

September — a busy month

It has been a busy couple of weeks for the Ministry, playing host to several national and international partners, as well as for the budget team, who are putting the finishing touches to the 2023 budget.

Integrated Planning and Integrated Toolkit training

In early September, the National Planning Department hosted a delegation from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The delegation was in the country, to conduct a three-day training workshop, on the Integrated Planning and Integrated Toolkit, an important instrument in enabling countries to align global and continental agendas, such as Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, to their National Development Plans.

Agenda 2063—Validation workshop

The National Planning also hosted a validation workshop in the middle of the month, bringing together local stakeholders to evaluate and validate the draft report of Seychelles' First Ten Year Implementation Plan' (FTYIP), for the Agenda 2063.

The final National Consultative Report for Seychelles focusing on the 'First Ten Year of the Implementation Plan of the Agenda 2063' was expected to be submitted to the African Union Commission, at the end of September.

During that same workshop, the groundwork for the preparation of the 'Second Ten Year Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063', got underway.

VAT Assessment

A team from the Fiscal Affairs department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), was also in the country, earlier this month, conducting an assessment on the implementation of the Value Added Tax regime.

After meeting with local stakeholders, the team presented their preliminary findings to the ministry and the Sey-



chelles Revenue Commission (SRC).

The final report is due soon.

Budget 2023

For the budget team, it is the time of the year, where they are tidying up the country's budget, for the year ahead.

The final document is to be presented to the cabinet on 05th October.

The 2023 budget will be presented before the National Assembly, in November.

Mid-Year Review

Even though the final touches are being put into place for the Budget 2023, the ministry, still had to prepare and present the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook for 2022 before the National Assembly.

The mid-year review was presented to the National Assembly on Wednesday 21st September. The 2022 budget has had a budget cut of SR 887,451,324.04, though around half has been reallocated through a Supplementary Estimate of SR 472,807,404.81, which was approved.

IMF mission—3rd EFF Review

Finally, at the time of publishing, the Ministry is hosting the IMF team, conducting its 3rd Review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Arrangement.

Debt Management Office has published several documents, so far this year

The Debt Management Office, has published several documents, this year, as part of the Ministry's drive to be more transparent.

The office, comprising of five staff, has published quarterly debt bulletins, which show the total Government and Government guaranteed debt at the end of each quarter.

The quarterly Issuance Plan of Government Securities are also accessible to the public. The document gives the indicative Issuance Calendar of Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds for each quarter.

At the beginning of October, the Debt Management Office published the 2022 Annual Borrowing Plan, a detailed document describing how the annual financing needs will be met during the budget year.



The Debt Management team

The compilation and publication of the reports are as per the Extended Fund Facility Arrangement, signed between the Government of Seychelles and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in July, 2021.

Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

A Perspective from a fellow colleague

For six weeks, from June to July, the Director General of the Macro Economic Forecasting and Analysis Division, Yannick Vel, was in the U.S. on an internship of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Today, we get Yannick's perspective on his six weeks journey.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders – the flagship program of the U.S. Government's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) – was created in 2014 to invest in the next generation of African leaders. Since 2014, nearly 5,800 young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa have participated in the Fellowship. The Fellows, between the ages of 25 and 35, are accomplished leaders and have established records of promoting innovation and positive impact in their communities and countries.

During the Fellowship, the Fellows participate in six-week Leadership Institutes, studying Business, Civic Engagement, or Public Management hosted by U.S. colleges or universities. Throughout the Institutes, Fellows enrich local U.S. communities while sharing best practices.



Celebrating national day in US with the cohort

I had applied for the Public Management track and was placed at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. This programme was the best fit for me with my current work experience in Government.

The Fellowship as very rich and included not only engaging academic sessions on im-

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portant issues facing African leaders in public service, but also included activities such as visits to organisations, businesses, charities, public offices all involved in public management in various ways such as a courthouse and a police detention center. Through these visits, as well as through other interactions, we had the chance to network, discuss and exchange ideas with prominent people in U.S. society. This was a great learning experience.

We also undertook many hours of community service – food banks working to help the homeless and less fortunate, helping out on a local farm, and even police ride alongs. This community service aspect was the most rewarding for me personally.

Also included in a very packed schedule (only a few Sundays off), were cultural visits aimed to enhance our understanding and appreciation for U.S. culture – I came to realise that there is so much more to Americans than just the ‘bad’ press we often read, so many citizens work hard for others in the community. We also visited places of interests, landmarks, as well as visiting Austin, the capital where we exchanged with Fellows at

University of Texas.

