

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CELEBRATES COMMONWEALTH DAY 2016 BY STRENGTHENING TIES WITH THE SEYCHELLES NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

On 15th March, 2016 the National Assembly organized a series of events to observe international Commonwealth Day. The events were organized by the National Assembly Secretariat in collaboration with the Seychelles National Youth Council.

The participation of the 12th Cohort of the Seychelles National Youth Assembly (SNYA) was an eventful opportunity for the young parliamentarians to discover more about the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) by honoring the theme for this year, which was "Inclusive Commonwealth".

The events of the day commenced with the reading of Her Majesty the Queen's Commonwealth Day message by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon'ble Dr. Patrick Herminie during the National Assembly Sitting.

The highlight of the Commonwealth Day 2016 was a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Assembly of Seychelles and the Seychelles National Youth Council in the presence of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the British High Commissioner, the Leaders and Members of the National Assembly, the Principal Secretary for Youth, the Chief Executive Officer of the Seychelles National Youth Council and the 12th SNYA Members.

The objective of this MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation within which the two parties can work together towards a more comprehensive, equal and mutually beneficial strategic partnership so as to strengthen the Seychelles National Youth Assembly.

The SNYA cohort also benefited from a presentation on the Commonwealth and the CPA which was delivered by Mr. Kurtis Lespoir, the National Delegate for the Commonwealth Youth Council General Assembly 2015/2017. The Youth Assembly Members were then hosted to a special luncheon hosted by the CPA Seychelles Branch Executive Committee.

The day concluded with a special Sitting of the Seychelles National Youth Assembly held in the afternoon, whereby the young parliamentarians debated

on the following Motion presented by Ms. Sharon Jerry, the young Member from Mont Buxton:

"In celebration of Commonwealth's diversity, the SNYA advocates for the promotion and support of an inclusive commonwealth based on the shared values of tolerance, respect, equity and fairness amongst the youth and all people of Seychelles".

The special Sitting was held in the presence of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Leaders and Members of the National Assembly, representatives from the British High Commission and the Chief Executive Officer of the Seychelles National Youth Council.



Boursière de l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration



Depuis 1997, l'Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie participe au stage organisé conjointement avec le Parlement français et l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration de Paris, portant sur l'organisation du travail parlementaire. Il a eu lieu cette année le 7 avril 2016. Ce stage s'adresse plus précisément aux fonctionnaires parlementaires. Cette année, le Bureau de l'APF a retenu 11 candidatures venant d'Afrique de l'ouest, d'Afrique centrale, d'Asie, de la Caraïbe, d'Europe orientale, du Maghreb et de l'Océan Indien.

Mademoiselle Kanté Zénab, Responsable de Relations Publiques et de la Communication à l'Assemblée Nationale a fait partie des onze.

Les intervenants de stage étaient des hauts fonctionnaires du Parlement, secrétaires généraux et des directeurs de services.

C'était un honneur pour Zénab d'être choisie comme porte-parole du groupe des 11 stagiaires et aussi a eu le plaisir de lire le message de remerciements à la Présidence du Sénat. Ce stage a été très enrichissante pour elle.

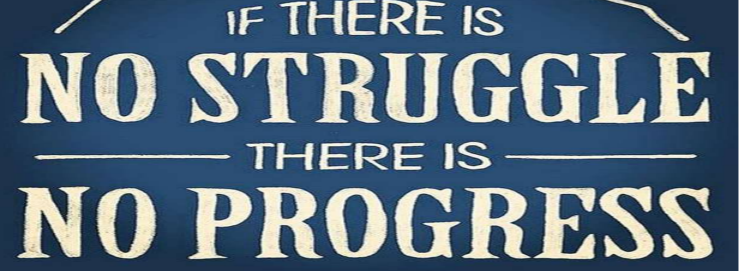
Photo Gallery



▲ The Speaker with H.E Mr. Philippe Brandt, Ambassador-designate of the Swiss Confederation and Mrs. Angelika U.Maurel, Honorary Consul of Switzerland.



▶ The Speaker with H.E Ms.Tarja Fernandez, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland and Ms. Marja Karjalainen, Honorary Consul of Finland.



EDITORIAL

Dear faithful readers,

This is our 15th edition of our 'Lasanble Nasyonal' Newsletter.

The Assembly has concluded its first term on the 12th of April.

