award of government scholarships, Cabinet approved for the development of Scholarships Bill. The MEHRD and the Department of Legal Affairs are finalising the Bill for presentation to Cabinet.

Increase in Stipend for Students on Government Scholarships in Tanzania

Students on Government of Seychelles Scholarships receive a stipend to cater for their living expenses while studying. A regular review of the stipend rates is done in line with cost of living in the study country. In November 2017 Cabinet approved for an increased stipend for students studying in Tanzania. Learners are better able to cope with the cost of living in Tanzania.

National Anti-bullying policy and strategy

The Anti-Bullying Policy and Strategy was approved for implementation in all educational institutions. Schools have completed their anti-bullying procedures and guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the policy in their respective schools.

A Steering Committee has been set up at Ministry level to guide and support schools in implementing the policy. Schools are partnering with civil society organisations in the implementation of anti-bullying initiatives.

Phased implementation of the Decentralized Authority Framework for the Professional Centres

Professional Centres have been delegated authority with regards to human resource management, administration and finance through the Decentralisation Authority Framework being implemented in phases effective May 2018. The Board and management of Professional Centres have increased responsibility and accountability with regards to the governance, leadership and management of the institutions as per their Charter and statutes in place.

Cluster Account Staff are in operation since May 2018 and the Director for Professional Centres Human Resource and Administration is in post since July 2018.

Strategies to provide secondary school students during their compulsory stage of education, the opportunity to improve their education and training prospects and employability, by teaching them the appropriate competences (skills, attitudes and knowledge).

Cabinet approved strategies to provide secondary school students during their compulsory stage of education, the opportunity to improve their education and training prospects and employability, by teaching them the appropriate competences (skills, attitudes and knowledge). These included the reduction of school dropouts and provision of second chance education to secondary school students during their compulsory stage of education. It also included the implementation of a Structured Work-Based Learning programme (School Apprenticeship) for S4 and S5 students from the General Secondary Education and Skills Development pathway in partnership with the Department of Employment.

National Implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning

RPL is a systematic, rigorous and consistent process to evaluate all learning acquired by an individual throughout his/her schooling life, during workshops, work experience or life experience.

Cabinet approved the National Guidelines for the Implementation of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in July 2018. The Policy is being implemented by SQA through an Action Plan. To date 13 candidates have graduated of which five are from the RPL pilot programme.

Concept Paper for the Establishment of a Technical and Vocational School for middle secondary (S4-S5) on Ile Soleil

In July 2018, Cabinet approved the concept for the setting up of the Technical and Vocational School on Ile Soleil for S4 and S5 students. The school, which will be run by the private sector while government will pay the tuition fees of students; will allow for the development of skills for the workplace. The school will accommodate around 500 students.

Regulation for Recruitment of International Learners in Tertiary Education Institutions

Tertiary education and training institutions will be able to recruit learners from abroad to follow programmes on offer locally in specified areas where Seychelles is leading such as blue economy, tourism and environment. Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) is now finalizing the paper to be transformed into regulations.

National Human Resource Development (HRD) Policy and Strategy

The revised Policy 2018, Strategy and Implementation Plan (2018) were approved by Cabinet in September 2018. Prominence is given to youth empowerment through education and training for sustainable employment in areas of national needs. The official launching of the HRD Policy and Strategy took place on the 18th December 2018 and is in implementation.

Introduction of a Teacher Relief Cadre for Primary and Secondary Schools

In order to increase the teaching staff in public schools and minimise disruptions in teaching and learning due to long absences by full time teaching staff, Cabinet approved the introduction of a Teacher Relief Cadre for Primary and Secondary Schools. The Scheme became operational in term two of 2019. There are altogether 14 relief teachers helping out in both primary and secondary schools. Relief teachers are mainly those who have retired and are still interested in offering their services to education.

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Activity 1: Laptop scheme to be made available to students from S1

Outcome

So far 1,574 students between S1 and S3 have used the scheme. 9,452 students have used this scheme since its inception. Administrative measures are also in place to ensure that an individual can use the scheme more than once, provided 60 months have elapsed between uses. Information regarding this is available in an online scheme brochure.

2017

Activity 3: Five best students of each post-secondary school to be given opportunities for further studies or work experience

Outcome

To date 124 students have been awarded under this programme.

2018

Activity 2: Introduce wi-fi in all schools

Outcome

The first school went 'live' in second term of 2018. As at August 2019, all schools were connected.

2019

Activity 4: Increase efforts to teach children about the culture of our nation

Outcome

Seychelles Heritage Foundation have held nine events in 2019 (up to August) involving children aged between 6-17 years. Library Services have held activities during the holidays. National Museums have visited 13 schools during term time (1,287 students) and held activities during holidays. Other departments are also having activities; Kreol Institute of Seychelles, Public Library Section of the Department of Culture, National Conservatoire of Performing Arts and National Arts Council. For children to participate, they can visit the Department of Culture for more information.





97%

of orthopaedic operations were performed locally in 2017

99%

of our pregnant mothers made at least 4 antenatal visits during their pregnancy



Since 2017, patients have been able to collect their medication from a pharmacy of their choice

Health

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The health of our nation also depends on the health of our people. The illnesses prevalent in our society today are comparable to the situation in developed countries of the world. Our healthcare system has a good level of performance on the treatment of these illnesses, but our challenge today is prevention. Our lifestyle choices today play a big role in the condition of our health tomorrow.

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President Faure SONA 2018

Summary of Cabinet decisions - Health

Temperature Control Regulation under Food Act

Cabinet approved for the drafting of the temperature control regulations under the Food Act. The final drafting of the regulations is being done by the Department of Legal Affairs in consultation with the Food Control Committee.

The new regulations will address the regulatory limits for keeping ready to eat food for sale to the public at a temperature range that would ensure their safety by preventing the multiplication of pathogenic microorganisms or formation of toxins. It will also prevent 'temperature-abuse' during handling hence prevent spoilage of high risk foods and preserve the quality and integrity of these food. These new practices will lead to public health protection and prevention of food-borne diseases.

Policy on open air food vending in Seychelles

This policy decision was necessary to alleviate concern amongst governmental organizations on the increasingly problematic practice of open air food vending. Public health was seen to be at risk, and particular attention was drawn to the tourists who tend to buy attractive food and drinks on sale which are not fit for consumption.

The Food Control Board will be working on a Regulation for Open Air Food Vending during its new mandate.

Proposal to establish Public Health Authority Regulation for Registrations of Health related practice

Cabinet gave approval for drafting of regulations for registrations of health related practice. Provision is made under the Public Health Authority Act 2013, under Part V (14) and Part IX for the proposed Registration of Health Related Regulation. This Regulation intends to establish a platform whereby all health related practitioners can register and be issued with the relevant certificate determining their scope of practice; ensure that they operate within set standards and adhere to all conditions specified in their certificate.

This was seen necessary to regulate the rapid expansion and emergence of numerous privately operated health related services in the country to ensure the operations are within set guidelines and conditions established by the Public Health Authority.

Recommendation to restrict advertisement for alcohol products

Several studies have shown high prevalence of alcohol drinking in Seychelles, including among youths. Multiple interventions in different sectors are needed to reduce alcohol consumption in the population. Cabinet approved for Ban or restriction on alcohol advertising as a cost effective measure to reduce social desirability of alcohol consumption.

Proposal for Seychelles to introduce Tax on Sugar Sweetened Beverages

In Seychelles, overweight and obesity affect more than 60% of adults and 20% of children and adolescents, which is far above the global average. The prevalence of diabetes, which is largely attributable to excess weight, has doubled in 20 years and 12% of the adult population has diabetes. Around a third of the patients undergoing haemodialysis have renal failure resulting from diabetes.

Sugar Sweetened Beverages are a major source of sugar in the diet in Seychelles, and its consumption is increasing, especially amongst children and adolescents. The Global School-based Student Health Survey conducted in 2015 showed that 69% of adolescents drink carbonated soft-drinks daily. In order to curtail the use of Sugar Sweetened Beverages Cabinet approved for a sugar tax to be implemented on sugar sweetened beverages. This was implemented on 1st April 2019.

Hospital redevelopment plan

Cabinet approved the hospital redevelopment master plan. This multi-year, multi-million-rupee undertaking will be implemented in phases. The project takes into consideration the population growth of the country, the current and future disease patterns and expected technological advances.

It seeks to modernize Seychelles Hospital by adding new buildings and services and bringing all the facilities up to international standards. This will contribute to raising the quality of care and improving the patient experience during their encounter with the health service. It is a much needed investment and the returns on this investment in terms of its contribution to bringing about a healthy, happy and productive population, is huge.

Review of Mental Health Act

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which Seychelles is a signatory is considered the gold standard against which modern mental health legislation is assessed. Cabinet approved for the repeal of the Mental Health Act 2006 which falls short of this gold standard in several areas to be replaced by a new law. The new law will put mental illness at par with physical illness, so that persons with mental illness can receive the same care and benefits as persons with physical illness.

Adjustable Beds for Home Use

Cabinet approved a programme to provide assistance to households with bed ridden family members to acquire hospital type beds to facilitate the care of the bed ridden people at home. Beneficiaries are means-tested to determine to what extent they will participate in sharing

the cost of these highly sophisticated beds. One bed may cost up to USD 3000 (42,000SCR).

Families will be better able to care for their loved ones at home without the need to demand that their loved ones be admitted to hospital or institutionalized indefinitely. This will contribute to the strengthening of family cohesion and remove the burden of guilt when relatives demand that their loved ones be taken from home for long term institutionalization.

Regulation on Alternative Nicotine Delivery System (ANDS), including electronic cigarettes

Electronic cigarettes, vaping products, heated tobacco products and other modern smokeless nicotine products intended to be inhaled through the mouth are collectively known as “alternative nicotine delivery systems” (ANDS). ANDS have in common that they do not produce smoke from burnt tobacco, which makes them much less harmful than combustible cigarettes. Cabinet approved for the development of the regulation on ANDS on 20th February 2019. The regulation is currently being drafted by the Department of Legal Affairs.

The Regulations are necessary since the 2009 Seychelles tobacco control Act does not directly address ANDS as these devices were not commonly available when the legislation was developed.

Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment Act

This law is aimed at facilitating medical experts' decision making with regards to overseas diagnosis and treatment. It provides the legal framework for the overseas treatment programme which has existed since the early 1980s without a legal framework and therefore without legally binding rights and responsibilities of all the parties involved. It was felt that a legal framework allows for more accountability, transparency and good governance in the implementation of the programme.

The law is in full implementation. An independent overseas diagnosis and treatment board has been appointed and effectively managing all aspects of the overseas diagnosis and treatment programme including requests for refunds in cases where patients decide upon themselves to seek treatment overseas.

Now that there is a new law, all potential beneficiaries will know upfront what is it that they are entitled to and what is it that they are not entitled to. It will allow all parties in authority to manage expectations and for resources to be allocated where they are needed most, i.e. in the restoration of health and wellbeing.

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy

Cabinet formally approved a policy framework for sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents in Seychelles.

The absence of a policy framework meant that there were many grey areas in matters related to sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and youth, the access of adolescents to the required health services and information and this could be a contributing factor for the relatively high accidental pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

The policy is being implemented to increase and consolidate priority health services for adolescents and youth.

National Strategic Plan and Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for HIV and AIDS 2019-2023

Cabinet gave approval for a new National Strategic Plan and Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for HIV and AIDS primarily but also Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections in Seychelles. The new plan which takes into account the current state of the epidemic in Seychelles and the current state of the international science for managing the epidemic successfully.

The National Strategic Plan and its accompanying monitoring and evaluation framework has the primary goal of achieving 90-90-90 as early as possible and preferably before 2023. 90-90-90 means 90% of all people living with HIV will have been diagnosed, 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV will be receiving treatment and 90% of people on treatment will be virally suppressed, in other words, will not be able to transmit the virus to others. The plan outlines a clear strategy to achieve this goal, whilst also creating an atmosphere of zero stigmatisation and discrimination toward those that are infected. The plan and strengthens the delivery of HIV prevention, treatment and care services.

Ratification of protocol for elimination of Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (ITTP)

Illicit trade in tobacco products results in increased accessibility, affordability and consumption of tobacco products and a rise in tobacco related diseases. This impacts negatively on public health efforts to reduce the burden of tobacco-related disease (7 million deaths worldwide in 2017). Illicit trade undermines legal restrictions on tobacco products, e.g. those on health warnings and sales to minors. It tends to increase consumption of tobacco control because illicit tobacco products escape tax and can be sold at lower prices. It also permits tobacco companies to subvert international cooperation in tobacco control.

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is a legally binding treaty ratified by 179 countries, including the Seychelles. The Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products is a protocol that further defines legal provisions building on Article 15 of the FCTC (illicit trade in tobacco products). The Protocol was adopted by all parties at the FCTC Conference of Parties (including Seychelles) in 2012 and it entered into force in June 2018 after it was ratified by several countries.

The Protocol aims at eliminating all forms of illicit trade in tobacco products. It provides legal tools for preventing illicit trade by securing the supply chain of tobacco products, including the establishment of an international tracking and tracing system and enabling international cooperation.

Cabinet approved for ratification of the Protocol on 18th July 2018. The Protocol will be presented to the National Assembly for approval.

Regulation for banning of sales of cigarettes in single unit

On 20 March 2019 Cabinet approved the proposed regulation to ban sale of cigarettes or any other tobacco products loose or in single sticks to any person. The regulation also specifies that any packet of cigarettes containing less than 10 cigarettes shall not be sold by a person selling tobacco products. The regulation also includes offences and fines. The Regulation came in to force on 1st July 2019.

The regulation is in line with the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) under article 16 recommends that "Each Party shall endeavour to prohibit the sale of cigarettes individually or in small packets which increase the affordability of such products to minors".

Regulation for contaminants and food labelling

The Food Act (Contaminant) Regulations 2019, and the Food Act (Labelling of Pre-Packaged Foods) Regulations 2019, are two regulations which were already in existence they were amended recently in such a way to ensure that the existence of gaps and weaknesses are addressed in order to augment public health protection, improve fair trade practices and comply with the Seychelles regional and international obligations in food trades.

Through implementation of these revised regulations, consumers will be exposed to safer supply of foods (mainly processed foods) contributing to better level of health protection. Consumer expectations will be addressed and their confidence in the regulatory authority will also improve.

Pre-packaged foods will be better labelled (nutritional information, date marking, types of ingredient, presence of allergens, etc.) thus providing the consumers with necessary information required to enable the making of choices before purchasing a food item.

The Competent Authority will also be able to make better decisions when performing inspection of food commodities.

Regulation for food import and health certificate

A new regulation to regulate the importation of milk and milk products was approved. A decision was taken to produce such regulation after continuous screening of aflatoxin M1 (a carcinogenic component) found in milk by the Seychelles Public Health Laboratory. The enforcement will start once the baseline survey on milk importation has been completed.





AIDS

Know your
Konn ou s

AIDS

LAIDS COUNCIL
Village Complex, Mont
Mahé, Republic of S
5022/ 4325 505

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

Activity 1: More education and information on healthy living

Outcome

A high level committee chaired by the Designated Minister, Mrs Macsuzy Mondon on youth health was set up following the recommendations of two surveys on youth behaviours conducted in 2015. Outreach prevention activities were conducted by the HIV Task Force. Household visits were carried out by Public Health Officers aimed at more targeted community vector control interventions. Training of child minders in basic health issues were held. The Nutrition Unit conducted education sessions on healthy eating habits at schools, hotels, media houses and several organisations and monitored tuckshops in schools.

The Health of Our Nation (HOON) initiative launched the campaign **'My Health, My Responsibility-move it!'** to promote physical activity; Several outreach screening programmes for Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) were conducted in collaboration with civil society organisations. Many health promotion activities are conducted to commemorate different World Health days (e.g. World AIDS Day, World Hepatitis Day, etc.). There are also several media programs appearances by the Ministry of Health such as on Bonzour Sesel (TV); studio clinic (SBCAM); K-Radio

Activity 2: Introduce a national health Screening programme Outcome

Outcome

In 2017 a national oral health Screening Program for S1 and S5 students was launched.

S1 students screened – 1066 of 1183 (90.1%)

S4 students screened – 801 of 994 (80.6%)

S5 students screened – 896 of 1174 (76.3%)

December 2018 a new program was launched

S1 students screened – 710 of 1436 (49.4%)

S4 students screened – 515 of 1284 (41.1%)

Activity 3: Increase focus on prevention in district clinics and regional health centres

Outcome

Different health centres are working with the community to increase health promotion. The Beau Vallon health centre organises regular activities with members of the community especially, younger members to educate them about various health matters.

