

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES



THE FINANCE & PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

--

LEGACY REPORT 2020-2025

7TH ASSEMBLY

THE FINANCE & PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE is empowered to consider the accounts referred to in article 158(3) of the Constitution; report to the Assembly on any excess of authorised expenditure; propose any measure necessary to ensure that the funds of the Government are properly and economically spent; and examine the financial statements of any public or statutory body.

Powers

The Committee is a Standing Sessional Committee under Article 104 of the *Constitution*, the powers of which are set out in the *National Assembly Standing Orders, 2020* and *Part III of the National Assembly (Privileges, Powers & Immunities) Act, 2011*.

Committee Staff

The Committee is assisted by *Ms. Alexandria Faure* (Secretary) *Ms. Sheryl Rangasamy* & *Ms. Lucy Michel* (Secretary Assistants).

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The following Members of the Finance & Public Accounts Committee undersigned, submit this Legacy Report dated Tuesday 5th August 2025:

Hon. Sebastien Pillay
Chairperson

Hon. Terence Mondon
Vice-Chairperson

Hon. Sandy Arissol
Member

Hon. Churchill Gill
Member

Hon. Georges Romain
Member

Hon. Richard Labrosse
Member

Hon. Conrad Gabriel
Member

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Legacy Report is the first of its kind for the National Assembly of Seychelles and is aimed at providing a valuable record of the Committee's work during the 7th Assembly and contribute to the institutional memory of Parliament. This report will work as an accountability measure, highlight areas of improvement and contribute towards guiding the 8th Assembly on matters pending and further policy improvements.

The Public Accounts Committee aims for this report to assist the next Public Accounts Committee elected for the term 2025-2030 in continuing its work and establishing a productive work programme.

The Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) is established as the supreme institutional mechanism for ensuring oversight and scrutiny on the efficiency and effectiveness of all matters concerning public financial management and the systems in place. The Committee is regarded as a key component in the process of ensuring good governance, transparency, and accountability.

In its role of oversight, the Committee holds the Executive accountable for its management of resources, efficiency in revenue collection, expenditure of public funds and proper accounting for state assets. Government spending is driven and directed towards achieving national objectives and delivering a better service to the public that is value for money.

In extension to its oversight role, the FPAC must work in close collaboration with other institutions and agencies in their reporting/law enforcement capacity to help detect, prevent and expose corrupt practices thereby reinforcing anti-corruption strategies. This includes promoting practices of good governance and efficient spending. The Committee is regarded as a key component in the process of ensuring good governance, transparency, and accountability.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Terms of Reference & Powers

The Finance & Public Accounts Committee is one of two Committees enshrined in the Constitution of Seychelles providing for its permanency and supremacy within Parliament. The FPAC's Terms of Reference can subsequently be found under Order 88 of the Standing Orders, 2020 which prescribes for:

- (1) The Finance and Public Accounts Committee of the Assembly shall consist of seven Members appointed by the Assembly from among its Members at the Commencement of each session.
- (2) The functions of the Committee shall be:— (a) To consider the accounts referred to in article 158(3) of the Constitutions in conjunction with the Auditor General's report; (b) To report to the Assembly on any excess of authorized expenditure; and (c) To propose any measures, it considers necessary to ensure that the funds of the Government are properly and economically spent; (d) To examine the financial statements of any public or statutory body and to consider any other matters related to public funds that may require an investigation or special audit.
- (3) The Committee shall have power to summon and examine persons and records and to take evidence.
- (4) The Committee shall report to the Assembly from time to time.
- (5) The Committee shall elect its own Chairperson, who shall customarily be the Leader of the Opposition, and Vice-Chairperson and, if the Chairperson is unable to be present at any meeting, the Vice-Chairperson shall chair the Committee

1.2 Membership of the Committee & PAC Process

Members of the Committee: The Committee is comprised of seven Members including the Chairperson which is customarily the Leader of the Opposition in accordance with the Standing Orders;

Chairperson: Hon. Sebastien Pillay

Vice-Chairperson: Hon. Terence Mondon

Members: Hon. Sandy Arissol, Hon. Churchill Gill, Hon. Richard Labrosse, Hon. Conrad Gabriel and Hon. Georges Romain.

The Committee was assisted by the Deputy Clerk, Ms. Alexandria Faure as Committee Clerk to the Committee, Ms Sheryl Rangasamy and Ms Lucy Michel as Secretary Assistants. Previous Parliamentary Staff have contributed immensely to the Committee and great appreciation is extended to Ms. Myra Jean and Ms. Shannon Surman for their dedicated service.

