

The Secretariat

Sekretaryat Lasanble Nasyonal I Selebre Nou Kreolite

Sak lannen, Komite Sosyal Sekretaryat Lasanble Nasyonal, anba direksyon son Tyermenn, Manmzel Betty-May Bibi, i organiz en seri aktivite pour bann staff avek bi anmenn zot ansanm dan en lot latmosfer mwen profesyonnel.

Pou komemor lasemenn kreol ki ti selebre depi le 25 ziska 31 Oktob sa lannen, sa Komite ti organiz en dezennen kreol pour bann staff le 31 Oktob.

Sa bann bon repa tel ki lapo latet reken ti ganny prepare par bann staff zot menm. Lasal tin ganny transformen avek bann dekorasyon fey koko e bann lezot artifakt tel ki kapatya avek bi pou kree sa bon latmosfer kreol.

Sa aktivite ti deroul dan prezans Depite Spiker, Onorab Andre Pool. Msye Darel Atalla ti la parey labitid pou met lanbyans avek son bann komik lokal ek zedmo. Pour sak larepons korek staff ti resevwar en pti token.

Vis-Tyermenn Komite Soyol, Madanm Doreen Zelia i oule profit sa lokazyon pou remersye tou staff pou zot sipor kontinnyel ensi ki zot kontribisyon pou ede fer bann aktivite en tre gran sikse.

Mr. Rose, gannyan Speaker's Award 2013.

Se atraver son devourman, latitid ekzanpler e bon konportman ki Mr Antoine Rose ti ganny rekonnèt parmi lezot staff pou resevwar Speaker's Award 2013.



Mr Rose ti kolekte son pri avek Speaker Lasanble Nasyonal Onorab Patrick Herminie pandan en rankont pour lafen lannen ki ti fer an desanm lannen pase.

I en Security Officer e i ti form parti lekip Lasanble le 17Oktob 2011. Koman son pri, Mr Rose ti resevwar en sertifika ek en sonm larzan.

New born in the National Assembly family

Our best wishes and congratulations to Hon Roma Edmond, MNA for Plaisance and Ms Betty-May Bibi, Ag. Principal Parliamentary Reporter of the Secretariat for being new and proud parents of two healthy babies. Welcome to motherhood!



Recruitment

The Secretariat would like to take the opportunity to welcome five new staff namely the Research Officer, Mrs. Tania Isaac; the Sergeant-At-Arms, Mr. Steve Nourrice; the Human Resources & Budget Management Assistant, Ms Sheryl Rangasamy, the Receptionist, Ms. Petra Tirant and the Office Assistant seconded to the Office of the Deputy Speaker, Ms. Noritha Legaie.



Photo Gallery



▲ 2014 Budget Address by Minister Laporte



▲ A special sitting was held on Commonwealth Day to adopt the Commonwealth Charter



▲ Chairperson of Commission of African Union Addressing the National Assembly



▲ Meeting with Medical Students



▲ Members of the Youth Parliament hold sitting in the National Assembly Chamber for the first time



▲ National Assembly sponsored the participation of two Students Anil and Isha in CPA youth Parliament



▲ Speaker Herminie greets President Michel on his arrival at the National Assembly for the State of Nation Address

▲ Speaker Herminie presents book the National Assembly of Seychelles a Guide to former Speaker Macgregor



EDITORIAL

Dear faithful readers,

Welcome to the 9th edition of our "Lasanble Nasyonal" Newsletter and the first for the year 2014 which coincides with the State of the Nation Address which was delivered by the President of the Republic, Mr. James Alix Michel on the 26th February, 2014. This year's SONA was of special significance as it was the 10th SONA to be delivered by President, Mr. James Alix Michel. It was a much anticipated moment for the whole country as the President informed the people of Seychelles on the conditions of the nation, the national priorities and at the same time outlined the legislative agenda of the government which will require the support of the National Assembly throughout the year.

