

# THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES



## FINANCE & PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (FPAC)

MISSION REPORT ON THE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY ORGANISATION OF  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (SADCOPAC)  
GOVERNANCE MEETING & TRAINING FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES  
(PACs) AND TECHNICAL OFFICIALS SUPPORTING PACs  
HELD IN  
HARARE, ZIMBABWE  
FROM 22<sup>ND</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022

**ATTENDED BY:**

Hon. Terence Mondon – Vice-Chairperson of FPAC (Head of Delegation)

Hon. Churchill Gill – Member of FPAC

Ms. Alexandria Faure – Secretary to the Committee & SADCOPAC Desk Officer

**The National Assembly delegation composed of the Members as listed below, submits its Report:**

Hon. Terence Mondon  
**Head of Delegation**

Hon. Churchill Gill  
**Member**

Ms. Alexandria Faure  
**Deputy Clerk**  
**SADCOPAC Desk Officer**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Parliament of Zimbabwe hosted the Governing Council Meeting and Training for Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and technical officials supporting the PACs of the SADCOPAC. The Sessions were attended by a delegation from the National Assembly namely; *Hon. Terence Mondon*, Vice Chairperson of the Committee, *Hon. Churchill Gill*, Member of the Committee and *Ms. Alexandria Faure*, Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly.

## 2. GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING (Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022)

### **Attended by Hon Terence Mondon & Ms. Alexandria Faure**

The Chairperson of the FPAC was represented by Hon. Mondon in his capacity as the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee and participated actively in the Governing Council Meeting.

The Delegation of Seychelles, Angola and Mauritius were warmly welcomed back into the SADCOPAC Meetings and trainings. The Chairperson of the SADCOPAC expressed the need to work together as a block in order to further develop the strength and capacity of the organisation.

The below Agenda items were adopted by the Council:

	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	Attendance	<b>Secretariat</b>
2.	Apologies	<b>Secretariat</b>
3.	Opening	<b>Chairperson</b>
4.	Adoption of the agenda	<b>Chairperson</b>
5.	Confirmation of the minutes of the Governing Council meeting held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2021 in Lilongwe, Malawi (annexure 1)	<b>Chairperson</b>
6.	Matters arising (annexure 2)	<b>Secretary General</b>
7.	Management report on the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 2019/2020 and 2020/2021- SADCOPAC Funds (annexure 3)	<b>Auditor General of Lesotho</b>
8.	Strategic Plan, Business Plan and Marketing Strategy (annexure 4a, 4b and 4c)	<b>Treasurer</b>
9.	Procurement Plan for the approved Operational Budget - 2021/2022, Risk Management plan policy, staff performance evaluation and training action plan (annexure 5a, 5b, 5c,5d)	<b>Secretary General</b>
10.	Updates on SADCOPAC training for members of PACs / Similar Committees and Official supporting oversight committees (annexure 6)	<b>Secretary General</b>
11.	Updates on the preparations for the 14 <sup>th</sup> SADCOPAC Annual Conference and 18 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting to be held in Botswana – 2022 Annual Conference Program (annexure 7)	<b>Chairperson</b>
12.	Host for the Annual Conferences and AGMs in 2023 – South Africa, 2024 – Zimbabwe, 2025 – Lesotho, 2026 - Malawi and 2027 – Kingdom of Eswatini, (annexure 8)	<b>Chairperson</b>
13.	Program for SADCOPAC activities – 2022/2023 (annexure 9)	<b>Secretary General</b>
14.	A.O.B	<b>Chairperson</b>
15.	Closing of the meeting	<b>Chairperson</b>

## **Points Raised by Hon. Terence Mondon in the Governing Council Meeting:**

### **1. Agenda Point 6 on Matters Arising:**

#### **Seychelles Membership Fees**

A Document titled *-Summary Statement of Membership Fees Status from the Year 2019/2020 to 2020/2023* was given to the Members of the Governing Council. (Refer to Annex 1)

The Governing Council asked the Members present for an update on the document and it was highlighted by the SADCOPAC secretariat that Seychelles suspended itself from SADCOPAC in 2020 via a Letter from the previous Speaker, Mr. Nicholas Prea. (Refer to Annex 2)

Hon. Mondon provided a further explanation on the matter, including an overview of the current economic situation in Seychelles as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the re-prioritisation of National and international commitments. The Governing Council requested that the word 'suspended' be removed from the document and that Seychelles be reinstated.

