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Thank you Minister

At the end of January, 2025, we will bid farewell to Minister Hassan, as he officially leaves the government to join the private sector.

Minister Hassan was appointed at the helm of the Ministry on 3rd November, 2020.

During his tenure, Minister Hassan has been instrumental in managing the economic crisis brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic and bringing the country's economic and financial fundamentals back to sustainable levels.

His leadership has also been marked by strategic vision, and an unwavering commitment to push for the digital transformation in Seychelles.

In a press conference on 30th October, Minister Hassan issued a special thank you to all staff of the Ministry.

"The staff of the Ministry is one of the most professional and competent that I have worked with. I am reassured

that with this group of professional technicians, our country is in good hands. I have no doubt that the President and Cabinet will continue to support and listen to the technicians. I am indeed saddened that I am leaving the Ministry but I know the team is very strong and will continue to deliver for Seychelles."

In an email message on behalf of all staff, SS Payet said "as you transition to the next chapter, please know that we will carry forward the values and principles you have instilled in us. Your encouragement to maintain our high standards of professionalism and service delivery will resonate with us as we continue our mission to serve our country. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and hope you will continue to be the ambassador of our Ministry wherever you go and will be there for any advice that we might need. Thank you once again for your leadership, support, and for believing in us."



ED Mangroo is appointed Ambassador

Congratulations to our colleague, Ms. Cillia Mangroo, on her nomination by President Wavel Ramkalawan, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Seychelles. The National Assembly unanimously approved her nomination on Friday 06th December.

Ms. Mangroo currently holds the position of Executive Director in the Office of the Minister of Finance, National Planning and Trade. She started her career at the Ministry as a Trade officer. Through her hard work, tenacity and professionalism, she climbed the rank until she was at the helm of the Department as Principal Secretary.



WB VP for Eastern/Southern Africa official mission

The World Bank Regional Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, headed a delegation comprising of the institution's Country Director, Ms. Idah Pswarayi-Riddihough on a working mission to Seychelles in November.

The delegation paid a courtesy call on Minister Naadir Hassan and had discussions on a myriad of priority areas where the government is soliciting the assistance of the institution.

New areas of proposed cooperation are; Social Issues especially the 'Youth at Risk' sector, conducting a functioning review of the public service to boost efficiency, renewable energy and climate finance.

On their first day in Seychelles, Minister Hassan accompanied the delegation to several sites on the east coast of Mahe, where they could observe first hand the adverse effect of climate change and measures being undertaken to mitigate and adapt, as our coastal infrastructure are under threat.

Photo gallery of the courtesy call and site visits.



Courtesy Call of high delegation from Chendgu - China



A high delegation from China, headed by the Deputy Mayor of Chengdu Municipal People's Government, H.E Mr. Wang Qian paid a courtesy call on Minister Naadir Hassan in mid-November. The Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, Mr. Flavien Joubert, was also in attendance. The delegation, comprised of businessmen from China, arrived in Seychelles on board the first chartered flight from Chengdu, China. The delegation was part of the very first China Trade Fair Expo 2024 which was held at Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay.



Public Service Officials introduced to the AIMS Software

The External Finance Management Unit recently organised an introductory workshop on the AID Management Information System (AIMS) software.

The objective of the system to be rolled out in full in 2025 is to strengthen the Government's aid management function in order to enhance transparency and accountability in management of public resources. This will be achieved through the establishment of a central database of all foreign grants to enhance government's ability to allocate its scarce resources in line with the government's medium-term fiscal framework.

The system will also support the government's drive to improve aid data coordination through better recording, reporting and audit. It will also enhance the capacity of government to better balance the governments financing needs and its payment obligations, consistent with its post-COVID economic recovery strategy as well as enhancing information sharing.



Validation of National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy



Seychelles has finalised its National African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation Strategy. The validation of the document was held on 16th December.

The Trade Department spearheaded the process with the support of UNECA, GIZ and UNDP.

The strategy and its action plan will enable the country to take full advantage of potential opportunities provided by the AfCFTA, by identifying the sectors in both goods and services, offering the greatest potentials for value addition and opportunities for value chain integration at regional and continental levels.

