



Welcoming our new PS for Finance



Since 11th of March, the new Principal Secretary for Finance, has settled in her new position. Ms. Astride Tamatave is no stranger to us, as she has been working at the Ministry for the past 13 years.

Ms. Tamatave joined the Ministry in 2011, as a Financial Analyst in the Financial and Control Planning Division (FPCD).

Ms. Tamatave has slowly worked her way up the ladder

of promotion and was head of the division as Comptroller General prior to her new appointment as PS for Finance. The position of PS for Finance has been vacant since 2021 and was last occupied by Mr. Damien Thesee.

Ms. Tamatave's appointment was made more poignant and meaningful, given it was announced on Women's Day, a great accomplishment.

Following her appointment, in a message for all staff for the occasion of Women's Day, Minister Naadir Hassan has urged staff to follow the great example set by Ms. Tamatave.

"Astride is a great example for all of you to follow, especially for her loyalty to the Ministry, and how she invested in herself on her way to the top."

With the promotion of Ms. Tamatave,

Mr. Jude Commettant has also been promoted to the position of Comptroller General. Mr. Commettant was the Deputy Comptroller General, prior to his promotion.



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Staff Meeting



Minister Hassan, accompanied by SS Payet, ED Cillia Mangroo and DG for HR, Ms. Mirose Boniface are conducting a series of staff meeting, giving an opportunity for staff for express themselves freely about their concerns, issues they are facing and provide suggestions on how to best improve their work place. So far this month, the delegation has met with the Domestic and International Tax Policy Division, Financial Services Development Division, Department of Trade and the Department of National Planning. The meetings will continue throughout the month of April, where the delegation will meet and have further engagements with staff.

Fitch Rating upgrades Seychelles Outlook to Positive, affirms BB-

In mid March, Fitch Rating upgraded Seychelles Outlook to Positive and affirmed its rating at BB-.

According to Fitch Seychelles' budgetary performance in 2023 substantially outperformed targets, with a primary surplus of 1.8% of GDP (budgetary target: 0%), and a headline fiscal deficit of 1.3% of GDP (versus a 2.8% target).

Fitch also noted that Seychelles continues to reduce its debt to 60.1% at end-2023.

The Seychelles government has welcomed the upgrade.

The Principal Secretary for Finance, Ms. Astride Tamatave, explained the rating proved the prudent fiscal approach adopted by the government is working and makes it easier for investors to access loans, especially on the international market.

3 students undertook their Internship at MoFNPT



Rebecca Barra
Financial Planning
& Control Division



Laurent Dubel
Macro-economic &
Forecasting Branch



Jessica Sinon
Trade Department

Three Seychellois university students completed their internship programme at the Ministry in early March. Their internship started from 08th January. All three of the students are studying at the Taylor's University in Malaysia. Upon the completion of their internship, they met with Minister Hassan, SS Payet, PS Tamatave and DG for HR, Ms. Mirose Boniface, for a briefing on their time at the Ministry. Minister Hassan has encouraged them to think and take long term decision when it comes to their future career, saying the ministry offers a wide range of options and avenues for career and personal growth.



Staff of MoFNPT provide training on foresight and strategic thinking



A week long training on Foresight and Strategic Thinking and Financing for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) was held in February. The aim of the training was to equip policy makers, more than 200 of them, from 87 public entities in these innovative approaches. Following the workshop foresight and systems thinking will be integrated in the strategic analysis and prioritization that informs sectoral plans and the budget process in Seychelles. The workshop is facilitated by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles in collaboration with United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Minister Naadir Hassan delivered the opening statement where he highlighted the importance of this workshop, given the government's mission to enhance and boost the capacity of public servants to ensure a higher level of service delivery to the general population. "We gather with a shared vision to reinvigorate and refine our internal policies and coordination strategies, aligning them with the priorities of the National Development Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals. This workshop is not just a formality; it is a commitment to empower officials from line Ministries, equipping them with the skills to navigate the intricacies of planning and budgeting. By embracing systems thinking and strategic foresight, our aim is to fortify thinking and strategic foresight, our aim is to fortify collaboration across Ministries for more effective resource allocation and short- to long-term planning. Let's not see this just as a gathering of individuals; it is a convergence of minds committed to catalyzing positive change."



