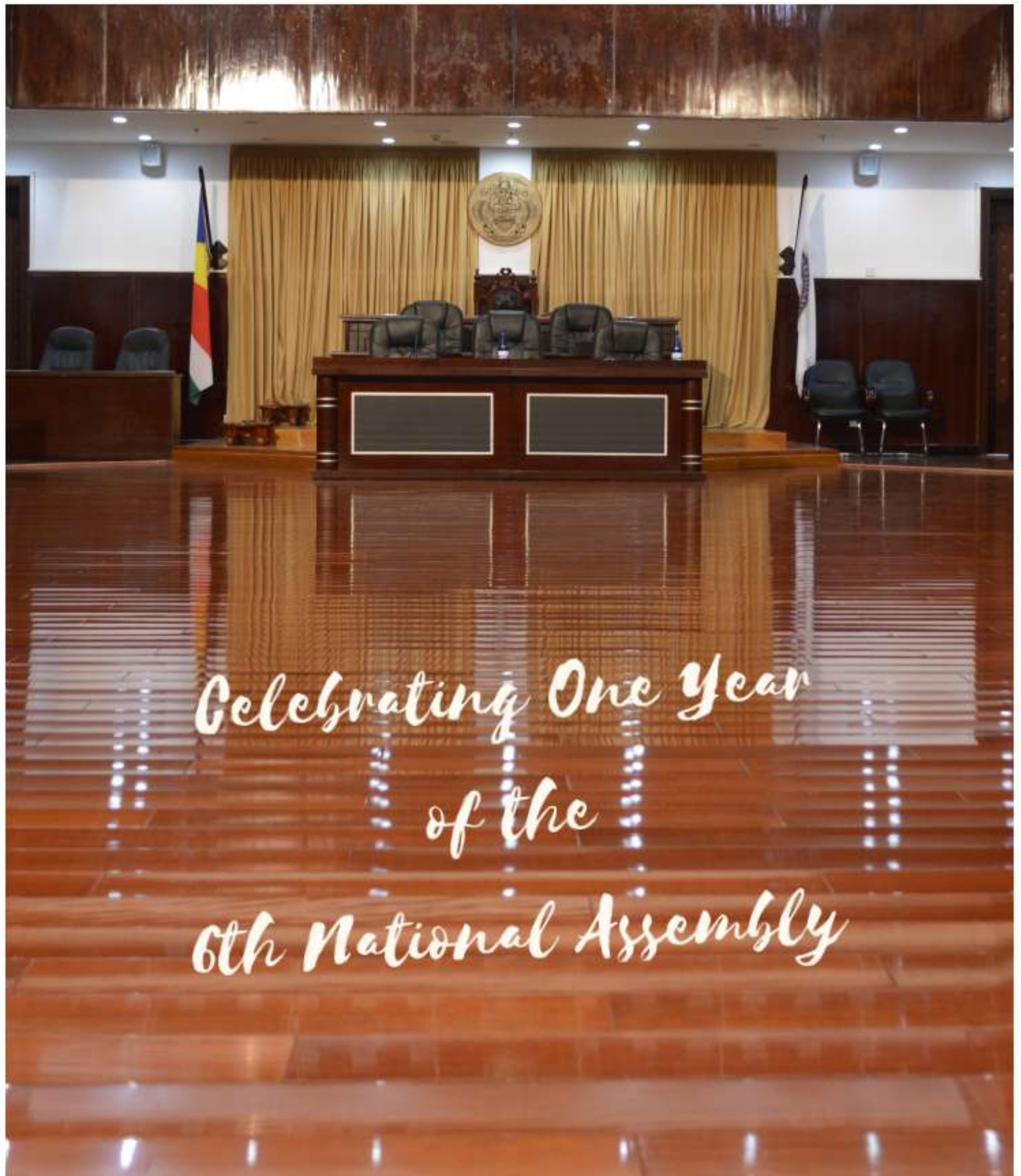


THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



*Celebrating One Year
of the
6th National Assembly*

Table of contents

Page. 01-02

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERS

A message from the Hon. Speaker Patrick Pillay, Hon. Nicholas Prea, Hon. Wavel Ramkalawan & Hon. Charles De Commarmond to commemorate One Year of the 6th National Assembly.

