



First and foremost..

A Message from Minister Hassan



The year 2023, has gotten off to a flying start, where the Ministry is as busy, if not busier than previous years. This year, we have so many targets and goals to achieve, and when I see how all of you have pulled up your sleeves since the get go, to achieve our set objectives, I commend all of you.

Despite how busy with work we are, we have been able during this first quarter to take time out, to honour our staff for their long service. Congratulations and thank you to all of you who have chosen the Ministry and the public service as your career path.

Whilst we congratulate the older generation for their good values of hard work, loyalty, reliability and consistency, let us not forget the young professionals who are also achieving their career goals, by simply adopting this same ethos.

Let us continue on this path and journey together.

As we move forward, the ministry is also at the center of many structural reforms, that need to take place if our country is to remain on a sustainable growth. I have no doubt that I can count on each and every one of you, to deliver and face whatever challenges we encounter in the future. You have all shown tenacity, determination and perseverance during the past two years, in getting our country's economy on the right path to recovery.

I trust you will tackle 2023, with the same positive attitude.

To conclude, firstly, I want to say thank you to each and every one of you for your hard work, and secondly, I wish you all the best for this year.

Let us continue to work as a team.

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back everybody.

A new year, a new newsletter, with a brand new name as well.

After two years, and feedback from you, we have revamped the newsletter, giving it a more colourful and attractive layout, with more interesting content for your enjoyment.

As we move along, do not hesitate to send your contribution to the PR office, for our next issue.

We wish you courage and happiness for the year.

Happy Reading to all of you!!!!



Long Service Award ceremony



A group photo of the awardees, with the President, Vice President, Minister Hassan and the Management. The first ever Long Service Award Ceremony was organised by the Ministry on Friday 03rd March, at the Savoy Hotel and Spa, Beau Vallon.

In total there were 46 awardees, who have spent 10,15,20, 25, 30 and 40 years, not only at the Ministry, but in the public service, who were honoured for their long service.

Congratulations to all, for your loyalty and devotion to your career.

For photo gallery of the awardees, go to pages 8,9 & 10.

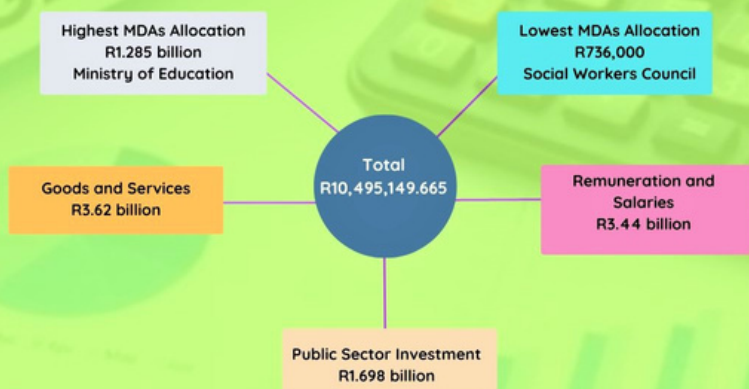


The 40 year Club

At the ceremony, five staff were rewarded for their 40 years in the public service and they are:

- Mrs. Veronique Adeline – just retired
- Mrs. Marguerita Belle – still working
- Mrs. Desline Capricieuse – still working
- Mr. Charles Morin – still working and
- Mrs. Doris Naiken – just retired

Budget 2023 - A simple Breakdown



IMF MISSION

Seychelles and IMF agrees on a new EFF Programme

Seychelles and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have agreed the terms and conditions for a new Extended Fund Facility Arrangement.

Negotiations for the new EFF, were undertaken during a two week IMF Mission, which took place between 16th and 29th March.

The Mission's objective was twofold;

- to review the economic and financial performance under the agreed terms of the current EFF and
- to negotiate terms and conditions under a new EFF

Following the two weeks' mission, the head of the IMF Mission, Calixte Ahokpossi, had this to say on the review under the first EFF.

