

Quarter 1



Tue 14 April 2026

THE PARLIAMETARY BULLETIN

A quarterly snapshot of parliamentary business, the processes and the people that support the work of the Legislature.



This Quarter at a Glance

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Message from the Speaker

Welcome to the Quarter 1 edition of The Parliamentary Bulletin 2026, which offers a snapshot of the National Assembly's work during the opening months of the year.

This edition reflects a quarter marked by important legislative business, including the State of the Nation Address, Budget debates, and continued progress on the National Assembly Administration Bill. It also highlights our efforts to strengthen civic engagement through initiatives such as the Youth Budget Talk, inclusion programmes, and environmental sustainability actions.

Together, these developments reflect our continued commitment to building a Parliament that is responsive, inclusive, and firmly connected to the people it serves.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Honourable Members, the Parliamentary Service, and all our partners whose dedication continues to advance the work of this institution.



Speaker, Hon. Azarel Ernesta



Events and Highlights

A look back at the most significant parliamentary events and institutional milestones of the quarter.

State of the Nation Address 2026

On 27 January 2026, President H.E. Dr. Patrick Herminie delivered his first State of the Nation Address since his election, setting out the new Administration's priorities before the National Assembly. In his address, the President highlighted issues including anti-corruption, criminal justice reform, housing, mental health support, human resource development, and more inclusive education. The Sitting also reflected the Assembly's commitment to accessibility, with the Address made available in *Lalang Siny Seselwa*.





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Interviews for Mayor of Victoria

6th & 11th February 2026

Members of the Association of Districts of Victoria (ADV) conducted interviews for the position of Mayor of Victoria. The process followed a State request for the ADV to interview candidates and recommend three names for consideration by the President.

Review of the National Assembly Administration Bill 20th February & 16th March 2026

Honourable Members participated in a seminar on the draft of the National Assembly Administration Bill, which aims to formalise the Assembly's administrative and financial autonomy and strengthen legislative support structures. A second seminar was held for staff, allowing the Parliamentary Service to examine the Bill's practical implications for internal processes and future implementation. Together, the two sessions reflected an inclusive approach to institutional reform and modernisation.



“A Parliament for All”

The National Assembly has launched a new inclusion-focused initiative supported through a grant from the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Capital Investment Fund. Driven by a voluntary team of staff, the initiative will focus on awareness, training, workplace improvements, inclusive wellbeing, and stronger support systems for a more accessible Parliament. More details in the next Quarterly Edition!



A Feature On: Youth Budget Talk

On 14 March 2026, the *Parlement Régional des Jeunes de L'Indianocéanie* (PRJIO) hosted the first Youth Budget Talk in collaboration with the National Assembly of Seychelles.



Held under the theme, *"How do young people experience and interpret the National Budget in relation to their everyday realities?"*, the event created a space for young people to engage more directly with national budget issues and their impact on everyday life. Speaker Hon. Azarel Ernesta opened the event, describing it as the beginning of an ongoing effort to promote youth participation in important national discussions.



The programme featured a youth-led panel and contributions from The Vice-President H.E Mr. Sebastien Pillay and other key stakeholders including Minister for Youth and Sports Ms. Kalsey Belle, Governor of the Central Bank Ms. Caroline Abel, and Secretary of State for Finance Mr. Patrick Payet.

The initiative highlighted the importance of civic education, youth empowerment, and making national policy discussions more accessible and relevant to younger audiences.



Budget Address for the Appropriation Bill 2026

On 12 February 2026, the Minister for Finance, Economic Planning, Trade and Investment Mr. Pierre Laporte, presented the Budget Address for the Appropriation Bill 2026 to the National Assembly. The address outlined the Government's fiscal and economic priorities, including living standards, employment productivity, public service delivery, housing, and long-term fiscal sustainability. Replies were then delivered by the House, commencing with the Leader of the Opposition Hon. Bernard Georges and the Leader of Government Business Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel.



The House moved into Committee Stage on 23 February 2026 for Ministries Departments, and Agencies to defend their budgets. On Monday 9 March 2026, the National Assembly of Seychelles presented its budget for consideration. The Legislature was represented by Clerk Mrs. Tania Isaac, Director for People & Culture Ms. Jelline Quatre, and Senior Accountant Mrs. Ghislaine Thelermont. The budget of SCR 55,433 was approved by 32 votes.