IMF Mission reviews MTBF and MTFF, with objective to strengthen both frameworks



An IMF Mission was recently in the country to carry out a review of the Medium-Term Budget Framework and Medium-Term Fiscal Framework, with the objective of strengthening the frameworks.

During their two weeks' mission, the three-member mission had discussions with mainly the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade, in particular divisions involved directly with the preparation of the budget.

They also had meetings with representatives of various other government entities.

Discussions primarily focused on a review of the followings:

- Medium Term Fiscal Framework
- Medium Term Budget Framework
- Expenditure Costing and
- Program Performance Base Budgeting

In line with the mission's objective, the team analysed the current organizational structure, staffing levels, capital and recurrent expenditure, budget planning and ceilings, macro-fiscal forecasting models /tools and economic performance monitoring, process of critiquing forecasts, data availability and management, budget calendar, review of forecasts, communication and reporting, and fiscal objectives, among others.

They have identified areas where there are challenges, and duplication and have made recommendations based on their findings on how best to strengthen and revamp the budget process. The mission presented their preliminary findings and recommendations to Minister Naadir Hassan in mid February.

Minister Hassan has welcomed the recommendations and requested the immediate implementation of some of them.



MoFNPT updates Assets Officers on upgraded Assets Management software



As a means of improving the effectiveness of the Fixed Asset Management Software already in use across government, the Ministry has started the roll out of a newly designed format to be used for registering new asset data. The software currently serves as the primary tool for registering, tracking, maintaining and updating of government fixed assets purchased under the Minor Capital budget codes. The objective of the upgrade is to standardise the list of assets names that will be applicable across all ministries, departments and agencies (MDAS). To provide an update on improvements made to the software, the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade (MoFNPT) held a meeting recently, with assets officers within the government.



During the meeting, officials from MoFNPT provided further explanations on the improvements made on the Fixed Assets Management Database software.

The more than 100 assets officers were also apprised of the process for recording, write off, disposal, internal and external transfer and audit of fixed assets as per the Public Finance Management and Procurement Acts, as well as the Accounting Manual. The new software will allow MDAs to keep and maintain an accurate, complete and up to date register of government's fixed assets, mitigating the risk of misuse, abuse, theft and fraud, allowing for a higher service delivery and better planning for replacements. The Assets Management Unit, within the Ministry is in charge of Fixed Asset Audits within the government.



MoFNPT officials graduate from Executive Leadership Programme



Congratulations to SS Patrick Payet, PS Elizabeth Agathine and PS Francis Lebon following their graduation from the Executive Leadership Programme. The programme was sponsored and facilitated by the United Arab Emirates Government. They were among 27 Principal Secretaries who graduated from the programme, launched in October, 2023. Their graduation took place on the margin of the World Governments Summit, also held in the UAE and attended by President Wavel Ramkalawan and Minister Naadir Hassan.

The programme equipped the leaders with strategic foresight and digital expertise, by empowering policy makers to be better at planning and making sound policies and strategies.

The senior officials started their programme at The Guy Morel Institute and near the end, they went to the UAE for the final leg of the training.

Ms. Astride Tamatave graduates from First Global Government Leadership Programme



Ms. Astride Tamatave, Comptroller General was among 30 leaders who graduated from the First Global Government Leadership Programme. The programme was also sponsored and facilitated by the Government of the United Arab Emirates. She was among the first cohort of graduates from this programme. CG Tamatave's graduation also took place on the margin of the World Governments Summit, also held in the UAE. Leaders from 28 countries participated in the First Global Government Leadership Programme.

We take this opportunity to congratulate all four of our high officials.