1.3 FPAC Processes

The Committee deemed the below as some of its priorities and emerging themes throughout its mandate;

- *Oversight of Capital Projects with Major Fiscal Impact*
- *Efficient Governmental Spending;*
- *Transparency & Decision Making Structures;*
- *Compliance with Financial Management Laws & Regulations;*
- *Implementation of robust internal mechanisms and oversight structures.*

More capacity building and training for senior government officials and accounting officers, as well as enhanced communication with the public were additionally raised as crucial to be addressed through meetings and stakeholder engagements that the Committee held.

There are established conventions and practices that have been further entrenched in the work of the FPAC;

- *Strengthened Relationship with the Office of the Auditor General.*
- *Strong Collaborative Relationships with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACCS) & Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).*
- *Handling of Evidence & Formalization of Public Hearing Management.*
- *Scrutiny and Advocacy of the Budget of the Office of the Auditor General to continue entrenching the independence of the Office.*
- *Consistent International participation in PAC forums and peer reviews.*

1.4 Relationship with the Office of the Auditor General

The FPAC of the 7th Assembly established a concrete and close working relationship with the Office of the Auditor General. The collaborative working relationship was on par with best practices in the commonwealth to ensure that as a Public Accounts Committee the necessary resources and expertise are provided to ensure oversight on public spending within Government and through the scrutiny of subsequent reports of the OAG. In addition to assisting the FPAC during public hearings, as the main partner, the OAG have offered the Committee, and its support staff with capacity building and training in order to strengthen the oversight on public finance management. In furtherance this relationship fosters a respect and the promotion of the independence of the OAG as a Supreme Audit Institution.

The FPAC met regularly with the Auditor General throughout its mandate, by having meetings several times annually, to remain abreast of issues and of the challenges impacting the entity. Discussions have involved the budget of the Office, the review of the activity reports, a site visit and the possibility of capacity building for Committee support staff. To note the budget of the OAG is discussed with the FPAC before submission to the Ministry of Finance, a parliamentary convention that is respected and adhered to.

1.5 Stakeholder Engagement with Law Enforcement/Oversight Agencies

After its establishment in of the 7th Assembly in 2020, the FPAC adopted a collaborative methodology which involved a structured collaborative relationship with key law enforcement agencies/institutions. This methodology included carrying out several stakeholder meetings with the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission (PEMC), the Public Utilities Company (PUC), the Seychelles Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Financial Crime Investigation Unit (FCIU) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACCS). The abovementioned stakeholders remain key entities involved in the process of ensuring transparency, accountability and good governance in Seychelles. The key stakeholders not only provided detailed overviews of their respective mandates but also allowed the Members to ask pertinent questions and sought further clarity on their Reports and on points raised in Public Hearings and Nationally; this includes matters that are highly sensitive but contribute to the work undertaken by the Committee.

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF THE 2020-2025 MANDATE OF THE FPAC

2.1 Summary of Meetings & Stakeholder Engagements

The Committee, throughout its mandate, undertook meetings with senior officials of the Executive, accounting officers, chief executive officers and law enforcement agencies in addition to carrying out site visits and public hearings throughout the years. In accordance with established best practice, the FPAC also carried out meetings in-camera, in other words, private sessions to undertake reviews of challenges and ongoing work with law enforcement agencies to discuss anti-corruption strategies and issues at hand. Minutes of these meetings are on the record and archived. The Public Hearings as respected and established parliamentary conventions were broadcast live on the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation Channel, Telesesel’s Channels and the National Assembly’s Youtube and subsequently the national radio.

2.2 Public Hearings on the Reports of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG)

The below provides an overview of the Public Hearings which were aimed at scrutinizing the Reports of the Office of the Auditor General during the mandate of the Committee:

Public Hearings on OAG Report 2019 – Hearings of 2021
<p><u>3rd-4th May 2021</u> <i>Heritage Foundation</i> <i>Department of Police</i> <i>Seychelles Energy Commission</i> <i>Seychelles Tourism Board</i> <i>Seychelles National Youth Council</i> <i>National Sports Council</i> <i>Lenstiti Kreol</i> <i>Enterprise Seychelles Agency</i> <i>Agency for Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation</i></p>

