



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

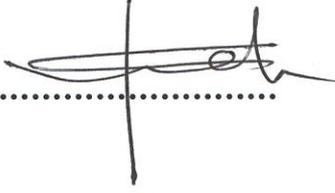
**Annual Report 2024-2025**

**7<sup>th</sup> Cohort**

## 1. The Committee

The Defence and Security Committee composed of the members listed below, submits its Annual Report for the year 2024-2025 to the National Assembly;

**Hon. Clifford Andre** – **Chairperson**



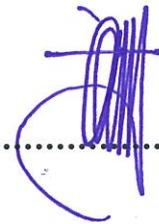
**Hon. Francois Adelaide** – **Vice Chairperson**



**Hon. Sandy Arissol** – **Member**



**Hon. Churchil Gill** – **Member**



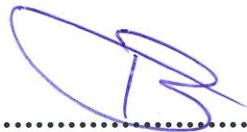
**Hon. Audrey Vidot** – **Member**



**Hon. Doyace Porice** – **Member**



**Hon. Michel Roucou** – **Member**



## Table of Contents

<b>1. THE COMMITTEE</b> .....	2
<b>2. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	4
<b>3. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES</b> .....	5
<b>4. OVERVIEW OF COMMITTEE'S ENGAGEMENT</b> .....	.6
4.1 Nyala RG-12 Armored Vehicle.....	.6
4.2 Outreach Programme.....	.6
4.3 Praslin/La Digue Visit .....	.7
4.4 La Digue Police Station .....	.8
4.5 La Digue Hospital .....	.8
4.6 La Digue Fire Station .....	.8
4.7 Baie Ste Anne Police Station.....	9
4.8 Pointe Cabris Surveillance site.....	9
4.9 Praslin Coastguard Substation.....	9
4.10 Zimbabwe Radar Station.....	9
4.11 SFRSA Fire Station.....	10
4.12 SCAA Praslin.....	10
4.13 SCAA Fire Services .....	10
4.14 Benchmarking visit, Tanzania.....	11
4.15 Meeting with US Representatives.....	12
4.16 Meeting with Indian High Commissioner.....	13
4.17 Meeting with People's Majlis of Maldives.....	14
<b>5. RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	15
<b>6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	116

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

Between July and September 2024, the Defence and Security Committee (DSC) of the National Assembly of Seychelles undertook a series of strategic engagements both locally and internationally to strengthen its oversight mandate and foster institutional collaboration.

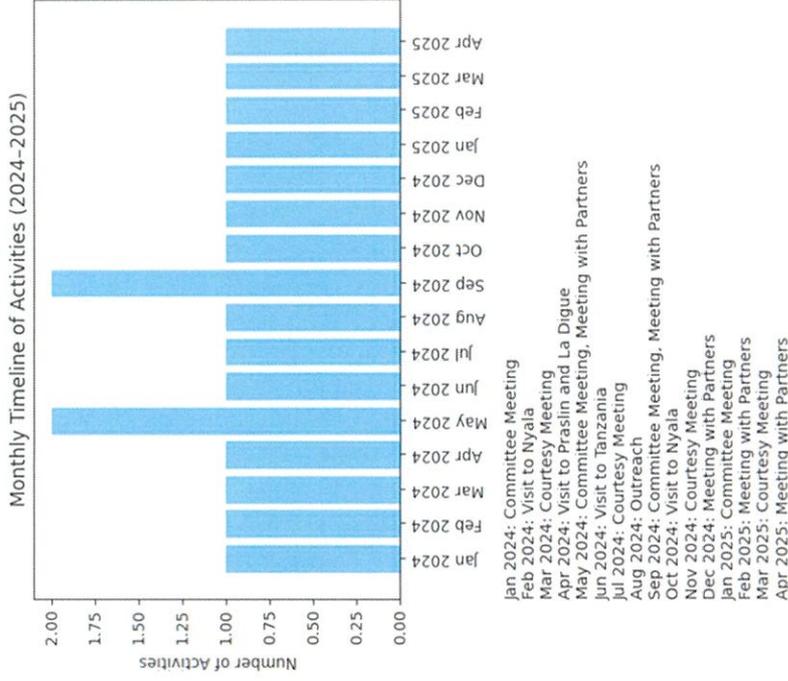
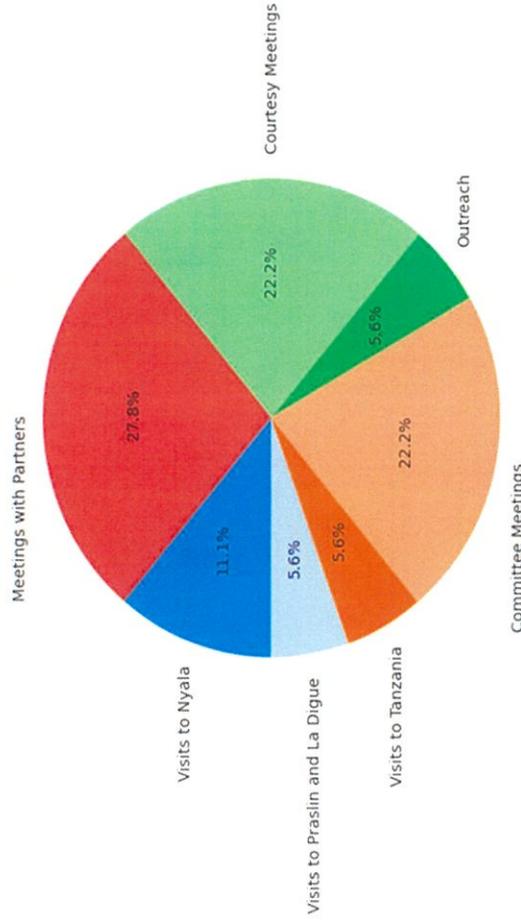
Domestically, the Committee conducted urgent inspections and site visits to assess the condition of the Armoured Vehicle RG-12 Nyala, and reviewed infrastructure, staffing, and operational challenges across police stations, fire services, hospitals, and coastguard facilities in Praslin and La Digue. These visits provided critical insights into resource gaps and informed future recommendations for national security improvements.

