

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

1. Introduction

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Is listed as a Select Sessional Committee of the 7th Assembly and it is mandated to:

1. Consider questions of equal opportunities for women and men and activities, policies and legislation related thereto both locally and internationally.
2. Follow up on the compliance of the National Assembly and Government, In matters pertaining to equal opportunities for Women, men and children;
3. Establish relations with and participate in meetings of local and international bodies promoting Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and represent the National Assembly in and follow the work of the relevant intergovernmental expert committees that deal with issues pertaining to women and Parliament, both regionally and internationally.
4. Maintain working relations with the relevant Regional and International Organizations, such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Global Institute for Women's Empowerment (GIWE),
5. Encourage and advocate in favour of capacity building for women in Government and support the participation of women in politics in particular their contribution to the proliferation of good governance.
6. Encourage and Advocate in favour of children and families. And maintain close working relationships with local NGOs, Civil Societies and Organizations related to children and families, such as National Children's Council (NCC), Campaign for Awareness, Resilience and Education (CARE)

7. Work in close collaboration with the Ministries of Family Affairs and Social Affairs.

The year 2022 was a much better year for the caucus, compared to 2021 with all the CORONA restrictions.

The caucus managed to operate quite effectively and was active in their oversight mandate of protecting children and families especially in regards to the national situation and Legislation on Domestic Violence and Sexual and gender-based violence (S/GBV). Several meetings were therefore organized with the relevant National stakeholders whereby the WPC confirmed their continuous commitment and support to the MDA's in their work. The Caucus also brought forth Motions to the House.

2. Membership

The committee consist of all the woman MPs, making a total of 8 Members.

Namely: -

- Hon. Regina Esparon - *Chairperson*
- Hon. Audrey Vidot- *Vice-Chair*
- Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel - Member
- Hon. Flory Larue - Member
- Hon. Kelly Samynadin - Member
- Hon. Desheila Bastienne - Member
- Hon. Rosie Bistoquet - Member
- Hon. Doyace Porice - Member

The Committee is also assisted by 3 support staff from the Secretariat; -2 Secretary Mrs Florette Monaie and Ms Samia Lebon and an Assistant Secretary Ms Denise Johnny.

3. Meetings of the Committee

The year 2022 was a much better year compare to 2021 when we were getting out of the pandemic.

3.1. Ordinary Committee Meetings

Meetings	Dates
1	8th February, 2022
2	2nd March, 2022
3	7th April, 2022
4	24th May, 2022
5	4th August, 2022
6	08th September, 2022
7	06th October 2022
8	17th November 2022

3.2. Meetings with stakeholders

Meeting with French Ambassador, Mr Dominic Mas on International Women's Day- 8th March, 2022

Talks and discussions were around what the Women Caucus plans and ongoing projects. Women Caucus discussed their ongoing projects SGBV workshops on 10 and 11th March which the Ambassador was very interested in. He also informed WPC to invite him to activities held and that he will attend if possible.



Group photo with Ambassador Dominic Mas

Meeting with COMFWeb (19th April, 2022)

The Chairman of COMFWeb, Mrs. Albert enlightened members of WPC on the role of COMFWB in empowering women in the Trading Business in Seychelles. She also explained the objectives of the federation in facilitating a conducive business community for women and the youth of Seychelles.

Meeting with SNYC- Planning of joint activity (1st June, 2022)

WPC meet with the CEO of SNYC to discuss about a joint activity to help empower the youth, especially young girls into joining politics.



CEO of SNYC, Ms Penny Belmont



The Chair and Vice Chair of the WPC

Meeting with the Virtuous Women (6th October, 2022)

The meeting came as a request from Virtuous Women to educate Members about the spiritual work they are doing to empower the woman and young girls of Seychelles.



Chair of WPC addressing members of Vitious Women



Participants present for the meeting

Meeting with End Rape in Seychelles (ERIS) (8th September, 2022)

The purpose of the meeting was to educate the Members about the function of ERIS which is an NGO. The meeting was opened for all Members to better sensitise them on rapes and harassment in Seychelles. They informed the Members about the different activities they do and how they want to take these activities on district level.

4. Activities by the Committee

International Women's Day- 8th March, 2022

This was marked by an address made by the Chairperson of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Hon. Regina Esparon. In her address Hon. Esparon highlighted the theme of this year "**Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**" and stressed that women should be more educated on environmental issues and aspects of climate change for better involvement in these avenues.

The WPC also took this opportunity to present 2 of its outgoing Members, namely Hon. Janny de Letourdie and Hon. Noline Sophola with a little token of appreciation.



Hon Regina Esparon addressing the House.



