



MINISTRY OF FINANCE, TRADE,
INVESTMENT AND
ECONOMIC PLANNING

Info Finance

FROM THE MINISTER

This is our first e-newsletter for the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning, MFTIEP. The idea of having our own e-newsletter is to ensure that you, our staff, partners, stakeholders and clients receive up to date information. You are our primary clients and we value your contributions

We encourage you to contribute towards our e-newsletter with articles, pictures, share your experience etc. With your contributions, we can improve our image.

I hope that you will all feel part of this new initiative.

“Economic outlook for 2019 remains positive, says IMF

IMF has completed its third Review under the Policy Coordination Instrument Arrangement with Seychelles from the 6th to the 9th March 2019. Speaking at a Press Conference, Mr Sy noted that the delegation have had a frank and transparent discussion with the Ministry of Finance, and that they also discussed permanent fiscal measures in 2020 that would help secure the medium-term debt reduction target.

And for his part, Secretary of State, Patrick Payet pointed out that the Ministry will look at the budget and see how best to structure the major infrastructures. "we need to assess and ascertain these policy recommendations, how we can structure everything in such a way in the 2020 budget and ensure as well that the fiscal policies that we are implementing currently, with all the stakeholders, will ensure that there is macro-economic stability in 2019," he said.

Finance Ministry issue new Bonds

The Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning (MFTIEP) has announced the issuance of three new bonds.

The bonds - one for the Government of Seychelles and two for the Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS) will be administered by the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS).

The two DBS Bonds, each worth SCR 50 million, will be issued in April 2019. One is for a three-year period and the second is for five years. The three-year bond will bring an interest rate of 6% per annum, while the five-year bond will bring an interest rate of 6.5% per annum. Payment of interest will be done quarterly. The DBS Bonds will be guaranteed by the Government of Seychelles.

The Government Bond amounting to SCR 200 million will be issued in July 2019. The bond, which will be for monetary policy purposes is for a period of seven years, bringing an interest rate of 7% per annum. Interest will be paid half-yearly.

All bonds will be issued in multiples of SCR 5,000 with a minimum value of SCR 5,000.

The new bonds being issued are therefore aimed at attracting new investments and encourage savings among interested adult individuals, commercial banks, companies, institutions, clubs, societies and other organisations.

Drafting of proposed law to counter money laundering has started with the assistance of international consultant

Seychelles is currently receiving the assistance of a consultant with extensive knowledge in trends of organised crime and money laundering in the region, for the review and drafting of the proposed Anti-Money Laundering Bill.

The consultant has already met and hold discussions with the relevant agencies and institutions and is expected to present the initial documents to the committee at the beginning of April. Stakeholders will be consulted once a draft text of the Anti-Money Laundering Bill is ready.

The drafting of the new legislation is part of efforts to strengthen the country's AML/CFT framework. Work being undertaken to strengthen laws, which is among issues highlighted in the Seychelles' second Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) will be included in a progress report being readied by the committee. This is in preparation for the upcoming Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Working Group and Plenary meetings, to be held in Arusha, Tanzania, from April 7 to 12, 2019.



Minister Lalané visits entities

A delegation from the Minister’s office visited the Seychelles Revenue Commission, the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission, Seychelles Commercial Bank, Credit Union, Bank of Baroda, Seychelles Credit Union, Mauritius Commercial Bank and Housing Finance Company.



SRC New Port

Main issues that came were the lack of space and human resources, capacity building of staff, need to improve working environment and better equipment to name a few.

During the familiarisation visits the delegation was briefed on the operation and performance of the respective entities; as well as exchange of information and discussions.



HFC



SCU



PEMC 1

Staff of the National Tender Board and Procurement Oversight Unit knows more about Media and Public Relations

Staff of the Procurement Oversight Unit and the National Tender Board attended an induction training, conducted by the Public Media Consultant of the MOFTIEP, at the request of Mrs. Marie-Nella Nancy, Chief Executive Officer of the NTB.



Working as a team

Objectives were to build staff capacity in writing effective press releases, articles, as well as how to deal with the media, promote collaboration and team work amongst staff, increase knowledge in different mediums used for the dissemination of information, share best practices to improve networking between the MFTIE, POU and NTB.



Interviewing techniques

All standing or fixed allowances, basic salary, after net of income tax and pensions are considered in the computation for loans eligibility

The Ministry confirms that all standing or fixed allowances are considered in the computation for loans eligibility, along with the basic salary, after net of income tax and pensions.

Following concerns raised by several government employees, regarding difficulties in securing loans from banks, the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning, MFTIEP, has clarified the matter with all the banks in the country.

Employees are claiming that banks do not recognise allowances, and are therefore not included in the overall amount in the computation for eligibility of loans, along with their basic salaries, after net of income tax and pensions. Some banks might require a minimum of 6 months’ pay slips as evidence to show that these payments are consistent.