

info finance

Volume 2, Issue 2— 30th June 2022

Farewell Diane. Rest in Eternal Peace

On Thursday 30th June, we all came together to say our last good bye to our dear colleague, Diane Agathine.

Her funeral, was held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This last sending off, was one which was difficult and sad for all of us.

At just 35 years of age, a life, so young, full of positivity and energy, was cut short. Diane left us very suddenly, on Wednesday 22nd June, 2022. We never got the chance to say our last good bye and that is what hurt the most.

The good memories of that we have of Diane, will keep us going and we will continue to cherish them.

It was 15 years ago, in April 2007, that Diane, joined the Ministry. She started out as an Accounts Technician, progressing slowly and patiently to the position of Senior Finance Analyst. Patient is one virtue that her colleagues at the Financial Planning and Control Division (FPCD), say Diane, had in abundance.

Diane was a well-loved colleague and she will be remembered for her warmth and her never say no attitude

Some of Diane's colleagues and friends pay homage to her.

Astride: "Diane and I, had worked together for 12 years. She was a calm person, always smiling, frank and very helpful."

Alise: "I've known Diane since 2019. She was friendly, lively, talkative and helpful."

Noella: "I've known Diane for 12 years. She was a good friend. I would describe Diane as having a very unique character. She gave good advice, and provide comfort which would make me feel better, especially if I was going through a difficult patch. Diane was a very positive person and a good listener. She was always smiling and helpful."



Ruth: "I've known Diane since 2012. She was an exceptional friend as well as a colleague. We would always hang out during lunch time, which will see us walking around in Victoria together. She gave good advice and was trustworthy."

Patrick: "Diane and I were very close, that she was comfortable enough to share her personal experience with me. I will miss her early morning phone calls, telling me to put the kettle on, so she could come and make tea. She knew where I stashed the teas, sugar and milk. She was very helpful. I will miss our friendship."

As we say farewell to Diane, let us all hold on to our beautiful and positive experience of her. Her story might have been cut short, but let us bask in the memories we all have of her. Let us celebrate the life of Diane Agathine, a dear friend and a dear colleague.

Farewell Diane. Rest in Eternal Peace.

Fitch Ratings upgrades Seychelles to B+: Outlook Positive

The rating agency, Fitch Ratings has upgraded Seychelles country rating, from B+; Outlook Stable to B+: Outlook Positive.

The new revision, published on 13th May, 2022, came only five days, after the IMF Mission had completed its 2nd review of the country's economic reform programme, under the Extended Fund Facility Arrangement, signed in July 2021.

The Minister for Finance, National Planning and Trade, Naadir Hassan, has welcomed

the new status.

"The revised rating from Fitch, shows that all the fiscal and monetary policies the government and Central Bank of Seychelles, have taken thus far, to achieve our economic reform targets, have been the right ones. Since the start of the reforms in July 2021, we have been prudent with spending, we have demonstrated that we are serious in reducing the country's debts, and we have shown our drive to bring in, the necessary structural reforms, needed to achieve these targets."

Trade Department launches a new re-designed Seychelles Trade Portal

The Trade Department, launched its new re-designed Trade Portal, in a ceremony, held on Friday 10th June.

The re-designed Seychelles Trade Portal was funded by the European Union Commission through the 11th EPA

Programme.

The Trade Portal is an online one-stop shop, which maps out all import and export procedures and fees.

To access the portal, visit: <https://www.tradeportal.sc/>

Good luck to Julius

We wish Julius Joubert, from the National Planning Department, good luck, as he embarks on a two-year scholarship at the Vanderbilt University in Nashville, USA. Julius is pursuing a Masters in Economic Development, starting in August 2022, under the Fulbright Programme.

Julius is a Senior Economist at the National Planning Department. He started work at the Ministry in 2017. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance, from the University of London, with academic direction from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

"From the time that I joined the Ministry, my work has been mostly relating to issues of Social Protection, Health and Education. This has allowed me to work with many partners, both locally and abroad, and to gain from more experience colleagues. Furthermore, for the last few years, I have been managing the African Development Bank portfolio in Seychelles and is extensively engaged in development cooperation with the World Bank on so-



cial protection reforms."

Julius is a member of the Board of the Agency for Social Protection.

"As I prepare to take this next step, I wish to thank the management and staff of the ministry for their support thus far."

We wish Julius, the very best of luck in his new educational endeavour.

Winners of Quiz Competition organised to mark International Intellectual Property Day received their prizes

The Seychelles Institute of Technology, (SIT), is the winner of the first edition of the Quiz Competition organized by the Trade department, to mark World Intellectual Property Day, celebrated every year, on 26th April.

The three participants of the SIT team: Justus, Denis and Jeffrey, received their prizes sponsored by the US Embassy to Seychelles and Mauritius, in a ceremony held on 07th June, 2022, at the National History Museum.

