



**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ASSURANCES ANNUAL REPORT**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES**

**OCTOBER 2016 – OCTOBER 2017**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Article 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles provides the National Assembly with the powers that allow our institution to set up committees that serve in the efficient discharge of members responsibilities. It is one of the mechanisms at the disposal of the National Assembly in its quest for good governance, transparency and accountability of the Executive. The Committee On Government Assurances (COGA) of the 6<sup>th</sup> National Assembly was established following a motion approved by the National Assembly on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Article 104 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles, the Rules and Procedures for Committees and Standing Orders 2009 provide the statutory and procedural authority for the establishment and functioning of the COGA.

The Committee Members have for the past 12 months scrutinized the assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers and Chief Executives given from time to time on the floor of the National Assembly, have summoned a number of individuals who could have assisted the Committee in the performance of its duties, and have conducted site visits to inspect ongoing projects. A total of 247 assurances were culled out of verbatim from October 2016 to October 2017 (11 assurances originated from the 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly).

The COGA is mandated as per its Terms of Reference laid out in ANNEX 1.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

The current Committee consists of seven Members as follows:

- Hon. Gervais Henrie - Chairperson
- Hon. Clive Roucou - Vice Chairperson
- Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel - Member
- Hon. Sandy Arissol - Member
- Hon. Simon Gill - Member
- Hon. Norbert Loizeau - Member
- Hon. Wilbert Herminie - Member

The Committee is assisted by Mrs. Tania Isaac and Mrs. Jutta Alexis as Secretary, Mrs. Ghislaine Thelermont and Thelma Julie as Secretary Assistants.

### **3. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The new Committee had its first meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and has had 24 subsequent meetings including one with the Management Team of the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC); two audiences with the Minister of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning and his senior Management Team; two with the CEO of the Small Enterprise Promotion Agency and one meeting with the Minister for Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport.

### **4. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee's Terms of Reference is silent about the responsibility of the COGA to maintain ties of friendship and cooperation with sister organisations of interest, the Committee would therefore welcome any future opportunities to work with similar Committees from other Commonwealth, SADC, African Union member states or neighbouring Indian Ocean island states.

### **5. OVERSEAS MISSIONS**

There have not been any overseas missions specifically organized by the Committee in the period under review.

## **6. NON-COMMITTEE RELATED OVERSEAS MISSIONS**

Several members of the Committee participated in other overseas official missions not directly related to the Committee. The list of missions is as follows:

- Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel was a delegate of the official visit of President Danny Faure to Kenya from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> April.
- Hon. Sandy Arrisol was invited to be part of the Election Observer Mission during the United Kingdom General Election by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in June.
- Hon. Arissol together with Hon. Wilbert Herminie were part of Young Parliamentarians from Africa who were invited to visit India from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> August.
- Hon. Norbert Loizeau was part of the NAS delegation who toured India from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August.
- Hon. Clive Roucou attended three regional trainings focusing on issues of HIV & AIDS IN South Africa and Cote d'Ivoire. The trainings include Removing legal barriers; training for parliamentarians on HIV and TB; and roles of parliamentarians in the fight against HIV/AIDS.
- Hon. Lemiel and Hon. Simon Gill who are part of the NAS Pan-African Parliament Caucus attended a number of PAP sessions in South Africa which include taking their oath, attending Committee meetings and the plenary in May, August and October.

## **7. PROPOSED VISIT TO SEYCHELLES**

A proposed study visit to the National Assembly of Seychelles (NAS) by the Select Committee on Implementation of the Nairobi City County Assembly was postponed indefinitely. The five members and two officers of the Assembly were supposed to visit the country from 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April.

## **8. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Judging by the frequency of interaction between the Executive and Legislative branches of Government it is fair to say that the number of assurances the Committee is mandated to follow on have increased in recent months. It should also be noted that the Committee amended its Term of References (TOR) through a motion tabled on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to broaden its mandate to also question Principal Secretaries, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Board Chairpersons in the event that they make an assurances on the floor of the Assembly.

However, the Committee members have taken the task without any prior knowledge and training of what is required of them. Two of the Committee members have previously served on the 4<sup>th</sup> National Assembly COGA which unfortunately also had no training opportunities. Based on the level of scrutiny expected from individual MNA, it is imperative that the Committee as a whole gets the opportunity to broaden their knowledge on the task expected of them from an expert in the field from another Commonwealth jurisdiction.

## **9. COOPERATION WITH OTHER NAS COMMITTEES**

During the last twelve months COGA has had a number of interactions with other NAS Committees. Members of the Media Committee members were invited to attend COGA's meeting with the SBC Management Team at its headquarters at Hermitage on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 13.30pm. COGA has also been approached by the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) to follow up on specific assurances.

The Committee would also like to commend the personal interest of various MNAs who occasionally asked individual COGA Members to follow up on assurances given from questions raised by them individually.

## **10. PROMOTING COGA's WORK**

As part of its Public Relation Exercise the Committee has maintained an open door policy with the local media. The media is invited to cover COGA's meeting and interaction with the various branches of Government to allow the electorate to be au fait with the work of their elected representatives.