The English River Health Centre also has some targeted activities. A breakfast study was conducted with school children in the district to understand their breakfast patterns. The study allowed health workers to liaise with parents to advise on the best practices. There is also an ongoing activity between the health centre and a group of families within the Perseverance area. The trial project features a group of families being continuously monitored by health staff to record their health and give advice.

2017

Activity 4: Submit to the National Assembly a law on criteria for getting funding for overseas medical treatment

Outcome

The Overseas Treatment Bill 2018 was gazetted on 18 May 2018. The Overseas Treatment Act 5 of 2018 was assented on 23 July 2018. Its date of commencement was 24 July 2018. Board members were appointed on 23 August 2018.

The Overseas Treatment Act came into operation on 8 October 2018.

2017

Activity 5: Mechanism will be in place to allow chronic disease patients to collect their regular medication from any clinic or health centre of their choice

Outcome

Introduced in 2017 patients are now able to access a personalised service for repeat prescriptions; medicine that you use for a long period of time. They are able to choose a pharmacy of their choice that is more convenient for pick-up.

2019

Activity 6: Introduce a medical testing framework for people who have been diagnosed with cancers (i.e. cancers with strong hereditary link)

Outcome

Hereditary cancer genetic testing are being conducted to identify population that are at a high risk of cancer development. So far a total of 120 patients and their family members have been tested for hereditary mutation of breast and colon cancers. Family members and patients that are mutation carriers are fast tracked into a screening programme which has the objective of early detection. Counselling and education sessions are also being offered to study participants on modifiable risk factors that can decrease their risk of developing cancer.

Activity 7: Tender out a plot of land at Providence for an international health care provider

Outcome

A feasibility study was conducted and it is possible to develop a specialised hospital on the site selected. The Minister for Health, Jean Paul Adam is in talks with the Government of India on the way forward. The proposed model to be used is a private public partnership based on a 'Build Operate Transfer' Model, whereby the operator will invest to complete the hospital, and then operate it for an agreed time period, after which the asset becomes property of the Seychelles Government.

2019



186

Number of housing units completed & allocated in four districts, as of October 2019 (36 Mont Buxton, 42 Grand Anse Mahe, 24 Baie Ste Anne, 36 St Louis, 24 Beau Vallon, 24 La Digue)

283

Total number of housing units currently under construction (18 Grande Anse Praslin, 16 Bel ombre, 24 Bel Air, 24 English River, 18 Anse Aux Pins, 24 Anse Etoile, 25 Port Glaud, 24 Anse Royale, 16 Mont Fleuri, 24 Pointe Larue, 16 Roche Caiman, 8 Les Mamelles, 22 Plaisance, 24 Cascade).



Port Victoria will undergo an overhaul and expansion, enabling the country to maximize on revenue opportunities.

Housing and Infrastructure

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Government is committed to make a real difference in solving the housing crisis. The majority of letters that I receive from our citizens is about their hardship and sacrifice in their pursuit of a place they can call home. Each family ought to be assisted in line with their genuine needs, and each family ought to contribute in line with their means. We have limited resources, and consequently, Government must ensure that people contribute appropriately in order for more families to be assisted.

President Faure SONA 2018

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Summary of Cabinet decisions - Housing

Review of the Criteria on the Land Points System

Cabinet approved new criteria for the Land Points system. The new system will ensure transparency in the process of land application and allocation. The implementation of the Land Points system has led to an increase in the number of applicants who now qualify for land.

Seychelles Geodetic Network Campaign

Cabinet approved the Seychelles Geodetic Network Campaign. The Geodetic Control Network will contribute towards: Reduction in time for cadastral survey due to available reliable controls; professional integrity of land surveyors due to reduction of inconsistencies in surveys carried out relating to the same survey work; Social Stability due to reduction in boundary disputes; Improved project timelines during design stage when conducting engineering survey works due to readily available controls; Compatibility of data gathered from surveying works carried out by various international organizations for specialized need who mostly used WGS84 which is an internationally recognized datum.

East Coast phase IV Reclamation

Cabinet approved a memorandum proposing reclamation for Ile Aurore Extension, Ile Hodoul and yacht basin, Queenie Bay, Zone 20 extension and, Grand Anse Praslin. The detailed project proposal has been done. Budget has been requested for 2020. This project will lead to additional land for development and to initiate Infrastructure Development on Ile Aurore.

Policy for House Construction Assistance by Government on Private properties

Cabinet approved the policy which defined the categories in which Government would assist individuals with construction. The policy defines the type and standards for these projects and the mechanism and participatory contribution assessment. The project which is on-going has improved living conditions, satisfying the need for decent housing for families.

Development Proposal for Ile AUORE

Cabinet approved the development plan for Ile Aurore based on the Land Use Plan prepared as part of the Victoria Master plan. 1500 housing units was proposed, of which 1000 would fall under the social housing group with recreational areas for children in the green spaces. Buildings of Ground plus 8 was also proposed in the mixed use category. Educational facilities (private & public) and an International Convention center was also proposed on the Island.

This project will provide Land for commercial and other uses and an increase in the delivery of social housing to meet demand.

Finance Design and Build Residential Apartment Blocks on Ile Perseverance by Private Sector

Cabinet approved proposal of mechanism for allocating land on Ile Perseverance for Private Sector to develop residential apartments. Part would be for sale by developer to open market, part would be sold at price stipulated by Government for applicants at affordable rates. Cabinet approved that for the first 15 years the developers would be given a grace period at nominal rate.

Cabinet also approved proposal to allow foreign-owned class I construction companies to partner with Seychellois investors to finance design and build residential Apartment Blocks on Ile Perseverance by Private Sector. Following this additional lots have been offered to private developers, conditional to obtaining sanction. This project will lead to increased availability of residential units for both open market and affordable groups nominated by the Ministry.

Feasibility Study for the Construction of Two Tunnels on Mahe

Cabinet approved a proposal for two separate feasibility studies by qualified experts. Two pre-feasibility studies have been completed. The Chinese Government dispatched a technical team which has prepared a detailed report on the project. This project will lead to increased viability for land development on the West coast, better road transport links, additional material for major projects and the possibility for utility links between east and the west coast.

Phasing Out of Old Emergency Housing Units

After Cabinet was updated on the state of the various units in the country a proposal was approved to phase out the units that had outlived their life span over a period of two years. Re-location of tenants is ongoing as housing projects become available. This relocation will lead to long term housing solutions for the tenants.

Policy on Government Assistance for Reconstruction of Residential Units Destroyed by Fire

In order to assist victims of fire disasters, Cabinet approved the form of assistance that Government will provide for the re-construction of residential units. The approval also included the financial participation by home owners who have been affected. This policy is already being implemented and will allow for prompt rehabilitation of families affected by fires.

Development for Cap-Ternay

Cabinet approved development proposals for three projects at Cap Ternay. The site re development will include three facilities namely the Drug Rehabilitation Center, the Youth Hope Residential facilities and the Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA) facilities.

Detailed design for Seychelles National Parks Authority facility has been completed and the outline design for the Drug rehabilitation Centre and the Youth Hope Residential Centre have been undertaken. Funding has been secured for the projects. The Environment Impact Assessment has been conducted.

The Cap Ternay re-development will also ensure that there is continued environment management and Research by Seychelles National Parks Authority.

The Drug Rehabilitation centre will provide for the necessary infrastructure to support citizens who have fallen victim to the drug scourge while the Youth Hope Residential Centre will address issues of anti-social behaviour in the youth with a view to supporting them to excel in society.

Construction of Temporary Housing Units for Emergency Purposes

Being mindful of the need for housing of citizens in the events of an emergency, Cabinet approved for the construction of a temporary housing project in which 42 transition units was proposed to be built at Barbarons.

The project which has led to an increase in availability of transition units for people affected by disaster or in need of temporary re-location has been completed and is in operation.

Part Rental Assistance Policy

The Policy which provides the framework and guideline for PART RENTAL assistance from the Government to housing applicants was approved by Cabinet. The policy provides support to housing applicants who cannot be assisted with a house at a particular moment in time but has seen a need to rent out privately whilst they wait to be assisted but are facing financial difficulties.

The policy has led to better coordination and communication between Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport, the Social Affairs and the Local Government Departments.

The Policy was published in November 2018 and implementation will start in January 2019.

Increased clarity in the process and better case management will lead to a reduction in potential for abuse of the system.

Social Housing Management and Allocation Policy

Cabinet approved the new Policy which provides the framework for allocation and Management of Social housing. It also provides clear guidance on specific terms and conditions under which those houses are allocated. The terms and conditions will be reflected in the agreements made by the Property Management Company (PMC) upon allocation of units to successful applicants.

The policy makes provision for the Housing Point System, the allocation committee and procedures. It also highlights who is eligible to apply for social housing.

It is expected that the new policy framework will provide a more structured approach to housing allocation and client management, thus allowing the Department to have reliable data to plan ahead.

The policy is in full implementation since June 2019 for the allocation of the Transit Homes at Barbarons.

Condominium and Self-Financed Allocation Policy

Cabinet approved the Policy for condominium and self-finance housing which provides clear criteria for who can apply for Condominium and Self-Financed Housing and provides the framework and guideline for allocation of those housing units. The Policy was published in November 2018 and is being implemented. The policy provides for clear qualification criteria for applicants, which makes the selection process transparent.

Increase in Housing Loans Limit for Inner Islands

In view of increasingly high cost of transportation of construction materials to the islands which consequently contribute to the high cost of construction, Cabinet approved a proposal to address the conditions for housing loans for applicants on La Digue and Praslin. Cabinet approved for a reduction in personal contributions for those applicants applying through the Housing Finance Company (HFC). This has resulted in less time for applicants to qualify for a loan and direct benefits towards their construction.

Exchange Policy on Houses and Lands

In order to provide for clarity and uniformity into how exchange cases for land and houses are treated, Cabinet approved the Policy for all types of exchange transaction. Policy was implemented in March 2018.

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Activity 1: Review the Land Allocation System

Outcome

This is effective. In the new revision, the financial ability of applicants has been lowered from 800,000 Rupees to 550,000 Rupees. The salary requirement has decreased from 15,000 Rupees to 12,000 Rupees a month. For those applications where the salary is lower, the Ministry takes any savings into account.

2017

Activity 2: Construct 24 units in 24 districts in 24 months

Outcome

- As at October 2019: 186 units were completed and allocated in four districts (36-Mont Buxton, 42 Grand Anse Mahe, 24 Baie Ste Anne, 36 St Louis, 24 Beau Vallon, 24 La Digue)
- 106 units were completed in four districts but pending allocation until waste water disposal systems are commissioned (40 Takamaka, 18 Anse Boileau, 24 Baie Lazare, 24 Au Cap)
- 283 units are under construction in 14 districts (18 Grand Anse Praslin, 16-Bel Ombre, 24 Bel Air, 24 English River, 18 Anse Aux Pins, 24 Anse Etoile, 25 Port Glaud, 24 Anse Royale, 16 Mont Fleuri, 24 Pointe Larue, 16 Roche Caiman, 8 Les Mammelles, 22 Plaisance and 24 Cascade).

2017

Housing Finance Corporation

Activity 3: Increase Housing Finance Corporation loan tenure from 23 years to 30 years

Outcome

This facility, which became effective in July 2019, is being offered to new clients as well as to existing clients, who already have loans with HFC.

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Activity 4: To introduce a new loan for surveys

Outcome

Aimed at families who have land, but lack the financial means to survey their property, this type of loan was introduced in July 2019. Applications have come in from two districts so far.

2017

Activity 5: To introduce a new instrument for home improvement for families that have been clients for more than 12 years.

This is available and applications have come in from nine districts so far.

2017

Activity 6: Purchase of Beau Vallon promenade

Outcome

The Purchase agreement was signed and payment is being managed by Societe Seychelloise d'Investissements (SSI). Land now belongs to Government and will be developed to better serve the community.

2017

Activity 7: Expansion of Port Victoria

Outcome

This project will see Port Victoria undergo an overhaul and through its expansion, it will simplify daily port operations enabling the country to maximize on revenue opportunities. Financing for the project was secured from the European Union and Agence France de Developement. Detailed technical designs are underway.

2017

Activity 8: Complete works on Praslin Cargo Port

Outcome

Work is in progress. Work on the area and buildings surrounding the Port will facilitate commerce on Praslin and also help reduce the cost of living for Praslinois. This will include warehouse facilities and more space for containers.

2019

Activity 9: Start 600 housing units in 16 districts as part of the 3000 houses projects financed by Govt of India

Outcome

Negotiations for a soft loan with India is ongoing. 45 sites have been identified, of which proposals for 25 sites are already prepared.

Summary of Cabinet decisions - Land Transport

Proposed Plan for Better Traffic Flow in Greater Victoria and Along the East Coast

Following Cabinet approval of proposals to ease traffic flow in Greater Victoria and along the East Coast, a number of actions have been undertaken such as Construction of a bypass road in the Marine Charter; Road Improvement of Bois De rose Avenue, including a roundabout and link road to Mont Fleuri; Third lane at Roche Caiman; construction of a second lane along St. Joseph Street and widening of the lower part of Hangard Street; Construction of the link road including bridge from Inter Island Quay and roundabout at Ile Du Port; Construction of the Road and bridge linking Anse Etoile to Ile Aurore and Ile Perseverance; the on-going third lane on 5th June Avenue which has led to improved traffic flow.

Review of Excise Tax on Hybrid and LPG Motor Vehicles

Cabinet approved a number of proposals to review the excise tax on hybrid and LPG motor vehicles in order to reduce the amount of carbon emissions being emitted in the atmosphere and making such vehicles more affordable. Vehicle owners are now benefitting on lesser tax on their purchase of vehicles and also on their vehicle operating cost. Benefits of minimising air pollution are also being experienced.

Functional review of the Road Transport Commission, Seychelles Land Transport Agency and the Department of Land Transport

Cabinet approved for functional and structural review of the Road Transport Commission, Seychelles Land Transport Agency and the Department of Land Transport in order to ensure that each entity is functioning within its clearly defined mandate. Since the review stakeholders have been sensitised to the entities' mandates.

A review of the La Digue Land Transport Policy

La Digue has a very special function in the ecosystem of Seychelles as well as in the ecotourism industry. In light of this, a review of the Land Transport policy for the

island was seen as necessary in order to safeguard the environment of the island as well as ensure safety and security of road users. The policy has been implemented and has resulted in better coordination of transport related matters and better monitoring and enforcement.

Road Safety Policy

The number of vehicles and road users continue to increase. In order to ensure safety and security on the roads Cabinet approved the Seychelles Road Safety policy and requested that regulations be made in line with the policy statements. The policy has been implemented and stakeholders as well as the public have been sensitised. This has led to a reduction in accidents, especially fatal and serious. Road users are also more aware about road safety.

Strategies to Address the Issue of Modified Vehicles in Seychelles

Cabinet approved recommendations to amend existing regulations to include regulations for modification of vehicles. Presently, we have seen an influx of modified vehicles which are emitting excessive noise and disturbing the community and also creating unsafe vehicles. Also with such modifications we have seen the increase of racing on the public roads which has brought another element of risk for other road users. Implementation of the decision is on-going and sensitisation of vehicle owners is still necessary.

Review of Road Transport Regulations

Cabinet approved proposed amendments to the Road Transport Regulations to ensure that enforcement on the roads was properly backed by suitable and corresponding laws and regulations. As a result of the approval the Road Safety Advisory Committee was re-established and Road Safety clips have been produced and aired. Appropriate regulations are being drafted and adequate equipment purchased to allow for better monitoring of adherence to transport regulations. The changes will lead to more informed road users and discipline on the roads.

Licenses for Car Hire Operators

Cabinet approved amendments to the Licensing Regulations under the Licenses Act pertaining to license conditions for Car Hire Operators to enable Car Hire Operators to renew their license every five years like most businesses and to increase the condition to obtain a car hire license with the minimum of 7 cars instead of 5. The regulations based on the policy are being finalised for implementation. The new policy will allow the Car Hire Operators to plan their license renewal and will also be more cost effective.





SR 1.5M

Total amount that was disbursed as of Sep 2019, to 689 households for basic needs shopping by way of cash on STC store cards



The National Policy on Ageing was approved by Cabinet in May 2018 and launched on 15 May to coincide with International Day of the Family

SR 20M

allocated to assist families on the ASP register whose houses are in extremely poor condition

Family Affairs

“

Families form the foundation of our society, and we must go towards the family unit to address our challenges. We need to return to good moral and spiritual values early on so that our children have a much stronger foundation.