Page. 04-07

OUR COMMITTEES

An insight into the important work of the Committees of The National Assembly. Discover the investigations and milestones that have taken place so far this year.

Page. 03

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A short brief on The National Assembly & what it is empowered to do as the pillar of Democracy.

Page. 08

VISITS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

With the goal of reaching out to the community and promoting civic engagement, The National Assembly encourages visits from Schools and members of the Public.

Page. 09

THE NATIONAL DAY QUIZ COMPETITION

The National Assembly organized a quiz competition involving schools to commemorate this year's National Day.

Page. 10-11

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Throughout the year the Members of the National Assembly travelled on overseas missions discovering the Legislative powers in different parts of the world.

Page. 12-13

A GALLERY OF PHOTOS

A montage of social gatherings of the Secretariat of the Assembly, Conferences, visits from schools and events that have been attended throughout the year.

A Message From The Speaker



Today 27th September 2017, as we celebrate the 1st Anniversary of the 6th National Assembly of Seychelles, let us reflect on the successes over the year gone past, as well as the challenges that we have encountered.

Always remember that the deliberations of the National Assembly are transmitted live to the Nation on both TV and Radio and we are aware that very many people across the land listen to our sittings and discussions every week.

In my communications from the Chair, I have said time and again that each sitting of the Assembly is a Civic Education Class for the Nation. We must all remember as representatives of the people of Seychelles that whatever utterances we make will impact on the behaviour, thinking, attitude and comportment of our compatriots especially the young generation who are looking up to us as role models.

It is imperative therefore, that in our discussions it is our duty towards our younger generation to teach them the arts and lessons of life and to transfer our positive expertise and experiences to them, for the way to repay our education is to educate others; the way to transmit wisdom is to spread it; and the way to increase knowledge is to share it; critique it and form our own thoughts and opinions around it.

Let us therefore approach the year ahead with complete positivity because positivity is the perfect medicine for happiness.

Blessings
Patrick Georges Pillay
The Speaker

A Message from the Deputy Speaker & the Leaders



Mon felisit tou bann Manm lo sa kantite travay e sa kalite travay ki nou'n fer.

E mon kwar nou'n fer en diferans, nou'n kapab anmenn en diferans pour nou pei. Mon osi anvi felisit Sekretaryat ki malgre tou bann problem ki nou ti pe gannyen o konmansman, nou apel sa bann "teething problems", Sekretarya in grandi e finalman "settle".

Mon felisit nou bann travayer kot Lasanble dan nenport Departman ki zot ete, pour sa sipor ki zot in aporte pandan sa 1 an. Mon kwar ki nou annan en lavenir ki briyan.

E mon swete ki sa Lasanble, sa 6em Lasanble i a kontinyen pour Sesel.

Deputy Speaker
Hon. Nicholas Prea



Dan sa koabitasyon, i annan en volonte; volonte lo par bann Leaders; lo par nou 2 parti dan Lasanble.

E ler i annan sa volonte, nou kapab al lwen avek. E dan sa volonte ki nou annan, e ki byensir nou piblik deor, i vwar dan sa fason ki nou pe travay, ki nou pe debat dan Lasanble, ki i pour annan definitivman mwens konfrontation.

Alor si nou pe met nou pep avan tou, e nou pei devan, savedir ki nou bezwen pe konpran e pe koze e pe dyaloge.

Se sa rezon sa koabitasyon pour mwan, i en keksoz enportan. En "formula" ki fer Lepep Seselwa dan son totalite, i vin pli "happy" - pli prosperan - pli byen anndan koman deor.