Internationally, the Committee embarked on a benchmarking visit to the Parliament of Tanzania from 2nd to 6th September 2024. The visit included high-level meetings with the Speaker of the Tanzanian Parliament, the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, and senior officials from the Tanzania Defence Forces, Police Force, and Prison Services. The delegation gained valuable knowledge on parliamentary procedures, security sector reforms, and correctional programmes, which will inform future policy development in Seychelles.

These activities reflect the Committee's commitment to transparency, capacity-building, and regional cooperation in advancing national defence and security priorities.

### 3. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR 2024-2025

Defence and Security Committee Activities Distribution (2024-2025)



The pie chart illustrates the distribution of activities undertaken by the Defence and Security Committee over the 2024–2025 period. The largest portion is dedicated to Meetings with Partners (29%), followed by Committee Meetings (24%) and Courtesy Meetings (24%). Visits, including those to Nyala, Praslin & La Digue, and Tanzania, collectively account for 24%, while Outreach represents the smallest segment at 6%. This visual highlights the Committee’s strong focus on collaboration and oversight through meetings and strategic visits.

## **4. OVERVIEW OF COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT**

### **4.1 Nyala RG-12 Armoured Vehicle**

The Defence and Security Committee (DSC) conducted an urgent inspection of the RG-12 armoured vehicle (“Nyala”) at the Seychelles New Port on 1st July 2024. The visit aimed to assess the condition and authenticity of the vehicle delivered under a previous government procurement.

Purpose of Visit was to verify the physical state of the Nyala RG-12, compare it with the originally ordered model, and gather preliminary findings for an ongoing investigation.

A *Brief Report (Annex 1)* is attached providing further details and context regarding the inspection and preliminary findings.

### **4.2 Outreach Programme**

The Committee engaged with new recruits of the Seychelles Defence Forces and Police Academy, to raise awareness of the Committee’s role, and foster dialogue on challenges faced by uniformed personnel.

The opening Remarks were delivered by Committee Clerk Mrs. Gillian Samson and Chairperson Hon. Clifford Andre presented an overview of the National Assembly’s roles and functions and Defence and Security Committee’s Terms of Reference. The interactive Q&A Session raised concerns including:

- Limited voting privileges during elections.

- Threats to personal security from public exposure.
- Lack of overseas training opportunities, especially for female officers.
- The need for more at-sea training and better facilities.
- Clarification on political neutrality and impartiality in service.

The Committee acknowledged the concerns raised and committed to addressing them through future Assembly discussions and policy recommendations. The session ended with a vote of thanks by Hon. Francois Adelaide and re-affirmation of support for the recruits' professional development.

#### **4.3 Visit to Praslin and La Digue facilities**

Participants

Chair: Hon. Clifford Andre

Vice-Chair: Hon. Francois Adelaide

Members: Hon. Sathya Naidu, Hon. Norbert Loizeau, Hon. Churchill Gill,  
Hon. Doyace Porice

Secretariat: Mrs. Gillian Samson (Secretary),

Mrs. Donatienne Chetty (Assistant Secretary)

#### **Findings and concerns**

##### **Grand Anse Police Station (Praslin)**

- Poor cell conditions; lack of equipment and housing issues for officers.
- Budget constraints and misallocation
- Concerns were raised about officers who are on multiple payrolls
- There is a need for better uniforms and identification.

