



**Defence & Security Committee
Of the National Assembly of Seychelles**

**Site Visits Report
2020 to 2021**




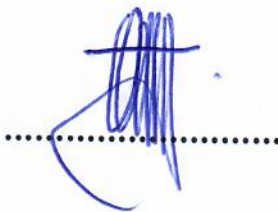


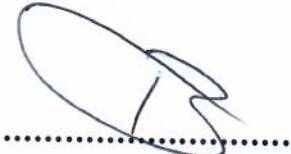


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1. INTRODUCTION

- A. The Defence and Security Committee composed of the members listed below, submits its Report on the “Site visits 2020/2021” to the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

Hon. Clifford Andre	- Chairperson	
Hon. Francois Adelaide	- Vice Chairperson	
Hon. Sandy Arissol	- Member	
Hon. Churchil Gill	- Member	
Hon. Audrey Vidot	- Member	
Hon. Doyace Porice	- Member	
Hon. Michel Roucou	- Member	

B. BACKGROUND

The Defense and Security Committee is a Select Sessional Committee which was formed during the 6th Assembly. It consists of 7 Members and is responsible for performing oversight and establish close working collaboration with the all Government MDAs involved with Order, Peace and National Security.

All Committees of the National Assembly has specific Terms of Reference which stipulates their functions and as a Committee. The Defence and Security Committee shall be to:

1. Establish a close collaboration with the Seychelles People's Defence Force, the Seychelles Police and Government Agencies involved with national security and Intelligence services.
2. Discuss and scrutinize the budget allocation for the Seychelles People's Defence Force, the Seychelles Police and Government Agencies involved with national security and intelligence.
3. Consult with Seychelles People's Defence Force, the Seychelles Police and Government Agencies involved with national security and intelligence on their development plans.
4. Receive reports from Seychelles People's Defence Force, the Seychelles Police and Government Agencies involved with national security and intelligence.
5. Subscribe to an oath or solemn affirmation of secrecy as per schedule 3 of the Seychelles Intelligence Service Act, 2018 and to this term of reference.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Defence and Security Committee of the National Assembly conducted several visits on Mahe and the Inner Islands namely Praslin and La Digue during the year 2020 to 2021. The visits were conducted by the Members of the Committee and including the Deputy Speaker for the Praslin/La Digue visit along with Secretariat Staff.

The aims of the visits were to visually observe the various facilities, be *au-fait* with current related issues and challenges being faced by the different Agencies in order to expedite the process in bringing solutions to their concerns, performing oversight over the various projects and subsequently providing the necessary legislative support for them to achieve their mandate.

The Committee visited, in sequence Seychelles Intelligence Services, Seychelles People Defence Forces, Praslin/La Digue Police Stations and SFRSA Stations, REFLECS/NISCC/RCOC, Police Headquarters, Prison Services, FCIU, SFRSA Headquarters, La Digue/Anse Boileau SFRSA Stations and Anse Boileau Police Station. The Committee was accompanied by the Head and various officials from the respective authorities.

The Committee along with attendees made some valuable contributions towards the challenges expressed, all of which are extensively detailed in this report. The report is divided into three sections mainly detailing the visits of each facility and a section which details the general recommendations.

3. DETAILS OF VISITS

3.1. Seychelles Intelligence Services

Location: Providence
Time: 13.00hrs
Date: 11th December 2020

In attendance

Mr. Benediste Hoareau - Director General
Other Senior Staff

Summary of visit

The Committee visited the SIS Headquarters and had a meeting with Staff headed by the Director General, Mr. Hoareau. During the presentation Members interacted with those present and discussed on some pertinent issues.

Main point of discussions

- Consideration on coordination of intelligence between the various Units
- How best to use the intelligence to benefit the Country as a whole.
- Further discussion will follow on modality of operations and administrative support in fulfillment of SIS mandate.