President James Michel delivered his 12th State of the Nation Address before the National Assembly on the 16th February. In his address, the President placed emphasis on social justice, welfare, the fight against drugs, healthcare improvement, democracy and good governance.

The President also reaffirmed his commitment to working to build an even better Seychelles by rallying together to consolidate our unity, to preserve our stability and to continue to make the Seychelles that country of peace and unity.

Furthermore, to commemorate the Commonwealth Day this year the National Assembly has organized a series of activities in collaboration with the Seychelles National Youth Council.

At international level, the Speaker made a remarkable intervention at the "8eme Conférence des Présidents d'Assemblées et de Sections de la Région Afrique" which was held in the marvelous city of Gabon, Libreville.

Additionally, members of the National Assembly have attended several parliamentary conferences. As you read through the newsletter, in-depth information about the various conferences will be provided in the articles.

Let this newsletter be a reminder of the continuous progress that the parliament is making so far and the changes that are still being carried out to maintain our supreme political importance in order to sustain this success.

We hope you enjoy this edition, as we continue to keep you informed.

Happy Reading!!!

SPEAKER HERMINIE ADDRESSES THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE ON CHALLENGES FACING THE INDEPENDENCE OF SPEAKERS.

Seychelles to host the 2018 Conference

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Dr.Patrick Herminie, attended the 23rd Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia from the 9th to the 14th of January 2016. The Conference, which was officially opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, his Excellency Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, saw the participation of almost 50 Speakers from across the Commonwealth.



Held every 2 years, the conference aims to maintain, foster and encourage impartiality and fairness on the part of Speakers and Presiding Officers of parliaments; and to promote knowledge and understanding of parliamentary democracy through the sharing of best practices.

Speaker Herminie had the honour of addressing the conference on the topic 'Challenges facing the independence of the Speaker'. In his expose, Dr. Herminie argued that the political role of a Speaker should be clearly spelt out in the constitution, given the multifarious powers, rights and duties of the Speaker's Office. He also made an in-depth analysis of the impact that party politics may have on the independence of the speakership.

The Speaker further elaborated on other factors that might compromise the Speaker as an impartial adjudicator and that, he said, include the way a Speaker is appointed, the extent of his security of tenure and the administrative and financial autonomy of the legislature.

Other topics discussed in the conference included the Security of Parliaments and its Precincts, parliamentary privilege to allow members to perform their duties without outside threat or interference and as a mean to ensure the strict separation of powers between the three branches of government as well as capacity building and professional development of the members of parliament.

The Conference further elected Seychelles as its new chairperson for the next two years. The National Assembly of Seychelles will thus host the 24th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth to be held in 2018.

Une Première pour le Parlement des Seychelles

Sur invitation de la Section Gabonaise de l'Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), le Président de l'Assemblée Nationale des Seychelles et le Président de la Section Seychelloise l'Honorable Dr Patrick Herminie a participé pour la première fois à la huitième Conférence des Présidents d'Assemblées et de Sections de la Région Afrique qui s'est tenue à Libreville, au Gabon du 3 au 5 Mars 2016.

Selon le règlement de la Région "la Conférence des Présidents" est dirigée par le Président d'Assemblée qui occupe le poste de Président ou de 1er Vice Président de l'Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF).

En application de cette disposition, les travaux de la 8ème Conférence ont été dirigés par l'Honorable Aubin Minaku, Président en exercice de l'APF, assisté par Mr Guy Nzouba-Ndama, Président de l'Assemblée Nationale du Gabon.

Les représentants des quatorze pays suivants: Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinée, Guinée Equatoriale, Madagascar, Mali, République Démocratique du Congo, Royaume du Maroc, Sénégal, Seychelles et Tchad ont participé activement aux travaux.

L'ordre du jour a porté sur la communication du Président, le rapport d'activités du chargé de mission, la situation politique et sociale de l'espace francophone d'Afrique, la préparation de la XXIVème Assemblée Régionale Afrique, lieu et date de la 9ème Conférence des Présidents d'Assemblées et de Sections et l'adoption du communiqué final.

Dans sa remarquable intervention, l'honorable Dr Patrick Herminie, a déclaré " La langue est réellement le véhicule idéal pour rassembler les hommes partageant la même passion et dans ce cas la passion commune pour la langue française."