President Faure SONA 2017

”

Summary of Cabinet decisions - Family Affairs

National Council for Elderly Bill, 2017

Cabinet approved for amendments to the existing National Council for the Elderly Act 1997 to provide for the appointment of a CEO and regulatory powers to register home carers and manage the district homes for the elderly. The Bill was approved by the National Assembly and assented by the President in April 2018. Elderly will benefit from quality care and more targeted services. The Council is now managed by a CEO and has additional staff to develop programmes for the elderly. The Council will be in a better position to monitor level of care once registration of domiciliary care workers become effective.

Children's (Amendment) Bill

The memorandum sought to amend the Children's Act to ban corporal punishment and to make provision for the Central Authority for the purposes of an inter-country adoption and to include the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The legislative provision is expected to safe guard children from harm and bring a change of mind set in disciplining children.

Protocol for Persons who use Drugs (PWUD)

Cabinet approved a Protocol to ensure coordination and synchronization of programmes, interventions and activities amongst different Government bodies and civil society organisations supporting the national response to drug use and the management of Persons Who Use Drugs (PWUD) in Seychelles. The protocol will provide a framework that will ensure conformity, continuity, coherence, coordination, clarity and comprehensiveness in management of PWUD. It will create a more integrated approach in provision of services with the identified target group.

Safeguarding the privacy of children in the Media- A policy for Children Living in Children's Care Home

This sought the approval of the media policy to safeguard the privacy of children who are in care in the children's homes whilst placed in the custody of Social Services. The Media policy has been disseminated to all media houses and children care homes are implementing same with the aim of protecting the dignity of children living in care homes.

Adoption of Report on Social Renaissance Action Plan 2012 -2016

The Ministry of Family Affairs obtained the approval of Cabinet for the 2016 Report on the Social Renaissance Programme to be adopted; and for the second phase of implementation of the Social Renaissance Programme

to be rebranded, reinforced and strengthened with renewed focus on family welfare and wellbeing. Increased awareness on strategies that have worked and gaps that needed to be addressed to bring positive change has been achieved. The strategies for the second phase of the social renaissance will feature in the Family Action Plan.

National Plan of Action for Families

Cabinet endorsed the National Policy on Action for Families; and the setting up of a High Level Committee for Families. The Plan of Action was launched and disseminated to stakeholders. All stakeholders will plan programmes and services to address identified issues thus empower more individuals and families to be more functional.

National Policy on Ageing

Cabinet approved the National Policy on Ageing and the setting up of the necessary structures to facilitate cross sectoral discussion and coordination. A Statement was made in the National Assembly and the Ageing policy was launched on 11 July 2018 in a two day forum. The policy will guide all stakeholders to plan programmes and services to address the needs of the ageing population.

Policy Framework for the Management and Administration of the Children's Special Fund

Cabinet approved parameters for the management and administration of the Children's Special Fund for the proper management and administration of the Fund as Children continue to benefit from the funds under different projects. A Board has been appointed and the Secretariat is set up within Social Affairs Department.

Policy Framework for Regulations on Minimum Standard of care in Children's Care Home

Cabinet approved the proposed set of minimum standards for children's care homes. The standards aim to ensure that all children care homes have to provide a stimulating environment where children are loved, nurtured, where they feel safe from harm and are able to develop, thrive and fulfil their potential. Children expect improved quality level of care whilst in the care homes.





Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Agency for Social Protection (ASP)

Activity 1: Professionalisation of Home Care

Outcome

250 home carers have been trained. Training is being administered by the National Council for the Elderly and staff is being recruited specifically for Carer training, to finish training the 3,500 carers.

2019

Activity 2: Pre-paid meters installed for families registered with ASP

Outcome

The contract was awarded to CONLOG. Currently pre-commissioning tests are being run. First meters are expected to go live in October 2019

2019

Activity 3: The same beneficiaries to obtain part of financial assistance on STC cards for basic needs shopping

Outcome

This began in March 2019 and is going well. By September 2019, ASP will transfer a total of SR. 1.5m to STC which will go towards 689 households receiving welfare assistance, such as invalidity and disability benefits. 433 People had benefited as of July 2019.

2019

Activity 4: SR 20M allocated to assist families on the ASP register whose houses are in extremely poor condition

Outcome

As of July 2019, 68 cases had been referred to ASP. 25 have been processed - two completed, 10 are under construction, 13 are undergoing procurement process. A total of SR 11m of contracts have been awarded.

2017

National Council for Elderly care

Activity 1: Introduce a policy and strategy on sustainability of elderly care

Outcome

The National Policy on Ageing was approved by Cabinet in May 2018 and launched on 15 May to coincide with International Day of the Family. The new Council for Elderly Act, 2018 came into force in May 2018 making provision to regulate standard of care for the elderly; registration of domiciliary care workers; and programmes for elderly. Numerous initiatives have been undertaken by National Council for the Elderly. Details are available from the Council for the Elderly at Unity House (Block B).

2018

Activity 2: Invite investment in Adult Day Care

Outcome

July 2019, NCE in partnership with SIB and ASP launched the Elderly Care Services and Facilities project, which incorporate adult Day Care to the private sector. The private sector has been invited to provide Expression of Interest in this field, opened till 7 October 2019. Interest is being shown by both local and international investors to date. One Day Care Facility opened two months ago on Mahe by a local investor. This Day Care Facility is being supported by NCE for their accreditation in the future.

2019

Social Affairs Department

Activity 1: All stake holders continue to collaborate closely on reports of child abuse

Outcome

There has been a marked increase by all partners to use the Risk Assessment form (tool) for early identification of 'at risk' children and refer them to either Social Services or to other agencies for services.

2019

Activity 2: Start construction of a Rehabilitation Center at Cap Ternay which will provide the necessary infrastructure to support citizens who have fallen victim to the drug scourge

Outcome

Project is at Environmental Impact Assessment stage. Government of the UAE has committed to fund the construction of the project.



1,000

number of students that have benefited through activities held as part of the Holiday Programme

100

initial number of students on the West Coast who took part in the Butterfly Programme



A formal decision was made in October 2017 to hold the National Athletics Championship on the Saturday closest to Constitution Day

Local Government, Youth, Sports, and Culture

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Seychelles needs to move to a new level where community development is inclusive. Where the needs of the residents, the private sector, and civil society in the district are incorporated.

All of them work together.

President Faure SONA 2017

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Summary of Cabinet decisions - Local Government, Youth, Sports & Culture

Youth Animateurs Scheme

Cabinet approved a Youth Animateurs Scheme with the aim of facilitating delivery of multifaceted youth programmes and services, as well as remunerate animateurs who engage on the programme. The Scheme is being implemented (by the Local Government Department)

The Scheme which is being implemented has resulted in more activities in the community for youth engagement

Benefits for Professional Athletes

Cabinet approved for funds to be put aside to pay for pension and other benefits in for professional athletes. The aim of this decision is to ensure that there is no loss of earning when athletes are performing.

Inspire to Aspire Programme

In order to inspire young people to work hard and achieve their dreams, Cabinet approved a proposed programme to use high profile personalities as role models. Since the implementation of the programme there has been notable increase in the number of young

entrepreneurs. More young people are joining youth groups and volunteering for different causes and more young people are getting involved in sports and cultural activities as they aspire to emulate the success of local stars in sports, arts and culture.

Seychelles National Youth Policy 2018-2023

The Policy was approved by Cabinet in 2018. The policy is being popularised in schools and other institutions by the Youth and Sports Department. It is being implemented by SNYC, partner MDAs and various NGOs. The National Policy Forum was also revamped early this year. The Forum provides a mechanism for better coordination and communication between partner MDAs which helps to improve policy implementation.

The FINA Open Water World Series in Seychelles

Cabinet approved for the FINA Open Water World Series to be held in Seychelles. Two editions of the competition have so far been hosted successfully in Seychelles. This high level event, which has resulted in swimming enthusiasts, including young swimmers being inspired by world champions. Young Seychellois swimmers were able to participate and complete the elite race inside the regulation time. The Mass competition has also attracted many amateur swimmers.

Junior Swimming Championship

Cabinet also approved for Seychelles to host the World Junior Open Water Swimming Championship in 2020.

Disaster Management

Up scaling of Seychelles Readiness to respond to Multi-Hazard Events

Cabinet approved the National Integrated Emergency Management Plan. This first Seychelles National Plan will provide a framework for preparedness and response and delivery of an Integrated Emergency Management System.

Establishment of High-Level National Steering Committee on Post-Disaster Management

In order to better coordinate post disaster management cases Cabinet approved for the setting up of a High-Level National Steering Committee on Post-Disaster Management to address issues in a structured and coordinated manner.



Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Activity 1: Allocate one of the school days to the hosting of the National Athletics Championship

Outcome

A formal decision was made in October 2017 to hold the National Athletics Championship on the Saturday closest to Constitution Day.

2019

Activity 2: Strengthen the Holiday Programme through participation of NSC, NAC and SNYC - culminating in the participation of more than 1,500 students

Outcome

Programs being held have benefited over 1000 children in 2018. The Butterfly Program introduced is more focused with following up of the students during term time. Butterfly program started with 100 students on West Coast and will expand for Term 2 holidays onwards.





The Seychelles Intelligence Services Act 2018 was assented in February 2019. The Director General of SIS formally took office in August 2019.

Three

Total number of audits carried out by UNODC between march 2018 and 2019 with the aim of curbing illegal activities within the prison system

9

Number of police stations now providing 24 hour service

Home Affairs

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Strong relationships of mutual trust between police agencies and the communities they serve are critical to maintaining public safety and effective policing. The security of our people is a priority and we will continue to accelerate the efficiency of our system of prevention, detection, and prosecution.

President Faure SONA 2017

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Summary of Cabinet decisions - Home Affairs

Special pension for specified categories of public officers

In order to show recognition for the nature and exigencies of the work of police officers, prison officers and fire and rescue officers, Cabinet approved the introduction of a special pension for certain categories of public employees SFRSA, Police including ANB and Prison Service.

Setting up of the Regional Coordination and Operation Center (RCOC)

In line with regional agreements signed for maritime safety and security in the region, Cabinet approved the setting up of the Regional Coordination and Operation Center with sister center in Madagascar the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center. The aim of the Centre is to coordinate and carry out operations at sea in the region with signatory member states or partners to the regional agreements to combat maritime threats, risks and crimes at sea.

Setting up of the National Information Sharing Coordination Center (NISCC)

Cabinet also approved for the setting up of the National Information Sharing Coordination Center (NISCC). The national center will serve as the local center that will collect, fuse and share information between all local stakeholders and coordinate actions and operations at sea within Seychelles waters with all local stakeholders.

Provision for lifeguard services

Cabinet approved the policy for provision of lifeguard services under Seychelles Fire and Rescue Services Agency (SFRSA). Amendments made to the existing Act will ensure that proper regulations and mechanisms are set in place for the provision of lifeguard services on public or private beaches.

Public Assembly (Speaker's Corner) Regulations

In order to put in effect Article 22 Freedom of Expression of the Constitution, Cabinet approved for the demarcation of an area on Freedom Square for the Speaker's Corner where members of the public can freely but within the ambit of the law discuss, debate, talk openly, express themselves.

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

Activity 1: Increase our efficiency in prevention and detection of crime

Outcome

- Police resources (human and physical) were decentralised into six regions.
- Nine stations are now providing 24 hour service.
- CID Services have been decentralised at regional level and a branch of SSCRb is now based on Praslin and Baie St Anne.
- Major renovation work has been undertaken on police infrastructures.
- The Marine Police Unit and Dog Unit have started offering night-and-day services on Praslin & La Digue.
- The Police 'Elite' unit is supporting police operation work at the port of entry and visible policing.
- Training of all police officers has increased with officers being sent for training locally and internationally, based on the force's needs. This includes training for new recruits.
- There's been improvement in Policing, Crime Scene Management and Interviewing Techniques.
- Dogs from the Dog Unit have been newly trained in forensic, explosive and narcotics detection; electronic monitoring and management system for case file has been set up and running.
- The Seychelles Licencing Authority's Database has been linked with the Seychelles Police Force Database system
- The SSCRb has obtained and are now using Video Spectral Comparator (VSC 8000) and Gas Chromatography- Mass Spectrometry for deeper analysis of crime scene evidence.

Activity 2: Reduce response times

Outcome

- The re-allocation of vehicles have allowed for a better response time to crime scene or services.
- Commanding Officers provide explanatory reports of any response times in excess of 20 minutes at their stations.
- There is better management of Information Document submitted on a weekly basis.
- Assistance from other stakeholders are better coordinated.

Activity 3: Stop illegal activity being undertaken within the prison

Outcome

Three security audits were carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) between March 2018 and June 2019. In line with findings, prisons have recruited more staff, increased training of staff, and addressed some infrastructure issues; repairs were made to the male block, gates and additional fencing was erected.

2017

Activity 4: Continuation of reforms

Outcome

Reforms are being managed primarily through Project Phoenix which is ongoing.

2019

Activity 5: Establish the Seychelles Intelligence Service (SIS)

Outcome

text





1 Oct 2019

Date of introduction of Regulation for Stevedores, aiming to provide better terms and conditions of employment

1,481

Number of young people who registered with "My First Job" in the last 2 years



Minimum wage increased from SR5250 to SR5750

Employment

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I believe in the strength of our Seychellois workforce, and in its capacity to move Seychelles forward.

President Faure SONA 2017

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Summary of Cabinet decisions - Employment

Amendments to the Employment Act 1995 to introduce the 13th month salary

Cabinet approved amendments to the Employment 1995 to introduce the 13th month pay. The Employment (Amendment) Act 2016 was gazetted 29 December 2016. All workers in the country except those falling under the International Trade Zone (Employment) Regulations, 1997 and workers earning a salary above SR 45,450 are eligible to receive a 13th month pay at the end of the year.

Re-introduction of Unemployment Relief Scheme to assist jobseekers to obtain necessary skills to be able to secure permanent employment

The Unemployment Relief Scheme Regulations, 2017 was gazetted on 27 November 2017 to re-introduce the Unemployment Relief Scheme which is aimed at providing employment placements to unemployed individuals. Up to December 2018, 3772 participants have been registered. Amongst those, 1166 are economically active (in employment or self-employed) and 536 are following the programme. The remaining 2070 are yet to secure placement or they are not ready to join the scheme or secure employment. Door to door visits to Mont Fleuri (Corgate Estate), Les

Mamelles, Roche Caiman, Plaisance, Perseverance, Grand Anse Praslin, Anse Aux Pins, Anse Royale and Pointe Larue communities were undertaken to register people to join the Scheme.

National Occupational Safety and Health Policy

Cabinet approved the National Occupational Safety and Health Policy. This is a first policy on health and safety for Seychelles to ensure conducive work environment for all. The Policy is implemented in all workplaces including government offices. Relevant provisions are being incorporated in the review of the Health and Safety Decree. This policy will ensure that workers and visitors have a safe environment to go about their daily work or business and the employers will benefit from healthy and productive workforce.

Increase in maternity leave from 14 weeks to 16 weeks

Cabinet approved for the Increase in maternity leave from 14 weeks to 16 weeks to allow mothers to spend more time to take care and bond with their newborn. The Employment (Conditions of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 was gazetted 14th May, 2018. The provision is in conformity with Seychelles' international obligations under Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (NO.183), where maternity is stated to be not less than 14 weeks.

Increase in paternity leave from 5 days to 10 days

Cabinet also approved for the increase in paternity leave from 5 days to 10 days to allow fathers to bond with the new-born and help with the care of the baby. The Employment (Conditions of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations was gazetted 14 May 2018. Paternity leave was first introduced in Seychelles in 2015 with a provision for 5 days leave. There is no ILO standards specifically on Paternity Leave but through a Resolution in 2009 it encourages government to develop policies allowing for a better balance of work and family responsibilities for both women and men in order to allow a more equal sharing of these responsibilities.

Increase in minimum wage from SR 33.30 to SR 34.97 per hour for regular employment and from SR 38.38 to SR 40.30 per hour for casual employment

Cabinet approved an increase in minimum wage from SR 33.30 to SR 34.97 per hour for regular employment and from SR 38.38 to SR 40.30 per hour for casual employment effective 1 June 2019. The Employment (National Minimum Wage) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 was gazetted on 31 December 2018. All workers in the low income bracket will be earning more to be able to have a better standard of living. Minimum wage was first introduced in 2008 providing the minimum an employer can pay to a worker per hour in order to meet the cost of living. There have been increases in 2010 (6%), 2012 (6%), 2013 (5%), 2014 (20%), 2016 (24%) and 2019 (5%).