Hon. Mondon sought further clarity on the status on the outstanding amount that Seychelles will have to pay to SADCOPAC, other Members suggested a write off and the Governing Council decided that this be discuss further at the AGM in Botswana. The Governing Council also resolved to review and finalise the Financial Guidelines by the AGM in order for decisions regarding the Membership fees be taken further.

#### **Fundraising for SADCOPAC**

Hon. Mondon supported the initiatives of the organisation seeking fund raising and signing MOUs with the SADC PF as this will be crucial to build the capacity of the PACs and the Members serving on these Committees.

### **2. Agenda Point 13 on Program for SADCOPAC activities – 2022/2023 (Refer to Annex 3)**

Hon. Mondon acknowledged the proposed Peer Review to be held in Seychelles in May 2022 and highlighted to the Governing Council that the Seychelles delegation will require an official request letter in order to obtain the Approval of the Speaker for the said activity.

### 3. **TWO DAY TRAINING** (Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

**Attended by Hon Terence Mondon, Hon. Churchill Gill & Ms. Alexandria Faure**

The delegation participated in the two-day training which comprised of presentations and topics such as the below:

- Characteristics of Effective Good Committee Practice (*Parliament of Botswana*)
- Conducting Effective Public Hearings and Inquiries (*Parliament of Malawi*)
- Writing Reports and Following Up on Implementations (*Parliament of Namibia*)
- The Role of PACs in Oversight, Transparency & Accountability (*Parliament of Mozambique*)

The training also involved presentations from Auditor General Institutions such as the below:

- PAC Strategic Support and Cooperation (*Auditor General of Zambia*)
- The State of Extractive Industry Sector (*Auditor General of Zimbabwe*)
- Transfer Pricing and Illicit Financial Flows (*Zimbabwe Revenue Authority*)
- Auditing Extractive Industry Contracts and the Role of the AG (*Auditor General of South Africa*)
- Analysis Techniques and Capacitating the PAC to Analyze the Reports (*Auditor General of Botswana*)
- Role of the Auditor General & PAC in Public Debt Management (*Auditor general of Namibia*)
- Understanding Value for Money Audits (*Auditor General of Lesotho*)

#### **Intervention of Seychelles on the Transfer Pricing & Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs):**

Hon. Mondon highlighted the importance of the PAC as a financial oversight mechanism and urged SADCOPAC to facilitate further capacity building to provide the Committees, Members and Support Staff with focused training on investigating and analysing Reports covering IFFs and transfer Pricing.

#### **Intervention of Seychelles on the subject matter from the Auditor General Staff from Zambia relating to the institution protecting its independence by not always investigating matters brought to it by the PAC:**

Hon. Gill made mention that the stakeholder relationship between the PAC and the National Auditor General is crucial in maintaining public financial management oversight. He further stated that the Auditor General should welcome request from the PAC.

Hon. Mondon further stated the importance of the Member States PACs to assist in strengthening their respective Auditor General Institution as thus far only two Member States (Seychelles & South Africa) rank highly in the '*Supreme-Audit-Institutions-Independence-Index-2021-Global-Synthesis-Report*' published by the World Bank. (The Plenary requested a copy of the Report)

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The delegation recognises the new leadership of the SADCOPAC and take into account the aims to revive and strengthen the organisations, especially with absent Member States that have re-emerged and made known their commitments towards the strategic plans of the organisation.

Following the successful mission and taking into account the critical oversight role that PACs undertake in their respective jurisdictions the delegation recommends the following;

- *That this Report after having been presented to FPAC and the House be presented to the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Naadir Hassan in order to strengthen a common position on issues discussed, especially on the issue of the Membership fees.*
- *For the purpose of reviewing of strengthening the presence of Seychelles within SADCOPAC and to consider discussing pertinent issues, that the National Assembly agree to carry out the Peer Review & Training proposed.*
- *That the FPAC request further support and capacity building as a Member State of SADCOPAC.*