"Performance under the current EFF has been strong. Economic recovery, fiscal consolidation and debt reduction continued in 2022, resulting in public debt declining to 69.9

percent of GDP at end-2022 (11 percentage-points reduction since end-2021). The new EFF and RSF will support the authorities' efforts to maintain macroeconomic stability, advance structural reforms, including climate adaptation and mitigation, and insure against downside risks."

According to the IMF Staff Level Press Release, in 2022 the tourism industry has 'strongly' recovered, with 'arrivals reaching about 87% of pre-pandemic levels. As a result of this strong recovery, the GDP growth 'accelerated to 9%, from 5.4% in 2021.

Inflation in 2022 was 'relatively low' at 2.6%, declining from an average of 9.8% in 2021. In 2023, inflation is projected to be averaging 1.4%.

For the first time in two years, Seychelles recorded a primary fiscal surplus of 0.7% of GDP, in 2022. In 2021 and 2020, there was a primary fiscal deficit of 3.2% and 15.2% respectively.



"The government has made significant progress in implementing policies and reforms set out in the current IMF-supported EFF program and in restoring macroeconomic balances. Quantitative performance has been strong and the broader structural reform agenda has also proceeded at a good pace. The current program is expected to be cancelled and replaced by the new one."

Under the new 36 month EFF, which is subject to approval of the IMF Executive Board, Seychelles can withdraw up to \$56.96 million.

Minister Hassan explained why Seychelles has signed a new EFF with IMF, saying the organization 'provides financial and technical support.'

'The advantage with IMF loans is that its terms of conditions of repayment, such as interest rate and the debt servicing period are more favourable. In addition, IMF agreeing on a new programme, means more credibility for the country, and this support, gives confidence other financial institutions, such as World Bank and African Development Bank to invest in our country.'

Survey to assess the vulnerability of the NPO sector to terrorism financing is underway



The second phase of the national risk assessment exercise focusing on non-profit organisations, which are vulnerable to terrorism financing is due to be completed by April.

The second phase is being conducted by means of a survey, which is confidential.

Speaking to the media, earlier this year, the Chairman of the National Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Committee (NAC), Secretary of State in the Ministry, Patrick Payet, explained the survey is 'a recommendation of the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog – the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).'

Currently, Seychelles is ranked as 'non-compliant' to the Recommendation which requires that countries adopt a risk-based approach to the supervision of the non-profit organisations sector.

Online platform to alert authorities of perceived trade barriers is launched



The Trade Obstacle Alert Mechanism (TOAM) digital platform is now active. The platform was launched by the Trade Department, with the support of the International Trade Center.

TOAM serves as a platform for the business community to provide feedback on perceived trade obstacles and the clearance of goods at the borders.

The authorities will have 2 weeks to provide a resolution, if any.

Import Permit Unit goes fully digitalised

New entities, mainly Government agencies, NGOs and Offshore companies are now accessing the e-service of the Import Permit Unit, within the Trade Department.

To access the service, clients must register with the Import Permit Office to have a valid e-ID. The following documents are required for the registration process:

- Company TIN Certificate
- A valid NIN card
- A valid email address

Also the Unit has introduced the digital signing of their permits so to increase its authenticity and security, and for this reason issued permits will no longer be printed.

The Import Permit Unit launched its e-service for import and export permits in 2012. The current version of the e-service is accessible only to legal entities that have a Business Registration Number and individuals with a valid NIN.

The process to open the e-service to Government agencies, NGOs and Offshore companies, was initiated in 2022, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

IMF MISSION

Seychelles to benefit under newly set up IMF Resilience and Sustainability Facility

Seychelles has been chosen by the IMF as a pilot country to benefit under a newly established financing mechanism, called Resilience and Sustainability Facility.