New law for stevedores providing additional benefits for this category of workers

New law for stevedores providing additional benefits for this category of workers was approved by Cabinet. The law allows for Stevedores to receive certain benefits that they were not otherwise entitled to under any law and to set rates of payment in relation to activities

undertaken in their line of work. This is a first for Seychelles i.e. the first law providing additional terms and conditions for a category of workers and also the first law for Stevedores.

New law for domestic workers providing additional protection for this category of workers

Given the specificities of the work of domestic workers that is, having a workplace in private homes that is different to the norm, and their vulnerability and possibility for abuse in this area of work, it was seen as a necessity to have a separate law to address their specific requirements which will provide specific standards to allow them to work peacefully and comfortably. This law targeting domestic workers approved by Cabinet is a first for Seychelles.

The 2nd Decent Work Country Programme 2019-2023

Seychelles Decent Work Country Programme 2019-2023 launched in November 2018 following Cabinet approval. The Programme will undertake the promotion of social justice and decent work in line with international obligations. The first programme was from 2011-2015.

Amendment to Sick Leave

Cabinet approved amendments to the sick leave Regulations to reduce sick leave from 30 days to 21 days and introduce 7 days sick leave in circumstances where a parent has to be away from work to take care of a sick child under the age of 12.

The Employment (Conditions of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 was gazetted on 31 May 2019. The new regulation should lead to a reduction in sick leave abuse thus improve productivity at workplace level. Employers have been asking for this change for a long time and it has been well received by them.

Steps to improve international recruitment practices

In order to improve the recruitment process for foreign nationals, Cabinet approved for the signing of a Bilateral Agreement on Labour Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Seychelles and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The Agreement will have clearly established procedures for recruitment to ensure fair and just working conditions.

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2018

Activity 1: Introduce a Regulation for Stevedores

Outcome

The regulation became effective from 1 October 2019. It aims to provide better terms and conditions of employment for stevedores.

2018

Activity 2: Introduce a Regulation for Domestic Workers

Outcome

This came into force in 2019. It aims to provide additional protection for domestic workers especially in view of the nature of their work. The Employment (Conditions of Employment of Domestic Workers) Regulations, 2019 was gazetted on 10 June 2019 (SI 37 of 2019).

2018

Activity 3: Increase in Retirement Pension

Outcome

Retirement pension under social security increased from SR 5250 per month to SR 5750 per month from January 2020, an increase of SR 500.

2018

Activity 4 : Introduce a minimum pension from the Seychelles Pension Fund

Outcome

This was approved in March by the Board of Seychelles Pension Fund, and a minimum pension of SR 1,000 for all SPF members will come into force from January 2020.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of two men in profile, facing each other and smiling. They are standing outdoors at what appears to be a port or harbor. In the background, there are boats, a car, and distant mountains under a cloudy sky. The men are wearing light-colored shirts. The overall tone is positive and celebratory.

19 Tonnes

Daily production of ice from two plants at Providence, one producing 10 tonnes, and the other 9 tonnes

6 Sep 2018

Date on which the new fishing port at Providence was inaugurated by Vice President, Vincent Meriton



Five new farm roads, (two renovated), were constructed, whilst irrigation was upgraded and a new mechanisation store was constructed

Fisheries & Agriculture

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The Government is committed to supporting and encouraging the development of the agricultural sector, which is at the heart of developing a sustainable and inclusive economy. This sector also has a vital role to play in bringing greater food security to our country.

President Faure SONA 2018

”

Summary of Cabinet decisions - Agriculture

An assessment of the potential of the agro-forestry sector in Seychelles

Agro-forestry is about valorising traditional forested areas using tree crops to produce foods which contribute to the food and nutrition security efforts of a nation. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) launched a three year agro-forestry project about four years ago engaging some eight pilot farmers: five on Mahe and three on Praslin. On Mahe the forested areas selected and for which it was found to have the best management coverage was a swath of land about 75 m wide on the upland slope between the commercial cultivated plots and the forested areas usually occupied by the invasive species. The agro-forestry swath yields food by planting food tree species (usually tropical fruits) but at the same time controls the invasive species. It also brings alternative income for the farmer. For example, one farmer who took up the practice some three years ago has established about 300 soursop trees which have proven to be an important crop, allowing the farmer to establish a supply contract with a few of the high profile hotels, resulting in a significant monthly income for the farmer.

Cabinet has provided its support to the Agriculture Department to develop the guidelines on how to approach that practice on the use of state owned forested land. The policy guidelines are being drafted currently.

National Livestock Policy 2017-2027

Following some 20 years of gradual decline the livestock subsector needed a boost. The crop subsector is intricately linked to the livestock subsector by virtue of the fact that the latter provides all the manure that it requires as crop production in the Seychelles cannot be sustained solely through the use of artificial fertilisers. Hence if the livestock subsector collapses the crops sector will eventually collapse with dire implications to local employment, livelihoods, income and national food and nutrition security. Cabinet approved for the reviving of the national livestock subsector through a national policy which would identify the national stakeholders and attribute them with specific responsibilities.

The implementation of the policy has had positive impact both on the beneficiaries and on the national livestock subsector and by extension on the national agricultural sector. There is a definite resurgence of activities within the subsector, with a gradual increase in meat outputs, aided further by the launch of the Comprehensive Agriculture Plan in October 2018.

The policy is being further reinforced by the decisions made within the Comprehensive Agriculture Plan launched in October 2018 to provide the livestock sector with subsidies for pork and broiler poultry output but also on the abattoir fees

New proposals for allocation of state agricultural land in Seychelles

The process of allocation of State owned agricultural land to private individual promoters had always been plagued by subjectivity and brought much criticism to the government entity responsible for allocating agricultural land. In order to remove the subjectivity in the process and conform to the national desire of having transparent processes in the allocation of a public good, it was felt that a new allocation process should be defined. The new process is being applied in the allocation of State owned agricultural land.

Control and Protection of Dogs Bill

There was an alarming amount of stray dogs roaming the streets of Victoria and the many districts of Mahe and the Inner Islands as well as within the premises of the tourism establishments with implications to security of individuals. Disturbances in neighbourhoods by dogs was also a problem. Government saw it as a necessity to review the law that controls and protects dogs. The approval of the new Law means will lead to better mechanisms to ensure that dog owners take good care of their animals and that stray dogs are dealt with in a humane manner.

Review of the National Statutes with implications for the National Agricultural Sector

It was evident during the many deliberations both within the national agricultural sector and among other sectors that a number of old statutes within the books of statutes of Seychelles were counterproductive to the further development of the national agricultural sector. Hence an internal ad-hoc committee of relevant individuals within the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture combed the book of statutes of Seychelles and identified those statutes, listing their significance to the national agricultural sector. Some statutes were just obsolete and had no further application; others had to be revised such as the Control and Protection of Dogs while still others could be replaced simply by the promulgation of new policy, procedural framework or MoU. The statutes that were deemed necessary for revision were identified and work was initiated in conjunction with the Department of Legal Affairs for a revision of the text or the proposal of new texts. Many policies and procedural frameworks were worked on internally by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and subsequently cleared by Cabinet.

Re-construction of the veterinary services building

The building which the veterinary services was occupying at Union Vale for the last 60 years or so was condemned by authorities as being unsafe for human occupation back in 2015. A makeshift adjacent structure was outfitted to cater for the daily requirements of the said services serving a large number of clientele for both domestic pets principally and farmed animals. The volume of clienteles seeking the assistance of veterinary services had grown steadily over the years particularly from households. So the move to reconstruct the veterinary services building was twofold.

In order to cater for development over the next two decades or so a decision was taken to separate the veterinary activities of the different clientele. The makeshift building was outfitted to service pet owners and through an MoU the facility was handed over to a private association of veterinarians known as Paw Links to operate on a commercial basis.

The ex BBC building was outfitted though relevant investment to cater for the government veterinarians caring wholly for the farmed livestock. The specialised services brought order in a service delivery system with consequent efficiency gains through dedicated services for all parties concerned.

New proposals to support livestock farmers by constructing a new red and white meat abattoir, a hatchery and a breeder farm on Mahe, and a new red meat abattoir on Praslin

Cabinet approved proposals to support livestock farmers by constructing a new red and white meat abattoir, a hatchery and a breeder farm on Mahe, and a new red meat abattoir on Praslin. The aim of the approval is to improve facilities for the livestock farmers so they may increase production.

The red meat abattoir on Praslin is essential as to improve hygiene conditions. Work on the Praslin red meat abattoir is budgeted for in 2019. The Planning authorization for the abattoir has been received. The facilities on Mahe, will comprise of a new red and white meat abattoir in view of evolving circumstances in the private sector which now boasts two hatcheries. The breeder farm will be built at a later date. The planning approval for the abattoir on Mahe has been received and the site will be cleared during the month of October, 2019.

The pig producers will benefit accordingly to have their animals slaughtered under the right conditions. The produce of the abattoir would be better accepted by the community and hence offer an opportunity for growth of the sector on Praslin.

Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for Trade in Crop Commodities between Seychelles and Kenya and Seychelles and Ethiopia

Subsequent to the visit in Kenya and Ethiopia, the list of agricultural commodities currently imported from there was formalised by the National Biosecurity Agency (NBA). This allows for the option to import more of the agricultural commodities for which a biosecurity risk have already been assessed.

Both in Kenya and in Ethiopia the Seychelles' National Biosecurity Agency had discussions with relevant national authorities which led to the activities and decisions taken above.

By formalising the import list from both countries indirectly protects the local agricultural producers.

VAT Refund on Local Purchases by Persons Engaged in Agriculture

A standing policy backed by a statute under the Imports Act provides for VAT refund on all imported capital equipment in agriculture. While this was considered more of the domain of capital intensive agricultural promoters who could import and not those buying small inputs locally, the new policy approved by Cabinet provides for a VAT refund to even those who purchase equipment and infrastructure materials locally.

The impact is positive on all agricultural promoters and the majority of them (95%) are not capital intensive and thus purchase locally.

Incentives for Graduates of the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture & Horticulture to Access State Agriculture Land

The average age of the 575 local agricultural promoters is 50 years meaning that most of them have passed their economic productive lives. At the same time there are too few youths joining the sector to be able to replace them within the next decade. In order to hasten the renewing of the sector and entice the youth further into the sector, a policy was taken to give young graduates of the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture who complete the two year course at the

institute along with three years of working experience within the private agricultural sector access to state agricultural land. A SR350,000 loan at 2.5% interest rate and technical support of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture will be available to successful applicants. The policy will become operational on 1 January 2020.

The many young people who have left the said institute with outstanding results and who have not been able to secure an employment in the sector will get a new opportunity under this policy. This is equally so for young people who will be graduating from the institute in the near future and aspiring to run their own farms.

“
Fisheries is another key sector of our economy. We would like to develop this industry sustainably, and make Seychelles a strategic centre in the Indian Ocean for fishing, transshipping, and processing of fish”

President Faure -SONA 2018

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Summary of Cabinet decisions - Fisheries

Fishing Agreement with Mauritius

Two Reciprocal agreements were signed between the Government of Seychelles and Government of Mauritius. One for Seychelles fishing vessels to Fish in Mauritius waters and the other for Mauritius fishing vessels to fish in Seychelles waters. The Fishing Agreement were ratified by the National Assembly in December 2017 and the agreements came into effect on 15th February 2018 for a two year period. Renewal is expected in 2020.

The IOTC Resolutions 16/01 on an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence

In order to prevent over fishing in the Indian Ocean, Cabinet gave its approval for Seychelles' position vis a vis the Resolution 16/01 which require IOTC members to work towards reducing their catch of tuna for the sustainability of the yellow fin tuna. The resolution was superseded by resolution 17/01, that stipulate that CPCs whose purse seine catches of yellowfin reported for 2014 were above 5000 MT to reduce their purse seine catches of yellowfin by 15 % from the 2014 levels. With the exception of Seychelles whose baseline was calculated on 2015 catch level. Based on 2015 catch level Seychelles was allocated a total of 33,215 metric tonnes instead of 19,000 metric tonnes. This implies that the 13 purse seiners were allocated with a quota of 2555 Metric for yellow fin. Resolution 17/01 was further replaced by resolution 18/01 and 19/01.

Seychelles Fishing Authority -Review of structure. Revision of the Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act 1984

In order to have more efficiency in service delivery in the fisheries community, Cabinet approved in 2016 for SFA to undertake a functional review to redefine its role and functions. It was recommended that SFA will manage its core function as per its original mandate, which include fisheries management research and MCS. To enable SFA to become more efficient in line with the functional review it was necessary to review the SFA establishment Act 1984. The establishment Act has been reviewed, approved by Cabinet and gazetted by Department of Legal Affairs awaiting national assembly

ratification. Under the new Act SFA will have financial autonomy. None core functions such as ice making will be managed by the new SEYFISH company

Emergency Plan for the Seychelles Fishing Authority

Cabinet requested that the SFA prepare an emergency plan that would allow government to come up with the necessary policy and resources to significantly bring new dynamism into the fisheries sector.

For the purpose of this Emergency Plan, SFA identified a list of priority action areas relating to capital expenditure requirements. The list included

1. The purchase of five vehicles at an estimated cost SCR 3.8 million – **only four vehicles were bought.**
2. The purchase of two electricity transformers for the Providence Fishing Port to cater for additional electricity load demands: SCR 2.6 million.

Completed - SFA and PUC carried out an exercise to determine the present and future electricity needs with regards to development in the area. The exercise confirmed the need of 10 transformers. SFA has purchased the 10 transformers. Four have been installed and six have being reserved for future needs as development progress.

3. The partitioning work on the SFA Providence Warehouse that was rented to IDC. SFA was to add two floors on the existing structure. However, between now and the end of 2018, the Authority will partition the ground floor for rental.

New Management measures for sea cucumber fishery

The Sea Cucumber Fishery has been operating under the management measures approved by Cabinet in 2013.

- a. 25 Sea Cucumber Fishing licences and 4 Sea Cucumber Processors
- b. Nine (9)months fishing Season from October to June each year

Maximum Four (4) divers per Fishing License

New management measures was put in place to ensure sustainability of the fishery. The primary measures proposed are:

- The sea cucumber fishing activities are undertaken during the sea cucumber opening fishing season of eight (8) months from October to May. (Reduce from 9 Months to 8 Months)
- Total Allowable Catch (TACs) for each harvested sea cucumber species will be defined for each fishing season.
- The Total Allowable Catch is set in reference to the 2016 data at 375,000 units, only for the three main sea cucumber species which will be harvested; Flower Teat Fish at a quota of 281,250 units, White Teat Fish at a quota of 56,250 units and Prickly Red Fish at a quota of 37,500 units.

Implementation of the Mahe Plateau Demersal Trap and Line Fishery Co-Management Plan

The Mahé plateau supports a demersal artisanal fishery that is critically important in providing local food security and economic development in Seychelles. The main species targeted by the hand line fishery are snappers, groupers and emperors whereas the trap fishery targets rabbitfish, parrotfish and emperors. However, fishers have raised concerns over decreasing catch rates and sizes of target species, and this has been supported by risk and stock assessments. The co-management plan was approved and it was recommended that a stakeholders committee be set up to oversee its implementation. Sustainable fisheries will be guaranteed as a result of several measures such as cap on number fishing vessels, fish size, trap size, bag limit for sport and recreational fishing.

Fisheries Management and Development Related Policies and Legislations

As the Fisheries department and the SFA continue to take steps to improve efficiency in sector, Cabinet approved proposals for the review of various policies and legislation. The following are policies and legislations approved by Cabinet and their present status.

- Fisheries Policy 2019 approved by Cabinet
- SFA Act 2019 – approved by Cabinet await national assembly approval
- Aquaculture regulation – approved by Cabinet and awaiting gazetting by AG's Office
- ByCatch Policy 2018 – approved by Cabinet – several difficulties in its implementation and a reviewed is being recommended under the context of comprehensive plan.

- Mahe Plateau Management plan review – Awaiting gazetting by AG's office.