Likewise the Committee took the decision to grant other MNAs access to its proceedings in the event that they are interested in a particular issue on the meeting's agenda.

The COGA also met with the Cabinet of Ministers on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to sensitise the Ministers on the role of the Committee. The meeting was also attended by the Ministers' Personal Assistance whom the Committee's Secretariat interact with frequently.

The Committee plans to meet with the Chief Executive Forum in January 2018 and the Judiciary Management Team in the near future for a similar exercise.

## **11. FINDINGS OF THE COGA**

We list below a summary of our findings:

- 11.1 The Public Service is suffering from acute shortages of trained and qualified staff.
- 11.2 Staff turnover and recruitment delays are affecting implementation of key projects.
- 11.3 Budget allocation remains a challenge in delivering effective services and infrastructure procurement in time.
- 11.4 A number of Scheme of Service promised by the Government are yet to be implemented.
- 11.5 National media is not following closely on pledges made by Government to help in exerting necessary pressure for service delivery in public service.
- 11.6 Often the Executive is not keeping up with its original promises, changing its policy as it go along and often the reason why is not communicated in a timely manner with those affected by the decision.
- 11.7 The public and community leaders input in the Executive initiative are at a minimal level.
- 11.8. For most of the pledges made, a definite timeline was not given for the project completion



## **12. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COGA**

Based on our interaction with the various MDAs, the COGA makes the following recommendations:

- 12.1 That all heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) assigned a designated staff member to liaise with the Committee.
- 12.2 That all MDAs respect the timeframe given to provide the COGA with an answer on the assurances they made to the NAS.
- 12.3 That each Ministry is given at least one opportunity per annum to make a statement before the NAS ahead of the Budget Address as a progress report of the pledges made in relation to the ministry through the SONA and Appropriation Bill's debate.
- 12.4 That as much as feasible, COGA receives a copy of the Quarterly Financial Report handed over to the Ministry of Finance detailing every ministry's expenses in line to the pledges made during the last Appropriation Bill debate.
- 12.5 That as much as feasible, COGA exchanges information with the FPAC on the progress report of major Government projects such as capital projects as pledged in the annual budget.
- 12.6 That as much as feasible, COGA receives a copy of reports which the Ministry of Local Government send to each District Administration Office on the community project as planned in the Budget annually.
- 12.7 That each MNA takes a personal interest in assurances made in answers given to them and to alert the Committee if they feel it is not being honoured in due time.
- 12.8 That the Government seriously follows on the pledges it makes and that an internal mechanism is set up to ensure their implementation and mitigate challenges hindering the pledges' progress.
- 12.9 That the NAS Secretariat considers the training opportunity for the Committee as a whole so as to maximise COGA's performance in its duties.
- 12.10 That it's Chairperson meets with the other NAS Committees Chairperson at least once every term to share experiences with other committees.

### **13. CONCLUSION**

Because of the nature of the 6<sup>th</sup> National Assembly since its inception in October 2016, the large amount and urgency of matters have been unprecedented.

The Committee nonetheless, acknowledges the efforts of its Members to meet as regularly as possible to discuss pledges made and follow through on them as quickly as possible.

The Committee is grateful to its Secretarial support for keeping up to date with the volume of work. We also welcome the support the Leaders of the National Assembly for their support of the work of the Committee. The COGA looks forward to an even closer collaboration in future, while it takes the lead to accomplish its mandate.

### **14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The COGA would like to thank the Speaker's Office and all staff members who facilitated its work during the current year.

The Committee also thanks various Government Department for their open door policy and for their willingness to share the challenges they face.

The Committee On Government Assurances, 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly composed of the members listed below, submits its Annual Report to the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

Hon. Gervais Henrie  
*Chairperson*

*G. Henrie*  
.....

Hon. Clive Roucou  
*Vice Chairperson*

*Clive Roucou*  
.....

Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel  
*Member*

*Sylvanne Lemiel*  
.....

Hon. Sandy Arissol  
*Member*

*Sandy Arissol*  
.....

Hon. Simon Gill  
*Member*

*Simon Gill*  
.....

Hon. Norbert Loizeau  
*Member*

*Norbert Loizeau*  
.....

Hon. Wilbert Herminie  
*Member*

*Wilbert Herminie*  
.....

## **Annex 1: Committee on Government Assurances- Amended Terms of Reference (2017)**

The main functions of the Committee on Government Assurances is to scrutinize the assurances, promises and undertakings given by **The President, Ministers, Chief Executive Officers and Chairpersons of Boards** from time to time on the floor of the Assembly and to:-

1. Report on the extent to which such assurances have been implemented and where implemented whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose.
2. Exercise such other functions that are not covered by paragraphs (a) above which may be allocated to the Committee by the Speaker from time to time.