Longtemps la langue française a traversé les océans, escaladé les Alpes et atterri dans nos îles. Elle est désormais une composante de notre patrimoine à côté des deux autres langues: l'Anglais et le Créole.

Abordant dans son exposé, le point relatif à la situation politique et sociale, Honorable Dr.Herminie a déclaré que les citoyens Seychellois lors du scrutin de décembre 2015 ont renouvelé leur confiance au Président James Alix Michel qui a recueilli 50,15% des votes, contre 49,85%.

Il a expliqué que d'autres élections sont prévues au courant de cette année 2016. Il s'agit notamment des législatives et des communales.

Dans le but de consolider davantage la démocratie Seychelloise, Honorable Dr.Patrick Herminie a indiqué qu'un projet de loi a été récemment soumis à l'Assemblée Nationale visant la réduction du mandat présidentiel de 3 à 2 mandats de 5ans.

A propos d'économie, Honorable Herminie a révélé que l'économie bleue est au coeur de notre politique nationale. La mer indique-t-il est à la fois une ressource et un patrimoine à préserver. Elle pourra être dans un avenir proche le contributeur majeur à la transformation et à la croissance du continent, a-t-il ajouté."

L'aspect social ne devrait pas être négligé. Dans son intervention, le Président de l'Assemblée Nationale des Seychelles a signalé qu'aux Seychelles un débat a été organisé suivant l'annonce des statistiques de l'existence d'une classe vulnérable et pauvre de 40% de la population.

"Ce concept de pauvreté est polémique et relatif. La pauvreté explique-t-il est un manque de moyens matériels, de ressources, d'argent et même une insuffisance morale ou /et intellectuelle."

Comment peut-on croire à ce phénomène dans un pays où l'homme est vraiment au centre du développement, où l'éducation, la santé sont gratuites, où la protection sociale est assurée à l'ensemble des citoyens, où près de 80% de la population est propriétaire de son logement, où les transports sont subventionnés par l'Etat.

Le PIB par habitant est de 25000 Dollars US en 2015 est le plus élevé d'Afrique. Même les sociétés modernes et les plus développées n'ont pas réussi à endiguer complètement ce fléau.

La 8ème Conférence a examiné aussi le rôle des médias sociaux sur le développement de la démocratie en Afrique et les impératifs de sécurité et d'unité nationale. Elle s'est achevée par un communiqué final:

- Les Présidents d'Assemblées et des Sections ont noté que l'année 2015 a été électorale et préélectorale. Sept pays ont organisé des élections présidentielles et législatives: Burundi, Guinée, Côte D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Centrafrique, Comores, Seychelles. En 2016, 11 scrutins sont aussi prévus.
- La Conférence a exhorté les pays francophones à poursuivre leurs efforts en vue d'établir des régimes démocratiques et d'instaurer l'Etat de droit.
- La Conférence a lancé l'appel à tous les acteurs politiques... de s'abstenir de toutes violences et de travailler à la mise en place des processus électoraux pacifiques et consensuels.
- Après avoir suivi les exposés sur les situations politiques et sociales de leurs pays respectifs, par les chefs de délégation du Burundi, de Madagascar, des Seychelles et du Royaume du Maroc, la 8ème Conférence a:
 - pris acte des réformes institutionnelles et économiques opérées par les Seychelles dans le but de consolider la démocratie, de relancer son économie et de mieux gérer les effets pervers des changements climatiques;
 - pris acte de la décision du Parlement Seychellois, à travers son Président, de consacrer une session de ses débats en Français à la place du Créole, à l'occasion de la semaine de la Francophonie.

Une motion traditionnelle de remerciement a été adressée au Président de l'Assemblée et de Section, et aux autorités gabonaises pour l'excellent accueil et l'hospitalité fraternelle réservés aux délégations.



The Meeting was attended by Hon. Jeovana Charles, Hon. David Pierre Members of PAP and accompanied by Mrs. Nadine Gvinden-Delorie, the Desk Officer for PAP.

Mrs Nadine Govinden-Delorie
11th April, 2016

Meeting for the Consideration of the African Union Budget for 2017 & Sitting of the Permanent Committees of the Pan-African Parliament



The Pan-African Parliament held its first Permanent Committee Meeting for the year from the 27th of February to the 4th March, 2016 in Midrand, Johannesburg.

This included Plenary Sessions whereby several presentations and discussions took place, as well as, daily Committee Meetings, some of which were held jointly with other Committees as well as guest Organizations. The Members also had the opportunity to make comments on the Narrative Report on the Budget for the Financial Year 2017.