Aquaculture Policy

The Aquaculture Policy was developed with the main objective to guide an effectively managed and environmentally responsible aquaculture industry that contributes towards food security and the creation of wealth in the Seychelles. The Policy is in implementation since the Cabinet approval in January 2018. Several activities or outcomes have been completed through the Sector Development Plan.

Six out of the eight Policy Statements have direct activities such as research, legislation or infrastructure that have either started or reached partial implementation 1 year after being approved. Regulatory Framework is almost completed with the gazetting of the new Aquaculture Regulations currently with the Attorney General's Office and the associated Standards completed and ready for promulgation.

A very good level of capacity building for local workforce and institutional strengthening to ensure good support to the industry has been achieved. Investors can start applying for licences before the end of 2019.

Policy on the Management of By-catch

The policy on bycatch approved by Cabinet focuses principally on the non-target catch of the industrial fisheries for tuna and tuna-related species. It seeks to address the issues that globally relate to bycatch ensuring that it protects species that are vulnerable or of concern because of their depleted populations, whilst seeking to utilise and derive the optimum benefit from the non-target species. Three main objectives are

- To promote greater onshore value-addition and marketing of bycatch for local consumption and export.
- To encourage local enterprises and increase economic benefit within the fisheries post-harvest and service sector.
- To ensure high levels of food safety in the utilization of bycatch compliant to the phytosanitary and health regulations

The implementation of the policy will ensure less discard at sea and increase value addition of non-targeted species. It will also improve food safety in the utilization of bycatch compliant to the phytosanitary and health regulations. There will also be an increased economic impact of this sub-sector hence over all fisheries GDP contribution to the economy. In 2018, 14,511 metric tons were landed in Seychelles for value addition and export although about 40% (5677 MT) were just re-exported without value addition.

Fisheries Comprehensive Plan 2019-22

The Fisheries Comprehensive Plan, is a document developed to guide the future actions and spearhead the development for the Fisheries Sector for the next three years. It presents a vision for the future, with goals and objectives for all fisheries related activities.

The plan was launched on the 4th of August 2019. The SEYFISH company is in process of registration and setting up. Other action of the plan are in process of implementation as per designated timeline. Actions of the plan will guarantee sustainable fishing, eradicate abuse in subsidies, better service delivery, better revenue from the local and industrial fisheries, through value addition and accessible markets for both local and overseas.

Fisheries Sector Policy 2019-29

The goal of the Fisheries Policy is to provide the basis for the necessary legal and administrative framework and guidelines to best inform decision making for the sector, while respecting and strengthening existing commitments, rules, and regulations regarding sustainability, food security and safety, as well as trade of fish and fish products.

Consultancy work was conducted in late 2018 and early 2019. Consultation was made with several stakeholders and a validation workshop took place in March 2019. The policy was approved by Cabinet in June 2019.

Nine policy statements have been developed which will impact development in the fishing industry.

The ten year policy is being implemented in the context of the fisheries comprehensive plan that addresses the short term recommendation within the next three years.

Seychelles' Stance on issues at the Meeting of the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Meeting and the 3rd Session of the Compliance Committee Meeting in Mauritius: 27 June – 5 July 2019

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) is a fisheries management body in the Indian Ocean equivalent to IOTC, signed in Rome in 2006 by the FAO Council, and entered into force in June 2012.

The principal objective of SIOFA are for the proper management, long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources, other than the highly migratory resources, in the Southern Indian Ocean.

Eight new and amended conservation and management measures were approved by the meeting of the Parties. New compliance committee elected Seychellois Johnny Louys as chairman of the committee. Mr. Thierry Clot of Reunion Island was elected as Executive Secretary of the Meeting of Parties.

Seychelles financial contribution reduced from EUR 47,486.73 to EUR 8,754.15, Based on catch of SIOFA species.



Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Activity 1: Providence Fishing Port to become operational

Outcome

The Providence Fishing Port was inaugurated on 6 September 2018 by Vice President Meriton. The main components of the project were; a 219 meters long sheet pile quay, a fishing landing shed and one ten tons (10T) per day capacity ice plant.

2018

Activity 2: Increase ice production at Providence Fishing Port to 10 tons per day

Outcome

Currently at Providence fishing port we have two ice plants operational. One producing 10 T a day and the second producing 9 T a day.

2018

Activity 3: Consultations on Praslin for implementation of fisheries infrastructure

Outcome

Meetings were held in November 2017, February, May, September 2018 and February 2019.

2018

Activity 4: Commission a fish market on La Digue

Outcome

This was inaugurated by the Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture on 25 January 2019.

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2018

Activity 5: Improve stakeholder co-ordination in fisheries sector

Outcome

Stakeholders co-ordination was part of development of the Fisheries Policy and comprehensive plan. The fisheries sector policy validation workshop report is available from Department of Fisheries to show views of stakeholders.

2018

Activity 6: National consultations on fisheries policies

Outcome

The 10 year fisheries sector policy was approved by Cabinet in June 2019. Emanating from the policy is the three-year Fisheries Comprehensive Plan (FCP) launched on 4 August 2019. Both the Policy and the FCP underwent national consultations with stakeholders.

2018

Activity 7: Implementation of infrastructure projects for Agriculture

Outcome

This was carried out by SAA. Projects on Mahe and Praslin include: roads (five new farm roads, two renovated), upgrading of irrigation, desilting, construction of a new mechanisation store.

2019

Activity 8: SFA to become an autonomous body

Outcome

The SFA 2019 establishment Bill was gazetted in July 2019 and submitted to National Assembly. Once approved by the National Assembly it will be sent for assent.



16%

Increase in amount of foreign exchange by 2019, brought in by the tourism industry

361,844

Number of visitors to Seycheles in 2018, a 3% increase over 2017



A320

Neo called 'Veuve' started operating in August 2019

Tourism

“

...the tourism industry is a very promising one for business, for employment, and for value addition. This industry remains the pillar of our economy.

President Faure SONA 2017

”

Summary of Cabinet decisions - Tourism

Tourism Development Act

Cabinet approved for the development of the Tourism Act aimed at ensuring that the primary functions of the Tourism Department are guided by legislation and the Classification System provided with a legal status. The Tourism Development Act was subsequently assented by the President of the Republic in August, 2019.

Following the enactment of the Tourism Development Act, the necessary Regulations are being developed. This include Tourism Development (Vertical Integration) Regulations, Tourism Development (Accommodation Establishments) Regulations and Tourism Development (Standards) Regulations.

The law which makes allowances for regulations will equip the Tourism Department to enforce on non-compliance by tourism enterprises.

Implementation of Regulations detailing the grading criteria, the standards and services of accommodation establishments shall provide clients with information on the level of service to be expected based on the grading of the establishments.

Accommodation Standards and Classification

The aim of the submission was to seek approval for the setting up of National Standards for the grading of accommodation through the star rating system and the Seychelles Secret as well as the establishment of a set of minimum standards for the accommodation sector.

Cabinet approved the proposal subject that local contents such as the serving of creole dishes, entertainment and décor by local artists being included in the standards.

The Classification system and minimum requirements have been inserted as the major component of the Tourism Development Act where the procedure for grading accommodation establishments has been set. The Act also specifies the need to meet the minimum requirements. All standards relating to minimum requirements and classification have been developed, pilot tested and are ready for implementation. The classification standards as requested by Cabinet make provision for local content.

The programme is yet to be implemented but is expected to raise standards within the accommodation sector to make the sector more competitive and increase visitor experience.

Policy for Water Sports Businesses (Motorised and Non-Motorised)

As the tourism industry continues to evolve and in line with the strategic objective of product diversification, the Tourism Department felt necessary to develop a policy to allow water sports activities to fall within an appropriate framework.

The Policy currently remains on hold as the provisions contained therein are subject to the Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority Bill being enacted as well as amendments to the Beach Control Act and Control of Hire Craft Act.

The Seychelles Investment Board and the Tourism Department are in receipt of a number of project proposals pertaining to motorized water sports activities. At the moment, the proposals are not being considered as the legislations are yet to be passed.

Tourism Accommodation Policy Plan

The policy pertaining to the moratorium on development of hotels in excess of 25 rooms was reviewed with the aim of ensuring that businesses that require to expand remain viable as well as allow Seychellois who want to participate in the industry to do so.

Cabinet approved and requested that the Environment Department, the Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport and the Tourism Department work together to decide on locations that would be appropriate for hotel developments and identify areas where hotel developments should not take place.

The Tourism Department in collaboration with the Seychelles Investment Board conducted an exercise to ascertain the total number of hotel rooms in the pipeline and expected to come online within the next few years.

Where development had come to a halt, promoters were given deadlines to re-initiate their projects or rooms would be forfeited and allocated to new developers ready to pursue their developments. Forfeited rooms were thereby reallocated to willing and able developers. In total, 1,535 rooms have been forfeited and 1441 rooms redistributed.

Approval of the policy will lead to an increase in foreign direct investment within the tourism sector.

Illegal Establishment on the islands

Cabinet approved to implement a plan of action to address the issue of illegal accommodations. A grace period of three months was provided to establishment owners to regularize their businesses. From 01st March, 2018, action was taken against illegal practices.

A task force comprising of representatives from Seychelles Licensing Authority, Department of Police and the Tourism Department has been set up and a number of visits have started after the 3-month grace period. The programme continues and a number of change of use have been recorded since the start of the exercise indicating that some establishment owners are legalising their activities.

Vertical Integration Policy and Regulation

The vertical Integration Policy for the tourism industry was approved with the aim of ensuring that everyone can have a chance to fully participate and benefit in the industry thereby resulting in consumers being best served through competition and diversity. The policy will be turned into Regulations under the Tourism Development Act.

La Digue - Vision 2048

Cabinet gave approval for the vision, mission and the sector objectives for La Digue which would provide Digois and other stakeholders with clear guidance of the vision and sector objectives when planning development on the island.

A matrix table of actions was developed and a series of consultations were held between Government agencies and members of the public on La Digue. A strategy statement was delivered to National Assembly as per Cabinet's recommendation. The La Digue Vision Booklet which also sets out the sector objectives in Creole and English was completed and presented to the people of La Digue.

Legal Registration of Coconut Vendors

Cabinet approved all coconut vendors to be registered to have better control of their activities and to take appropriate action with those operating illegally.

The lack of toilet facilities where those activities were taking place such as View Point, La Misere was noted. Adequate water supply was also seen as necessary.

An action Plan depicting the responsibility of each of the MDAs (ESA, the Police and the Public Health Authority) including terms and conditions for vendors was developed by the Tourism Department in collaboration with the mentioned authorities. Based on the action plan, ESA will register vendors in accordance to the terms and conditions.

Once the coconut vendors are registered and legalised, this will facilitate proper monitoring by the Police and the Public Health Authority which will improve sanitation and hygiene, deter touting and other harassments including other inappropriate conduct by illegal vendors which are affecting tourists and the reputation of Seychelles as a tourist destination.

Seychelles Tourism Master Plan and Tourism Strategy Destination 2023

The updated Seychelles Tourism Master Plan: Situational Analysis and Destination 2023: A Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Growth was presented for Cabinet's review and subsequent endorsement. The masterplan and strategy will ensure that the tourism industry is developed in a manner that is sustainable providing for maximising the wealth producing capacity of the Seychelles tourism sector enabled by pro-tourism business development policies and appropriate investment strategies.

Consistent with the goals set for the tourism sector as defined in the national development frameworks, the Tourism Master Plan: Situational Analysis points to the policy, regulatory, infrastructural, institutional, marketing, human resources and statistical gaps that need to be addressed to achieve such targets under the sustainable tourism goal.

The Tourism Strategy, entitled "Destination 2023", provides the roadmap for the sector's growth up to 2023 and beyond. The strategy was presented to members of the Trade in the Tourism sector.

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

Activity 1: New ranking/classification system for hotel establishments

2017

Outcome

The standards for this have been developed. The Tourism Development Act which gives power to the department to implement the program has been passed and assented. Relevant documents are ready. Training has been conducted by the South African Grading Council. Awareness building programmes via TV interviews have taken place and pre assessments have been done. Regulations are expected to be published in 2019.

Activity 2: Allow other Seychellois-owned enterprises to engage in air transportation between all islands

2017

Outcome

This is possible. Currently there are three operators. These are IDC, Zil Air and Air Seychelles

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Activity 3: Extend moratorium on big hotels until 31st December 2020

Outcome

A decision was taken by Cabinet following the Carrying Capacity study which indicated a total of 3000 rooms in the pipeline. As such, Government decided to extend the moratorium in order to encourage the developers to start their projects.

2017

Activity 4: Publish list of big hotel projects that had all the necessary approvals at the time that the moratorium came into force

Outcome

This has been done and was presented to the National Assembly as well as to the different media houses.

2017

Activity 5: Public access to beaches

Outcome

All beaches have public access. There are only two registered instances where access is not the preferred route of some individuals. The law to make this necessary is Physical Planning Bill which is at the National Assembly in the second reading stage.

2017

Activity 6: Rid all beaches of infrastructure unfairly infringing on our rights to enjoy the beach

Outcome

All instances where this has been raised has been dealt with by Planning Authority.

2018

Activity 7: Vertical integration policy to be published

Outcome

The necessary Regulations are being drafted so as to ensure that the provisions are backed by legislation.

This shall therefore ensure that there is a more level playing field where both small and large entrepreneurs are able to fully participate.

2019

Activity 8: Air Seychelles to obtain one new plane which is more fuel efficient than the existing one

Outcome

The A320 Neo called 'Veuve' started operating in August 2019

Summary of Cabinet decisions - Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine

Accession and Domestication of the Bunker's Convention

Cabinet approved for accession and domestication of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunkers Oil Pollution Damage 2001. The Convention applies to damage caused on the territory, including the territorial sea, and in exclusive economic zones of States Parties. Bunkers convention was approved by the National Assembly in July and has been deposited to the International Maritime Organisation. It is to come into force on the 23rd November 2019. Although accession is soon to come into force, domestication is yet to be prepared.

Port Development

Cabinet approved for the development of Seychelles Ports Authority's investment plan including extension of Port Victoria (Mahe quay). The port extension which will bring a lot of benefits to the country will start as of February/March 2020.

Policy on Seafarer's Competency

It had been identified that individuals working on board local vessels especially hostesses or 'boat boys' are working without any basic safety training. SMSA, following the standards set by IMO ensures that seafarers are competent and medically fit to work on different types of vessels. Therefore all seafarers working on board any non-conventional vessel shall hold the Basic Safety Non STCW or Basic Safety STCW certificates. The Policy direction established will be coherent with the set of legislation which the SMSA is currently revising including in the Seychelles Maritime Authority Bill, the Amendments to the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, the Beach Control Act 1971 and the Control of Hire Craft Act 1973.

The policy has started its implementation since January 2019. The Seychelles Maritime Academy is the recognised institution to provide training in the required areas. This should lead to a reduction in the number of accidents and casualties at sea by improving seafarers competencies in basic safety measures.

Accession and Domestication of Annex VI of the International convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 1973/1978)

Cabinet approved for accession and domestication of Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships; Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention. By acceding to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annexes III-VI, Seychelles will be able to produce regulations for the control of pollution by harmful substances carried by sea in packaged form (Annex III), pollution by sewage from ships (Annex IV), pollution by garbage from ships (Annex IV), and prevention of air pollution from ships (Annex VI). Motion for Accession was approved by National Assembly on 16 April 2019.

Proposal for Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority Act and to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, and control of hire craft and the Beach Control Act and Subsidiary Legislations

The Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority (SMSA) Act is an Act to establish the Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority to administer, regulate, co-ordinate and oversee maritime affairs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. This is essential as the current Administration is transitioning into an Authority which is aiming to become autonomous.

Amendments to the Merchant Shipping Act is to align this Act with the functions provided in the SMSA ACT. Both the SMSA Bill and the MSA amendments are finalised by the AG's office and are to be presented to the National Assembly for approval.

Accession and Domestication of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast water and Sediments, 2004

This is an international maritime treaty which requires signatory flag states to ensure that ships flagged by them comply with standards and procedures for the management and control of ships' ballast water and sediments. The Convention aims to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms from one region to another and halt damage to the marine environment from ballast water discharge, by minimising the uptake and subsequent discharge of sediments and organisms.

The Seychelles acceded to the Ballast Water Management Convention on the 27th February 2018.