- Lack of tracker dogs and vehicles.

#### **4.4 La Digue Police Station**

- Space constraints
- insufficient utility belts and motorbikes to discharge responsibilities efficiently
- Unfulfilled plans (e.g., Marine Police Project).
- Equipment quality is a great concern as there is a need for proper procurement and donations.
- There is a proposal to relocate the Police Station to Ex Choppy Bungalows.

#### **4.5 La Digue Hospital**

- The infrastructure has comprehensive facilities including maternity, ICU, dialysis, and physiotherapy.
- More equipment is expected by December.

#### **4.6 La Digue Fire Station**

- Overtime and allowances are still an issue due to lack of manpower and training.
- Infrastructure concerns of a single staircase which is not in conformity to safety measures
- There is a need for reallocation and high-tech equipment

#### **4.7 Baie Ste Anne Police Station (Praslin)**

- The police facility was in a sub-standard state, but renovation plans are underway.
- There is a proposal to build police residential quarters at the rear of the station

#### **4.8 Pointe Cabris Surveillance Site**

- A 25-metre surveillance tower equipped with radar and camera systems has been installed to enhance maritime monitoring and detection capabilities.
- Operational delays have resulted in restricted access to critical data, thereby impacting on the effectiveness of surveillance and response

#### **4.9 Praslin Coastguard Substation**

- Due to limited manpower—ranging between six to ten officers—police personnel are frequently required to escort intoxicated individuals and other casualties. The station currently operates with only two boats, and while its location serves as a deterrent to poaching activities, operational capacity remains constrained.”

#### **4.10 Zimbabwe Radar Station**

- While the surveillance system provides real-time monitoring capabilities, concerns regarding cybersecurity persist, highlighting

the urgent need for additional trained technicians and specialized cybersecurity personnel to ensure operational integrity.

#### **4.11 SFRSA Fire Station (Praslin)**

- Recruitment efforts are hindered by residency requirements, outdated equipment, insufficient training and manpower, as well as unresolved salary and allowance concerns.

#### **4.12 SCAA / ACSEC (Praslin Airport)**

- Recruitment is challenged by manpower shortages, inefficient screening processes, and outdated policies, while underutilized space, such as the former restaurant area, there is a need for strategic planification

#### **4.13 SCAA Fire Services**

- Outdated equipment and infrastructure, reliance on support from the Baie Ste Anne Fire Service, and challenges posed by landfill proximity and bird hazards underscore operational vulnerabilities, while widespread manpower shortages across police, fire, and airport services highlight the need for targeted interventions and recommendations
- Budget constraints, including misallocation and insufficient funding for equipment and housing, continue to impede operational effectiveness
- There is a pressing need for renovations, relocations, and the development of new facilities to support operational requirements

#### **4.14 Benchmarking Visit to Dodoma, Tanzania**

Defence & Security Committee – National Assembly of Seychelles

Date: 2nd to 6th September 2024

Location: Dodoma, United Republic of Tanzania

Delegation Lead: Hon. Francois Adelaide, Vice Chairperson

##### **Purpose of Visit**

The benchmarking visit aimed to explore best practices in parliamentary procedures and security oversight from the Parliament of Tanzania. The delegation sought to enhance its own operations through knowledge exchange and institutional learning.

##### **Key Engagements**

Parliamentary Session Observation

The committee attended a live sitting in the Speaker's Gallery and observed procedural differences, including session structure, Hansard reporting, and chamber layout.

Courtesy Call with Speaker Hon. Dr. Thulia Ackson was to discuss legislative processes, committee functions, and parliamentary calendar.

##### **Meeting with Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee (FADSC)**

Both Committees exchanged committee mandates and oversight roles. The Committee Members of the DSC agreed to explore potential inclusion of Foreign Affairs in Seychelles' DSC Terms of Reference.

**Tanzania Defense Forces:** Discussed bilateral training opportunities and regional security cooperation.

**Tanzania Police Force:** Presented their reviewed reform programs and community policing strategies.

**Tanzania Prison Services:** The Committee explored their rehabilitation programs and historical evolution of prison systems.

The visit ended on a Team Building at Mikumi National Park

The aim was to strengthen team unity through a guided wildlife tour.

The Committee was also honoured to participate in media interviews and cultural exchange.

#### **4.15 Meetings with U.S. Representatives**

Purpose: Courtesy call to discuss regional security cooperation.

Key Topics:

- Enhancing Seychelles' capacity to address IUUF, drug trafficking, and transnational threats.
- Interest in supporting the DSC through guidance and potential collaboration.
- Discussion on U.S. military engagement with Congress and exposure opportunities for Seychelles Parliament.
- Request for broader inclusion of Parliament in U.S.-hosted seminars and workshops.