The Strategy is the final document resulting from several months of extensive consultations between various Ministries, Departments and Agencies and all other sectors involved.

Staff increase knowledge on service delivery



As part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance the skills and capacity of our staff, the Ministry conducted a series of training sessions in collaboration with the Tourism Department. The training focused on housekeeping, service, and customer care, aimed at enhancing the quality of service delivery within our operations.

The sessions were broken down into two slots of two days undertaken by three different facilitators. The training is part of the Ministry's commitment to professional development and motivate our team.

Seychelles and UK signs Agreement



Secretary of State, Patrick Payet, signed an Economic Security Partnership Agreement on behalf of the government with the United Kingdom Government. The British High Commissioner to Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Jeffrey Frank Glekin signed on behalf of the UK Government.

The signing ceremony took place in October, during an official visit of the UK's Minister for Africa, Lord Collins of Highbury. Minister Hassan and Lord Collins witnessed the signing of the agreement.



DG for Debt Management enrolled in UAE's International Programme for Government Directors

Director General for the Debt Management Division, Mr. Dick Labonte has enrolled in the International Programme for Government Directors in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The 6 months programme, aims to 'enhance leadership skills for senior officials from participating countries. It equips them with governance tools and models inspired by the UAE's successful experiences, empowering them to create future-ready frameworks that strengthen their governments and improve public administration.' Dick is among participants from 31 countries currently attending the programme, whereby they are taking part in field visits to learn about the UAE's best practices across sectors such as the economy, trade, entrepreneurship, education, space, future foresight, international cooperation, Artificial Intelligence, digital transformation, and youth empowerment. The visits will also feature interactive sessions with top leaders and decision-makers, aiming to strengthen participants' leadership skills, provide strategic insights on future challenges in public administration, and equip them with the tools to drive government sector progress.



Finance Portfolio is represented in the 2nd cohort of SELP



The Finance Portfolio is represented in the 2nd cohort of the Seychelles Executive Leadership Programme. The official ceremony to launch the 2nd programme was held in early October.

Director General for Financial Services Development, Ms. Odile Vidot, Counterpart to the CEO of the National Bureau of Statistics, Kevin

Bistoquet and Acting CEO of the Public Enterprises Monitoring Commission, Kalum Bandara, are the representatives from the finance portfolio who have been enrolled on the programme.

In his address at the official ceremony Minister Naadir Hassan explained the *raison d'être* of this programme, which is being undertaken with the valuable support of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

"We want to see leaders in the public service be more strategic, result orientated, innovative, solutions minded and bolder in their decisions making. We want you to be visionaries, and innovative thinkers with the ability to adapt to new ideas and embrace change."

The programme was launched in October 2023, where 27 Chief Executives in the public service were enrolled for the 4 month course. For this cohort, 29 public service leaders are enrolled.

"As you engage with this program, I challenge you to question the status quo, to push the boundaries of what is possible, and to emerge not just as leaders who manage, but as visionaries who inspire. The future of Seychelles depends on your ability to not only adapt to change but to drive it."

Present at the launch were President Wavel Ramkalawan, Vice President Ahmed Afif, Designated Minister Jean Francois Ferrari, other ministers, the Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness and Knowledge Exchange, Abdullah Nasser Lootah and facilitators of the programme.

News In Brief



The Public Accounts Management and the IFMIS team met with heads of accounts in the public sector.

The aim is to provide updates on latest development in the accounting system of government and introduce the Integration Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) which is to be rolled out in the public sector in the coming years.

IFMIS, a software system intends to revolutionise the management of public funds.



The Trade Department organised a second workshop aimed at developing the country's African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) national strategy.

The three-day workshop took place at Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Hotel in November.

Secretary of State, Patrick Payet officially launched the workshop.

Participants from government, private sector and civil society reviewed the proposed strategy and boosted their knowledge on the benefits of the AfCFTA and how to access the market.

The first session of the workshop was organised in September.

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat, UNECA, GIZ, and UNDP.



With a workforce of 230, in which 168 or 73% are women, we stood in solidarity with all those who are suffering from breast cancer, those who have succumbed to the disease and family members who through the journey are standing strong and supporting their loved ones.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is marked every October. Pink is the chosen colour to show solidarity.