Central Common Cold Storage Project

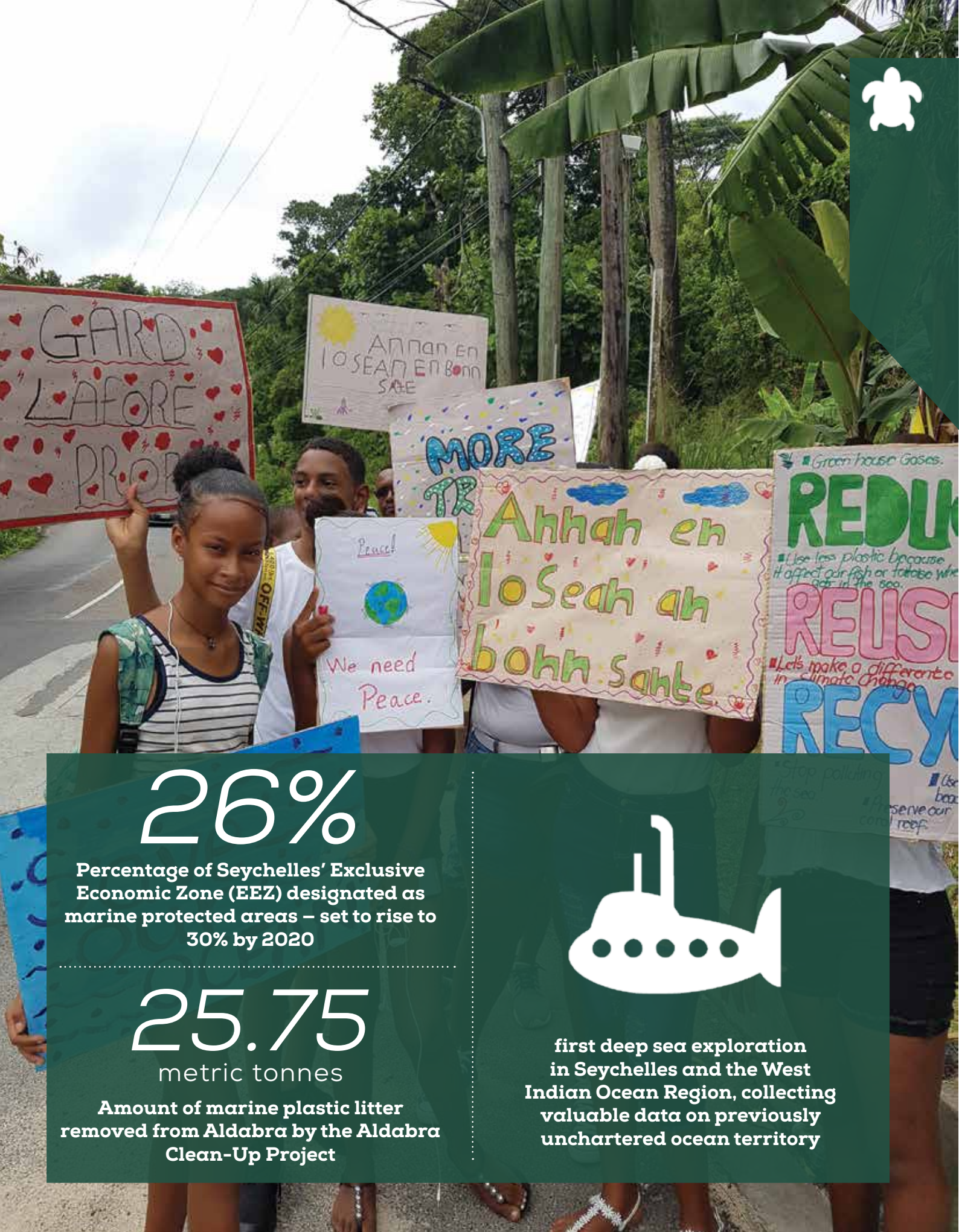
The project was approved by Cabinet. The project has started and its aim is to substantially increase the capacity for storage of fish and fish processing. This should contribute greatly towards the supply of fish on the local market during the south east monsoon and fish exportation. The project will strengthen Seychelles economy through value addition in fish products.

Proposed Civil Aviation (search and Rescue) Regulations

Civil Aviation (Search and Rescue) Regulations promulgated and entered into force on 23rd April 2018 as of SI 26 of 2018. The Regulations established the Seychelles Joint Search and Rescue Coordination Centre as the centre responsible for aeronautical and maritime search and rescue services in Seychelles.







26%

Percentage of Seychelles' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) designated as marine protected areas – set to rise to 30% by 2020

25.75

metric tonnes

Amount of marine plastic litter removed from Aldabra by the Aldabra Clean-Up Project



first deep sea exploration in Seychelles and the West Indian Ocean Region, collecting valuable data on previously uncharted ocean territory

Environment

“

Together, we need to continue looking after our environment. We need to continue protecting our rare and endemic species and fragile ecosystems, and also continue managing our natural resources sustainably.

President Faure SONA 2017

”

Summary of Cabinet decisions - Environment

The Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change is responsible for the protection and sustainable management of the environment and its resources. A healthy environment brings direct and indirect benefits to the people and contributes to the socio-economic development of the country.

Protected area designation and Management

At present, almost 50% of land is currently under legal protection and there are plans to increase marine areas under protection. Cabinet recently approved for the Ministry to initiate the legal procedure to designate four new areas namely Le Ravin de Fond Ferdinand, Anse Lazio, Anse Source D'Argent and Grand Police under the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (NPNCA). It also approved the designation of 26% of the EEZ, with plans to increase the marine protected areas to 30% by 2020 under the Marine Spatial Planning initiative. Procedures are underway to designate a further 4% of the EEZ by 2020.

Land Ownership in Protected Areas

A large proportion of land in the National Parks is privately owned and Cabinet approved for the development of a new Policy for Managing land ownership in the Protected Areas. The Policy will guide relevant Ministries pertaining to development in the

Parks. The Policy is in its final stage and will be presented to the Cabinet of Ministers later this year for approval.

Management Plans

To ensure the successful management of key areas and also the sustainable use of species, Cabinet approved several management plans such as Fond Ferdinand and Aldabra Management Plan, the Wetlands Policy and Action Plan 2019-2022, the Policy for the Conservation and Sustainable utilization of the Coco de mer, Access and Benefit Sharing Policy amongst others. Cabinet also gave support to a regulation to regulate the trade and export of unprocessed coco de mer kernels.

The Nature Reserve and Conservancy Act

Given the various gaps existing under the NPNCA, Cabinet approved the review and modernisation of the law in line with the requirements of the Protected Area Policy. The Nature Reserve and Conservancy Act, which is still in the Bill stage, will replace the NPNCA and has new measures and categories of protected areas such as Sustainable Use Areas and also Ecological Reserves for the designation of biodiversity rich areas (e.g. natural wetlands). The Bill is in its final stage and will go to the National Assembly later this year.

Waste Management

Due to changes in our consumption patterns over the years, waste is considered a major threat to the environment. Government had to come up with appropriate and structured measures to better manage the waste produced. Cabinet took decisions in 2016 to

completely ban plastic carrier bags, Styrofoam, takeaway boxes and plastic cups and plates and more recently to ban the use of single use plastic straws. These measures were necessary because such materials take a very long time to break down in the environment. Government is also taking the lead in the process by eliminating the use of plastic bottles and promoting the use of green practices.

Several regulations have been developed and enacted to restrict the manufacturing, importation, sale and distribution of plastic bags, Styrofoam, takeaway boxes and plastic cups and plates. A National Waste Policy to direct the management of waste in the country and an Integrated and Comprehensive Sanitation Master Plan for Seychelles were also approved.

To ensure that waste is properly disposed, Cabinet approved a Solid Waste Disposal Treatment Strategy and proposed investment for the Providence landfill. The Land Waste Management Agency (LWMA) tendered for waste disposal and local companies had the opportunities to participate in this as well as in commercial waste, a service that was previously being done and managed by LWMA.

Cabinet also recognised the successes of various initiatives such as pet bottles and aluminium cans. It approved a new scheme for glass bottles. The initiative will be similar to that of pet bottles and aluminium cans where people will be paid for bringing in glass bottles to redeem centres. The redeem centres will then crush the bottles and subsequently send these to the landfill, export or explore alternative uses. To ensure the sustainability of the initiative, the introduction of a levy of SCR 2 was introduced on all alcoholic beverages in glass bottles.

Water management

With continuous demand for water in the domestic and also the business sectors, Cabinet took strategic decisions to ensure continuous supply of water to the people. This includes approval of a new desalination plant which will be commissioned in 2019, the construction of a new Dam at Grand Anse and also the renovation of Rochon Dam which was commissioned in 1969. A scheme for assisting members of the public with a small loan to purchase storage water tank was also approved. An integrated water policy was also approved.

Electricity Supply

With the rise in the cost of fuel, PUC had to rebalance the tariffs on a quarterly basis. To ensure the security of the electricity supply, Cabinet took several decisions such as the construction of a third power station in the vicinity of the existing power station that will run on LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas). LNG is more environmentally friendly and costs much less than Heavy Fuel Oils. The use of power ships from an independent Power Producer (IPP) to be explored pending the construction of the third power station.

Use of Renewable Energy

Cabinet decided to move toward more renewable energy. Several projects such as a 4MW floating PV project (the first of its kind in Africa, and one of the first in the world) installation of 5MW on the Ile De Romainville including a 500KW split into 100KW unit be deployed on the National Assembly, Hospital and other Government establishment amongst others were approved. Such projects were approved under the various Energy Efficiency Programmes to be conducted in the Public Sector. A new Energy Efficiency Policy and the development of a new Energy Efficient legislation were also part of the decisions.

As part of our international commitment, Seychelles signed on to various international initiatives related to climate change such as Climate Vulnerable forum (CVT), the Blue Carbon Partnership and NDC Partnership. It also ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement and provided support to new plastic Economy Global Commitment. It also recently approved the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer and the development of the relevant legislations.

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Activity 1: Promote a new value-addition industry for Coco De Mer

Outcome

The activities are ongoing through four companies that were successful in the tender process.

2018

Activity 2: MOU to be signed between IDC and ICS regarding Marie-Louise island as bird observatory

Outcome

Signed on 22 March 2019 between MECCE, ICS, IDC and Marie-Louise Foundation. The Environment Trust Fund (ETF) is providing funds for implementation of educational conservation activities with schoolchildren. IDC is currently building infrastructure for ICS staff.

2019

Activity 3: Increase the amount of land/sea that obtain the level of protection offered to National Parks

Outcome

Land: Designation of Grand Police, Ravins de Fond Ferdinand, Anse Lazio and Anse Source d'Argent was done in 2019.

Sea: Seychelles has designated 26% protection of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as marine protected areas, and it is planned to legally designate 30% of its EEZ as marine protected areas (MPAs) by early 2020. Seychelles hopes to nominate four additional terrestrial sites as protected areas by December 2019.

2019

Activity 4: Publish an action plan on long-term waste management for the country

Outcome

Seychelles has received technical assistance from the European Union to formulate a National Waste Management Master Plan, validation workshop of the draft document is in October 2019 and the expected completion is December 2019.

2019

Activity 5: Encourage better recycling of glass bottles

Outcome

Levy collection for the redeeming programme started since October 2018, an Expression of Interest was launched in September 2019 for interested businesses to operate the redeeming and recycling centres.

2019

Activity 5: Start a Waste to Energy project with the involvement of the private sector

The national development committee managing this project has requested that further technical and financial feasibility works be done. The Ministry will be assisted by the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).



4.6 Million

Amount of banknotes removed
from circulation as at end of August
2019, with a total value of SR
940,076,870.00

Vision 2033

was launched and published in
August 2019. Vision 2033 is the long
term vision for Seychelles

R50.6 million

Amount allocated under long
service allowance to
non-contract staff in July 2019

Finance, Trade, Investment & Economic Planning

“

Economic growth has been positive in the last 10 years. The macro-economic environment is stable and our fiscal position is stable. Today, the World Bank classifies us as a “High Income Country”. In Africa, we are the only country who has this classification, and we are the first country in the Indian Ocean to achieve this milestone.

President Faure SONA 2018

”

Summary of Cabinet decisions - Finance, Trade, Investment & Economic Planning

Vision 2033

Cabinet approved the Seychelles' Vision 2033 and its accompanying National Development Strategy presents a clear view of where we are, where we want to go, and over what time frame. It is a vision that will take Seychelles into the future and that will guide us to make deliberate efforts to improve the quality of life of our people. The Vision will transform Seychelles into the following;

“A resilient, responsible and prosperous nation of healthy, educated and empowered Seychellois living together in harmony with nature and engaged with the wider world.”

The existence of a suitable, enabling environment in terms of political stability and freedom; sound legal framework; economic resources and opportunities; and social norms, which are conducive to a sustainable development and are paramount to attaining this Vision. This need to be supplemented by a flexible and high quality education and training system that empowers Seychellois learners to take advantage of a rapidly changing global environment.

The successful realization of this long-term vision hinges on the hard work of all citizens; both state and non-state Actors. Furthermore, Vision 2033 calls upon stakeholders to work together towards creating an inclusive and more sustainable future for all.

Formulation of a new National Development Plan 2019-23

Cabinet approved the methodology to be adopted for the consultation and drafting process of the country's National Development Plan.

The drafting of a national development was necessary so as to ensure that the country's long term development is done in an orderly manner and within the medium term fiscal framework.

Stock Taking Exercise for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Cabinet approved the methodology on the stock-taking exercise for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The stock-taking exercise required all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to fill in a standard template which includes the different targets, goals and indicators. Each MDA must report on the ones relevant to them, identify gaps and ways to address these gaps while providing a rationale and prioritising in choosing their respective indicators. The importance

of this exercise was so that the country could establish a baseline in terms of its SDG reporting, with a view to presenting its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN in 2020.

Review and Amendment of the Statistics Act 2010

Cabinet approved for the revision of the Statistics Act 2010. The latter only regulates its statistical activity and does not make any explicit reference to the UN Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics. The Act is also limited in that there is no provision covering, amongst other issues, the nature of official statistics, coordination of statistical activities across the government and statistics programme of the NBS.

To ensure that Seychelles has an efficient and modern legal framework that recognises the existing challenges, it was agreed that:

- 1 The NBS Act, 2010 should be updated and modernised to cover the full range of activities and responsibilities of the national statistical system
- 2 The new Act should encode the concept of independence (scientific, professional and institutional independence) for all producers of official statistics
- 3 The new Act should give a clear mandate to NBS and the Statistics Units in government ministries, departments and agencies to access administrative and private data free of charge for statistical purposes.

Review of Customs Duty applicable on poultry and pork

Pork and poultry are considered as two of Seychelles sensitive agricultural products and several attempts are made to protect the domestic industry from the impact of competition from more competitive imports. The Agricultural sector presently benefits from several incentives, especially tax concessions on importation of equipment. Therefore, with a view of supporting the growth of the livestock sector, Cabinet approved to increase duty on imported pork and poultry meat, as of 1 January 2019. This would be a short-term measure to re-energise the industry and provide further leeway against the more competitive imports.

The new rate of pork is 15% + SR 3/KG.

The new rate of poultry is 15% + SR 5.92/KG

VAT refund on Local Purchases by businesses engaged in Agriculture and Fisheries

The VAT regulation makes provision for persons engaged in farming, fishing and supporting activities to be exempted from payment of VAT on importation of goods and equipment approved by the Ministry responsible for Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Government has amended the VAT regulations to allow registered farmers and fishermen to be eligible for VAT refund on locally purchased goods/equipment (excluding motor vehicles, except specialized motor vehicle as certified by the Ministry responsible for Agriculture and Fisheries which also benefit with Excise Tax concessions) solely for use in their business.

Introduction of Sugar Tax on beverages

The Cabinet approved for an introduction of a Sugar Tax equivalent to SCR 4/Litre that is applicable on all drinks including alcoholic beverages with a sugar content exceeding 5 grams per 100 ml. The aim of the Sugar tax is to address concerns with regards to diseases brought about by the consumption of excess sugar, such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension.

Transparency in the Financial sector and Tax related matters

Cabinet approved the reform agenda in the financial sector and tax matters for more transparency. This is part of the Based Erosion Profit Shifting project and the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) measures in the Seychelles Mutual Evaluation Report. This will ensure that Seychelles protect the financial sector and abide to international laws framework.

Public Private Partnership Legal Framework

The Cabinet has approved the public private partnership legal framework. The Government is committed to delivering better quality infrastructure assets and services through a more effective and efficient use of public and private resources. To this end, this legal framework provides the basis for a consistent structure by which public and private sector entities should work together to improve public service infrastructure delivery.

