



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

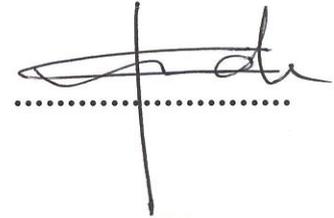
Annual Report 2022-2023

7th Cohort

1. The Committee

The Defence and Security Committee composed of the members listed below, submits its Annual Report for the year 2022-2023 to the National Assembly;

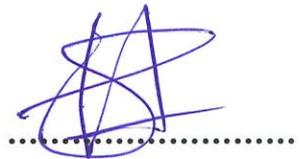
Hon. Clifford Andre – Chairperson



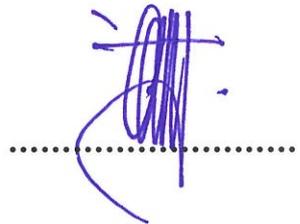
Hon. Francois Adelaide – Vice Chairperson



Hon. Sandy Arissol – Member



Hon. Churchil Gill – Member



Hon. Audrey Vidot – Member



Hon. Doyace Porice – Member



Hon. Michel Roucou – Member

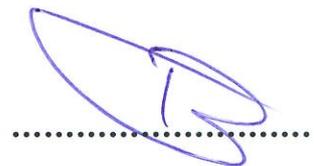


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. THE COMMITTEE 2

2. INTRODUCTION 4

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 5

4. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES 6

5. SUMMARY OF VISITS 7

5.1 Remand Centre..... 7

5.2 ANB 8

5.3 AVSEC 9

5.4 Police Guard Room..... 10

5.5 Fire & Rescue Services 10

5.6 Cargo Import & Export..... 11

5.7 SCAA Head Office 11

5.8 Immigration..... 11

5.9 Travizory 11-12

5.10 Meeting with H.E President Wavel Ramkalawan..... 12

6. VISITS IN PICTURES 13

7. RECOMMENDATION 14

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 15

2. Introduction

The Defence and Security Committee (DSC) is a Select Sessional Committee of the National Assembly mandated to provide parliamentary oversight over all matters related to national security. This includes the Seychelles Defence Force, the Seychelles Police, and all Government Agencies involved in national security and intelligence services.

The Committee's core responsibilities include establishing close collaboration with national security institutions, scrutinizing budget allocations for Defence and security agencies, Consulting on development plans of the Seychelles Defence Force, Police, and Intelligence Services, receiving and reviewing reports from these agencies.

The committee Members and staff upholds confidentiality through an oath or solemn affirmation of secrecy, as required by the Seychelles Intelligence Service Act, 2018. Due to the sensitive nature of its work, all members of the Committee are bound by strict confidentiality protocols. This ensures that national security matters are handled with the highest level of discretion and integrity.