Parliamentary Diplomacy and Missions Abroad

From 13 to 19 January 2026, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Azarel Ernesta, led a delegation to the **28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)** in New Delhi, India. The delegation included Deputy Clerk Ms. Alexandria Faure and Director of the Speaker's Office Mr. Nickey Antat. The conference brought together parliamentary leaders from across the Commonwealth to discuss democracy, institutional resilience, and the changing nature of parliamentary work.



From 10 to 13 March 2026, a delegation of the Parliamentary Service attended the **9th SoCATT Africa Professional Development Seminar**, in Gaborone, Botswana. The delegation was comprised of Committee Clerk Ms. Samia Lebon, Parliamentary Budget Officer Ms. Ranishaa Chetty, and Personal Assistant to the Speaker Ms. Sarifa Maimee. The Seminar focused on strengthening parliamentary oversight, transparency, and accountability, under the theme "Parliaments and Public Finance Management: Fostering Transparency and Accountability".



From 1 to 7 March 2026, the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) was represented at the **SADCOPAC Technical Working Group and Sub-Committees Operationalization and Consultative Workshop**, hosted in collaboration with the Parliament of South Africa. Seychelles was represented by Hon. Sandy Arissol, Hon. Gerry Sopha, and Ms. Sheryl Rangasamy. Participation in the workshop reinforced Seychelles' engagement in regional cooperation on financial oversight, accountability, and public finance management.





Committee Updates

On 5 January 2026, the **Defence and Security Committee (DSC)** met to deliberate on the recommendation for the appointment of Mr. Sabry Khan as the new Director General of the Seychelles Intelligence Service (SIS).



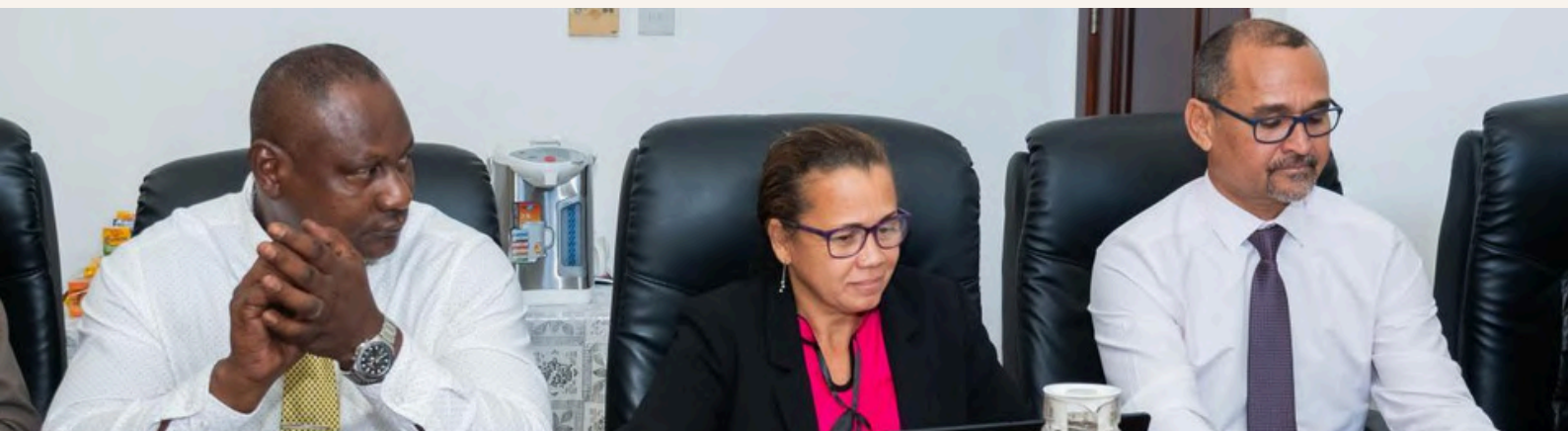
On 20 March 2026, the DSC held an introductory meeting with the Minister for Homeland Security and Civil Affairs, Mr. James Camille. The meeting formed part of the Committee's continuing engagement with key institutions in the national security sector and provided an opportunity to discuss areas of shared concern and cooperation.