The final of the quiz competition, between SIT and Team 2 from the Seychelles Tourism Acade-

my, took place on 24th May.

As only two post-secondary institutions participated in the competition, STA (2 teams) and SIT, an elimination round was held on 19th May, where the two teams with the highest score, faced each other in the final.

The quiz competition was one of three competitions, which the Trade Department has organized this year, to mark World Intellectual Property Day, which was celebrated under the theme: IP and Youth Innovating for a Better Future.

Photos of the prize giving ceremony.



The winners from SIT



The runners up from STA (Team 2)



Third Position—STA (Team 1)

Internship Programme

Pemma and Marvin describe their experience as ‘very good’

In June, the Ministry welcomed two interns from the International School, for a two-week internship programme.

Pemma Commetant (17 years) and Marvin Prea (16 years), both are very much interested in the fields of finance, economics and accounting.

Pemma has described her experience as ‘very good’.

“Staff explain what needs to be done very well and have been very helpful. It was a good experience.”

On his part, Marvin said ‘there’s a lot of work, but it was to be expected. It’s been a good experience and I have learnt a lot.’

Both Pemma and Marvin were interning at the Financial Planning and Control Division (FPCD). They were in the good hands of Ms. Astride Tamatave and her team, and she has described them both as ‘fast learners.’



The Ministry continues to enhance its relationship with the media

The Ministry continues to further its media relationships and fruitful collaboration with media houses.

Since April, we are collaborating with the daily newspaper, *TODAY in Seychelles*, where we contribute weekly articles on the work/role and functions of the Ministry.

Since May, we have embarked on a collaboration with SBC's Radio Station – *Radyo Sesel* – for the production of a monthly programme called '*Magazin Lekonomi*'.

We also have a close relationship with SBC's '*Economic Watch*'. Not a month goes by, that, the Ministry doesn't feature in the programme.

The aim of participating on as many media platforms as possible is simply to reach a wider audience, as each platform has their own respective patrons.

As we are being more opened with the media, more and more of our staff are also being put to the forefront, to showcase their professionalism and knowledge, either in front of the camera or behind the microphone.

Let us forge ahead in our mission to raise awareness of our work and to educate the general population on our work/role and functions.

We thank you all.



Ms. Noella Vinda, speaking to SBC's *Radyo Sesel*, Harry Barbe and Lindy Servina, for *Magazin Lekonomi*



Ms. Stephana Hoareau, speaking to SBC's *Radyo Sesel*, Harry Barbe and Lindy Servina, for *Magazin Lekonomi*

Important Dates

26th April, 2022: The Trade Department organized several activities to mark the International Intellectual Property Day

09th May, 2022 - IMF mission completed its 2nd review of the economic reform programme under the Extended Fund Facility Arrangement

13th May, 2022 - Fitch Ratings upgrade Seychelles economic outlook, from B+: Outlook Stable to B+: Outlook Positive

23/24th May, 2022 - A two day workshop was organized, by the Ministry and SRC, focusing on tax and customs policy

25th May, 2022 -The Fair Trading Bill was ap-

proved by the National Assembly

27th May 2022 - Seychelles Pension Fund officially opened the Dreamgate Complex, on Ile du Port.

07th June, 2022 - winners of the International Intellectual Property Day competitions, received their prizes in a ceremony held at the National Museum.

10th June 2022: The new re-designed Trade Portal was launched.

12th - 15th June 2022: Seychelles delegation, headed by Minister Hassan, attended the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference.

Mainstreaming of international agendas onto priority areas of the National Development Strategy 2022-2025

The National Planning Department is currently preparing the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2022-25 with the following priority areas a Modern Public Service, Modernization and an Efficient Health System, A Modern Education System aligned with future needs, Transformative Economic Agenda, Promotion of Law and Order, and Environment

Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience.

The NDS will set the development agenda for the next four years and will take into account international development commitments such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063. The below mapping provides guidance as to how the priority areas are aligned to these international commitments.

1. A modern public service

SDGs



Agenda 2063 Goals

- A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens
- Transformed economies
- Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place

2. A Modern Education System aligned with future needs

SDGs



Agenda 2063 Goals

- Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation
- Engaged and empowered Youth and Children

3. Transformative Economic Agenda

SDGs



Agenda 2063 Goals

- Transformed economies
- Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place
- Blue/Ocean Economy for accelerated economic growth
- Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production

4. Promotion of Law and Order

SDGs



Agenda 2063 Goals

- Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched
- Peace Security and Stability is preserved
- A stable and peaceful Africa
- Fully functional and operational APSA Full Gender equality in all spheres of life

5. Environment Sustainability and Climate Change Resilience

SDGs



Agenda 2063 Goals

- Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities
- Blue/Ocean Economy for accelerated economic growth