**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FEES STATUS FROM THE  
YEAR 2019/2020 TO 2020/2023.**

**Membership fees status/Year**

**ANNEXURE 2E**

Member	Membership fees status/Year	Outstanding amount as on 20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2022	Outstanding Amount as on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Paid in Advance	Total US \$
<b>Full committed members</b>					
Angola	2019/20,2020/21,2021/22 & 2022/23	20,453	10,000	-	30,453
Tanzania	2021/22 & 2022/23	10,000	10,000	-	20,000
South Africa	2021/22 & 2022/23	10,000	10,000	-	20,000
Zimbabwe	2022/23	-	10,000	-	10,000
Mozambique	2022/23	-	10,000	-	10,000
Lesotho	2022/23	-	10,000	-	10,000
Malawi	2022/23	-	10,000	-	10,000
Eswatini	2022/23	-	10,000	-	10,000
Mauritius	2022/23	-	10,000	-	10,000
Botswana	2022/23	-	10,000	-	10,000
Zambia	2022/23	-	10,000	-	10,000
Namibia	2022/23	-	-	-	-
Seychelles*-suspended	2021/22	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b><u>40,453.00</u></b>	<b><u>110,000</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>150,453.00</u></b>

Note: Membership fees for 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 are outstanding - due date was 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2020, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 and 2022/23 - will be outstanding - due by 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

Membership fees status





**The Speaker**

*The National Assembly of Seychelles*

20<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

Mr. Jarvis Matiya  
Acting Secretary-General  
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association  
CPA Headquarters Secretariat,  
c/o Richmond House,  
Houses of Parliament, London SW1A 0AA, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Matiya,

**Suspension of Seychelles Membership in SADCOPAC and Associated branches until further Notice**

I refer to the Invoice from CPA dated the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 relating to the 2020 Subscription Fees for Seychelles membership within CPA and Associated branches (CPA Africa/SOCATT).

The National Assembly of Seychelles would like to inform CPA and Associated branches that Seychelles as a Small Island Developing State has been heavily impacted by the COVID19 pandemic, forcing an amendment to the Appropriation Act, 2020. All Government Institutions have experienced a budgetary cut including the Parliament.

Several measures have been imposed by the Ministry of Finance of Seychelles to manage foreign exchange including the review of membership to affiliated International Organisations through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

An internal assessment of our obligations to regional and international parliamentary organisations have concluded in the Parliament's decision to suspend its participation in CPA and Associated branches amongst others until further notice.

The Parliament of Seychelles apologises for any inconvenience caused by this suspension but will update CPA and Associated branches of any new development.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Prea', is written above the printed name of the Speaker.

**Hon. Nicholas Prea  
Speaker**



**The Speaker**

*The National Assembly of Seychelles*

20<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

Hon. Mike Kavekatora  
Chairperson of SADCOPAC  
SADCOPAC  
c/o National Audit Office  
Samora Avenue, P.O. Box 9080,  
DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 22 2115157-8 Fax +255 22 2117987

Dear Hon. Kavekatora,

**Suspension of Seychelles Membership in SADCOPAC until further Notice**

I refer to the Invoice from SADCOPAC dated the 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 relating to the Subscription Fees 2020/2021 for Seychelles membership within SADCOPAC.

The National Assembly of Seychelles would like to inform SADCOPAC that Seychelles as a Small Island Developing State has been heavily impacted by the COVID19 pandemic, forcing an amendment to the Appropriation Act, 2020. All Government Institutions have experienced a budgetary cut including the Parliament.

Several measures have been imposed by the Ministry of Finance of Seychelles to manage foreign exchange including the review of membership to affiliated International Organisations through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

An internal assessment of our obligations to regional and international parliamentary organisations have concluded in the Parliament's decision to suspend its participation in SADCOPAC amongst others until further notice.

The Parliament of Seychelles apologises for any inconvenience caused by this suspension but will update SADCOPAC of any new development.