On 17 February 2026, the **Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC)** met with Auditor General Mr. Gamini Herath to scrutinise the proposed 2026 budget for the Office of the Auditor General. The meeting formed part of FPAC's role under section 25 of the Auditor General's Act, which requires the Committee to consider and, where appropriate, propose amendments or recommendations on the Office's budget.

The Committee reviewed the estimates in the Appropriation Bill 2026, examined financial variance reports, and raised questions on the possible operational impact of proposed budget cuts.



The meeting formed part of FPAC's role under section 25 of the Auditor General's Act, which requires the Committee to consider and, where appropriate, propose amendments or recommendations on the Office's budget.



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On 21 March 2026, the **Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC)** hosted a Women Entrepreneurs' Bazaar at Maison Marengo, Au Cap, as part of activities marking International Women's Day 2026. The initiative served as a platform to celebrate women's creativity, enterprise, and contribution to the economy, while reinforcing the Caucus' commitment to women's empowerment and equal participation.



Chaired by Hon. Audrey Vidot, the event brought together women entrepreneurs from across Seychelles to showcase locally made crafts and handmade products. A highlight of the event was a poetry showcase featuring a reading by Hon. Balisa-Lepathy of a poem by celebrated Seychellois poet Marie Clarisse.



A new **Committee on Environment, Fisheries and Tourism (CEFT)** was established by the Assembly on 25 March 2026, following a motion moved by Hon. Egbert Aglae, Member for Port Glaud.

Motions

1. Hon. Egbert Aglae – Member for Port Glaud

Pursuant to Article 104 (1) of the Constitution and Standing Order 90(1) of the Standing Orders, this Assembly resolves to establish a **Committee on Environment, Fisheries and Tourism** with the attached Terms of Reference.

The Committee was created to provide oversight on matters relating to environmental protection, climate change, fisheries, tourism, and the blue economy.

The Committee is comprised as follows:

- **Chairperson Hon. Azarel Ernesta**
- **Vice-Chairperson Hon. John Hoareau**
- **Hon. Valdana Sultan**
- **Hon. Gervais Henrie**
- **Hon. Egbert Aglae**
- **Hon. Churchill Gill**
- **Hon. Robert David**
- **Hon. Cecile Larsen**

Committee Clerk: Ms. Alexandria Faure

Committee Clerk: Ms. Samia Lebon

Asst. Committee Clerk: Ms. Petra Tirant

The Terms of Reference and other key information can be accessed **here!**





EPIC's Green Corner!

On 6 February 2026, the **Environmental Policy Implementation Committee (EPIC)** of the National Assembly commemorated World Wetlands Day through a collaborative clean-up in the Parliamentary Mangrove Sanctuary behind the parliamentary building.

The activity was organised in partnership with Parley Seychelles and the Deaf Centre Seychelles, and brought together Speaker Hon. Azarel Ernesta, children and teachers from the Deaf Centre, volunteers of the Parliamentary Service, and Parley activists.

Together, the team removed **126.7 kg of debris** from the mangrove area, including plastic bottles, household waste, fishing buoys, and even a fridge door! Since adopting the mangrove area in 2022, the National Assembly, through EPIC, has continued to support conservation efforts linked to its wider climate resilience work.





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The National Assembly of Seychelles through the Environmental Policy Implementation Committee has embarked on a project named 'A Climate Resilient Parliament Raising Awareness and Advocating for the Protection of Mangrove Ecosystems' funded under the Blue Grants Fund of the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SEYCCAT).



EPIC has begun advancing several key outcomes for the benefit of the Institution with partners such as Sustainability for Seychelles (S4S), Sir Terence Vel, and a group of UniSey Marine Science Students. These include: a **feasibility study** on mangrove rehabilitation and propagation around the parliamentary precinct, **capacity building and awareness-raising** for staff, Members and visitors on the importance of mangrove ecosystems and climate resilience and a **Carbon Footprint Assessment and Offsetting Action Plan**, which has already commenced.