Bank Charges

Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) has been working with stakeholders to review the bank charges and fees that the financial institutions are charging. With this in mind, Cabinet has approved the CBS recommendations for some amendments in regards to the current bank charges and fees.

The first home acquirers will be charged a maximum processing fee of SR 2,500 on housing loans below SR 1.5 million. For the remaining loan amount above SR 1.5 million, the first home acquirers will be charged a maximum of 0.5% as processing fee on the balance.

Application of penalty interest on default loans vary greatly among banks. This poses a major concern as there has been instances whereby penalty fee resulted in the loan repayment more than doubling. Additionally, this results in an endless cycle of applying

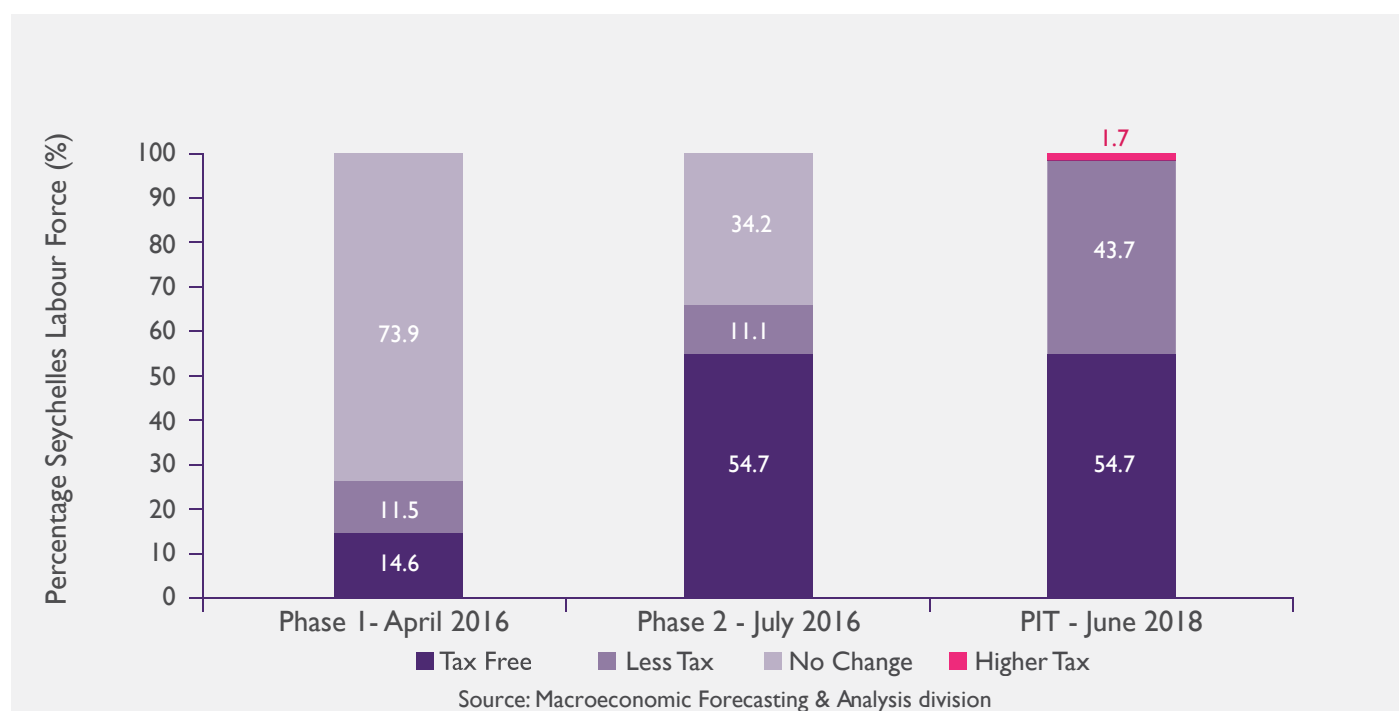
penalty fee, even when it has become clear that the borrower is unable to pay. As such, similarly to the international practice, borrowers in financial difficulties are encouraged to contact their banks as they are able to request rescheduling of their debts either by extending the tenor, reducing the repayment amount or by requesting a moratorium on repayment. As a result, the chances that a loan account will stay in default and accrue penalty interest for a long period of time, is low. Therefore the legislation has been amended so that the interest rate shall not exceed 5 per cent per annum and shall be calculated on the default instalment excluding the interest payable thereon. Consequently lenders cannot charge higher than the said amount.

Both amendments came into force from 1 April 2018.

Income tax reforms from 2016 to 2018

Following the State of the Nation Address in 2016, several Income tax reforms were taken in the lead up to the introduction of a fully-fledged progressive income tax (PIT) system. These reforms targeted lower income earners only and were split into two phases.

- Under phase I, effective from April 2016, incomes up to the then minimum wage of SR 5,050 per month were exempted from tax (0 per cent tax rate). This accounted for about 14.6 per cent of Seychellois (chart below). In addition to this, a mitigation policy was also in effect which offsets the unfair nature of this exemption on earners slightly above this level who will be relatively worse off (given the steep increase in tax rate from 0 to 15 per cent above minimum wage level). This policy ensured that all those earning up to SR



5,941 did not take home less than SR 5,050 per month. This accounted for about 11.5 per cent of Seychellois whilst the remainder of the work force faced no change to their tax burden.

- Under phase 2, the low income band exempt from tax widened from SR 5,050 to SR 8,555.50. This meant that now about 54.7 per cent of Seychellois paid no Income tax. Additionally, a mitigation policy was similarly set in place whereby earners up to now SR 10,065 per month did not take home less than SR 8,555.50 (impacting about 11.1 per cent of the Seychellois labour force). The remainder faced no change to their tax burden – about 34.2 per cent.
- The Phase 2 policy of July 2016 was extended up to June 2018 when the new PIT system was introduced. This involved progressive tax rates applied to different income brackets. Exemptions were also reviewed in order to provide more vertical equity and lessen the burden on lower income earners. The first bracket of up to SR 8,555.50 per month remained tax free, with rates increasing from 15 to 20 to 30 per cent.

Under the PIT system, Seychellois earning up to about SR 35,667 per month have a lower tax burden (lower effective tax rate than before when the rate was flat 15 per cent). Now, an additional 16,159 of Seychellois (or 43.7 per cent) face a lower tax burden and therefore an increase in their take home pay from the phase 2 policy. In total, about 98.4 per cent of Seychellois have a lower tax burden under the PIT. The PIT system also means that much higher income earners face higher tax burdens (those above SR 35,667 per month). About 1.7 per cent of Seychellois now pay more tax.

Exemption of various emoluments from Income Tax

Government has also exempted 20 emoluments from income tax in January 2018. The list are as follows:

- All compensation, when an employee retires, resign and is made redundant
- All gratuity payment for long terms services (which previously only the first R10,000 was exempted)
- All bonuses not exceeding an amount equal to 1/12th of the annual basic salary (previously only the first R10,000 was exempted)
- Thirteenth month salary as per the Employment Act requirements
- An end of contract payment limited to 15% of total basic salary earn during the period of contract
- Service charges
- Overtime payment
- Long service allowance

Review of lending rates to micro, small and medium enterprises

As of January 2018, with an aim to improve the access to finance, government reduced the interest rates for loans up to SR75,000 from 4.5% to 4% and loans above SR75,000 to SR300,000 from 4.75% to 4.25%, under the Small Business Financing Fund, currently under the Development Bank of Seychelles. This came in force following consultations from the business community, to assist the MSME sector, which has proven itself in terms of its continued contribution to the national development, a key driver of our economic growth and job creation. The government also aims to increase the repayment period to be extended from seven to 10 years, after completion of a review of this scheme which is ongoing.

Long service allowance

In July 2019, Government introduced the long service allowance to non-contract staff. A sum of SR50.6 million was catered for this scheme, to ensure staff with more experience in the public sector are compensated for their vast experience. 5,530 staff were expected to benefit from this scheme and this represent 53% of the total Government workforce.

In October 2019, Government announced the extension of this incentive to contract holders as well to take effect in January 2020. A sum of SR14m has been catered for under this scheme for the 2020 budget.

Amendments to the International Trade Zone Act, 1995 to benefit employees

In 2019, Government amended the International Trade Zone (ITZ) Act of 1995 to make it at par with international best practices. It became compulsory for the businesses in this sector to pay Seychellois employees their 13th month pay and pension fund. This benefited 842 employees.

Introduction of special pension scheme for a group of public servants upon retirement

In July 2017, government introduced a special pension scheme for several specific professions that are challenging in terms of their working hours and current working environment. These are nurses, teachers, doctors, police officers and soldiers. An additional pension of SR1,000 was catered for a staff who has worked more than 25 years in these professions on top of their normal pension scheme paid by the Seychelles Pension fund (SPF) and retirement pension paid by the Agency for Social Protection (ASP).

The Seychelles Pension Fund Act amendments

The Seychelles Pension Fund embarked on a series of consultations with all its stakeholders in the form of a symposium in January 2017. This was followed by a series of public education/consultation, which started from January to June 2017. The objective was to open the consultative process to a wider audience. The suggestions from its members was included in the review process of the Seychelles Pension Fund Act 2005.

The legislation was amended to give the flexibility for retirement and limiting the claim to pension once only. A member retires upon reaching 63, or may opt for early retirement from 60. Members can also retire twice, if they continue working after retirement.

Another amendment is to allow payment of Voluntary Contributions upon members reaching the age of 55 years. Previously, a member was entitled to his/her Voluntary Contribution, standing to his/her credit in his/her SPF account, with any interest thereon, in a lump sum upon retirement or reaching the prescribed retirement age. This was along with the normal monthly retirement pension. Members was, therefore only enjoyed all their pensions at a very late stage in their

lives. It is every member's wish to have the possibility to have access to at least part of their Voluntary Contribution at an earlier age. Members has been allowed, on an optional basis, upon reaching the age of 55 years to have the possibility to request for payment of their voluntary contribution through the prescribed form in accordance with Schedule 2 subject to the fulfillment of conditions of Regulations 7 and 8. Once a member has opted for this option, he/she is free to resume afresh further contributions to their Voluntary Contributions account.

The third amendments pertains to allowing the payment Mandatory and Voluntary contributions, in a lump to terminally ill members. Members with a terminal illness have limited period to enjoy their pension, which is stopped once the Member passes on and does not have any surviving spouse or children. This lacks fairness on compassionate grounds as the member will not enjoy the benefits for making contributions for all the years to SPF. Once a member has been certified by the Medical Board as terminally ill, the member may opt for full refund of contributions made, both in mandatory and voluntary with interest accrued in the account of the member, regardless of not attaining retirement age. Once this payment is made, the member will subsequently be unable, to claim for a normal retirement pension, incapacity pension, spouse or children's pension.



Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Activity 1: Mechanism of housing assistance for each income band

Outcome

The Self-Finance allocation policy and the Condominium Allocation Policy were published in November 2018. The Social Housing Management and Allocation Policy were released in August 2019.

2017

Activity 2: Carry out consultations for the preparation of a National Development Plan

Outcome

The National Development Plan was launched on 5 August 2019. It sits on six pillars:

- Good governance
- People at the centre of development
- Social cohesion
- Innovative economy
- Economic transformation
- Environmental sustainability & resilience.

These six key pillars will serve as the foundation of our continued efforts as a nation to collectively visualize, conceptualize, own and, together, realize our aspirations.

2017

Activity 3: Implement comprehensive Progressive Income Tax (PIT)

Outcome

The Income and Non-Monetary Benefits Tax (Amendment) Act, 2017 was assented by President on 28th December 2017. The exemption schedule which came into operation from 1 January 2018. S.I. 25 of 2018 made provisions for progressive rates to come into operation from 1 June 2018.

2017

Activity 4: Establishment of a Local payment clearing house

Outcome

A Policy paper was approved end of 2018 recommending engagement with the World Bank. This has taken place and the project is on track for commissioning early 2020.

2017

Activity 6: Start work on the Port expansion project

Outcome

Financing was secured from the European Union and Agence France de Development for the project implementation. Work is underway.

Key State of the Nation (SONA) Decisions

2017

Activity 7: Generate additional returns for the public

Outcome

Efforts to get public acclimatized to long-term instruments carried out through several Government of Seychelles backed bonds have been well received, to date all the ones created were fully subscribed.

2019

Activity 8: Start construction of the Rehabilitation Center at Cap Ternay

Outcome

The project is at Environmental Impact Assessment stage.

2019

Activity 9: Purchase of Beau Vallon promenade

Outcome

The Purchase agreement was signed and the first instalment was paid by GOS through Société Seychelloise d'Investissements (SSI)

2019

Activity 10: Publish Vision 2033

Outcome

This was launched and published in August 2019. Vision 2033 is the long term vision for Seychelles and a national effort aimed at growing our country. It reflects the aspirations of the Seychellois people and articulates the appropriate national and sectorial goals to be accomplished by the year 2033.

2019

Activity 5: Make progress on Digital Government framework of RBM

Outcome

The World Bank has completed the Digital Government Audit and report to be sent to the Government of Seychelles. The report will inform the digital Government framework for Results based management (RBM). Following this; the establishment of the requirements for the online Performance Management and evaluation (PM&E) dashboard will start. This will be followed by the implementation of the online dashboard.



Summary of Cabinet decisions - Technology

Communications Bill

In the era of great advances in telecommunication, Seychelles continues to embrace the new developments which is ensuring that Seychelles benefits from the opportunities afforded by these new technologies and has the best possible national and international connectivity. In order to ensure this, legal and regulatory in this sector also need to keep pace with developments in the rest of the world. As such, Cabinet approved for the development of a new Communications Bill. The coming into force of the Communications Bill will ensure that the concerned sectors function within a legal and regulatory framework which reflect international best practices and lead ultimately to better performance of these sectors.

The Electronic Transactions Regulations

In April 2018, the Electronic Transactions (Affixing Digital Signature) Regulations was published. The aim of such regulations is to provide specifications for processes and technical specifications required under the Electronic Transactions Act (ETA) in order for it to be put into operation. The operationalisation of the ETA allows digital signing to be used in the Seychelles jurisdiction and for digitally signed electronic documents to be legally recognised. The usage of digital signatures has started and also being incorporated in Government E-services (e.g. in approvals for planning applications).

New Library Software

As work to renovate the National Library Building is planned for in order to improve facilities, the DICT has also acquired the latest version of the library software which supports the use of barcodes to track the administration of issued books and other modern functionalities. The implementation of the new software should make the work of librarians more efficient and library users will also have access to new tools when searching for books or interacting with the National Library. DICT is also annually paying for the Maintenance

and Support Contract for this software. The software has been deployed and is available for use by the National Library.

Internet access in schools

To facilitate learning and access to learning materials, Government saw it as necessary for all schools to have better internet access which will benefit both teachers and students. Collaboration involving four parties were undertaken in order to address this. Firstly, the submarine cable company, SCS, provided international bandwidth for state schools to access the internet in February 2018. This is at no cost to the Government. DICT then undertook and completed the configuration work that was needed for the architecture of the networks required for the schools to be able to access the internet bandwidth provided on the submarine cable connecting the country in a secure manner. The Ministry of Education also undertook and completed the upgrades of the school networks. The telecommunications operators (CWS, AIRTEL & INTELVISION) then phased in their connections to the concerned schools. By end of 2018, all components were in place and schools now benefit from more reliable and faster internet access service.

The communications tower and antenna policy

Cabinet approved the communications tower and antenna policy which should lead to optimisation in the use and setting up of physical tower infrastructure and also provide more clarity in the process leading to the approval or non-approval of planning applications for towers.

Cybersecurity Policy & Strategy

The cybersecurity policy and strategy were approved by Cabinet with the aim of giving a clearer roadmap and framework for improving the cybersecurity posture of the country. The policy is in force and work has started on the implementation of the projects and initiatives in the strategy.



Industrial & Entrepreneurship Development

Summary of Cabinet decisions - Industrial & Entrepreneurship Development

Seychelles One District One Project

As Government brings development into the districts, it is believed that developments should be to enhance life in the districts as well as preserve and promote the identity of each district. The SEYCHELLES ONE DISTRICT ONE PROJECT (SODOP) was approved by Cabinet with the aim of creating at least one Enterprise Centre in each district. The nature of the projects under SODOP will be compatible with other activities in the district and the surrounding location of the proposed centres. The projects will provide access to working and operating space for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), increase products on the market and encourage citizens to buy locally made produce.