3.2. Seychelles People's Defence Forces

Location: Bel-Eau Headquarters and Coast Guard Base Perseverance
Time: 09.30 hrs
Date: 22nd April 2021

In attendance

Mr. Michael Rosette
Mr. Simon Dine
Mr. Jean Atalla
SPDF Members

- Brigadier, Chief of Defence Forces
- Colonel, Chief of Staff
- Lt Colonel, Coast guard Commander
- Defence Council

Summary of Visit

The Committee Members started its visit at the Bel Eau SPDF Headquarters followed by another visit at the Seychelles Coast Guard Base. They were met by the Chief of Defence Forces, Colonel Michael Rosette and other Senior SPDF Officers. The Chairman Hon. Clifford Andre and Colonel Michael Rosette both addressed Members and Senior Officers present during which introduction of all present was made. Power point presentations were made, which include the SPDF structure, the roles and responsibilities of each Unit, what activities they are participating in and requirements in respect of their mandate. The importance on how SPDF is rebranding themselves to suit modern times and the Country's needs.

General points of discussions

- Human resources requirements,
- The Brass Band, Coast Guard increasing demand,
- Administration needs,
- Photovoltaic for the Units,
- Career focus,
- Outposts and Stations,
- Cyber threat,
- Changing perception of the public,
- Promoting discipline,
- Talk in schools,
- Subsidizing advert by SBC,
- Intelligence,
- How best to attract the youth through image building
- Acquisition of new boats
- The roles of the Coast Guard Unit going forward



3.3. Praslin/La Digue Police Stations and SFRSA Stations

3.3.1 Location: Grand Anse, Praslin Police Station
Time: 1600 hrs
Date: 29 July 2021

In Attendance

Mr. Ted Barbe	- Commissioner of Police
Mr. Jean-Paul Ernesta	- Superintendent
Mr. Wavel Woodcock	- Member of National Assembly (<i>Grand Anse Praslin</i>)
Mr. Michael Jean Louis	- District Administrator

General Observations

- The infrastructure is a relatively a new two-storey building and equipped with a reception area, offices, cells, toilet facilities, storage, pantry, exhibit room, meeting room and on the top floor there are apartment like spaces. The Committee and all present toured both the ground floor and 1st floor of the facility.
- Inadequate offices for the amount of services offered by the Station resulting into overcrowding.
- The facility is small for the amount of services that needs to be delivered to the public.
- The cells are not conducive and not properly ventilated with limited toilet facilities.
- There is a proposal to extend the Police Station but it is still under review and negotiation due to a land related issue as well as obtaining the funding for the latter.



3.3.2 Location: SFRSA, Fire Station – La Digue
Time: 1045hrs
Date: 01 August 2021

In Attendance

Mr. Jerris Dufresne	- Inspector
Mr. Mervin Samson	- Sub Inspector
Mr. Tony Maria	- Project Officer (<i>Seychelles Police</i>)
Mr. Roy Banane	- Superintendent
Hon. Noline Sophola	- Member of National Assembly

Summary of Visit

The Committee visited the La Digue Police Station located in the heart of La Passe. The Committee toured the existing facilities and had discussions with the Station Commander and other Officers present.

General Observations/Concerns

- Currently the Police Station is located behind the old Station in a temporary building not designed to be used as a Police Station.
- It is a very small, confined area with poor working conditions and there is a lack of office space in order to maintain confidentiality within the station.
- The station currently has a reception area, two offices, one cell, a pantry and toilet facility.
- There is a lack of manpower and Inspector Dufresne expressed that the optimum personnel in need to run the La Digue Station ranges from 23 to 24 Officers.
- There is a lack of quality officers as to deliver quality services to the public that the system needs well trained officers.
- The cell is unsafe, not conducive, and inadequate whereby detainees must be released within 24hours to cater for new arrests.
- The service will also be extending services to adjacent space next to the current location as soon as finance is secured to purchase the related office equipment.

i. Proposed Police Station (New)

The Project Manager explained the proposed plan of the new building at the current Seychelles Trading Company warehouse.