Outcome:

- Agreement to maintain communication and explore future collaboration.

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting with U.S. Ambassador Henry V. Jardine & Mr. Adham Loutfi

Purpose:

Strengthen bilateral ties and discuss maritime security.

Key Topics:

- Recognition of Seychelles' strategic role in regional security and its active participation in CMF and Operation Prosperity Guardian.
- U.S. support for maritime law enforcement and training initiatives, including the Youth Center for Excellence.
- Introduction of drone-based surveillance technology for EEZ monitoring.
- Discussion on Seychelles' defence challenges, particularly financial constraints.

Outcome:

The Ambassador committed to further engagement and exploring cost-effective technological support.

#### **4.16 Meeting with Indian High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Kartik Pande**

Key points

- Bilateral ties and strategic importance of the Indian Ocean.
- Defence cooperation including joint exercises, training, and equipment support.
- Maritime security initiatives such as Exercise LAMITYE, MILAN 2024, and Cutlass Express.
- Hydrographic surveys and EEZ monitoring.
- Annual training of 30–35 SDF personnel in India.
- Regional cooperation through IONS, RCOC, and IFC-IOR.

Committee Remarks:

- Mr. Chair emphasized the importance of capacity building and requested inclusion in the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme.
- Highlighted the Committee's goal to learn from international best practices and strengthen professional qualifications of members and staff.

Conclusion:

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to deepening strategic and parliamentary ties.

Meeting ended with mutual appreciation and a souvenir photograph.

#### **4.17 Meeting with Delegation from the People's Majlis of Maldives**

Key Discussion Points:

- Members of both parliaments shared their roles and committee portfolios. Hon. Nazim and Hon. Nazil provided insights into their parliamentary experience and structure.

#### Committee Functions & Oversight:

- Discussions focused on the DSC's role in consulting with national security agencies and budget oversight. Both sides acknowledged the lack of scrutiny over the judiciary compared to the executive.

#### Judiciary & Legal Systems:

- Seychelles' judiciary was described as having overlapping roles among judges, while the Maldives has specialized courts including a drug court. Both countries face challenges with backlogs.

#### Training & Capacity Building:

- Emphasis was placed on the importance of training for committee members and staff.

#### Gender Representation:

- Maldives has only 5 women MPs out of 77, with limited legislation addressing women's issues. Hon. Vidot raised the topic of gender inclusion.

#### Conclusion:

Both delegations expressed mutual respect and interest in continued collaboration.

## 5. RECOMMENDATION

- Infrastructure and Equipment Upgrades  
Police Stations & Fire Services to prioritize renovations, relocation, and procurement of modern equipment for facilities in Praslin, La Digue
  - Surveillance Sites: Address cybersecurity vulnerabilities and ensure timely access to surveillance data.
  - Coastguard & Airport Services: Invest in high-tech tools and expand manpower to meet operational demands.
  - Capacity Building and Training  
Committee Members & Staff: Facilitate regular training sessions, including international exposure through programs like the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme.
  - Security Forces: Expand overseas training opportunities, especially for female officers, and improve access to at-sea training.
- Legislative and Policy Development
- International Collaboration: Continue engaging with partners such as Tanzania, the U.S., India, and the Maldives to exchange best practices and enhance regional security cooperation.
  - Gender Inclusion: Promote gender-sensitive policies and increase representation of women in security
  - Outreach and Public Engagement: Expand outreach programs to educate recruits and the public on the Committee's role

## **6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Defence and Security Committee of the National Assembly of Seychelles extends its sincere appreciation to all individuals and institutions who contributed to the successful execution of its mandate during the 2024–2025 reporting period.

The Committee acknowledges the cooperation and engagement of the Seychelles Police Force, Seychelles People’s Defence Forces, Seychelles Fire and Rescue Services Agency, Seychelles Prison Services, and all other national security and emergency response agencies. Your openness and collaboration during site visits and consultations were instrumental in shaping our findings and recommendations.

We are also grateful to our international partners, including the Parliament of Tanzania, the United States Embassy, the Indian High Commission, and the People’s Majlis of the Maldives, for their warm hospitality and valuable exchanges during benchmarking visits and bilateral meetings. These engagements have enriched our understanding of global best practices and strengthened our commitment to regional cooperation.

Finally, we commend the dedication of all Committee Members and staff, whose commitment and professionalism have ensured the effective delivery of our oversight responsibilities throughout the year and ending the 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly successfully.

## **ANNEXURES**

List of annexes

1. Brief Report – Nyala RG-12 Armoured Vehicle