You are never alone, we walk beside you every step of the way.

Engagements



Principal Finance Analyst, Mrs. Ruth Pool, Senior Accountant, Ms. Catherine Bannane and Ms. Johnette Camille from the Procurement Oversight Unit attended two conferences in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia recently. The first was on Public Finance Management (PFM) and the second was on the Public Expenditure & Financial Accountability (PEFA). The PFM Conference provided opportunities to discuss recent advancements, share experiences, and explore innovative global solutions that can support enhancement of PFM systems in the region.

The second training covered all key aspects of PEFA methodology, including application of PEFA main framework at central and sub-national levels; management of the PEFA assessment process; PEFA for

PFM improvement; and the new PEFA supplementary frameworks Gender and Climate.

Senior Economist in the National Planning Department, Julius Joubert was in Cape Town, South Africa earlier this year attending the Fifth Continental Workshop on Strengthening Institutional Capacities in Africa for Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063. Julius moderated the opening panel discussion.



In this session, the panel explored how to improve coordination across sectors, enhanced inclusivity in monitoring, leveraged technology and innovation, aligned fiscal priorities, and learnt from best practices from other countries.



Finance Analyst from the Financial Planning and Control Division, Ms. Riennie Dugasse, attended a Capacity Building Workshop on Financing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Incheon, South Korea in late September 2024.

The objective of the workshop is to build the capacity of government officials and other experts to develop national financing frameworks that foster investments in Disaster Risk Reduction. It also increases their awareness and understanding of how to mobilize financing for Disaster Risk Reduction from different sources (i.e., public, private, and international) and perform investment gap analyses.



Policy Analysts from the Domestic and International Tax Policy Division, Ms. Christy Vital and Elle Cafrine attended the 2024 Joint OECD and UAE Ministry of Finance Tax Seminar held in Dubai from November 12 to 14. The seminar was held under the theme Tax Treaties and Transfer Pricing. The seminar brought together government officials and invitees from business and advisory firms discussing several key topics in international taxation. This year, the Seminar focused on tax treaties, the Pillar Two Subject-to-tax rule, transfer pricing, and Amount B of Pillar One.

Engagements

Senior Trade Officer, Ms. Aissata Dia attended a WIPO conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, aimed at concluding negotiations on a proposed Design Law. The proposed law will have as main objective streamlining the global system for protecting designs, making it easier, faster and more affordable for designers to protect their work in home markets as well as overseas. Addressing the conference, Ms. Dia said “Seychelles continues to recognize the importance of sound international frameworks which foster innovation and provide intellectual property (IP) protection for the benefit of all WIPO members.



Senior Economist, Ms. Sophie Belle and Economist, Mr. Daniel Chetty attended the SADC Macroeconomic Subcommittee Meeting held in Johannesburg between 25th and 26th NOVEMBER 2024.

The meeting discussed issues falling under its purview in the implementation of Annex 2 of the Protocol on Finance and Investment.

More importantly, the meeting reviewed economic performance for 2024 against the SADC Macroeconomic Convergence targets as stipulated in Annex 2 of the Protocol on Finance and Investment and considers Implementation Reports of Peer Review Recommendations by Member States.



Mr. Daniel Chetty, Economist at the Macroeconomic Forecasting & Analysis Division (MFAD), and Ms. Tania Esparon, Finance Analyst at the Financial Planning & Control Division (FPCD), participated in a five-day workshop on Fiscal Risk Management & Fiscal Sustainability hosted by the IMF AFRITAC South in Port Louis, Mauritius. The workshop focused on the methods of identifying and quantifying fiscal risks as well as how to integrate fiscal risk management into the budgeting process. Some of the key topics addressed during the workshop included multi-year macro-fiscal forecasting; fiscal risks to long-term fiscal sustainability; and fiscal risk disclosure and reporting. Our colleague Mr. Yannick Vel, was one of the lecturers facilitating this workshop. He shared his wealth of

public financial management experience through engaging discussions and guided participants through the various fiscal risk assessment methods and tools. Mr. Vel is currently working with the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department in a short term role as a Regional Public Financial Management Advisor for Fiscal Risks.

Dwight Stravens, Director in the Domestic and International Tax Division, attended a course on Tax Policy and Administration; Theory and Practice in Mauritius in December.