During its two week working visit here, the head of the Mission, Calixte Ahokossi announced the 'RSF-supported reforms will help the authorities advance measures to integrate climate related considerations in the design of macroeconomic policies and frameworks, enhance climate-related risk management for financial institutions, strengthen the disaster risk reduction and management framework, and address adaptation and mitigation needs. While Seychelles has a well-advanced climate agenda, it needs to further strengthen its institutions to deliver and monitor its ambitious climate objectives and to mobilize additional resources to achieve them.'

Seychelles will have access to about \$46.19 million under the RSF.

2022 - Legislative Agenda

ACTS

16

the number of Acts the Ministry sponsored

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

50

the number of S.Is issued by the Ministry

STAFF TRAINING

Training on trade dispute settlement

Four Trade Officers, followed a three day training on trade dispute settlement in mid January. The training organised jointly with the EU, was held at TGMi.

The sessions were facilitated by Dr. David Luff, an experienced lawyer in the field of dispute settlement and international negotiations. Participants got a general overview and practical knowledge of dispute settlement and dispute avoidance in international trade agreements.



Marvis Payet, Bertrand Payet, Stephana Ah-Kong and Enid Mathiot, all from Treasury, were among nine public accounts officers who followed a three weeks course in India, beginning of January.

The four Treasury staff followed a course in Government Accounting and Financial Management. The course was sponsored by the Indian High Commission in Seychelles.

The training was facilitated by the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade, as part of its strategic plan to build capacity of Accounts Officers in the public sector.

They spent three weeks in India.

Antonio Bamboche and Emy-Lee Lucas participated in Trade Remedies training

Officials from the Trade Department and the Office of the Attorney General have undergone training on Trade Remedies from the Advisory Centre on World Trade Organization Law, (ACWL) in light of the drafting of Seychelles' first Trade Remedies Legislations.

The ACWL delivered the two-phased training on trade remedies in a bid to increase the technical and legal capacities in trade remedy matters.

The objectives of the trainings were to provide an understanding of the rules and principles of Trade Remedies as stipulated in the relevant World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements; to aid Seychelles in the drafting process of the Trade Remedies legislations; and to build knowledge on the practical application of trade remedies, its investigation procedures, and its key calculations.



FPCD organises self assessment exercise

The Financial Planning and Control Division in the Ministry held a one day symposium, as a mean for new recruits to learn more about the different sections of the Division, for current staff to re-acquaint themselves and carry out a self-assessment exercise to further improve their working environment and personal interaction.

FPCD, as the Division is known, is headed by Ms. Astride Tamatave, Comptroller General, and her deputy is Mr. Jude Commettant.

The Division is made up of four sections:

- Assets Management Unit - headed by Ms. Nadia Leon (Assets Controller)
- Public Budget Management - headed by Ms. Noella Vinda (Director)
- Public Investment Management - headed by Mr. Antoine Barbe (Director) and
- External Finance Management Unit - headed by Mr. Patrick Course (Principal Project Accountant)

"This exercise allows us to interact as a team, outside the office environment. We also have had new recruits, so its important for them to know more about the Division and each of its four section, and also not forgetting for the others to re-acquaint themselves with each other as we do not occupy the same office space. Its an important exercise that will continue", said Ms. Tamatave.



Zero Based Budgeting training

Our team at MoFNPT attended a week long training session on zero-based budgeting in March.

The 'train the trainers' sessions were facilitated by the World Bank. The team were introduced with a budget tool which has been developed specifically to facilitate the zero based budgeting process. There were four other government entities which also followed the course.

The objective is to build capacity, so participants can provide the same training to other entities.



Overseas Training

Danick Louis from the Internal Audit Division is currently in Malaysia, where he is studying for a Master of Accounting in Forensic Analysis.

Danick, joined the Internal Audit Division in January 2018.

His current post is Assistant Internal Auditor.

We wish Danick the very best of luck in his studies.



Know more about Geographical Indicator



A group of staff from the Trade Department, participated in a three day session to enhance their knowledge on Geographical Indicator.