The uniqueness of the SONA lies in the fact that it is the most important event on the calendar of the National Assembly, not only because it signifies the beginning of a new working year and the official opening of parliament, but also because it is the only special session of the National Assembly, when the President addresses the people of Seychelles as the Head of State and not as the Head of Government.

SONA has become so embedded in our legislative tradition that most people tend to forget that its delivery fulfils an important part of our Constitution of the Third Republic. Article 65 clearly accentuates this point by stating that the President shall, at the beginning of each year; and before dissolution of the National Assembly, deliver to the Assembly a message on the State of the Nation.

The SONA brings a new impetus for the political, social and economic activities of the Seychelles. In a sense the government has set out its programme for the year and the National Assembly which is the voice of the people expresses the aspiration of the people vis-a vis that programme.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPEAKER



"The only thing that is constant is change. The world is changing. Seychelles is changing. Therefore, we need to change and adapt to meet the demands of current realities"

Hon'ble Dr. Patrick Herminie, Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Speaker delivered the welcoming remark at the launch of the Book "The National Assembly of Seychelles – A Guide" on 04th December, 2013. Here is an excerpt of the remarks delivered to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the National Assembly of the third Republic.

"Today as we celebrate our successes of 20 years in existence, it is only fitting and proper that we ponder on the way forward and reflect on the relevant changes that need to be done.

The changes have been extraordinary but this does not mean that we should fear more reforms. Let us therefore, today, like the Founding Fathers of our constitution did one score years ago, dedicate ourselves anew to the Montesquieu principle of the separation of powers.

The separation of powers, in my humble view, does not mean the separation of government nor does it mean endless bickering among the branches of government. It simply means strong branches of government with the ability to exercise effective and appropriate checks and balances on each other. And it must be so, given the infallibility of the human race. Indeed, our constitution advocates a balance of power rather than an absolute separation of powers.

But what is the status quo? The executive, by and large, holds legislative initiatives; the output of which is the object of interpretation by the judiciary to ensure the realization of the rule of law.

Thus I say that within a well-defined legal framework, the Assembly must assume greater autonomy, both administrative and financial, to better discharge its constitutional mandate; it must strengthen its legal, technical and research competence to develop the ability to initiate bills and to meet the challenges of the ever increasing size and complexity of the executive.

These are changes that can only enhance good governance and accountability, basic requirements for the suitable and sustainable development of any nation. But above all, we need to change mindsets and appreciate that there is absolutely nothing to fear but fear itself as we endeavor to render the legislature more effective.

Parliament needs to become closer to the people and be more responsive to the demands of public opinion, including the academia, civil society, religious leaders and other governance actors. We need to take note of the increasing liberalization of the airwaves, the introduction of new radios, and possibly soon television stations and reclaim control over our deliberations. We must stop relying on third parties for the proper functioning of our institution. A broadcasting unit for the Assembly thus becomes a sine qua non. We simply cannot afford not to be revolutionary lest we stand the risk of being the weakest link in the country's governance structure".

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The National Assembly of Seychelles joins the Pan-African Parliament

Four Members of National Assembly sworn in as members of the Pan-African Parliament in Johannesburg, Midrand, 10th March, 2014

The National Assembly of Seychelles has joined the Pan-African Parliament which is the Legislative body of the African Union. At its inaugural session for the year, four members of the National Assembly of Seychelles made history by being the first Seychellois parliamentarians to take the Oath of Allegiance in the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa. This was done in the presence of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles, Hon. Dr. Patrick Herminie.



Seychelles, therefore, becomes the 47th Member of the Pan-African Parliament and will be represented by the Hon. David Pierre, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Joevana Charles, Hon. Sebastien Pillay, and Hon. Mirena Souris.

The main objectives of the Pan-African Parliament is to promote the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa and facilitate the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the African Union as well as encourage good governance, transparency and accountability in Member States.