- Currently the warehouse is an empty space and partitions will be made to separate the various offices and units within the station.
- The Building will be equipped with the following:
 - Reception/Enquiry area
 - 15 Offices for Policing Services
 - CCTV Room
 - CID Services

- Interview Room
 - Dog Unit Services with kennels for dogs
 - Exhibit Room
 - SSCRD
 - Cells (2 Male/ 2 Female / 2 Juvenile)
 - Meeting Room
 - Screening Area
 - Forensic Lab (*tentatively*)
 - Facilities for staff (*comfortable working conditions*)
- Mr. Chairman expressed that there is need to ensure and include a secure entrance within the building for the exhibit room as currently there is one entrance from outside.



3.3.4 Location: SFRSA, Fire Station – La Digue
 Time: 1045hrs
 Date: 01 August 2021

In Attendance

Mr. Antoine Souris

- Assistant Divisional Officer

Summary of Visit

The Committee visited the Fire Station on La Digue which was under the command of Mr. Antoine Souris. A tour of the building was conducted within the precinct and the Officers present expressed their concerns.

General Observations/Concerns

- The station is very small compared to that of Mahe and Praslin and there is a lack of space for the officers to conduct their drills and trainings.
- Accommodation is inadequate and to purchase comfortable facilities and related household appliances.
- There is a lack of the space for socializing and/or recreational area for the Officers to use on their off days or after work.
- The financial remuneration is inadequate especially for Officers leaving their homes on Mahe.
- Accommodation facilities for families visiting their partners /officers (*ie: government house/guesthouse*)
- Delays in servicing and maintenance of damaged and equipment.
- There is an issue of public ignorance whenever the water rescue officers are out testing the rescue vessel which creates certain confusions as to why the vessel is being used when there are no emergencies or disasters.
- The lack of transportation to transport casualties after rescue from La Digue to Mahe for immediate medical attention.



3.3.5 Location: Baie Ste Anne, Police Station
Time: 1600hrs
Date: 01 August 2021

In Attendance

Hon. Churchill Gill	- Member of National Assembly for BSA
Hon. Doyace Porice	- Member of National Assembly
Mr. Mervyn Samson	- Sub Inspector
Ms. Stephanie Lewis	- Station Commander BSA
Mr. Tony Maria	- Project Officer (Seychelles Police)

Summary of Visit

The Committee visited the Baie Ste Anne Police Station to observe the current facility and services offered by the station, the working conditions, the new proposed facility as well as any issues being experienced by the Officers working at the Station. It was apparent that the station is extremely old and has not been properly maintained over the years, there is a lack of space and the working

condition is inconducive. Despite the challenges the Officers reports daily to offer the people of Baie Ste Anne the services required.

The Government is proposing to construct a new and larger station on the same property overlapping a private property and negotiations are underway to obtain the property from a namely Mr. Flavien Etheve. During the renovation of the old station the law enforcement services will be moved to the building next door.