**Annex 2: Schedules of Meetings of the Committee on Government Assurances**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Type of Meeting</b>	<b>In Attendance</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
21 <sup>st</sup> October, 2016	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
28 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
5 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016	Committee Meeting/Presentation by CEO of SENPA and Visit to Cascade and International Airport	Committee Members Ms Penny Belmont Representatives of SCAA/SFA/MTCAMP/MFA and MNAs for Cascade, Pointe Larue, Anse Aux Pins
20 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2017	Orientation Meeting with Ministers	Minister Charles Bastienne Minister Joel Morgan Minister McSuzy Mondon Minister Wallace Cosgrowe Minister Didier Dogley Minister Mitcy Larue Minister Jean Paul Adam Minister Michael Benstrong Personal Assistants of Ministers Committee Members
21 <sup>st</sup> February, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members

28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
6 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
8 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	Committee Meeting/Meeting with CEO of SEnPA	Committee Members Ms Penny Belmont
3 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2017	Meeting with Minister for Finance, Trade and Economic Planning	Dr. Peter Larose PS. Patrick Payet
21 <sup>st</sup> April, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2017	Meeting with SBC Management Team	Committee Members Media Committee of NAS SBC Management Team
25 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
16 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
17 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
18 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017	Committee Meeting	Committee Members
29 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017	Meeting with Minister for Finance, Trade and Economic Planning	Dr. Peter Larose PS Patrick Payet Ms Sitna Cesar
25 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	Hearing with CEO's of Departments of MFTEP/MYSC/MHA	Mr. Andre Pool Ms. Angelic Appoo Mr. Vic Tirant Mr. Raymonde St Ange Mr. Thomas Nolin Ms. Rosanda Alcindor

		<b>Mr. Francis Lebon</b> <b>Mr.Fred Morel</b> <b>Mr.Kevin Vidot</b> <b>Mr.Giovanna Rousseau</b> <b>Mr. Alvin Laurence</b> <b>Committee Members</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017</b>	<b>Meeting with Minister for Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport</b>	<b>Mr. Charles Bastienne</b> <b>Mr. Yves Choppy</b> <b>Mr. Denis Barbe</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> October, 2017</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>

**Annex 3: Table of letters sent to the MDAs and Coding of Assurances since October 2016.**

<b>Ministries/Departments/ Agencies</b>	<b>Assurances Codes</b>	<b>Date of correspondences to MDAs</b>
Ministry of Health	MH/111016/6PAR/1226-1230	23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2016
President's Office	PO/181016/6 PAR/1231-1257 SONA/140217/6PAR/1328-1361	23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2016 22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017
Ministry of Labour and Human Resources Development*	MLHRD/150316/5PAR/1104- 1105	23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2016
Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation* SEnPA	MIEBI/310516/5PAR/1121-1122	23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2016
Vice President's Office-Ministry of Information Technology, Information and Blue Economy Information Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation	VP-MITBE/081116/6PAR/1258	23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2016



Ministry of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning	MFTEP/081116/6PAR/1259-1263	30 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016
	BA-MFTEP/091216/6PAR/1-62	2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2017
	MFTEP/150317/6PAR/1289-1291	22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017
	MFTEP/220217/6PAR/1378-1394	22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017
Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture	MFA/151116/6PAR/1264-1268	30 <sup>th</sup> November, 2016
Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport	MHILT/151116/6PAR/1269-1278	20 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016
	MHILT/210317/6PAR/1292-1311	22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017
Vice President's Office-Ministry of Information Technology, Information and Blue Economy	VP-MITBE/141216/6PAR/1279-1288	3 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2017
	VP-ICTBE/081116/6PAR/1258	23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2016
Ministry of Home Affairs*	MHA/221216/6PAR/1312-1324 MHA/210217/6PAR/1374-1377	22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017
National Assembly of Seychelles	NAS/200217/6PAR/1325-1327	22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture	MYSC/10317/6PAR/1362-1366 MYSC/211216/6PAR/1395-1398	22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017 22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017
Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine	MTCAPM/210317/6PAR/1367	22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017
Electoral Commission	EC/210217/6PAR/1368-1373	22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2017

**\* Assurances were coded before the last restructuring of Ministries in the Executive**

**Annex 4: Monitoring of Assurances from October, 2016 to October, 2017**

<b>Ministries/Departments/ Agencies</b>	<b>Responded to Correspondence (Yes/No)</b>	<b>No. of assurances recorded</b>	<b>No. of Assurances Honored</b>	<b>No. of Assurances on- going</b>
Ministry of Health	Yes	5	5	0
President's Office	Yes	63	29	34
Ministry of Labour and Human Resources Development	Yes	2	2	0
Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation	Yes	2	2	0
Vice President's Office-Ministry of Information Technology, Information and Blue Economy	Yes Meeting held with SBC on 8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2017 for more info	11	1	10

Ministry of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning	Yes	23	0	23	0	23
Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture	Yes	4	3	1		
Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport	No	32	0	32		
Ministry of Home Affairs	Yes	17	4	13		
National Assembly of Seychelles	Yes	3	2	1		
State of the Nation Address	Partly	33	8	25		
The Budget Address, 2016	Partly	62	13	49		
Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture	Partly	6	2	4		
Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine	No	1	-	-		

Electoral Commission	<p>No</p> <p>Meeting scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 was postponed due to overseas mission of CEO of Electoral Commission</p>	6	.	.
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