It also endeavors to contribute to a more prosperous future for the people of Africa by promoting peace, stability, self reliance and economic recovery.

After the Ceremony the Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles commented, "Today we made history. For the very first time, the people of Seychelles, through its representatives, will be able to participate in the economic development and integration of Africa."

COMMITTEES AT WORK

The year 2013 was an active year for the Committee on Government Assurances. Under the chairmanship of a new Chairperson, Hon, Bernard Arnephy and a new Vice Chairperson, Hon, Kevin Vidot, the Committee on Government Assurances has successfully completed its 2013 calendar of activities. Some of the activities included a study visit at the Parliament of Uganda, the tabling of its first Committee report to the house, several visits to Ministries and the scrutiny of assurances made by Ministers.

An important milestone for the Committee was the tabling of its first report to the House. The report contains 439 assurances given by the Ministries and departments since 2011 as well as feedback from Ministries on progress made in the implementation of these projects. Comments and observations of Committee Members are also included in the report.

Throughout the year, the working relationship between the Committee and Ministries has improved considerably. As a way of showing its appreciation the Committee carried out a sensitization visit to the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Investment. Several other site visits were organized to further intensify the good rapport with the Executive. These allowed the Members of the Committee to oversee the implementation of the projects pronounced in the Assembly by Ministers. There were 4 such visits in 2013, including the visit at Au Cap District in

relation to drainage and the cleaning of marshes; the visit to DRDM to view the equipments received from World Bank; the visit to Cascade School to investigate the construction of a wall and diversion of the secondary road; and the fisheries sector at Providence and Ile Du Port.

A study visit to the Parliament of Uganda, allowed three Members of the Committee to share experiences and best practices with its Ugandan counterpart -the Government Assurances and Implementation Committee. A delegation from this Committee visited Seychelles to meet

and share valuable exchanges. There are plans for more capacity building activities and increase of resources for COGA in 2014. This will allow the Committee to grow and carry its functions more effectively.



International Affairs Committee

It has been a busy and fruitful 2013 for the International Affairs Committee. New friendship Associations with France and Kuwait, have been established as part of the Committee's endeavour to forge bilateral relationship with other parliaments. The Committee now has Parliamentary Friendship Representatives for seven countries and this serves as proof of active parliamentary diplomacy in the past five years.

The National Assembly, through IAC in 2013 has intensified its effort to strengthen cooperation with parliaments of all regions. In August, the Committee carried out two official visits to India and China. The visits provided the opportunity for both the Parliament of India and the National People's Congress to reaffirm their friendship and support to the National Assembly.

The Committee also made it a priority to engage with outside parties notably a delegation from the European Union, a COMESA task force and a United Nation Special Rapporteur on Education.

Countries	Parliamentary Friendship Representatives
China	Hon. Andre Pool
India	Hon. Jeniffer Vel
Kuwait	Hon. David Pierre
Cuba & Sri Lanka	Hon. Derek Samson
Russia	Hon. Dr. David Payet
France	Hon. Mirena Souris
Turkey	Hon. Emmanuel Fideria

FPAC Produces first Report in 2013

The Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) has last year achieved great success by submitting to the House three Committee Reports. This achievement is the first of its kind in the history of the Committee.

The reports produced by the FPAC during 2013 included; the Examination of the 2009 and 2010 Report of the Auditor General; the Examination of the Seychelles Tourism Board Performance Audit Report of the Auditor General; and the Examination of the Public Utilities Corporation Performance Audit Report of the Auditor General.

Sixty percent of the recommendations that came out in these reports have been successfully implemented, among which is the creation of the Government Audit Committee; a body in the Executive which will be mandated to oversee all the Committee Reports and ensure comprehensive implementation of recommendations.