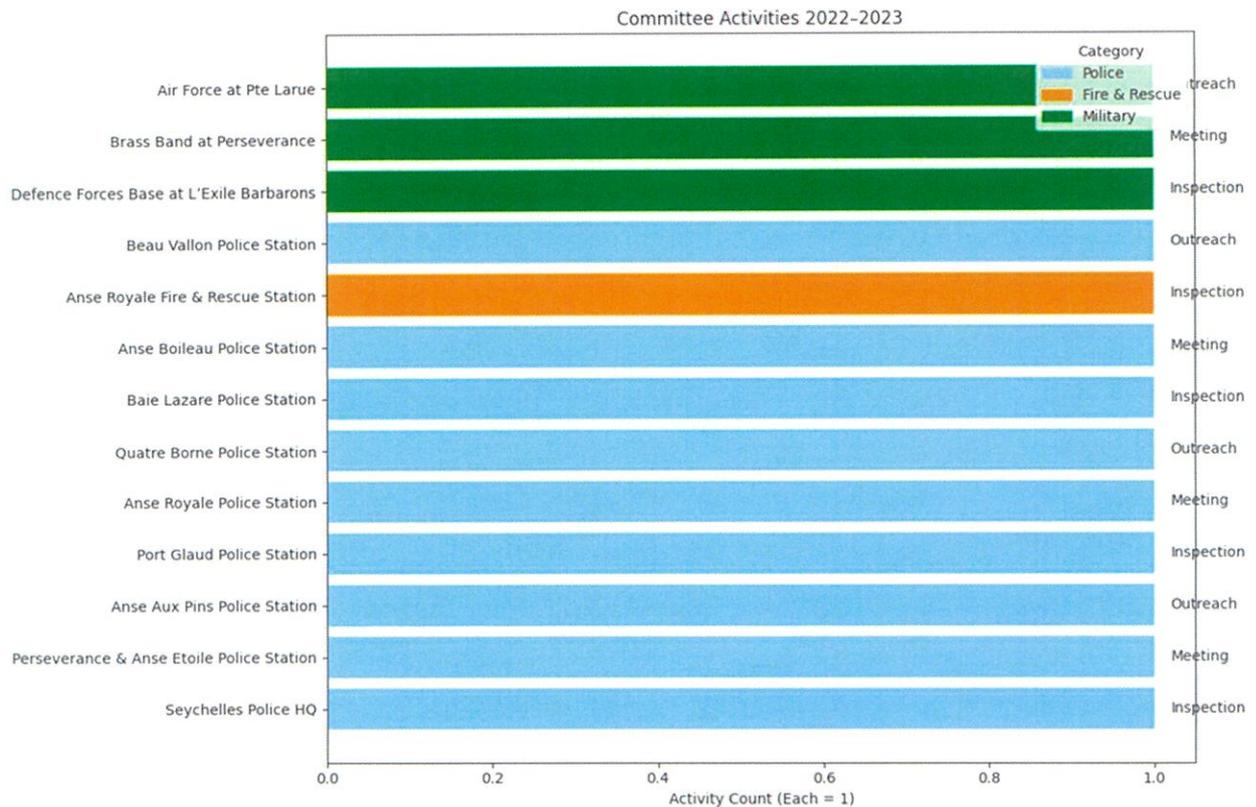
3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Defence and Security Committee (DSC) conducted numerous visits throughout 2022-2023 to address security challenges and enhance policy development across military and civil sectors. The committee's work reflected a comprehensive approach to emerging threats, capacity-building, multilateral cooperation, infrastructure improvement, staff well-being and budget restrictions.

The Committee's work also evolved reviewing national security frameworks in accordance with international standards, ensuring greater resilience across defence laws and other security provisions. In addition, the Members have been introduced to new directives on intelligence-sharing methods and operational protocols.

The oversight body of the National Assembly has strengthened its partnerships through bilateral meetings and several engagements including international counterparts on joint exercises and CPA workshops on defence and security.

4. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES 2022-2023



The graph illustrates the Committee Activities conducted during 2022–2023 across various locations in Seychelles. Below is a breakdown:

Locations that were covered for visits:

Police Stations: Including Seychelles Police HQ, Anse Aux Pins, Port Glaud, Beau Vallon, and others.

Fire & Rescue Station: Anse Royale.

Military Sites: Defence Forces Base at L'Exile Barbarons, Brass Band at Perseverance, and Air Force at Pte Larue.

Each location is labeled with one of the following: Inspection, Meeting, Outreach

- ■ Police – Sky blue
- ■ Fire & Rescue – Orange
- ■ Military – Green

5. SUMMARY OF VISITS

5.1. Detention Remand Facility

DSC conducted a site visit to the Detention Remand Facility at Bois de Rose, operated by the Seychelles Prison Service. The visit aimed to assess the facility's operational conditions, staffing adequacy, inmate welfare, and security infrastructure.

The facility comprises 80 holding cells, currently housing 48 inmates, a reduction attributed to COVID-19 protocols.

20 staff members are assigned to the facility, which is insufficient to meet operational demands.

16 surveillance cameras are installed throughout the premises; however, the visual quality is substandard, limiting effective monitoring.

Inmates are permitted controlled access to personal items such as radios and tablets (excluding SIM cards), and are allowed to smoke, exercise in a sunroof-enclosed area, and watch television.