29th July 2021

*Creative Industries and National Events Agency
 Seychelles National Parks Authority
 Department of Lands
 Landscape and Waste Management Agency
 Industrial Estates Authority
 Department of Finance
 Seychelles Revenue Commission
 Department of Defence*

Public Hearings on OAG 2020 Report – Hearings of 2022

25-27th April 2022

*Information Commission
 Department of Culture
 The Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission
 Department of Tourism
 Creative Industries and National Events Agency
 Department of Youth & Sports
 Department of Foreign Affairs
 Livestock Trust Fund
 Seychelles Agricultural Agency
 Seychelles Human Rights Commission
 Seychelles Revenue Commission
 Social Workers Council
 National Assembly of Seychelles
 Department of Prisons
 Department of Police
 Health Care Agency*

Public Hearings on OAG Report for 2021 – Hearings of 2023

7th July 2023

*Department of Land Transport
 Department of Employment
 Department of Defence
 Seychelles Qualifications Authority
 Ministry of Family Affairs
 Ministry of Education
 Seychelles Revenue Commission*

14th July 2023

*Electoral Commission
 Departments of Climate Change & Environment
 Industrial Estates Authority
 Office of the Mayor of Victoria
 Seychelles Bureau of Standards
 Seychelles Heritage Foundation
 Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority*

<p><u>16th August 2023</u> <i>Ministry of Finance, National Planning & Trade</i> <i>Tax & Customs Agent Board</i> <i>Risk & Disaster Management Division</i></p>
<p><u>17th August 2023</u> <i>Ministry of Local Government & Community Affairs</i> <i>Tertiary Education Commission</i> <i>The Agency for Social Protection</i></p>

<p>Public Hearings on OAG Report 2022 – Hearings of 2024</p>
<p><u>6th – 10th May 2024</u> <i>Seychelles Revenue Commission</i> <i>Ministry of Land Use & Housing</i> <i>Ministry of Fisheries & Blue Economy</i> <i>Seychelles Prison Services</i> <i>Landscape & Waste Management Agency</i> <i>National Botanical Gardens Foundation</i> <i>Seychelles National Youth Council</i> <i>National Bureau of Statistics</i> <i>National Arts Council</i> <i>Fair Trading Commission</i> <i>Agency for Social protection</i> <i>Seychelles Licensing Authority</i> <i>Ministry of Finance, National Planning & Trade</i> <i>National Sports Council</i> <i>Seychelles Investment Board</i></p>

<p>Public Hearings on OAG Report 2023 – Hearings of 2025</p>
<p><u>Tuesday 22nd April</u> <i>Attorney General’s Office</i> <i>Seychelles Infrastructure Agency</i> <i>Seychelles Human Rights Commission</i> <i>Department of Police</i> <i>Seychelles Prison Services</i></p>
<p><u>Wednesday 23rd April</u> <i>Ministry of Education</i> <i>Agency for National Human Resources Development</i></p>
<p><u>Thursday 8th May</u> <i>Seychelles Revenue Commission (Customs Division)</i> <i>Department of Agriculture</i> <i>Public Service Appeals Board</i> <i>Public Health Authority</i> <i>Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority</i> <i>Department of Defence</i></p>

Friday 9th May

*Seychelles Fire Rescue & Services Agency
Health Care Agency
Seychelles Bureau of Standards*

2.3 Special Public Hearings of the FPAC

The Committee held special public hearings outside of the scope of the Annual Reports of the OAG to address certain matters deemed necessary to inquire into and provide subsequent recommendations:

a) FA4JR Public Hearing (Friday 22nd July 2022)

The Committee carried out public hearings to address the audit findings from the Special Report of the OAG Report on the Financial Assistance for Retention Scheme (FA4JR) on Friday 22nd July 2022. The delegation provided the Committee clarity on the audit findings reflected in the Report and the approval structure of the Scheme. Further information can be viewed in the Report of the Committee on this matter. The below was the agreed way forward regarding the matters discussed;

Agreed Way Forward: It was mutually agreed that the Ministry of Finance would periodically report back to the Committee on the progress made to rectify the structure in place and ensure the risk of fraudulent applications is made in future schemes.

b) Seychelles Ports Authority Hearing on the Extension of the Port Victoria Project (Thursday 24th October 2024)

The Committee held a Public Hearing whereby the Seychelles Ports Authority appeared to address questions and financial matters pertaining to the Port Victoria Extension Project on Thursday 24th October 2024. The Committee consensually decided to carry out these public hearings after much engagement with the Authority in 2023 to which many financial concerns were raised and highlighted specifically related to the delays in the Port Extension Project, payment of dividends and discrepancies in external contracts and the re-designing of the plan. Further information can be viewed in the Report of the Committee on this matter. The below is the agreed way forward;

Agreed Way Forward: It was agreed that the Committee would continue its collaboration with the SPA to have oversight on the financial management of the project and receive regular updates. The Committee on Government Assurances would be alerted by the FPAC so that the project implementation can be closely monitored.