Made in Seychelles policy

National recognition and promotion of products made locally is a very important step in any country's development. The Made in Seychelles Policy proposal approved by Cabinet seeks to protect and promote products made in Seychelles. Seychelles can easily experience a breakthrough in the quest for local content development and a stable, strong and advanced economy if Seychellois would patronise made-in-Seychelles products.

The Enterprise Seychelles Agency Act

In order to further enhance the MSME sector, Government felt it necessary to review the mandate of SENPA in order to align it with new developments in the sector. The Enterprise Seychelles Agency Act came into force on the 5th of August, 2018. The MSME sector is benefitting from the services of ESA such as business development, training and marketing services. The services provided by ESA should improve the quality of products on the market and increase the likelihood of business success.

Seed Capital Grant Scheme

Funding is a key element in ensuring the successful start-up of any new idea. In order to ensure that brilliant ideas have the opportunity to see the light of day, Government implemented the Seed Capital Grant Scheme in 2017. Altogether, around 190 applicants benefitted from 2017 to 2018 where around SCR 9 million was disbursed. Government was concerned that about the impact that late payment to MSMEs for services they offered. In order to address the situation so that MSMEs could continue to actively participate in the economy, assist in employment of Seychellois and generate revenue, Government approved for the development of the Prompt Payment Bill. This will improve MSMEs cash flow issues so that they can pay their loans and employees on time.

Five Steps to Starting a Business Booklet

The publication of the Five Steps to Starting a Business Booklet is another step by Government to provide guidance to individuals on how to start their businesses. The booklet also consists of a segment on Government financing schemes available for small businesses and contact details of the drivers of those Schemes.



A Focus on the Community

Upon his election in October 2016 President Danny Faure embarked on a community outreach programme consisting of a series of visits in districts around Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. He was accompanied by community leaders, representatives of district administration and of key services and agencies.

With a core aim of improving social and economic development of the districts, President Faure had the opportunity to see first-hand the progress of district projects and in discussion with the relevant people, propose possible solutions. Some of the pertinent issues raised were overcrowded houses, the need for house repairs, infrastructure improvement, creation of new roads or fixing existing ones, funds being made available for sports activities and youth programmes, an increase in district entertainment for locals and building adequate homes for the elderly.

Consequently, President Faure gave directives for authorities concerned to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable families under local government small district projects notably:

Housing

To meet the growing social challenges and housing needs observed in the districts, President Faure announced 24 housing projects in 24 districts in 24 months in his State of the Nation Address in 2017. SR 20 million was allocated in the 2019 budget to address housing cases of vulnerable families identified by the department for Poverty Alleviation that falls under Family Affairs. To date, there are 148 district housing cases recorded. 35 projects have been completed, 60 are ongoing and 56 are pending.

Furthermore, Seychelles will receive assistance from the Indian Government in the form of a concessional loan to build 3000 houses in the districts over the next 6 years. The Chinese Government will also provide a grant of SR 102 million that will go directly towards housing.

Land Transport:

Up to now 39 cases have been recorded. 10 are completed, 15 are ongoing and 14 pending. 9 road projects were completed in 7 districts Anse Boileau, Anse Etoile, Bel Air, Takamaka, Grand Anse Praslin, Pointe Larue, Port Glaud, and additional street lights installed at Roche Caiman, and Bel Ombre. The cases not dealt with are mostly due to issues with wayleave.

Businesses

Following concerns by the business community in the districts on the lack of commercial buildings and space for small businesses operating in the districts, Government announced in 2019 the implementation of the “One District One Project”. The Project proposes to build one enterprise centre per district. The project is due to start in 2020.

Security

On the issue of security, President Faure instructed the Department of Police to increase police district patrols and community policing in all districts.

Local Government - Infrastructure Improvement:

50 infrastructure cases were recorded, 20 completed, 16 pending and 14 ongoing. Examples of closed projects include:

- The construction of public toilets at Anse Royale behind the DA's office
- Fencing of the old people's home at Union Vale
- Resurfacing of the Bel Air Basketball court
- Repair of the Bel Air toilet facility
- The introduction of a mini gym at Au cap
- The installation of a multi-purpose court and playground at Perseverance



President Faure's International Achievements

Country visited: Morocco

Event: COP22

2017

22nd session of the Conference of Parties COP22 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Seychelles was nominated for Chairmanship of the newly formed Commission for Islands established during the Africa Action Summit held in the margins.

Met with the Prime Minister of Morocco for cooperation in the health sector through the assistance of Moroccan medical specialists for Seychelles in the form of a medical professionals programme.

President Danny Faure held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). Assistance and capacity building received for legal draftsman, and established bilateral ties.

Country visited: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Event: World Future Energy Summit (WFES), Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

2017

Seychelles received funding of US\$8.5 million for a new solar panel farm from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) based in Abu Dhabi during the Sustainability Week.

Country visited: Sri Lanka

Event: Working visit

2017

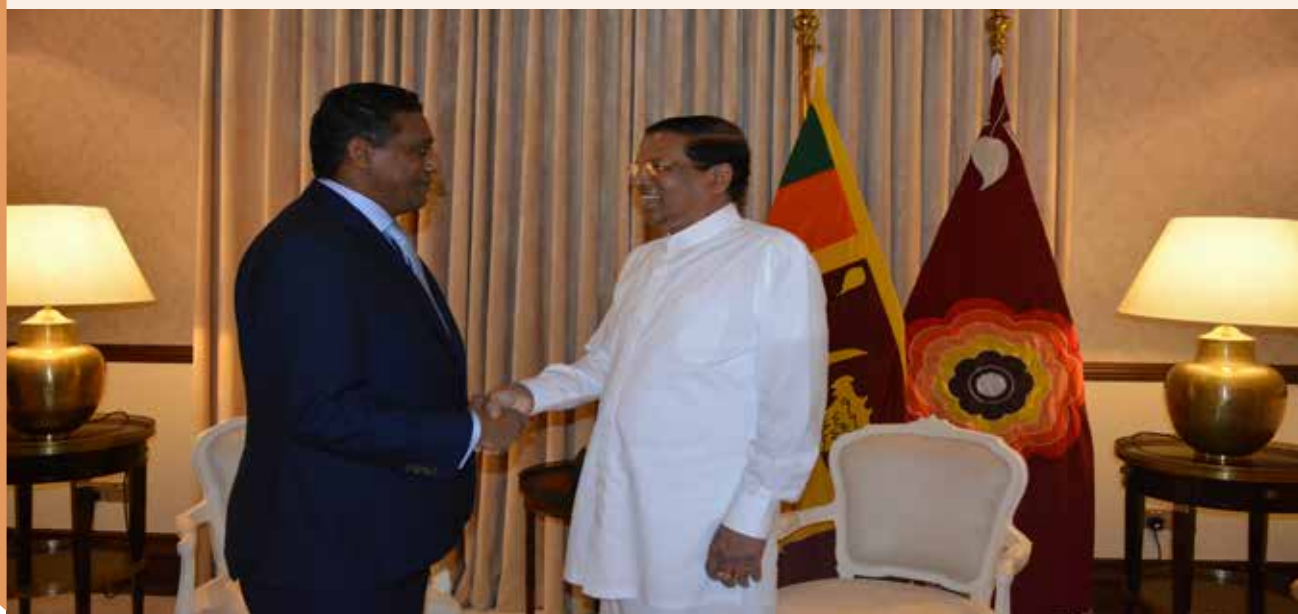
Visited specialist hospitals where Seychellois patients are treated to determine the quality of care offered and expanding partnerships.

Held bilateral talks with Mr Maithripala Sirisena President of Sri Lanka. Cooperation established in the agricultural sector where Seychelles would learn from the knowhow of Sri Lanka as well as strive for increased trade and commerce. Also cooperation in the fisheries sector, in particular aquaculture and a framework regarding the purchase of fishing vessels by Seychellois investors. A new policy frame work was drafted to enhance legal cooperation.

Country visited: Sri Lanka

Event: Working visit

2017



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Country visited: Dubai, UAE

Event: Working visit

2017

Met with His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai.

Sought the support of His Highness Sheikh Maktoum in the facilitation of talks with the key operators of shipping lines serving the Indian Ocean.

The main objective was to review high insurance premium charges which is a significant factor in the cost of sea freight. Any lowering of costs in sea freight would generate a reduction in the costs of imports, and consequently a lowering of the cost of living in the Seychelles and in the region as well.

Country visited: Kenya

Event: State Visit

2017



Invited by President Uhuru Kenyatta. Decision for exchange of intelligence and information between NDEA and counterpart in Kenya. Agreement to import flowers, fresh fruits and vegetables and herbs and spices from Kenya, and livestock products. Increased exchanges in the tourism sector.

Country visited: Cuba

Event: State Visit

2017



Invited by President Raul Castro. Seychellois students pursuing medical training given special permission to specialize after internship programmes. Increased Cuban medical professionals in Seychelles. Knowledge exchanged in new, affordable medical treatments in diabetes that could lead to USD 2 million savings yearly for Seychelles

Country visited: Dubai, UAE

Event: Working visit

2017

As a result of this meeting, the UAE will finance 400 additional units in the housing sector, a new drug rehabilitation centre, and pledged financial support towards one of the country's upcoming national projects – the Grand Anse Mahé Dam.

Country visited: Mauritius

Event: State Visit

2017



Invited by Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth. Successful joint management of 400,000 square kilometres of the extended continental shelf together with Mauritius, the first of its kind in the world. MOU on Agriculture signed, to enable the importation of goods from Mauritius. Agreement to pool procurement of goods and medicinal products, reducing its cost in Seychelles. MOU for exchange programmes and capacity building for youth, defence, prisons and education.

Country visited: New Delhi, India

Event: International Solar Alliance (ISA) Founding Conference and Solar Summit 2018

2018

Met with PM Modi, secured several lines of credit from India in the fields of housing, health, education and defence. India committed to continue supporting Seychelles in our socio-economic development, specifically in the field of cyber security and police reorganization and modernization. Established partnerships that would enable the integration of distributed solar energy solutions to the national electrical grid and system on a larger scale. Met with partners to support with IT solutions for police department and a Health Management Information Solution.

Country visited: Charlevoix, Quebec, Canada

Event: G7 Summit

2018

Making history, President Faure was invited to deliver an exclusive presentation to G7 Leaders on Seychelles' championing of ocean conservation and the blue economy. Raised profile of the country and established Seychelles as a thought leader in climate action and ocean protection.

Country visited: India

Event: State Visit

2018

Invited by President Ram Nath Kovind. Received credit line of USD 100 million aimed at helping Seychelles build up its maritime capacity, a new government house for various public offices, a new police headquarters and Forensics Laboratory, and a new building for the Attorney General's Office. The outcome of the visit also included a new International Conference Centre, a state-of-the-art specialty hospital, and the construction of 3000 housing units and financing for the Grand Anse Dam. 71 disabled-friendly buses would also be given to SPTC. A second Dornier aircraft was also gifted to Seychelles, building up our local airforce.

Country visited: Beijing China

Event: 2018 FOCAC Summit (Forum on China-Africa Cooperation)

2018

Received approximately SCR 102 million of assistance from China. Chinese Government committed to considering the financing and construction of the 4km tunnel project connecting Cascade and Grand Anse. Established cooperation agreements in the blue economy and research exchanges in the maritime space.

Country visited: Malta

Event: Our Ocean Conference

2018

Since 2014, Our Ocean conferences, have invited world leaders to look forward and respond by delivering high-level commitments and transforming the challenges into opportunities for cooperation, innovation and entrepreneurship.

President Faure was invited to share the Seychelles experience to world leaders and also provide an update on commitments to ocean conservation such as the issuance of the first Blue Bonds in support of sustainable fisheries, and the debt swap to develop a marine spatial plan of our EEZ and designate 30% as marine protected areas.

Country visited: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Event: 11th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

2018

During the Session, he was announced as the Champion for the Development of the Blue Economy in Africa, as a result of which he will be the advocate for the sustainable development of the blue economy for the whole continent.

Country visited: Mozambique

2019

Event: State Visit

Established stronger working relations with neighbouring Mozambique in important fields such as defence, cultural exchange, fisheries, minerals and energy, trade, agriculture and the blue economy.

Country visited: Ireland

2019

Event: Seafest Maritime Festival

Established stronger working relations with Ireland in fields such as maritime education, exchange and resilience.

Country visited: Washington DC, USA

2019

Event: National Geographic Society Planetary Leadership Award

Accepted the National Geographic Society's prestigious 'Planetary and Leadership Award'. The award recognises a world leader who has successfully established globally significant protected areas, such as national parks, wilderness areas, or marine reserves, that are fully shielded from exploitation.

Country visited: Washington DC, USA

2019

Event: International Finance Corporation

The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and the largest global development institution focused on the private sector, operating in more than 100 countries worldwide.

President Faure met with the CEO of IFC to look at the Corporation's potential involvement in the greening of the Seychelles economy in areas such as renewable energy and energy savings, including the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and solar power to produce electricity, tackling climate change, and boosting eco-tourism.

Country visited: Japan

2019

Event: Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7)

Attended the largest international conference held in Japan, promoting investment in Seychelles to Japanese investors and highlighting Seychelles' leadership in areas such as the blue economy and maritime security. Also further strengthened bilateral relations with Japan.



GOVERNO DE MOÇAMBIQUE



CRESCENDO
AZUL MAPUTO
2019



Moving Forward

President Danny Faure's commitment to Seychelles remains unwavering. Vision 2033 and the National Development Strategy 2019-23 launched in August 2019 provide the view of where we want to be in fifteen years' time and the road map of how we will get there, respectively; "A resilient, responsible and prosperous nation of healthy, educated and empowered Seychellois living together in harmony with nature and engaged with the wider world."

Key to this is the involvement and participation of every single Seychellois on this journey, including you. President Faure firmly believes that 'our country is greater than us all'. It means that we put the country before us. It means working together to make it greater, but doing so in harmony and peace. Peace, is a state national reconciliation. To this effect the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity continues with its deliberations to bring closure to many, so that those impacted are able to move on with their lives, both from a political and on a national level.

The Access to Information Act passed in 2018 was a much needed mechanism to facilitate the access to and sharing of information. Freedom of expression and speech have been enabled. However, dialogues should be held peacefully with the aim of achieving constructive goals.

Government remains fervently driven in establishing an education system that empowers the youth to become high performers in a fast paced growing country of less than 100,000 people. Its focus is on teaching, training, developing and harnessing core skills that will close future employment gaps. President Danny Faure will continue to push the principles of 'accountability, good governance and transparency' in all strands of work force with a view to steer high productivity which will then lead to economic growth, while at the same time effectively communicating and engaging with Seychellois.

A strong relationship between Government, the private sector, civil society, parastatals and NGOs is key to achieving our core objectives such as in the areas of housing, transport, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and finance. Government, through the Agency for Social Protection (ASP) will continue to help families who need social assistance based on need and data-led assessment.

Government's efforts in revamping the districts into communities where our children and families feel safe and can benefit from entertainment and business facilities will continue. Key to progress is the need to adopt best ways to create leniency and efficiency in all Government institutions, through the effective use of modern technology, thereby improving customer service.

It is making sure that we continue to develop our health services so that we can provide even higher standard of care to our people. Government is creating an environment where our local fishermen and farmers can make use of improved structures to generate a better living for themselves and their families.

Preserving and protecting our environment and becoming more aware of the challenges facing our small country from a climate perspective will need to be everyone's concern. This requires you doing your part to make sure you take care of your own surroundings. The future is creating a welcoming environment for all tourists who visit our land and spend significantly, helping to boost our economy. It is our country experiencing a steady financial growth where, already classed as a high income country, we identify new opportunities for revenue and wealth generation, which will enable us to retain a competitive edge in Africa and the world, but most importantly improve the lives of every Seychellois living in Seychelles.

Acknowledgements

‘President Faure’s three years in Office – Key achievements’ presents an overview of a number of Cabinet decisions taken since President Faure took Office in October 2016 until now. It also provides updates on key State of the Nation (SONA) announcements made during the same period. It is important to note however that not all Cabinet decisions and SONA points have been included.

For a full list of all Cabinet decisions and SONA announcements, please visit the State House website; <http://www.statehouse.gov.sc/>

- notably the Cabinet decisions and speeches sections.

In addition, the highlights and outcomes of some of President Faure’s international trips and decisions made have been captured.

This publication is the result of a collective effort from the Communications Department, the Press Team, The Cabinet Office and other key individuals working in the Office of the President.

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Request a printed copy: d.hertel@statehouse.gov.sc