Visitation hours are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 09:00 to 11:00. The facility was observed to be clean and well-maintained, reflecting a commendable level of hygiene and operational discipline within the remand environment and inmates were described as approachable.

Space constraints and staff shortages were identified as the primary operational challenges. The visit highlighted the need for increased staffing and improved surveillance capabilities to ensure the facility operates effectively and securely. While the environment was found to be clean and the inmates cooperative, infrastructure and resource limitations remain key areas requiring attention.

The Defence and Security Committee conducted a site visit to the Anti-Narcotics Bureau to assess operational capacity, staffing levels,

infrastructure, and the effectiveness of current strategies in combating drug-related crimes.

5.2 ANB

The ANB currently employs 17 Nepalese officers and 10 Seychellois officers, highlighting a reliance on expatriate personnel.

Officers expressed concern over staffing imbalances and the need to increase local recruitment. A Unit is responsible for processing phone calls, recording personal details, and maintaining photographic records.

A single Woman Police Constable (WPC) manages the administrative Unit and is responsible for compiling and updating drug-related statistics.

Reports are submitted weekly to the Commissioner of Police.

The office is severely limited in space and lacks additional support staff.

Salary and allowances are disproportionate to the workload, raising concerns about sustainability. The Investigation Unit comprises a team of four officers who handle investigations and patrol duties. The ANB collaborates with Criminal Intelligence, CID, and FCIU. The inter-linked offices share a program for data storage and inter-agency communication. Despite limited resources, the team is committed to meeting public expectations.

Officers highlighted the need for modern equipment such as trackers, cameras, and scene-specific technology. Transport limitations were noted, with requests for budget approval for more discreet operations. The visit underlined the dedication of ANB personnel despite significant resource constraints. Key challenges include staffing shortages, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to modern investigative tools were also noted. The Committee acknowledges the urgent need for budgetary support to enhance operational capacity, improve working conditions, and strengthen national efforts against drug-related crimes.

5.3 AVSEC (Security Border Control)

The visit revealed significant staffing constraints, with personnel subjected to demanding 12-hour shift rotations, resulting in overwork and operational fatigue that may compromise efficiency and staff well-being. Emphasis was placed on increasing the recruitment of Seychellois nationals within airport operations, with the objective of reducing dependency on expatriate personnel and fostering greater local representation in key security roles. The management has proposed the establishment of a dedicated committee tasked with evaluating and implementing strategies to enhance AVSEC officer motivation, professional development, and long-term retention. The visit highlighted a notable gender imbalance within several airport departments, with a disproportionately high number of female staff and limited representation of male personnel, raising concerns about equitable workforce distribution and diversity. A proposal was put forward to establish a dedicated quick response team at the airport, aimed at ensuring immediate intervention in the event of any security incident or operational disruption.

5.4 Police Guard Room

The unit is currently operating under constrained conditions, with limited personnel and a compact workspace that hampers operational efficiency and staff coordination. Concerns were raised regarding the limited visibility of police personnel at the airport, and there again the lack of gender balance within the security teams. Plans are underway to establish a dedicated police response team at the airport, aimed at enhancing rapid intervention and strengthening overall security presence within the premises.

5.5 Fire & Rescue Services

The Seychelles Airport Fire & Rescue Service currently comprises 102 personnel, including only two female firefighters, with 77 staff members stationed at the Seychelles International Airport. The Management has demonstrated a strong commitment to capacity building through substantial investment in training and certification, ensuring that all officers are equipped with internationally recognized competencies in aviation safety and emergency response. The department continues to face significant challenges related to procurement and infrastructure, including the proximity of residential areas to operational zones, and the urgent need for enhanced runway surveillance through the installation of cameras and adequate lighting systems.

5.6 Cargo Export & Import Areas

The Cargo Export Department is constrained by limited space and urgently requires a scanner upgrade to comply with European Union standards, while the Cargo Import Department faces significant infrastructure and logistical challenges, including a broken scanner, absence of risk allowances for staff, and the need for advanced screening technology and a dedicated courier terminal to support international operations.

5.7 SCAA Head Office

The SCAA Head Office oversees all airport operations and incident alerts, with ongoing system upgrades including the installation of live-feed surveillance cameras and automated crate scanning although current data storage capacity remains limited to 30 days, posing constraints on long-term monitoring.