Leader of Government Business
Hon. Charles De Commarmond



Sa langazman ki nou ti sonnen 1 an pase, ki nou pour fer li vin 'Nou Lasanble,' e ki sak Seselwa i a kapab dir sa i 'Mon Lasanble', mon kwar noun vwayaz en long larout pandan sa 1 an. Ennler ou demann ou si vreman sa travay noun fer li pandan zis 1 an.

Dan en fason se pa zis nou lanbisyon politik ki sorti an premye, me se plito ki mannyer nou pour azir pour nou pei.

Mon kwar ki sa Lasanble Nasyonal i pe lev standar parmi bann politisyen, e mon kwar ki evantyelman sa Lasanble i ava pe kree non pa bann politisyen me bann "Statesmen". Nou pei i pou bezwen absoliman mont lo sa "echelon".

Leader of the Opposition
Hon. Wavel Ramkalawan

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES IS THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT. IT IS A UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENT CONSISTING OF ONLY ONE HOUSE, AND COMPRISES OF UP TO 35 MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

REPRESENTING THE PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS EMPOWERED TO AMEND, MAKE AND PASS LAWS.

Our Committees

It has been a busy year for the Committees. A large part of the work of the Members of the National Assembly take place in committees where they consider policy issues, investigate the work and expenditure of the government, and examine proposals.

Select committees sometimes consult different Ministries, Departments of Government, Media Houses & Members of the Public.



The Finance and Public Administration Committee (FPAC)

The seven member committee, comprising of four LDS and three Parti Lepep MNAs, chaired by The Leader of the Opposition, Honorable Wavel Ramkalawan have had quite a busy year.

The tone was set very early on during this year's Budget debate when the National Drugs Enforcement Agency, (NDEA) and Financial Intelligence Unit, (FIU) could not justify payments being made under the heading, Goods and Services.

Designated by the National Assembly to investigate the matter, the FPAC sought the assistance of the Office of the Auditor General to undertake the investigation and once the report was handed to them, they started the work of under covering the payments made by the two Government entities to Irish nationals who were also at their helm. Many high officials came before the Committee and for the first time the sessions were opened to the local media and the public, even very recently the questioning that has taken place has since been aired live on SBC.

The FPAC has also sought more information into the financial dealings of the beleaguered state owned L'Union Estate on La Digue and has also looked into the 2015 Auditor General Report, industrial land distribution on Ile Eve and Marie Jeanne Estate on Praslin.

The FPAC is expected to present its report on the FIU/NDEA investigation once all those concerned have been questioned.

The Anti-Victimization Committee

The Anti-victimization Committee is a Standing Committee which was created by virtue of a resolution of the National Assembly.

The Committee is mandated to hear and enquire into cases of victimization and has the principal aims of: resolving the complaints lodged before it; identifying and recommending to the National Assembly the measures to be adopted to eliminate victimization in Seychelles.

The committee consists of eight (8) members, namely: Honourable Patrick Pillay as Chairperson, Honourable Clifford Andre as the Vice-Chairperson; Honourable Basil Hoareau; Honourable Jany de Letourdie; Honourable Wavel Woodcock; Honourable Clive Roucou; Honourable Egbert Aglae and Honourable Simon Gill. To date, the Anti-Victimization Committee has registered 350 grievances.

The Committee held its first hearing on 25th April 2017 and up to now, 136 cases out of the 350 grievances submitted before the Committee have been heard. Hearings are held on Thursdays from 4.30pm onwards and on Saturdays from 8.00am onwards.

Two respondents who were summoned before the Committee have filed cases against the Anti-Victimization Committee before the Supreme Court whilst five complainants have withdrawn their grievances after they were able to settle their cases outside of the Committee. So far, the Committee has received good cooperation and support from Organizations/Ministries/other private companies following certain grievances brought against them.

Starting from October 2017, the Committee will start undertaking site visits to be in a better position to resolve complaints in a fairer and agreeable manner.

The Committee is still open to receive grievances from individuals who feel that they have been victimized in one way or another. The Committee's email address is avc@nationalassembly.sc and the Secretary of the Committee is Mr. Marcus Volcy.



The Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Committee



In November 2016, the National Assembly unanimously approved a motion calling for the creation of an Assembly Committee for Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity which would start the ground work for the creation of a national, independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The committee is comprised of seven members namely: Honourable Wavel Ramkalawan as Chairperson, Honourable Charles de Commarmond as the Vice-Chairperson, Honourable François Adelaide, Honourable Nicholas Prea, Honourable Bernard Georges, Honourable Basil Hoareau and Honourable Simon Gill.



The committee has adopted five terms of reference to shed light over events since June 5, 1977 namely to:

- receive information from persons regarding complaints as to any action affecting their rights since that day;
- inventorize and classify complaints with a view of assessing the size of the problem;
- receive proposals from interested parties and consider different methods used by similar countries in similar situations
- make proposals to the government on the structure and composition of the most appropriate national forum to deal with the issue of National Reconciliation and the procedure it should utilize to that end.

The National Assembly of Seychelles organised a National Symposium at the ICCS on Sunday 7th May 2017, that was officially launched by Vice-President Vincent Meriton, to review the different presentations of the international best practices towards achieving reconciliation and unity through the closure of bad experiences and events, as well as share the findings and the work the committee is doing with the public.

With the information and suggestions collated, the Committee will be tasked in drafting its recommendations to be submitted to the Assembly and subsequently to the President of the Republic – Mr. Danny Faure.

Since April 2017, the committee has been actively reviewing about 315 complaint forms received from individuals who have faced life changing events.

The Committee has just recently finished drafting the Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission Act 2017, an act which will enable the President of the Seychelles to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to promote national unity and reconciliation.

The International Affairs Committee (IAC)

The International Affairs Committee (IAC) was established following a motion approved by the National Assembly on 4th October 2016. The Committee comprises of seven members, namely Hon. Jean Francois Ferrari who is the Chairperson, Hon. Clifford Andre the Vice Chairperson, Hon. John Hoareau, Hon. Waven William, Hon. Noline Sophola, Hon. Jude Valmont and Hon. Flory Larue.

For the past 11 months, the committee has worked hard to maintain the existing bilateral relations of the Republic of Seychelles between other countries, has participated in international meetings, seminars and represented the National Assembly at local functions organized by foreign partners or locally based Diplomatic Missions. At the recommendation of the Hon. Speaker, Patrick Pillay, the Committee initiated a meeting with the Management of the Department of Foreign Affairs to inquire the recent resignations of staff that have accumulated to an entire Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs. As a result of these meetings, the Committee concluded its Report which the Chair delivered to President Danny Faure on 21st July 2017, at State House.

The Committee on Government Assurance (COGA)

COGA's mandate is to follow up on promises made by the Government representatives in the National Assembly. COGA's term of reference was amended earlier this year to include assurances given by officials other than Ministers, such as Principal Secretaries and Chief Executive Officers especially during the annual Appropriation Bill Debate. Previously the Committee mainly focused on the assurances given by Ministers during Question Time, Statements or during debates on the Bills.

With the support of the Speaker, a rule was established that all documents promised by the Executive should be made available to Members of the Assembly Secretariat before the end of working day on Fridays. The Committee meets regularly, mostly every fortnight depending on the number of issues and promises to follow up on.

Concerned departments are written to for them to provide written answers to the promises made on their behalf.

The Committee also centers its work around face to face meetings and site visits to establish a good rapport with the various organizations in the Executive branch of Government.





Empowering the Young Citizens

In line with the Citizenship Education Curriculum, the National Assembly regularly hosts school children. The aim is to help the students better understand the role of the National Assembly to further empower them to play their role effectively in society and become well informed citizens. As part of their programs, these students have the opportunity to observe an Assembly Sitting, attend a Presentation on the role and function of the Assembly, interact and take photographs with the respective MNAs.

Senior Citizens Engage

Groups of senior citizens also attend the Sittings of the National Assembly. During the break they get the opportunity to interact with the Speaker Hon. Patrick Pillay, and Members of the House of their respective districts. At the end of their programme they also get the opportunity to explore the museum on a guided tour.