Yours sincerely,

**Hon. Nicholas Prea  
Speaker**

## TIME TABLE OF SADCOPAC ACTIVITIES 2022/2023

S/N	Activity	Host/city	Participants/details responsibilities	Status
<b>b) Current year activities</b>				
1.	Preparatory meeting of the 14 <sup>th</sup> SADCOPAC Annual Conference and 18 <sup>th</sup> AGM - 2022.  21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Harare, Zimbabwe	Office Bearers, Governing Council, TWG members and SADCOPAC secretariat	In progress
2.	SADCOPAC training for members of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and Official assisting PACs.  24 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Harare, Zimbabwe	PAC members and support staff Auditor General staff  Resource persons: Office Bearers, TWG, Secretariat, Auditor General's staff and CSOs	In progress
3.	AFROPAC EXCOM and preparation for annual operational plan 2022/23.  28th March 2022 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2022	Pretoria, South Africa	AFROPAC EXCOM members and regional networks Chairperson	In progress
4.	Workshop and peer review program on implemtataion of Good Practice Guide and SADCOPAC resolution implementations.  May 2022	Mahe, Seychelles	Office Bearers, TWG members and SADCOPAC secretariat	In progress
5.	Workshop and peer review program on implemtataion of Good Practice Guide and SADCOPAC resolution implementations.  June 2022	Madagascar	Office Bearers, TWG members and SADCOPAC secretariat	In progress
6.	SADCOPAC Annual Audit for the year ended 31st March 2020 and 2021.  4th - 9th July, 2022	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Auditor General of Lesotho SADCOPAC secretariat	In progress
7.	a) Joint workshop / forum for members of Public Accounts	Gaborone, Botswana	PAC members, PAC clerks and support	In progress

	Committees (PACs) and Auditor Generals  b) Preparatory meeting of the 14 <sup>th</sup> SADCOPAC Annual Conference and 18 <sup>th</sup> AGM - 2020 (Office Bearers visit to Parliament of Botswana)  c) Peer Review visit on resolutions implementation  18 - 20 July 2022		staff (Auditor General staff)  Resource persons:  SADCOPAC secrétariat	
	Bi Annual AFROPAC Conference and AGM - 2022.  TBC ,2022	TBC	All members of SADCOPAC and continental / regional PAC networks (AFROPAC, WAAPAC, EAAPAC, AFROSAI and AFROSAI-E)	In progress
9.	TWG Meeting October, 2022	Gaborone, Botswana	Members of Office Bearers and TWG SADCOPAC secretariat	In progress
10	Office Bearers Meeting October, 2022	Gaborone, Botswana	Members of the Office Bearers and TWG SADCOPAC secretariat	In progress
11	Governing Council Meeting October, 2022	Gaborone, Botswana	Members of Governing Council SADCOPAC secretariat	In progress
12	The 14 <sup>th</sup> SADCOPAC Annual Conference and 18 <sup>th</sup> AGM - 2022. October, 2022	Gaborone, Botswana	All members of SADCOPAC and continental / regional PAC networks (AFROPAC, WAAPAC, EAAPAC, AFROSAI and AFROSAI-E)	In progress

13	<p>Joint training for members of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) from SADCOPAC, EAAPAC, AFROPAC and WAAPAC funded by GIZ</p> <p>*SADCOPAC region - Eswatini/ Mozambique *EAAPAC region - TBC *WAAPAC region - TBC</p> <p>November, 2022</p>	<p>*SADCOPAC Eswatini/ Mozambique *EAAPAC - TBC *WAAPAC - TBC</p>	<p>- PAC members and support staff Auditor General staff</p> <p>Resource persons: TBC</p> <p>Funded by GIZ in collaboration with AFROPAC and regional bodies (SADCOPAC, EAAPAC and WAAPAC).</p>	TBC
14	<p>Workshop and peer review program on implemtataion of Good Practice Guide and SADCOPAC resolution implementations.</p> <p>November 2022</p>	Angola	Office Bearers, TWG members and SADCOPAC secretariat	In progress
15	<p>Workshop and peer review program on implemtataion of Good Practice Guide and SADCOPAC resolution implementations.</p> <p>February 2023</p>	DRC	Office Bearers, TWG members and SADCOPAC secretariat	In progress
16	<p>Preparatory meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> SADCOPAC Annual Conference and 19<sup>th</sup> AGM - 2023.</p> <p>Governance meetings of SADCOPAC</p> <p>20- 22 March 2023</p>	Johannesburg, South Africa	Office Bearers, Governing Council, TWG members and SADCOPAC secretariat	TBC
17	<p>SADCOPAC training for members of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and officials assisting PACs.</p> <p>23- 24 March 2023</p>	Johannesburg, South Africa	<p>PAC members and support staff Auditor General staff</p> <p>Resource persons: Office Bearers, TWG, Secretariat, Auditor General's staff and Other Networks</p>	TBC

ANNEX 3.

18	Training for PAC clerks and other support staff  25 March 2023	Johannesburg, South Africa	All SADCOPAC PAC clerks and other support staff  SADCOPAC secretariats - depending on availability of funds from Development partners.	TBC
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