3rd IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

More than 130 young Members of Parliament from across the world met in Lusaka, Zambia for the 3rd IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. The conference which was held from 16th to 17th March, 2016, was jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Assembly of Zambia.

This annual conference enables young MPs to address and influence issues of global significance and is part of the IPU's work to empower young MPs and support youth engagement in politics. The theme of the conference was "Agenda 2030: Youth leading the way, leaving no one behind". The conference focused on the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressed issues from a people-centered perspective.

At the end of the two-day conference an outcome document was adopted where young parliamentarians pledged their commitment to enhance transparency and oversight of public finances as a cornerstone of their fight against corruption as well as to take the lead in driving fair, equitable and sustainable development work for all and in particular for the most vulnerable and marginalized.

They also committed to contributing to systematic reviews of government progress on the implementation of development plans in a way that would reinforce transparency, access to information and youth rights.

The National Assembly was represented at this auspicious conference by one of its young parliamentarians, Hon. Begitta Jeannevol, Member for Mont Fleuri District. She was accompanied by Mrs. Doreen Zelia, the Director in the office of the Speaker.



The National Assembly participates in the 41st Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly & Intersessional Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.



A delegation from the National Assembly, led by the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Andre Pool, attended the '41st Session of the African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) Parliamentary Assembly & Intersessional Meeting of the African-Caribbean-Pacific-European Union (ACP-EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly' held in Brussels, Belgium from 15th to 18th March, 2016. The delegation also comprised of the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Marie-Antoinette Rose and the Deputy Clerk, Ms. Luisa Wayne-Hive.

The Seychelles delegation attended the meeting for the Committee on Social Affairs and Environment of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly where discussions focused on pertinent issues such as tackling the problem of migration between ACP and EU countries; strategies to eradicate female genital mutilation; the future of ACP-EU partnership after 2020 from a social and environment perspective; the Zika crisis and its impact on ACP countries; and brain drain in the health sector and the implementation and impact of the World Health Organisation Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel in EU and ACP Regions.

The meetings also discussed the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the Eastern and Southern Africa Group (ESA) and the EU which has been signed by the Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. The meeting called for negotiations for a comprehensive EPA.

The delegation also had bilateral talks with other Members of the European Parliament focusing on how to better relationships between the Seychelles and the EU.

The delegation was also accompanied to the meetings by the Ambassador for Seychelles in Belgium, H.E. Mr. Selby Pillay and First Secretary at the Seychelles Embassy, Mrs. Johnette Stephens.

Actualités ! Actualités!!



Un député retrouvé mort dans son bureau
Le député conservateur albertain Jim Hillyer a été retrouvé mort en mars, dans son bureau de la colline parlementaire à Ottawa.

Le politicien de 41 ans, élu à la Chambre des communes en 2011, représentait la circonscription de Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner. Selon les premières informations, l'homme serait mort d'une crise cardiaque dans son bureau. Il était père de quatre enfants.



Guy Nzouba- Ndama démissionne
Le Président de l'Assemblée Nationale du Gabon a démissionné du perchoir de l'Assemblée nationale Gabonaise. L'Honorable Guy Nzouba- Ndama se présentera comme candidat indépendant à la prochaine présidentielle de 2016.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS REWARDED FOR PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The National Council for Disabled Persons hosted a gala dinner on Friday 11th December, 2015 at the Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Resort and Casino as a ceremony to thank the different organizations which have and is continually providing employment to disabled persons.

During the ceremony, the Principal Secretary for Social Affairs, Mrs. Linda William-Melanie and the new Chief Executive Officer of the Board of the Council, Mr. Marcus Simeon both expressed their gratitude to all the organizations for opening their doors to people with disabilities.

Disabled persons, although more challenging, deserves equal opportunity as any other, hence the initiative to employ Ms. Michelle Chiffone at the National Assembly of Seychelles was undoubtedly welcomed by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Patrick Herminie and the staff.

In that aspect, the National Assembly is pleased to have seen unexpected performance by Ms. Chiffone in such a short period of time working at the institution.

The National Assembly was awarded with a token of appreciation during the ceremony on Friday evening. The award was accepted by the Assistant Clerk for Finance & Accounts, Ms. Angelic Appoon on behalf of the organization.