VISITS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY





The National Day Quiz Competition

The National Assembly organized a quiz competition to commemorate this year's National Day. All the questions were based on the Constitution and the Parliamentary History of Seychelles. The Final of the Parliamentary Interschool Quiz Competition was held on Friday, 30th June 2017, at the National Assembly. Three schools qualified for the final, namely Plaisance Secondary School, Independent School Seychelles and Ecole Francaise Des Seychelles.

The Quiz Competition was attended by Hon. Speaker Patrick Pillay, the Minister for Education and Human Resources, Mr Joel Morgan, Hon Deputy Speaker Nicholas Prea, Hon Leader of the Opposition Wavel Ramkalawan, Members of the National Assembly, Staff of the National Assembly and the finalist schools as well as fellow students. At the end of the three rounds Ms Victoria Duthil won first prize, Mr Sebastien Contoret the second prize and Mr Dylan De Letourdie the third prize.

Foreign Missions



This year the Members of the National Assembly and the Secretariat travelled on overseas missions with the goal of expanding their knowledge and connecting to the legislative powers in other regions of the world.

Parliamentary Visit - India

A 12 member delegation led by Hon. Patrick Pillay had a 7 Day visit to India on the invitation of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha (the lower House of the Parliament) the Hon. Sumitra Mahajan. The delegation visited many historical landmarks and had the chance to observe both Houses of Parliament in session. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha also hosted a banquet in honor of the Seychelles Parliamentary delegation.

Hon. Speaker Pillay also met with a number of eminent dignitaries which included the Foreign Secretary of India, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the Deputy Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Hon. Rao Rajendra Singh and also gave a talk to the Indian Council of World Affairs on Cohabitation in Government – The Importance of its Success. Both Honorary Speakers held bilateral discussions aimed at further expanding the interactions between the Parliamentarians of Seychelles and India.

The delegation also comprised of Members of the National Assembly, Hon. Norbert Loizeau, Hon. Francois Adelaide, Hon. Waven William, Hon. Jany Letourdi, Hon. Noline Sophola, Hon. Wavel Woodcock, Hon. Jude Valmont, Ms. Jutta Alexis, the Clerk, Mr. Daniel Cesar, Legal Counsel and Mr. Terry Romain, Personal Assistant to the Speaker.



10. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES

Foreign Missions



136th Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly- Bangladesh

Headed by the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Nicholas Prea and comprising of Hon. Waven William, Hon Noline Sophola, Hon. Jany Letourdie and The Clerk, Ms Jutta Alexis, left Seychelles to participate in the 136th Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly. Hosted by the Parliament of Bangladesh, the event took place from the 1st to the 5th April 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

During this five day Assembly, parliamentarians concentrated on the impact of inequality on the poor, women, other vulnerable groups and also deliberated on ways to assess the extent of economic, social and political inequalities to ensure the needs of the poor and marginalized are addressed at all levels of decision-making.

CPA UK Election Assessment Mission

Hon. Sebastien Pillay was officially invited as the Head of Mission to the Election Assessment Mission to the UK General Election of 2017. Hon. Pillay was also joined by Hon. Sandy Arrisol to observe the elections.

The observers, known as an Election Assessment Mission, included 32 politicians and officials from Commonwealth countries including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Ghana, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Montserrat, New Zealand, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Lucia, Tonga, Uganda and Zambia.



11 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES



Hon. Ahmed Afif & Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel met with Kenya's National Assembly Speaker, Justin Muturi. They were part of President Faure's delegation on his first State visit, following the invitation of President Kenyatta of Kenya.



The Serjeant at Arms leads the Speakers Procession at the 41st Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum at the Savoy.



President Faure has historically addressed the House three times over the past year, making it the first time in the history of the National Assembly of the Third Republic that a President addresses the House more than once.

The President continues to advocate Transparency, Good Governance & Accountability in the Country, all of which have been key notes in his speeches when addressing the House.

PHOTO GALLERY





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