2.4 Outreach Activities

Outreach Activity with the Seychelles Business Studies Academy (15th September 2023)

The Committee conducted an outreach activity at the Seychelles Business Studies Academy (SBSA) in commemoration of the National Assembly's 30th anniversary. A series of presentations were facilitated by Members of the Committee and Committee Clerk Ms Alexandria Faure. Hon. Arissol started off the series with a presentation providing an overview of the role of the National Assembly as the legislative branch of Government; Hon. Romain followed with a presentation introducing to the FPAC and its role as the Committee tasked with oversight on public funds. The Deputy Clerk presented on the National Assembly Service based on the role of the parliament's secretariat and committee support staff. Hon. Churchill Gill closed the presentations by providing the students with information on the stakeholder relationships required for the success of the FPAC. An interactive session followed where the students were able to pose questions to the Committee.

2.5 Site Visits of the Committee Throughout its Mandate

The Committee carried out many site visits during its mandate to extend its oversight to in-person inspections and meetings with management teams of the different organizations and agencies. The Committee also strengthened its collaboration and relationships with the different organizations and obtained detailed information on their financial operations and challenges.

Site Visit to the SPGA Command Centre (Friday 4th April 2025)

The Committee carried out a meeting with the management of the Seychelles Parks & Gardens Authority (SPGA) led by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Allen Cedras. The meeting was followed by a visit to the SPGA's Earth Ranger command centre. The officials present provided a detailed presentation of the mandate and operations of the SPGA including its revenue streams and the stages of implementation of the new CCTV cameras and tracking system of the trails and marine parks.

Site Visit to Air Seychelles (Friday 11th October 2024)

The Committee conducted a site visit to Air Seychelles. The purpose of the visit was to obtain a comprehensive financial overview of the organization and insight into its technical and operational aspects. The Chairperson of the Board of Air Seychelles, Captain Francois Jackson, accompanied by other Board Members and Level 1 Management including Chief Executive Officer Mr. Sandy Benoiton provided presentations which covered the organizational structure of the airline, its technical and ground operations, and detailed financial information of each department. The Committee was apprised of the ways in which the organization was able to effectively reduce its debt and increase its profitability.

Visit to the Office of the Auditor General (Thursday 18th July 2024)

The Committee visited the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). The aim of the meeting was to obtain an in-depth overview of the operations of the OAG, the methods of auditing and oversight on the budget of the organization. The presentations provided by the Ag. Auditor General, Mrs Marie-Lise Barbier included the overall structure of the OAG, and the methods and processes for the different audits the office carries out, including the budget structure for 2024 and 2025.

Visit to the Seychelles Prison (28th July 2023)

The Committee visited the Seychelles Prison with the aims of gaining a comprehensive overview of the operations of the Prison, inclusive of challenges and future budgetary provisions. Discussion topics included staff emoluments, future plans for the prison and its services as well as budgetary provisions for the year 2024.

Site Visit & Meeting at the Seychelles Petroleum Company (Friday 31st March 2023)

The Committee met with the CEO of SEYPEC, Mrs. Sarah Romain of whom was accompanied by the Chairperson of the Board, Mrs. Jenifer Morel, Members of the Board of Directors and Senior Management Staff. The Committee received an overview of the governance structure of the company, commercial strategies, and governance plans. Members of FPAC addressed pertinent questions relating to the management of the budget of SEYPEC, its debtors and the use of resources and threats to its operations as a commercial entity in an industry that can be unpredictable. Members of FPAC addressed the fiscal impact of the depreciating value of the tankers and noted the work being carried out by the management of SEYPEC to soon put forward proposals to the Government on the most economically efficient way forward.