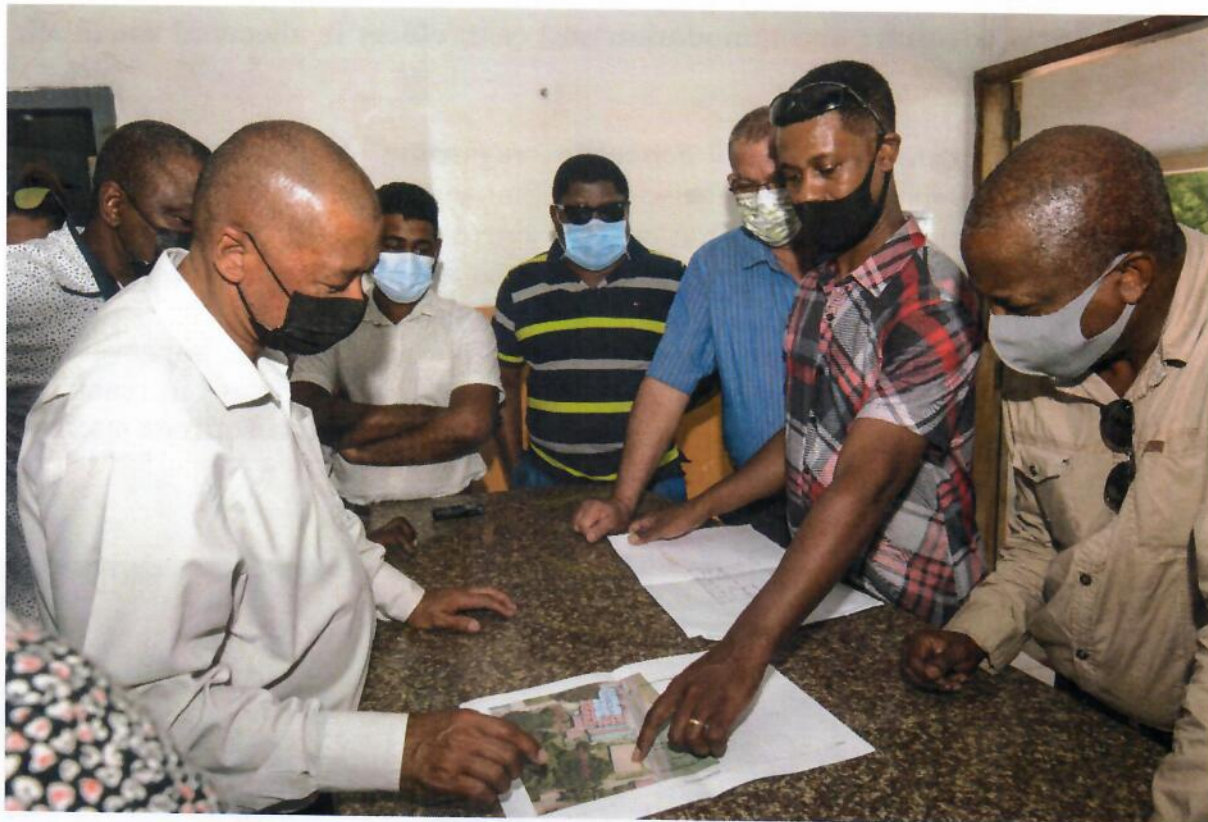
General Observation

- The Police Station infrastructure is old, confined and there is a lack of space for the services offered by the station equipped with a reception area, exhibit room, ANB Office, interview room (office), one cell with toilet for detainees, 2 storage areas, toilet facility for staff and one common area used by staff.
- Reception is an open space area, close to the main road and is not private and confidential especially if members of the public comes to lodge a complaint.
- There is only one office which is used for interviewing purposes and the officers from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) comes on Praslin.
- There are three cells and one toilet facility. Two of the cells are being used as a storage and archive facility. Should there be arrests the detainees have to be released in case there are new arrests.
- The Station is relatively small to offer all police related services as well as serve the Baie Ste Anne Population being the larger district.

Proposed Expansion (New Station)

- The proposed expansion aiming at creating better and comfortable working conditions and deliver additional and quality services to the public. The current stage is approval and financing.
- The expansion of the station will be a two-storey building with the following facilities:
 - Staff Quarters (Toilet facility and Locker room)
 - Pantry

- Office – Secretary
 - Office – Station Commander
 - Enquiry Room
 - Exhibit Room
 - ANB Office
 - CCTV Room
 - CID Office
 - Storage
 - Armory
 - Cells (2 males, 2 females and toilets)
 - Marine Police facilities
- The Committee Chairman enquired whether or not this construction will be feasible and cost effective instead of building a whole new building which will last for another 20 years. He mentioned that attention needs to be paid to avoid the need of having to rebuild a new station as right it seems that they are fixing a temporary issue.
 - Hon. Churchill Gill clarified that initially the plan was to construct a whole new building however, it has resorted to this in view that the environment objected the project because of the water marsh and the unavailability of road access.
 - The concerned authority started negotiations with Seychelles Fisheries Authority and Mr. Etheve hence when all these infrastructures moves to the commercial grounds on Eve Island, the whole area next to the existing station will house the expansion.