News In Brief



A three-day workshop was organised recently with the aim of validating the Seychelles Climate Finance Mapping Report and developing a Climate Finance Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

Participants from the public, private and civil society met at the Savoy Hotel to;

- Provide feedback on the Climate Finance Mapping report
- Validate the Climate Finance Mapping report
- Discuss the scope of the Climate Finance Resource Mobilisation Strategy
- Develop the draft outline of the Climate Finance Resource Mobilisation Strategy
- Discuss the roles, responsibilities and membership of the Climate Finance Technical Working Group

The workshop was facilitated by the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), with the assistance of the Ministry

of Finance, National Planning and Trade. The workshop is critical given that Seychelles has been approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to access the Resilience and Sustainability Facility. The deadline for the preparation of the Climate Finance Resource Mobilisation Strategy is September 2024, and there will be an evaluation in March 2024 where progress on this task will be assessed.



The Ministry participated in this year's My First Job Recruitment Fair, which took place on Friday 22nd at ICCS. Headed by DG for Human Resources, Ms. Mirose Boniface, the team gave out information on the vacancies which are currently available at the Ministry and took the contacts of those who have shown an interest in the vacancies. The fair was targeting youths who have completed their post-secondary education and are seeking employment. The annual event is organised by the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs to facilitate the recruitment of youths. It acts as a one stop shop, where they can apply for a job on the spot.



Minister Naadir Hassan, accompanied by officials from the Trade Department and the Fisheries Department, represented Seychelles at the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 13th Ministerial Conference held in Abu Dhabi from February 26 to March 1, 2024.

This meeting convened trade Ministers from across the globe to review the functioning of the multilateral trading system and to take decisions on the future work of the WTO in efforts to ensure that the Organization remains responsive to current trade challenges.



Training



Ms. Veronique Petrouse, from the Trade Department, attended a SADC validation workshop on Rules of Origin Verification Guidelines in Johannesburg South Africa as of 20th February to 22nd February 2024. The aim of the validation workshop is meant to support the implementation of the industrialisation strategy and roadmap especially in the development of value chains by addressing the impediments to the movement of goods across the region. The Rules of Origin Verification Guidelines provide guidance on the implementation of the origin verification procedures applied under the SADC Rules of Origin. The guidelines aims to cover the entire verification processes of originating goods from pre-export verification, verification undertaken by import Customs Authorities and post-import verification carried out by importing Customs Authorities.

Mr. Dick Labonte (DG) and Principal Debt Officer, Ms. Stephana Hoareau attended a workshop on Formulating a Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy and Annual Borrowing Plan from 29th January to 09th February, in Kenya. The workshop aims at building capacity in developing and implementing a sound debt management strategy, through designing an annual borrowing plan. Using their country data, participants will be trained on the use of the joint IMF-WB MTDS analytical tool to identify the risk exposure embedded in the government's existing debt portfolio and analyze the cost-risk trade-offs of potential debt management strategies.



The director for Domestic and International Tax Policy Division, Mr. Dwight Stravens, recently attended the Global Dialogue on Public Finance and Tax for Gender Equality which was held on 6th to 8th February 2024 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The event organised by UNDP discussed how fiscal planning can contribute to building more equitable societies, while bringing evidence on how gender equality in turn helps leverage tax revenue. More than 150 representatives from Ministries of Finance and Tax Authorities, civil society, academia, UNDP staff, thought leaders and partners from around 40 countries attended the event.

Ms. Alyssa Hoareau and Ms. Nadine Poetter attended a Peer Learning workshop on Public Investment Management in Nairobi, Kenya in late February. The workshop was organised by the IMF in collaboration with AFRITAC East, AFRITAC West 2, and AFRITAC South.

topics covered in this workshop included: (i) The current PIM landscape – challenges and solutions in the region; (ii) The climate challenge – how to integrate climate objectives into the infrastructure cycle; (iii) How to handle unsolicited proposals for infrastructure projects; (iv) Who does what in the planning, appraisal, selection, and budgeting space; (v) The legal framework for PIM and investment; and (vi) PIM reform stock take and strategies.



Training



Staff from the External Finance Management Unit, IT and Budget attended an Advanced Training for Development and Implementation of the Aid Management Information System (AMIS) for 8 days. The training was held in Yerevan, Armenia between 03rd and 15th February.

The Aid Management Information System was officially launched late last year. The system allows for the effective tracking, and monitoring of external financing the country receives. The system was developed by Synergy International Systems.