Site Visit & Meeting at the Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority (Thurs 16th Feb 2023)

The Committee visited the Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA) and met with the CEO, Mr. Garry Albert and the senior management team of the Authority. The delegation provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the operations of the SCAA, its business model, financial and commercial strategies. The Members addressed many questions to the CEO and the general managers present to better understand the revenue streams that could be further enhanced, reviewed the financials and projections for 2023, as well as understand the necessity for the separation of the regulatory and airport management fields of the industry. The visit included a tour of the different Airport facilities and support structures in place.

Site Visit & Meeting at the Seychelles Ports Authority (Weds 15th February 2023)

The Committee visited the Seychelles Port Authority (SPA), and met with the CEO, Mr. Sonny Payet and the Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Gilbert Frichot, in the presence of other Board Members and Senior Management staff. The FPAC was provided with an overview of the governance structure, budget and financials of the organization. The Members addressed pertinent questions relating to the management of the budget of the SPA, use of resources and threats to its operations as a commercial entity. The Port extension project was also discussed including the impact of the projections that were highlighted and the need to seek out new opportunities and the expansion of diverse revenue streams. Members of FPAC addressed the fiscal impact of the port extension project, including its impact on the financial status of the SPA and its capacity to handle and provide the operative manpower for its running in the future.

Site Visit to La Gogue Dam (Thursday 7th April 2022)

The Committee carried out a site visit to the La Gogue Dam accompanied by a delegation from the PUC led by the CEO, Mr. Joel Valmont and the Auditor General, Mr. Gamini Herath. The aim of the visit was to obtain an update from a financial perspective relating to the progress of the monumental project, the fiscal impact and to better understand its delays.

CHAPTER THREE: INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION & SURVEYS

3.1 Hosting of SADCOPAC Workshop

SADCOPAC Peer Review in Seychelles (19th-20th May 2022)

The Committee hosted a two-day peer review workshop in collaboration with the Southern Africa Community Organization of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) at the Savoy Hotel. The peer review workshop also involved the participation of various key stakeholders such as the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), the Citizens Engagement Platform (CEPS), the Association of Media Practitioners Seychelles (AMPS) and the Ministry of Finance. The delegation of SADCOPAC which comprised of the Chairpersons of the Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and Committee Clerks, also participated in meetings and courtesy calls before the workshop started to engage officials on its remit.

3.2 Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) & CPA UK Participation

The Committee reactivated its participation in the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC). The Committee attended meetings and vied for Chairmanship of the Association whereby the election took place on 30th August 2022 online. Due to budgetary constraints the Committee has not been able to participate in-person at any of the CAPAC conferences to date.

Regional Workshop for African Public Accounts Committees (30th Oct - 1st Nov 2023)

The Committee attended a Regional Workshop for African Public Accounts Committees (PACs) in Lusaka, Zambia. Hon. Sandy Arissol, Hon. Richard Labrosse, and Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly, Ms. Alexandria Faure attended the workshop. The workshop was organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) in collaboration with the National Assembly of Zambia. The specialised training and panel discussions were focused on benchmarking, conducting effective inquiries, managing parliamentary resources, effective questioning skills, and techniques for PACs, handling sensitive information, measuring the impact of PACs, engaging the media and youth, including producing effective reports and making strong recommendations.

3.3 Southern African Development Community Organisations of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) Participation

The Committee agreed to re-activate its participation in the Southern African Development Community Organisations of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) and re-instated the subscription fees which have been duly effected throughout the tenure of the 7th Assembly.

SADCOPAC MOU Signing in South Africa (18th-19th June 2025)

The office bearers of the organization met in Pretoria, South Africa for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Organisation of English-Speaking Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI-E) and to attend high level strategic meetings. Representing Seychelles as Deputy Treasurer of SADCOPAC was Hon. Sandy Arissol,

accompanied by the Deputy Clerk, Ms. Alexandria Faure. The MOU signed between the SADCOPAC, and the AFROSAI-E was deemed as a milestone for the SADCOPAC, both parties regarded the MOU as an instrumental step towards providing Members of the SADCOPAC with necessary capacity-building and technical support going forward.

SADCOPAC Governing Council Meetings in Botswana (25th April - 2nd May 2025)

The Governance Meetings and two-day training was organised in collaboration with the Parliament of Botswana. The sessions were attended by Hon. Sandy Arissol in his capacity as a senior member of the FPAC, accompanied by Committee Support Staff Ms Michelle Cupidon. The programme began with meetings of the SADCOPAC Technical Working Group attended by Ms. Cupidon and other parliamentary officials, followed by the Office Bearers and Governing Council Meetings attended by Hon. Arissol. The meetings involved discussions on pertinent matters regarding the affairs of SADCOPAC, particularly the active participation of Seychelles as Deputy Treasurer to the organization.