This experience was life changing and there is so much to take in. I have so much to reflect upon and hopefully find ways to improve myself as a leader in public service and as a member of our society. I made good friends with Fellows in my group and through our networking can collaborate in the future on common projects in the region. I am very grateful for having this opportunity and encourage everyone to apply as well.

In Palo Duro state park, the 2nd largest canyon in the US after Grand canyon



Good luck to our colleagues

Maryana Labonte, senior economist at the National Planning Department is furthering her education this year, as she is pursuing a one-year Master of Science degree in International Finance and Development at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

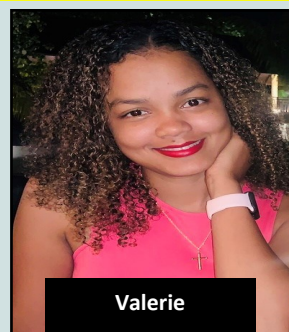
Maryana holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Finance from the University of London.

Valerie Banane, from the Financial Services Development Division is heading to the UK, to undertake a Postgraduate Degree in Economic Policy and Analysis at the University of Westminster, London.

Valerie, joined the Ministry in October 2018, after completing her Bachelor's Degree in Malaysia, and graduating with a BSc International Business (First



Maryana



Valerie

class Honors) in August 2018.

Kevin Romain, from the Domestic and International Tax Policy Division is at Keele University, UK, studying for a BSc in Economics and Finance.

From Treasury, we have Tara Tirant, who is in Malaysia, studying for a BSc in Accounting and Finance.

We wish all of them the best of luck, in their studies.

Welcome to the ministry

In the last few months, the ministry has welcomed several new staff. We wish our new colleagues good luck, and we welcome all of you to the ministry.



The new staff who met with Minister Hassan and SS Payet



Hillary Morel



Annella Michel



Sharon Barra



Lorinda Fanchette



Jade Jules



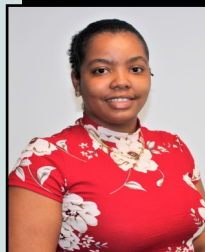
Ketsia Marie



Gervais Larsen



Jean-Paul D'offay



Stephana Ah Kong



Bertrand Payet



Leela Pool



Farida Moncherry



Fabrice Walter



Karinne Bonne



Wayne Tambara

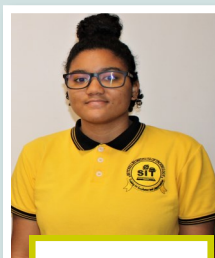
Internship Programme

Three interns undertake their internship at the Ministry

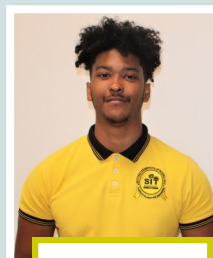
Three more interns have undertaken their internship programme as part of their studies at the ministry, during the course of the past three months.

Lara Bastille, is an 18-year-old intern from the Independent School and has been with the ministry for the past three months, posted at the National Planning Department, Debt Management Office and Macroeconomic Forecasting and Analysis Branch.

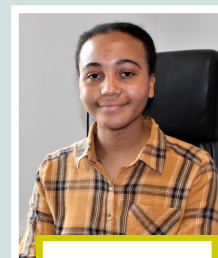
Kurt Simeon, and Sandrine Madeleine have been following their internship programme at the IT Unit. Kurt is following a 3 year course "Diploma in Telecommu-



Sandrine



Kurt



Lara

nications, whereas Sandrine Madeleine, is following a 3 year course 'Diploma in Information System Engineering'. Both are from the Seychelles Institute of Technology (SIT).

The overall winner of the SRC's Sports Day

For the first time, in a very long time, the ministry participated in a sports day.

Though it was not the ministry's own, staff band together to form teams, to participate, in the Seychelles Revenue Commission's sports day.

For most of us, it was the first time, that we played as a team, not really knowing the ability of each other, but what was important is that we could come together, outside of Liberty House and other working venues to mingle, be competitive and have fun.

The competitiveness and determination were clearly on display that Saturday.

Though, we had little time to train, our team work pushed us over the finishing line, and at the end of the day, we had gathered enough points to come away with the prize for 'Overall Winner'. The team spirit exhibited on the day, extended to our enthusiastic supporters also.

Our competitors were first in the long distance race (ladies/men), football, volleyball (men), and tug of war (men).

The ministry extends its deepest appreciation to the Seychelles Revenue Commission, for graciously accepting our appeal to participate in the SRC's sports day.