Trade Officer, Mrs. Laura Boniface assisted Dr. Indra Persaud from the UNISEY in conducting a session on Intellectual Property for seed capital awardees.

The Enterprise Seychelles Agency (ESA) seed capital funding awardees had the opportunity to attend an Intellectual Property (IP) session under the Seed Capital Training Programme Course organized on Tuesday 13 February at the UNISEY Mont-Fleuri Campus.

The session provided a general understanding of IP and how it is implemented in the Seychelles context. Participants had the chance to seek clarity on prevalent issues in their start-up business concerning IP.



The Director for the Public Investment Management Unit, Mr. Antoine Barbe, attended a training which covered Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in infrastructure development, including frameworks, financing, regulations, and project management principles. The objective was to enable participants to understand PPPs and their significance in driving sustainable development and best practices. The training was held in Singapore in early March.

Trade Officer, Leeroy Camille attended the SADC Regional Workshop on Transparency, which comprised of a presentation on the Transparency provisions in the Multilateral Trade Framework under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), African Union (AU), and SADC.

Mrs. Beryl Nagapin, Trade Officer from the Trade Department participated Training on the Domestication of the system for Joint Information Sharing (JIS) system and sharing of conformity assessment requirements for Importers and Exporters from the different regions. The workshop and training was held in South Africa between 07th and 08th March.



Training

Mrs. Laura Boniface, from the Trade Department, participated in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Joint Workshop for the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) and the Appellate Body (AB) held from January 23rd to 24th, 2024, which was immediately followed by the 11th DSB Meeting from January 25th to 26th, 2024, in Durban, South Africa. The workshop was designed to foster mutual understanding among the members regarding the intricacies of the dispute settlement process. The agenda of the 11th DSB Meeting was centered around briefing the DSB on recent progress and advancing the establishment of a fully operational dispute settlement mechanism.



Ms. Veronique Brutus, Senior Trade Officer of the Trade Department, attended a workshop organized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the transparency provisions of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement from 18 to 19 March 2024 and the SPS Informal and Formal Committee meeting from 20 to 22 March 2024. The workshop, held from 18 to 19 March, targeted government officials in charge of implementing the transparency provisions of the Agreement on SPS, i.e., SPS national notification authorities (NNAs) and enquiry points (NEPs). The workshop aimed to enhance the implementation of SPS transparency provisions by bringing together officials to engage in a technical discussion on SPS transparency-related work and exchange experiences on using online transparency tools, including the ePing SPS&TBT Platform. The Informal Committee meeting on 20 March addressed topics such as the Sixth Review of the operation and implementation of the SPS Agreement and discussed proposals tabled so far by members. During the Formal Committee meeting held from 21 to 22 March, members and representatives from CODEX, IPPC, and WOAHA shared information about SPS-related activities they have engaged in since the last Committee meeting.



New Recruits



Ruddy Doudee
Assistant Internal Auditor
Internal Audit Division



Shannon Estro
Audit Technician
Internal Audit Division



Marius Bijoux
Audit Technician
Internal Audit Division



Kelly Mathiot
Assistant Internal Auditor
Internal Audit Division



Simona Elizabeth
Senior Internal Auditor
Internal Audit Division

New Recruits



Mary-Anne Mein
Director
Public Accounts
Management



May-Paule Rabat
Director
Financial Services
Development
Division



Shereen Samedi
Accounts Technician
Centralized Accounts
Section



Nathaniel Volcere
Chief Accountant
Treasury



Kimberley Gill
Data processing
Assistant
Treasury

Meetings



Media Interactions



Courtesy Call of UN Resident
Coordinator for Seychelles and
Mauritius, Ms. Lisa Singh



Courtesy Call of the resident
Ambassador of China to the
Republic of Seychelles, H.E.
Ms. LIN Nan



Courtesy Call of Mr. Adham LOUTFI,
Charge d'Affaires of the United
States of America to the Republic of
Seychelles



Courtesy Call of the High
Commissioner of the
Republic of South Africa to
the Republic of Seychelles,
H.E. Dr. Hlamalani Nelly
Manzini.