SADCOPAC 20th Annual General Meeting (7th – 14th September 2024)

The 16th Annual Conference and 20th Annual General Meeting took place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Leading the Seychelles delegation was Hon. Sandy Arissol, accompanied by Hon. Georges Romain, and Second Secretary of the FPAC, Ms. Shannon Surmar. The elections of the new Governing Council of SADCOPAC then followed, with Seychelles successfully securing the position of Deputy Treasurer. Other positions secured by other countries were Zambia as re-elected Chairperson, South Africa as Vice Chairperson, Eswatini as Secretary General, Lesotho as the Deputy Secretary General, and Malawi as Treasurer. This Council is responsible for ensuring that decisions taken are implemented and providing oversight over the operational activities of the SADCOPAC Secretariat.

SADCOPAC Governing Council Meeting (15th-19th April 2024)

The training and the Governing Council meetings were organized in collaboration with the House of Representatives of Zanzibar and the Office of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) in Zanzibar. The sessions organized were attended by the Chairperson of the Committee Hon. Sebastien Pillay, Hon. Georges Romain and the Deputy Clerk, Ms. Alexandria Faure. The main purpose of the workshop and meetings was for members of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) in the SADC region and parliamentary officials supporting PACs to enhance their skills and knowledge in parliamentary oversight, also serving as a platform to empower members and officials with the necessary tools to facilitate robust oversight processes in their respective jurisdictions.

SADCOPAC 19th Annual General Meeting in South Africa (28th September to 6th October 2023)

The Committee was represented at the Governing Council Meetings, 15th Annual Conference, and the 19th Annual General Meeting in South Africa. The sessions were attended by Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Terence Mondon, and Hon. Conrad Gabriel assisted by the Assistant Committee Secretary, Ms. Sheryl Rangasamy. The Governing Council Meetings consisted of presentations of reports. The 15th SADCOPAC Annual Conference took place under the theme “*Enhancing Oversight for Advance Ethical Public Financial Management and Accountability Towards the Development of Africa*” and each day was focused on specific thematic areas. The

Annual General Meeting entailed discussions on the SADCOPAC Policies and its Financial Regulations and Development Partners.

SADCOPAC Governing Council Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia (4th – 7th April 2023)

The Governing Council meeting and training was organized in collaboration with the Parliament of Zambia. The sessions organized were attended by Hon. Churchill Gill and Hon. Georges Romain and they were accompanied by the Deputy Clerk, Ms. Alexandria Faure. The delegates heavily discussed the importance of independent institutions and ways to improve their respective parliamentary procedures to strengthen the impact of the PACs.

SADCOPAC Governing Council Meeting (22nd – 29th March 2022)

Hon. Terence Mondon, Hon. Churchill Gill and Ms. Alexandria Faure attended the Governing Council Meeting and Training for Public Accounts Committees (PACs) organised by SADCOPAC which took place in Harare, Zimbabwe. This kicked off the Committees proactive attendance and participation in the SADCOPAC forum.

3.4 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) Biennial Survey

The FPAC submitted its PAC Biennial Survey which was submitted to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA UK). The survey is designed to be a self-reflection tool for Public Accounts Committees of the Commonwealth and is also used for benchmarking purposes of Parliamentary practices and conventions. The data collected from the surveys feed into the development of programmes of CPA UK.

CHAPTER FOUR: ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE FPAC & RECOMMENDATIONS

The FPAC is enthusiastic that this Legacy Report provides detailed insight into the diverse work stream that has been carried out during the mandate of the 7th Assembly. The unexpected impact of the COVID-19 pandemic provided a new scope of scrutiny for the Committee and the economic impacts are still being felt across the different reports and audits that have been examined. The FPAC has sought to build relationships and work collaboratively with the Government to identify changes that can be implemented and useful to promote transparency, good governance and efficient public financial management. The Committee hopes that the recommendations and methodologies of work established will be continued and further developed and enhanced when the new Members of the 8th Assembly take up positions in this crucial Committee.

4.1 Performance of the Committee

During its term the Committee identified many positive outcomes and further ways to improve its work, which is hoped to be further strengthened and addressed during the 8th Assembly. The information below serves as a roadmap on how the FPAC can further extend its work and entrench some of its practices.