3.3.6 Location: SFRSA, Fire Station - Praslin
Time: 1630hrs
Date: 01 August 2021

In Attendance

Mr. Peter Cheri - Substation Officer

Summary of Visit

The Committee visited the Fire Station on Praslin which was under the command of Mr. Peter Cheri. A tour of the building was conducted within precinct and the Officers present expressed their concerns.

General Observations/Concerns

- The Baie Ste Anne Praslin precinct is very spacious equipped with Offices, Meeting Rooms, adequate bathrooms and toilet facilities, mess/pantry, staff quarters, training rooms, a common kitchen area, a large outside area, mechanic workshop as well as a recreational room.

- There is adequate accommodation and each officer is allocated with their own bedrooms.
- Officers expressed their concerns regarding the allowances and remunerations that they receive. Mr. Chairman expressed that in view of the economic challenges that we are currently facing to bear with the government however, their concerns will be noted and actioned upon.
- Similarly, to La Digue station there is a need to improve the communication from the Head Office on Mahe to avoid delays in resolving minor issues especially maintenance of equipment and resources such as uniforms accessories.



3.3.7 Recommendations

Further to the visit and discussions, the following recommendations were made:

- Improve the general working conditions of all officers both Police and Fire Service Officers.
- Review of Scheme of Service and other remunerations for both Police and Fire Officers
- Provide adequate comfort of living condition for younger generation joining the force.
- Provide the Police Station with good quality and well-trained officers to deliver a better and quality service
- Provide adequate and modern and state of the art firefighting/rescue equipment to facilitate the delivery of services
- Provide accommodation for family members of Officers from Mahe upon visits (*government house, or other facility*)
- Set up an equipped water rescue facility comprising of Fire Safety Officers, Marine Police, Life Guard and Seychelles Ports Authority.
- Seek funding or Sponsor for surveillance helicopter for rescue purposes
- Enhance the PR, Communication and Protocol on the duties and responsibilities of the departments.
- Network with neighboring countries through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs particularly EUROPEAN standards for Training/exchange programmes as well as to obtain sponsorship for equipment.
- Install camera/cctv in police stations to record actions, especially in interview rooms.
- The La Digue Police Station remains where it is, using modern technology and infrastructure so that it remains consistent with the adjacent buildings.

3.4 Regional Coordination Operation Centre (RCOC) /NISCC

Location: Bois De Rose, Ex-Coast Guard

Time: 1035 hours

Date: 13th August 2021

In Attendance

Mr. Mouhoussoun Ahmed - Deputy Director/ILO Comoros

Col Georges Adeline - Director RCOC

Colonel Leslie Benoiton

- Director NISCC

Summary of Visit

Mr. Mouhoussoun did a presentation and explained the Maritime Security Programme (MASE) and the MASE Regional Agreement which has been signed by 7 Countries namely Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Djibouti, Comoros, Kenya and France.

Points of Presentation and discussion

- MASE (Maritime Security) Programme which is sponsored by the European Union provides the resources to enhance the maritime Security in East and Southern Africa
- Maritime events- risks, crimes and threats. The crimes which are committed such as piracy drug trafficking, weapons and other illicit goods amongst others, which makes it difficult for one country alone to monitor and protect its EEZ and territorial waters.
- Responsibilities & Privileges, Immunities, Grant, Contract under the Agreement
- Surveillance Mission
- Administrative and operational support

The Committee also had the privilege to visit the surveillance room and met with the administrative team.