The course, presented by the Fiscal Affairs Department, is designed to broaden participants' knowledge of the main challenges governments face in designing, administering, and monitoring of a modern tax system. It outlines the theoretical underpinnings of tax policymaking and discusses in detail its practice and implementation with an emphasis on the African region.

Through a combination of lectures, Q&A sessions, and workshop sessions, the course provided an overview of policy design principles and their implications for tax administration, establishing linkages between tax policy and administration.



Christmas Office Decoration

The Human Resources Division organised an Office Christmas Decoration Competition, where staff went all out with their creativity and innovation to claim the first spot. Offices were categorised in 3; small, medium and large, depending on the number of staff. Staff were given a clean slate to let their creativity run wild. There were seven judges from different divisions and on Monday 23rd, the winners were announced. Photo gallery of the winners and the decorations from all the offices that participated.



**Small Offices
1st Position
Debt Management Division**



**Medium Offices
1st Position
Tax & Policy**



**Large Offices
1st Position
Trade Department**



Spreading Christmas joy

Following the successful Office Christmas Decoration Competition, staff were allowed to bring their kids, nieces, nephews, friend's kids to visit the beautifully decorated Liberty House. They were welcomed with a high five from our very own Santa (thank you Dwight) and there were enough candies to keep them happy for the duration of their visit. Photo gallery of the visit.



For the second consecutive year, you generously contributed towards donation for the National Council for Children. This year, we collected educational items, such as stationary, books and games. On 27th December, ED Cillia Mangroo donated the items on behalf of the Minister. Thank you to all of you who donated towards this charitable initiative.



Festival Kreol

It might have been Budget time, but still we made time to celebrate our Creole culture. Dressed in our colourful and tropical clothes we showcased our culture very well in its authentic form. Thank you to the Social Committee for organising the event. Photo gallery of our colleagues dressed in their Creole best.



New Recruits



Sebastian Larue
Senior Analyst
Programmer
(IFMIS)



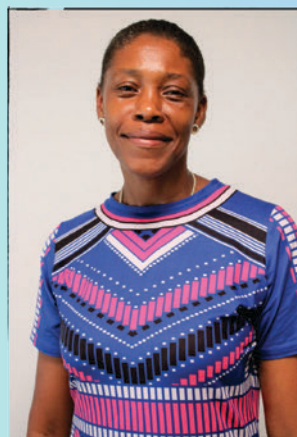
Lynn Mondon
Economist
National Planning
Department



Xiaolang Lownam
Trade Officer
Trade Department



Line Charlette
Senior Procurement
Officer
Procurement
Oversight Unit



**Marie Annette
Onezime**
Senior Auditor
Internal Audit Division



Mendy Hardy
Economist
National Planning
Department



Liza Vel
Accountant
Public Account
Management



Cara Loveday
Economist
National Planning
Department



Hannah Monty
Asset Management
Officer
Asset Management Unit



Media Interactions

Budget 2025 -Collaboration with Telesesel

Following the presentation of the 2025 Budget speech by Minister Naadir Hassan on Thursday 31st October before the National Assembly, the Ministry collaborated with private television station, Telesesel, to produce a series of programmes on the measures and new policies announced. Minister Hassan graciously allowed us to turn his office into a makeshift studio where we recorded a series of seven programmes under the title: 'Bidze 2025 - En Leksplikasyon'.



We discussed several topics, from the budget process, increases in salary, minimum wage, social benefits, revised and new financial schemes and taxes. In total, we had eight guests,

including the PS for Finance, Ms. Astride Tamatave, within the ministry participated in the programme. Thank you to all who participated in the programmes.

Production of NDS 2024 - 2028 media campaign



As part of the newly launched National Development Strategy 2024 - 2028, a media campaign has been devised to ensure maximum coverage of the document serving as the roadmap for the development of the country for the next five years.

In the middle of the year, we embarked on a series of television documentaries about the six priority areas, where we further explore the. The short programmes will be aired in 2025.

The short documentaries will be aired in 2025. The National Development Strategy 2024 - 2028 was formulated by our colleagues in the National Planning Department. Thank you to the Team for the great collaboration.