5.8 Immigration Office

The Immigration Department has implemented a digital border control system to enhance passenger screening; however, concerns persist regarding officer safety due to the absence of self-defense training and limited police visibility. Additionally, staffing remains inadequate with only three shift rotations. The Ethiopian Airline has been flagged as a high-risk carrier for drug trafficking, particularly during joint flight operations.

5.9 Travizory

Travizory is responsible for managing embarkation forms for Seychellois citizens and permit holders. Staff have raised concerns regarding low remuneration and inadequate privacy during passenger questioning, which compromises both operational integrity and safety. The visibility of sensitive information of passengers on computer screens have raised eyebrows for enhanced security measures, including the presence of armed personnel at the airport. Additionally, persistent challenges are in staffing and infrastructure across departments. While the Committee acknowledges security upgrades and technological improvements that are present and more are underway, staff retention is a priority. Encouragingly, inter-agency cooperation is improving, and several initiatives have been proposed to strengthen airport safety and operational efficiency.

5.10 Meeting with H.E President Wavel Ramkalawan

The Defence and Security Committee (DSC) has outlined a comprehensive plan for site visits and stakeholder engagement throughout 2023. These visits aim to strengthen oversight, assess operational readiness, and address concerns raised by frontline personnel across various security and enforcement agencies. The Committee's agenda was reviewed in consultation with H.E. President Wavel Ramkalawan, who provided additional recommendations to enhance the scope and impact of the visits.

The President recommended that DSC extend their visit to Pointe Cabri and Zimbabwe military Mast, Rescue House at Grand Anse, old and new hospitals on La Digue, Mast Communication System at St. Louis and Grand Anse Mahé (BBC) before the latter is decommissioned. He also added that the Committee investigate the Rosebelle Mission Lodge Mast, which is reportedly in disrepair. The President stated that Assumption Island does not have any current activity due to non-operational masts. A radar installation is planned in partnership with IDC, after which a visit may be scheduled. The Detention and Enforcement Facilities is under construction. Renovation works at the Mont Fleuri Police Station are scheduled to commence shortly and the project includes new cells, interrogation room, and a multi-storey facility with parking. A specialized Centre is also planned between APDAR and the cemetery. The President has affirmed the Executive branch's commitment to actively support and engage the Committee in forthcoming local and international initiatives.



6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the Committee's extensive site visits and stakeholder engagements across various defence, security, and enforcement agencies, the following recommendations are respectfully submitted for consideration:

- Renovate and expand projects at facilities such as ANB offices, and cargo terminals to address space constraints and operational inefficiencies.
- Prioritize installation of modern surveillance systems and lighting at critical locations including runways, detention facilities, and border control points.
- Increase recruitment of Seychellois nationals across all security sectors to reduce reliance on expatriate personnel
- Address staffing shortages to ensure operational readiness and staff well-being.
- Establish dedicated committees to assess and improve staff motivation, retention, and professional development, particularly within AVSEC and airport operations.
- Promote gender balance across departments through targeted recruitment and inclusive workforce policies.
- Allocate budgetary support for acquisition of modern investigative tools, vehicles, and specific technologies.
- Upgrade data storage systems to support long-term surveillance and monitoring, particularly at the SCAA Head Office and other strategic locations.
- Strengthen collaborative frameworks among ANB, CID, FCIU, and other intelligence units to improve operational synergy.
- Continue the engagement with international counterparts to align national security protocols with global standards.
- Review salary structures and allowances to align with workload.

Future Planning

The Committee will extend its visits to additional strategic sites as recommended by the President.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Defence and Security Committee of the National Assembly extends its sincere appreciation to all individuals and institutions who contributed to the successful execution of its oversight programme during the 2022–2023 reporting period.

Special thanks are accorded to all officers who facilitated and participated in the Committee's site visits. Their cooperation and were instrumental in enabling the Committee to carry out its mandate effectively.

Gratitude is further extended to the Committee Secretaries for their planning and logistical coordination, which ensured the smooth implementation of the visits.