Stay tuned to see how our Green Corner develops to showcase sustainability and climate awareness activities and actions that you can follow to support a greener and more climate-resilient society!



Updates from the Parliamentary Service

On 5 January 2026, **Mr. Nickey Antat** assumed the role of **Director in the Office of the Speaker**. The appointment marked an important transition within the Office, with Ms. Genevieve Daniel, who previously held the position, taking on a new role as Liaison Officer (International Relations and Parliamentary Diplomacy). This change supports the continued strengthening of the Speaker's Office and its expanding work in parliamentary engagement and diplomacy.



Effective 1 March 2026, **Ms. Michelle Cupidon** was appointed to the post of **Private Secretary in the Office of the Clerk**. Ms. Cupidon previously served in the Hansard Division, where she made a valued contribution through her dedication and professionalism as an Assistant Hansard Reporter.





Updates from the Parliamentary Service

Effective 1 March 2026, **Mr. Vincent Quatre** was appointed to the post of **IT Manager**. Mr. Quatre previously served as the Acting IT Manager. His leadership is anticipated to enhance the digital infrastructure and cybersecurity measures of the National Assembly.



Effective 1 March 2026, **Ms. Georgina Balette** was appointed to the post of **Senior Hansard Editor**. Ms. Balette previously served in the Hansard Division as a Hansard Reporter, where she honed her skills in accurately capturing the proceedings and debates of the Parliament.



The National Assembly of Seychelles has updated its Organisational Structure, reflecting a strategic focus on strengthening its operational capabilities and enhancing service delivery. This restructuring aims to better align with the evolving needs of the Assembly and its Membership, and to support its ongoing commitment to transparency and efficiency in governance.

[Access the new structure here!](#)



Key meetings and engagements



On 28 January 2026, Members of the **National Unity Committee** held a high-level consultative meeting with the Leader of the Opposition Hon. Bernard Georges, and Leader of Government Business Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel at the National Assembly to outline the Committee's strategic direction and objectives. The delegation was led by the Chairperson of the National Unity Committee and former President Mr. Danny Faure, accompanied by Ambassador Marie-Pierre Lloyd and Dr. Odile Decommarmond.

The main purpose of the engagement was to formally brief the parliamentary leaders on the Terms of Reference and the specific mandate of the Committee following its appointment by the President of the Republic.





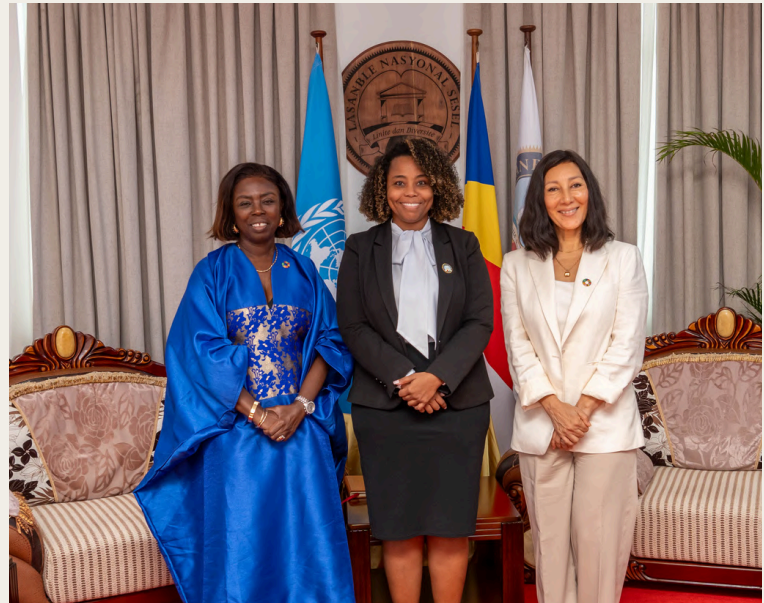
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The Speaker of the National Assembly received a number of Courtesy Calls from diplomatic and international partners, reflecting the National Assembly's continued engagement with the wider diplomatic community.



Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Seychelles, H.E. Ms. Lin NAN.



United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles, Ms. Lisa Singh (right).