Positive Outcomes

- Improved communication and inter-personal relationships with key stakeholders.

- Increased transparency and sharing of information.
- Agreed workload and time management, including Members taking the lead on entities for Public hearings.
- Additional site visits are conducted to extend and increase oversight.

Improvement Considerations

- Members familiarising with Teams and online platforms in order to promote virtual hearings & meetings and the use of collaborative streams for drafting of reports and accessing the Committee folder.
- Formalisation of Evidence handling/Committee Handbook as an FPAC.
- Advocating for the implementation of additional budget for further site visits on major capital projects.
- More attendance in CAPAC for capacity building opportunities.
- Financial Scrutiny training for Parliamentary Staff/Officials working with the FPAC.
- Taking up of Recommendations from this Report and pending matters.

4.2 Recommended Follow Ups for the FPAC of the 8th Assembly

a) Review of Public Finance Management Act

The Ministry of Finance is due to meet with the FPAC to discuss the proposed amendments to the Public Finance Management Act. The Committee has yet to seek the feedback of the OAG before meeting with the Ministry to have oversight into the amendments being proposed and to offer feedback as legislators.

b) Pending OAG Reports

There are pending Reports of the Auditor General that the Committee has not had the chance to examine as per the below;

Effectiveness of the Methadone Programme 2025	Pending
Outsourcing and Management of the Cemetery and Burial Services	Pending
Special report on the entrance fees collection National Botanical Garden Foundation	Not taken because it is subjudice and being undertaken by the Anti-Corruption Commission
Land deals and transactions between the government and the United Seychelles political party	The Anti-Corruption Commission have yet to respond to several queries with a concrete answer to the Committee that this is under investigation.

c) Follow up on the PUC Audit with the Auditor General

On the 20th June 2023, the Committee wrote to the Auditor General to request that an audit be carried out on the Public Utilities Corporation in accordance with Article 158 (7) of the Constitution. The requested audit, to which the Auditor General agreed on, was to examine the accounts and procurement procedures of the PUC. It is recommended that the FPAC of the 8th

Assembly follow up with the Auditor General on this report and seek an update on the preliminary findings.

d) National Pandemic Response

The FA4JR Public Hearing and the Hearing on the 2019-2020 OAG report brought to life concerning findings on how the Government handled the Pandemic from a financial perspective. It is proposed that the FPAC of the 8th Assembly garner insights and increase consultations to ensure that the financial management policies and standard operating procedures are being set in place to ensure a better response to any future pandemics via the drafting of a '*National Pandemic Response*'. This also includes having discussions with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health for specific procurement propositions in relation to the improvement of the Procurement Act in such emergency situations.

e) Site Visit to Projects on Praslin & La Digue

The Committee had planned during its mandate to visit projects on Praslin and La Digue to obtain more details on the fiscal impact of the projects and the financial planning involved. Those were the L'Union Estate, the new passenger terminal, the new Port and the Grande Anse & Baie St Anne Road Access. It is recommended that the Committee carry out a visit to obtain the necessary financial oversight on these projects and be provided with details on its management and implementations.

f) Finalization of the Committee Handbook

A Committee handbook to formalize evidence handling and other procedural matters is in draft and should be finalized. The FPAC hopes that this can be taken up by the FPAC of the 8th Assembly to further contribute to the formalization and institutionalization of Committee work.

g) Implementation of Recommendations Tracker

Tracking recommendations is important to ensure that the Committee is able to monitor and follow up with the Government on recommendations submitted in reports and meetings. This ensures that the necessary implementations are carried out to its finalization and that assurances to fix issues are not made at face value.

h) Implementation of a Protocol Between the OAG & the FPAC

During its term, the FPAC further strengthened its relationship with the OAG and had much influence on its budget. To further entrench this parliamentary convention and practice the FPAC of the 8th Assembly may consider working on a Protocol between the OAG and the FPAC that can withstand political dynamics and provide for a sustained institutional memory and framework when leadership roles change in both the Committee and the Office of the AG.

i) Consistent Oversight into the Victoria Port Extension Project

The Committee held a public hearing on the financial management of the port extension project including its projected revenue streams. The necessary oversight on the financial management of this project is crucial to ensure that the necessary revenue streams are being maximized and that delays are not unnecessarily costing the Government money at the expense of the taxpayer.

-End of Entire Legacy Report -