It is to note that the production of the three reports has been the result of two years collaboration between the National Assembly and the European Union (EU) whereby the latter provided training to Members and staff of FPAC through the Technical Assistance Programme. Mr. Bill Fraser, a consultant from the EU who facilitated the programme undertook two missions to the National Assembly one in March and the other in May, 2013. During those two missions, Mr. Fraser shared his expertise with the Committee through various meetings and friendly encounters.



FPAC Chairperson, Hon. David Pierre, Member Hon. Marc Volcere and Committee Secretary-Ms. Angelic Appoo attended the SADCOPAC/EAAPAC Joint Accountability in Uganda

Komite Medya i etabli Nouvo Relasyon Travay

I pan en lannen eksitan pou Komite Medya, lannen 2013. Sa i an rezilta plizyer sanzman ki sa Komite in antreprann dan prosedir ki governon konpozisyon e osi travay ki i fer.

Sepandan, menm si Komite Medya pan tro aktiv, in annan serten travay kin konmans ganny fer par sa Komite, anba gidans son nouvo Tyerman, Onorab Andre Pool, pou ogmant vizibilite bann aktivite Lasanble Nasyonal dan medya.

Manm Komite Medya ti zwenn avek reprezantan Lazans Nasyonal Servis Lenformasyon (NISA), Madanm Marylene Julie ki Kordinater nouvo sitweb

sa lazans. Swivan sa rankont, travay in konmanse pou kree en link lo nouvo sitweb NISA avek bi pou donn plis dimoun akse avek lenformasyon lo brans lezislative sesel.

Komite Medya in osi swet labyenveni nouvo stasyon radio "Pure FM". Dan en miting avek Chief Editor sa stasyon, Msye Russel Vidot, dan prezans zournalis Virna Onezia, bann manm in diskrit lo en relasyon travay ant sa de lorganizasyon e si tou i mars byen "Pure FM" i ekspekte met en feed pou fer transmision direk deliberasyon Lasanble Nasyonal.



Women Parliamentarians Promote Women and Children through Activities

It has been a fairly busy year for Members of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians (CWP) in 2013. They were active on both national and international grounds where they took part in various activities and organized several others which were aimed at encouraging and advocating in favour of capacity building for women, as well as, supporting their participation in politics.

The children were the other group these activities targeted. In collaboration with the Ephelia Resort, the Committee organized a fun-filled day for the children of the President's

Village. The activity was marked by the planting of several fruit trees in the Village's compound which was followed by a hearty lunch sponsored by Ephelia Resort.

Women empowerment took the spotlight at the start of the 14th CSPOC Conference in September with the historic launch of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Seychelles Branch. The CWP International Chairperson, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga officially launched the CWP Seychelles Chapter in the presence of Speaker, Hon. Dr. Patrick Herminie and other local and Regional representatives of the CWP. The launch gives the

Committee more visibility locally and internationally and also propelled them to work more fervently towards the mainstreaming of gender considerations in their activities and programmes.

To close its calendar of activities for 2013, the Committee made a visit to the Montagne Posee prison late December. The activity which is an annual one, gave the parliamentarians the chance to interact with the women inmates and share their concerns. Tokens were also given out to bring some Christmas cheers on the faces of the women inmates.

Restructuring of the Secretariat of the National Assembly

The Secretariat provides support and service to the National Assembly through its advice, guidance and technical assistance to the Assembly, its Committees, Head of the Institution and the Leaders' Offices. The Secretariat is essentially a service based body, providing necessary services to allow the Assembly to function properly and efficiently.

It is constantly evaluating itself to ensure that the services offered are of a high standard and it is for this very reason that the beginning of 2014 saw the establishment of a progressive structure for the Secretariat. It takes into consideration the vision and mission statement of the Secretariat.

The different units that were once responsible for the services provided to the Assembly are now

established within clear Departments and responsibilities of officers.

Following the restructuring, there are now 6 Departments namely the Legislative Services, Human Resources & International Relations, Information Services & the Library, Public Relations, Communications & Protocol, Services and Facilities and last but not least the ICT & Broadcasting Department.