Outgoing Ambassador of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, H.E. Mrs. Francesca Azais.



High Commissioner-designate of Canada to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mrs. Emily Burns.



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On 17 February 2026, a **delegation of the European Parliament Committee on Fisheries**, led by MEP Emma Wiesner, paid a Courtesy Call on the Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Azarel Ernesta, and the International Affairs Committee (IAC) during a working mission to Seychelles.

The visit formed part of wider discussions with national stakeholders on the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and reinforced the importance of continued engagement between Seychelles and the European Union on fisheries governance and oversight.



MEP Wiesner acknowledged the long-standing partnership between the European Union and Seychelles, which spans over four decades. Discussions focused on sustainable fishing, efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, fisheries control, data collection, and infrastructure development, among other topics of importance.



Business of the House

During the first quarter, the National Assembly considered several Public Bills, Statutory Instruments and reports tabled before the House as part of its legislative programme.

Bills

Unemployment Relief Scheme Bill, 2025
(Bill 30 of 2025)

Seychelles Tourism Board Bill, 2026 (Bill 1
of 2026)

Appropriation Bill, 2026 (Bill 2 of 2026)

Health Care Agency (Repeal) Bill, 2026
(Bill 3 of 2026)

Careers and Further Education Agency
Bill, 2026 (Bill 4 of 2026)

Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning
Agency Bill, 2026 (Bill 5 of 2026)

Readers may consult the official
publications here.



Statutory Instruments

S.I. 99 to S.I. 103 of 2025
S.I. 1 to S.I. 19 of 2026

Readers may consult the official
publications here.

Reports Tabled

Report on the conduct of the 2025
Presidential Election – Second Ballot.

Report on the conduct of 2025.
Presidential and National Assembly
Elections.

Readers may consult the official
publications here.



A Feature On: Recess

In parliamentary terms, a **Recess** is a **scheduled break in the calendar during which the Assembly does not meet formally in the Chamber for Sittings**. Unlike an adjournment, which is often a shorter suspension of proceedings from one Sitting to another, a Recess is usually a longer, planned interval built into the parliamentary calendar. While the Chamber may be quiet during this period, the work of Parliament does not come to a halt!

For Members of the National Assembly, the Recess period serves several important purposes. It offers time to return to their districts and engage more directly with constituents, listen to community concerns, follow up on ongoing issues, and strengthen the representative link between Parliament and the public. Committees, such as the FPAC or COGA, often host Public Hearings during Recess, as all members are required to be present and active in their vital role of scrutiny and oversight. Members may also take this time to attend missions abroad, and engage in parliamentary diplomacy.



Recess also allows Members to carry out research, prepare for upcoming debates, review policy matters in greater depth, and contribute to parliamentary projects outside the normal rhythm of Sittings and committee meetings.

The Recess period is also important from a wellbeing and mental health perspective. Parliamentary work is often intense, demanding, and schedule-driven, particularly during Sitting periods. This time of rest can be especially beneficial in supporting resilience, balance, and long-term productivity.





A Feature On: Recess



For the Parliamentary Service, Recess is equally significant. Because the parliamentary calendar is often structured around Sittings, debates, and other official business, Recess becomes one of the most practical windows during which annual leave and social events can be organised without disrupting core parliamentary operations.



It is also a useful time for staff to focus on additional assignments and institutional projects that require sustained attention outside the pace of day-to-day Sittings, such as the Teacher's Parliamentary Learning Space Programme!

In many cases, Recess creates space for training and professional development. Parliamentary Staff may attend workshops, courses, study visits, or other learning opportunities that strengthen their skills and contribute to the long-term development of the institution.





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Parliamentary Calendar Ahead

2026 . APRIL

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Sitting Adjourns:

Tuesday 14 April 2026

Recess Begins: Thursday 16 April 2026

Public Holidays:

- *Good Friday
- *Easter Monday

2026 . MAY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Recess Concludes: Monday 11 May 2026

Sitting Commences:

Tuesday 12 May 2026

Public Holidays:

- *Labour Day

2026 . JUNE

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

Public Holidays:

- *The Fete Dieu (Corpus Christi)
- *Constitution Day
- *Independence (National) Day

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