3.4.1 Recommendations

- There should be improved coordination between all intelligence Agencies/Forces involved in the Country's security for more proactive and reactive effective operations

3.5 Police Headquarters

Location: Victoria, Revolution Avenue

Time: 1003 hours

Date: 27th August 2021

In Attendance

Mr. Ted Barbe	- Commissioner of Police
Mr. Francis Songoire	- Chief Superintendent
Mrs. Christel Marie	- Superintendent
Mr. Jean Toussaint	- Assistant Superintendent

Summary of Visit

The Committee visited the Police Headquarters under the command of Commissioner Ted Barbe. A tour of the building was conducted within the precinct at the Communication and Command Centre, Interpol Unit, Commissioner's Secretariat, Traffic, Finance and Accounts Department the Male and Female jails.

General Observations/Concerns

- The building itself is an old setting and there is limited space. The Commissioner informed that they will be moving into a new building at Ile Du Port. The building will house the Central Police Station the Human Resources Unit, the Internal Affairs Unit and Senior Officers in the Operations Unit. The building is a grant from the Indian government.
- The Commissioner also announced that once all the Units have vacated the building, the CID will move from the ex -Coastguard building as they also have limited space.
- The Central Station Enquiry 01(Reception) had been renovated and upgraded
- The Traffic Unit had motorcycles which were not in use. Mr. Antoine Denousse explained that a motorcycle is far more expensive than a car and the spare parts are costly as well.
- 3 Female cells were upstairs and each had its personal toilet whereas the male cells which were found at the ground floor beside the Enq 01, had shared toilets. Mr. Chair was concerned about the way these people were being treated in regards to bedding which he pointed out were not in line with human rights requirements.
- Upon the visit Members had the chance to interact with staff who each gave a brief of what their job entails.



3.5.1 Recommendations

- That necessary measures are taken to upgrade holding facilities favorable to human rights requirements
- That the necessary effort is put in place to accelerate the process for the building of the new Police Headquarters under the India- Grant to resolve the serious problem of space inadequacy

3.6 Prison Services

Location: Montagne Posee

Time: 1005 hours

Date: 10th September 2021

In Attendance

Mr. Raymond St. Ange - Superintendent
Mr. Shamir Ghislain - Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Dogley - Chief Inspector
Mr. Sam Dodin - Chief Inspector

Summary of Visit

Before touring the facilities, the Committee was briefed on the Vision and Mission of the Prison Services, their progression, their facilities, their personnel, offenses and trend, Rehabilitation of inmates and the way forward as a correction facility. The Committee toured the Prison under strict supervision.

General Observations/Concerns

- The Prison Services were celebrating 'Prison week' upon the Committee visit and inmates had organized social activities at the visiting area to celebrate this week.
- The Prison Services have 195 staff in total
- There is an Auditorium where inmates may watch a movie. This Auditorium is open from 9am till midnight or 1am. It is also used for religious assemblies on Sundays. The Islamic Society and Jehovah witness comes often but all are welcome in order to respect one's spiritual belief.
- There is also a Library which is well equipped with many books which they received as donation but not all inmates use the facility at its maximum purpose.
- The Committee also visited the Prison's fitness center. It was observed that they were well equipped but the equipment was not fully maintained. It was also observed that at the time of visit the gym was not busy.
- It was observed that the carpentry workshop also had only two inmates working. The Committee had the chance to see few works that they have done.

- Visit was also conducted at the high security male section. Inmates had their own cell but it was observed that the place was compact and restricted mobility.
- The female prison was far more spacious and neater. The female inmates kept themselves busy with hairdressing and sewing. The Committee had the chance to see a toddler who was presently with her mother until the age of 1 where she will have to leave the facility.
- Members also had a chance to interact with some Prison Officers at the Control Room.



3.6.1 Recommendations

- The proposed building infrastructure should be constructed as soon as possible to allow more adequate space for inmates.
- Improve general security of the facilities (More fire friendly environment)

3.7 Financial Crime Investigation Unit

Location: Perseverance
Time: 14.00hrs
Date: 4th November 2021

In Attendance

Mr. Ted Barbe	- Commissioner of Police
Mr. Ron Bonnelame	- Deputy Commissioner of Police
Mr. Francis Songoire	- Deputy Commissioner of Police
Mr. Terence Roseline	- Inspector
Ms. Potter	- Legal Officer

Summary of Visit

The Committee visited the Financial Crime Investigation Unit (FCIU) at Perseverance to discuss their composition, challenges they are facing, future plans and to obtain support in terms of resources required to forge the way forward to deliver on their mandate.