Group photo with outgoing WPC Members

THE SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WORKSHOP FOR SEYCHELLES PARLIAMENTARIANS (10th -11th March, 2022)

The workshop commemorated the International Women's Day on 08th March and served to raise awareness on gender equality and empowerment of women.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Update Members of Parliament (known as Members of the National Assembly or MNAs in Seychelles) on the situation of SGBV in the country;
- Discuss the national legislative and policy framework which enables or creates barriers for fulfilment of the human rights of all persons experiencing SGBV, especially women;
- Familiarise Members of Parliament with regional (SADC) SGBV legislative frameworks and tools;
- Discuss possible legislative actions and motions to address identified gaps in reducing or eliminating SGBV in Seychelles.



Group photo of participants



SADC-PF representative, vice Chairman of WPC, the President of Seychelles and the Chairman of WPC. (From left to right)

Visit to School of the exceptional child and school of deaf Seychelles (21st July, 2022)

The aim of the visits was mainly to strengthen the collaboration with the 2 institutions, gain information about the facilities, the work undertaken by the teachers, their challenges and for Members to better exercise their oversight role as provided for under the Constitution.



Group photo at the School of the Exceptional Child



Members interacting with the children.



Members applauding the kids at the school of deaf.

Youth Empowerment Event (15th September, 2022)

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus of the National Assembly (WPC) in collaboration with the Seychelles National Youth Council (SNYC) conducted a 3-hour interactive session with the youth, especially young girls. The activity was planned to coincide with the International Day of Democracy which is commemorated every 15th September.



Members and panelist at the front table



Group photo of the participants

Visit to St Elizabeth Convent (Saturday 19th Nov, 2022)

As part of its mandate to encourage and advocate in favor of children and families, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of the National Assembly

visited the Butterfly Day Care at the St. Elizabeth Convent. The WPC also took this time to pay a little visit to the elderly women living in the home and interacted with, the property manager and the nuns of the St. Elizabeth convent. The visit ended with a little donation by the Members of the WPC.



Donation by WPC



Members interacting with the ladies in the Home

International day of the elimination of violence against women -- 25th November, 2022

Hon. Desheila Bastienne as a Member of the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus(WPC) made a powerful speech in commemoration of this day to the House, highlighting not only violence against women and girls, but also against men and boys. In her moving speech, Hon. Bastienne pointed out the severity of gender-based violence in Seychelles, highlighting that in the first quarter of 2022 around 184 cases were reported in the country. She went on to state that *“before the tribunal from May 2021 to May 2022, 734 cases of protective orders of which 48 were cases of sexual violence....this shows the severity of the situation in the country and the necessity of laws that protect the population against violence.”*

Pinning of orange bow pins on all Members and Staff of the Secretariat to mark this occasion.



Hon Desheila Bastienne addressing the House



Group photo of WPC

5. List of Motions by WPC Members

9.1. Date : Wednesday 23rd March, 2022

Motion by : Hon Desheila Bastienne

Lasanble i aprouve pou demann Gouvernman pou komans demars pou etabli en *Juvenile Center* rezidansyel avèk bi reabilit bann zenn anba laz ki viktim labi e fleo sosyal.

9.2. Date : Tuesday 12th April, 2022

Motion by : Hon Regina Esparon

Lasanble i rekomande ki Gouvernman i pou met an plas bann Polisi kler, e reviz Lalwa kot i neser pou protez bann travayer ki ganny agrese fizikman e seksyelman dan landrwa travay.

9.3. Date : Wednesday 15th June, 2022

Motion by : Hon Doyace Porice

Vi ki pei pe annan bokou problem ek zanfan ki manke kot lakaz e ki bann zanfan anba laz ki lo semen apre 6er diswar i kapab en faktor, sa Lasanble

pe demann paran pou pran zot responsabilite pou asir sekirite e deplasman zot zanfan pli byen e Gouvernman pou asire ki Lalwa ki adres sa de size i ganny aplike avek efikasite.

9.4. Date : Wednesday 3rd August, 202

Motion by : Hon Kelly Samynadin

Sa Lasanble pe demann Minister Ledikasyon pour reviz son Polisi konsernan enklisivite avek bi garanti bezwen tou zanfan Seselwa, pe enport zot abilite e asire zot ganny ankadre.