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

The main types of GI's are:

- agricultural products,
- foodstuffs,
- wine and spirit drinks,
- handicrafts, and industrial products

Staff Movement

Congratulations to Mrs. Elsie Morel on her confirmation and subsequent promotion to the post of Director of the Public Procurement Unit (POU). Elsie joined POU in 2013.

We welcome Mr. Damien Ferley, who has been recruited as driver. Congratulations Mr. Ferley on your appointment.

We welcome Ms. Mirose Boniface, the new DG for HR and Budget Management. Ms. Boniface joined the Ministry on 01st of March

Media Interaction



Meetings



Honouring past and present Ministers of Finance



CONGRATULATIONS

Long Service Awardees Members of the 40 Year Club



Mrs. Veronique Adeline
Newly retired



Mr. Charles Morin
Chief Negotiator



Mrs. Doris Naiken
Newly Retired

The white walls of the main Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Liberty House, has gotten a facelift, being, it is now adorned with the framed photos of the past and present Ministers of Finance. The gesture is meant to honour the Minister's contribution when they were at the helm of the Ministry.



Members of the 30 Year Club



Mrs. Marguerita Belle
HR & Budget Management
Officer



Mrs. Desline Capricieuse
Administrative Officer



Mrs. Rita Amesbury
Assistant Internal Auditor
Internal Audit Division



Mrs. Lydia Charlette
Senior Private Secretary to
the Minister



Mrs. Nadia Leon
Assets Controller

Long Service Awardees • Members of the 25 year Club



Selma Adela
Accounts Technician
Treasury



Sandy Ally
Personal Assistant to
the Minister



Antoine Barbe
Director
Public Investment
Management Unit



Jacinthe Bonne
Principal Internal
Auditor
Internal Audit



Cynthia Gill
Administrative
Officer



Myvonne Uranie
Assistant Internal
Auditor
Internal Audit
Division

Members of the 20 year Club



Jean-Paul D'Offay
Principal Trade Officer
Trade Department



Marie-Lou Dubel
Senior Internal Auditor
Internal Audit Division



Marie-Claire Hoareau
Data Processing Officer
Trade Department



Gretta Mathiot
HR & Budget
Management Officer



Noella Vinda
Director
Public Budget
Management

Members of the 15 year Club



Remie Auguste
Facility Technician



Aline Bibi
Accountant
Treasury



Bernadette Boniface
Principal Procurement
Officer- POU



Veronique Brutus
Trade Attache
Trade Department



Steve Charles
System Support Officer
IT Unit



Irene Croisee
Executive Director
Office of SS Payet



Sharon Guichard
Assistant Policy Analyst



Seylina Joymon
DG Domestic &
International Tax
Policy Division



Marisette Luther
Senior Office
Administrator



Cillia Mangroo
Executive Director
office of the Minister

Members of the 15 year Club



Valencia Marimba
Accountant
Treasury



Enid Mathiot
Assistant Accounts
Administrator
Treasury



Patrick Payet
Secretary of State



Anifa Sanguignon
Internal Auditor
Internal Audit
Division



Ketty Telemaque
Procurement Analyst
POU

Members of the 10 year Club



Gilberte Youngman
Senior Accounts
Assistant
Treasury



Adriana Auguste
Internal Auditor
Internal Audit
Division



Catherine Bannane
Accountant
Public Accounts
Management



Ricky Barbe
DG for Trade
Trade Department



Audrina Dine
Former Senior Trade
Officer



Stephana Hoareau
Principal Debt Analyst
Debt Management
Division



Dick Labonte
DG Debt Management
Division



Miranda Jeremie
Administrative Officer
Treasury



Maggy Santache
Assistant Administrative
Officer
Internal Audit Division



Bill Labrosse
Assistant Accountant
Treasury



Ruth Pool
Principal Finance Analyst
Public Budget
Management



Astride Tamatave
Comptroller General



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