General Observations/Concerns

In view of the sensitivity of the role of the FCIU another meeting is being planned by the Committee to further discuss in detail the needs of the Unit especially in respect of the incoming Budget that will soon be coming before the National Assembly later on this month.



3.7.1 Recommendations

- That Defence and security Committee meet with FCIU and discuss in details requirements for Budget 2023 - 2025

3.8 Seychelles Fire and Rescue Services Agency, Headquarters

Location: New Port, Victoria

Time: 11.00hrs

Date: 5th November 2021

In Attendance

Mr. Albert Rose - Chief Fire Officer
Mr. Regis Bethew - Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Other Senior Officers

Summary of Visit

The Committee visited the SFRSA Headquarters at the New Port. Four Units of the Agency was covered during the visit - the Administration, Operations, Prevention and Safety and Training. The visit of the four units started with the Watch Room and ending with an overview of the equipment and Fire Tenders at

disposition in the case of any incident would fall within the operational scope of SFRSA. During the tour Fire Officers present expressed their views and concerns. The CFO, Mr. Rose clearly indicated to the Committee that many of the issues raised during the visit have been on the table for many years including a proper training facility and a modern Headquarters as the current one is no longer ideal and in addition is situated in a red zone or risk area. CFO Rose, pleaded to the Committee for support during the coming budget debate and requested further visits to be planned in the near future. The Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Clifford Andre reassured CFO Rose and other Fire Officers present of the Committee's commitment towards a more professional Fire Service, with the necessary infrastructure, equipment, training and facilities for motivation of the SFRSA Team responsive to the exigencies of Seychellois people.

General Observations/Concerns

- The issues discussed varied from facilities to modernize in the Watch Room, fire hydrants at locations on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue.
- Better coordination between SLTA and PUC for placement, as well as consultations between the authorities involved for approval of building permission.
- Further discussions involved the Safety Standard regulations, for SFRSA to be included on the Planning Authority Structure or sub-committees
- An overview of Training services being offered by SFRSA, standard of equipment and materials being imported with Seychelles Bureau of Standards having oversight and difficulties being encountered for replacement of used or damaged equipment.
- Overall well-being of Staff stationed on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue in regards to their accommodation, wages and other allowances for the sacrifices that they make especially those working away from their family home-based.



3.8.1 Recommendations

- Resources are provided to modernize the Watch Room in Budget 2023 – 2025
- Install fire hydrants in identified areas on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue in consultation with SLTA and PUC
- That SFRSA are consulted at all times for advice during approval of building permission
- SFRSA to be included on the Planning Authority Structure or sub-committees
- That Seychelles Bureau of Standard undertake a more proactive inspection on equipment and materials being imported to ensure standards
- SFRSA is supported adequately to overcome difficulties for replacement of used or damaged equipment.
- MDAs and Private organization to consider training plan on fire prevention in discussion with SFRSA

- That overall well-being of Staff is given its importance, both on Mahe and Inner Islands in terms of accommodation, wages and allowances.

3.9 La Digue/Anse Boileau, SFRSA Stations and Anse Boileau Police Station

Location: La Digue and Anse Boileau

Time: 09.00hrs

Date: 13th November 2021

In attendance

Mr. Albert Rose - Chief Fire Officer
Mr. Regis Bethew - Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Other Senior Officers

Mr. Antoine Denousse - Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Samuel Cadeau - Station Commander, Sub-Inspector

Summary of visit

The Committee visited the Seychelles Fire and Rescue Services Agency Station at Anse Boileau and the one on La Digue. This visit is a follow-up of the previous visit at SFRSA Headquarters on Friday 5th November. The purpose of the visit was mainly to see firsthand the resources they have in place actually, what their needs are and what Members will deem necessary for Budget 2022, which will permit the Members to understand, consider and support the demands in the coming debate. For the visits, the Committee was represented at Anse Boileau by the Chairman, Hon. Clifford Andre, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Adelaide and other Members, Hon. Audrey Vidot, Hon. Sandy Arissol and Hon. Michel Roucou and whereas on La Digue the Committee was represented by Hon. Doyace Porice and Hon, Churchill Gill.