6. Conferences and Workshops (Internationally and Virtually)

09th and 10th March 2022- Hon. Kelly Samynadin and Hon. Rosie Bistoquet

SADC PF Regional Legislative Sensitization High-Level Meeting on Safe Abortion Case Studies for Members of Parliament and Sectoral Leadership Policy Advocacy Dialogue with Parliamentarians on Prevention of Unsafe Abortions and Early and Unintended Pregnancies in the SADC Region- virtual Meeting

11th and 12th March 2022- Hon. Rosie Bistoquet

SADC PF Executive Committee Meeting- virtual meeting

20th- 24th March, 2022- Hon Audrey Vidot

144th General Assembly of the Inter- Parliamentary Union- Bali, Indonesia

26th April to 2nd May- Hon. Rosie Bistoquet, Hon. Kelly Samynadin and Hon. Regina Esparon

SADC Parliamentary Forum Standing Committees Meeting- Johannesburg, South Africa

27th April to 2nd May- Hon. Audrey Vidot

SADC Parliamentary Forum Standing Committees Meeting- Johannesburg, South Africa

20th- 25th June, 2022- Hon Regina Esparon

Commonwealth Woman's Forum COP-26- Kigali, Rwanda

23rd- 24th June- Hon Desheila Bastienne

Parliamentary Forum on Sexual and Gender minorities- Johannesburg, South Africa

27th June 2022- Hon. Rosie Bistoquet and Hon. Regina Esparon

Notice of the meeting of the Regional Parliamentary Model Law Oversight Committee (RPMLOC) – Virtual Meeting

27th June- 2nd July, 2022- Hon Sylvanne Lemiel and Hon Desheila Bastienne

Sixth ordinary Session of the Pan- African Parliament- Midrand, South Africa

07th to 16th July 2022- Hon. Rosie Bistoquet, Hon. Regina Esparon, Hon. Audrey Vidot and Hon. Kelly Samynadin

51st SADC PF Plenary Assembly Session hosted by the Parliament of Malawi- virtual meeting

3rd to 6th July, 2022- Hon. Kelly Samynadin

Conseil National du Développement et de la Solidarité Internationale Plainer- Paris, Quai D'Orsay

20th- 26th August, 2022- Hon. Kelly Samynadin

Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference- Canada

25th to 30th September, 2022- Hon. Kelly Samynadin

Conseil National du Développement et de la Solidarité Internationale Plainer- Paris, Quai D'Orsay

4th to 7th November 2022- Hon. Regina Esparon

SADC-PF Activities: Regional Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Separation of Powers & Parliamentary Oversight in the SADC Region and Regional Policy

Conference on Women Political Participation and Gender Equality-
Johannesburg, South Africa

4th to 9th November 2022- Hon. Rosie Bistoquet

SADC-PF Activities: Regional Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Separation of Powers & Parliamentary Oversight in the SADC Region and Training on Bodily Autonomy and Integrity for Parliamentarians- Johannesburg, South Africa

6th to 7th November 2022- Hon. Kelly Samynadin

SADC-PF Activity: Regional Policy Conference on Women Political Participation and Gender Equality- Johannesburg, South Africa

25th November 2022- Hon. Regina Esparon, Hon. Kelly Samynadin and Hon. Rosie Bistoquet

Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development Standing Committee- Virtual meeting

26th November 2022- Hon. Florie Larue

SADC PF Standing Committee Public Hearings

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources - Virtual meeting

26th November 2022- Hon. Audrey Vidot

SADC PF Standing Committee Public Hearings

Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment Standing Committee- Virtual meeting

27th November 2022- Hon. Regina Esparon and Hon. Rosie Bistoquet

SADC PF Standing Committee Public Hearings

Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee- Virtual meeting

**28th November 2022- Hon. Regina Esparon, Hon. Kelly Samynadin
and Hon. Rosie Bistoquet**

SADC PF Standing Committee Public Hearings

Regional Women Parliamentary Caucus Standing Committee- Virtual meeting

4th to 10th December- Hon. Regina Esparon and Hon. Rosie Bistoquet

52nd Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum - Kinshasa,
Democratic Republic of Congo

6th to 9th December, 2022- Hon. Kelly Samynadin

Conseil National du Développement et de la Solidarité Internationale Plainer-
Paris, Quai D'Orsay

7. Recommendations

- To increase women's participation and representation in politics.
- To educate young women on the importance for their voices to be heard.
- To work in close collaboration with different stakeholders, agencies, NGOs involved with women and children.
- To address and advance issues affecting women and children in the society.

MEMBERS SIGNATURES

Women's Parliamentary Caucus

Dated this ^{13th} day of June 2023

NAME

Hon. Regina Esparon
Chairperson

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Esparon

Hon. Audrey Vidot
Vice Chairperson

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Vidot

Hon. Desheila Bastienne
Member

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DBastienne

Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel
Member

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Sylvanne Lemiel

Hon. Rosie Bistoquet
Member

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Rosie Bistoquet

Hon. Kelly Samynadin
Member

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Kelly Samynadin

Hon. Doyace Porice
Member

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Doyace Porice

Hon. Flory Larue
Member

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Flory Larue