3.9.1 SFRSA Anse Boileau

General Observations/Concerns

At Anse Boileau, the Chief Fire officer, Mr. Albert Rose and his Officers took Members on a tour. The focus was the inadequate space for the Station, well-being of SFRSA Officers stationed there and the diversion of a road which is impeding on the construction of a new and modern Fire Station already having sponsorship by private sector.



3.9.2 Recommendation

- A modern and conducive Fire Station is built to replace the post which is evidently inappropriate for the Region

- The reallocation of land parcel from Police to SFRSA is accelerated.
- The diversion plan of a road which is impeding on the construction of a new and modern Fire Station already having sponsorship by private sector, is looked at with urgency by SLTA
- Hence the well-being of Staff stationed there is meaningfully improved

3.9.3 SFRSA La Digue

Summary of visit

On La Digue, the Deputy Fire Officer, Mr. Regis Bethew led the delegation on a tour and meeting. The main points of discussions were lack of manpower including shortage of drivers, meal allowances for recruits being trained on Praslin, procurement of uniforms, accommodation for family members on visits, number of water hydrants, emergency tickets and feedback from Headquarters on previous meeting and issues raised.

General Observations/Concerns

The SFRSA Station on La Digue was recently built to provide services to the third most developed Island. Though the building is adequate in terms of infrastructure, there are other implications especially in regards to manpower and other resources as all Staff posted to the Station are from Mahe. The administrative and logistics support seems to be lacking.



3.9.4 Recommendation

- That a special effort is made to recruit Fire Officers from La Digue and Praslin in an attempt to remedy the manpower issue
- Systems is put in place to ensure continuous availability of uniforms
- That further consideration is given for meal allowance of trainees on Praslin
- Provision is made towards family members visiting Staff on La Digue
- That Headquarters immediately informed Staff on the issue of emergency tickets
- An assessment is completed and necessary support provided to install the hydrants soonest

3.9.3 Anse Boileau Police Station

Summary of visit

The Committee took the opportunity whilst at Anse Boileau to also visit the Police Station adjacent to SFRSA Station. On this visit, Superintendent Antoine

Denousse in charge of Operations, Sub-Inspector Samuel Cadeau the Station Commander and Project Officer, Mr. Tony Maria led the delegation inside the Station to see the structure and space requirement and also around the precinct to identify area which is being proposed for additional facilities for offices and barracks.

Similar to SFRSA, a number of issues related to Staff welfare were raised by the Officers present for consideration by the Committee Members.

General Observations/Concerns



3.9.4 Recommendations

- That the space to be allocated be used to house both the Fire and Police stations in one building
- That other facilities such as parking and residential for Officers are also constructed

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Defence and Security Committee of the National Assembly would like to thank everyone who facilitated its visits to the nine entities with special thanks to the Chief of Defence Forces, Commissioner of Police, Chief Fire Officer, Superintendent of Prisons, Director General, SIS, heads of FCIU, NISCC, RCOC, REFLECS and all Officers involved, who accompanied and interacted with Members during the tours.

Special thank-you also goes to all Members who made an effort to attend on various occasions and the Committee Secretaries for all logistical support and organisations behind the visits.

We are indeed grateful for the support extended to the delegation and time disposed to facilitate the visits.

The Defence and Security Committee hopes that this report presented to the National Assembly with recommendations made, will be an eye opener to the issues of each entity and prompt the respective authority to act forthwith and eventually better the administration, operations and welfare of Staff in order to ensure best for the defence and security of the Country.

