



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES
2020-2021**

SEVENTH ASSEMBLY

The Committee On Government Assurances, 7th Assembly composed of the members listed below, submits its Annual Report to the National Assembly for consideration and approval for the period November 2020 to November 2021.

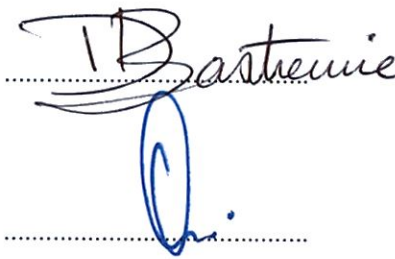
Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel
Chairperson



Hon. Nohbert Loizeau
Vice Chairperson



Hon. De Sheila Bastienne
Member



Hon. Wallace Cosgrov
Member



Hon. Philippe Monthy
Member



Hon. Rocky Uranie
Member



Hon. Richard Labrosse
Member



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INTRODUCTION

COGA is a select Committee and its term expires at the end of each session of the Assembly. The Committee consists of 7 Members who are nominated by the respective party with the Secretariat support of three staff members. The statutory and procedural authority for the establishment and functioning of the COGA are stipulated in Article 104 (2) of the Constitution (CAP 42) of the Republic of Seychelles and its function is further governed by the Standing Orders 2020 which make provision for Rules and Procedures for the Committees.

During the Assembly sessions various assurances, promises and undertakings are given by Ministers replying to questions or to either consider a matter, take action or furnish information later on. In order to ensure that these assurances are implemented and in a reasonable time, the National Assembly has constituted a Committee on Government Assurances, with a view to ensure the fulfillment of promises and undertakings given from time to time by the Executive on the floor of the House. Wherein, Article 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles gives the National Assembly the power to set up committees that serve in the efficient discharge of members responsibilities. It is one of the mechanisms at the disposal of the National Assembly in its quest for good governance, transparency and accountability of the Executive. The Committee On Government Assurances (COGA) of the 7th National Assembly was established following a motion approved by the National Assembly on 4th November 2020.

As per its Terms of Reference, COGA is mandated to Scrutinize the assurances, promises and undertakings given by The President, Ministers, Chief Executive Officers and Chairpersons of Boards from time to time on the floor of the Assembly and to:-

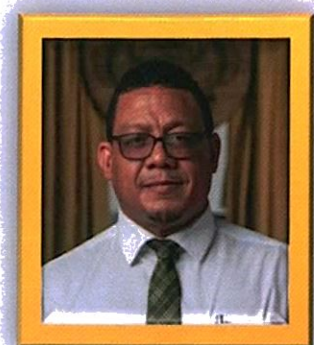
1. Report on the extent to which such assurances have been implemented and where implemented whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose.
2. Exercise such other functions that are not covered by paragraphs (a) above which may be allocated to the Committee by the Speaker from time to time.

MEMBERSHIP

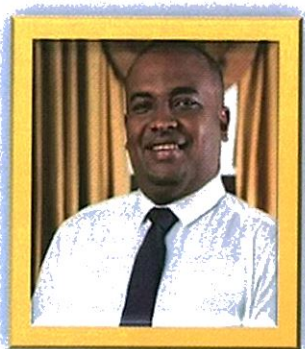
The Committee currently consists of the following 7 Members:



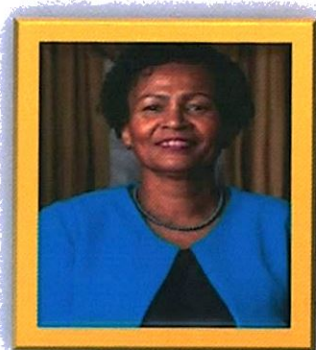
Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel
Chairperson



Hon. Norbert Loizeau
Vice-Chairperson



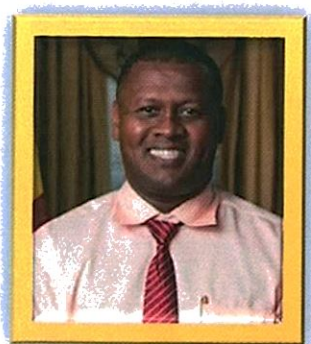
Hon. Wallace Cosgrow
Member



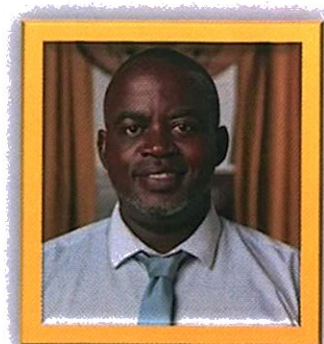
Hon. DeSheila Bastienne
Member



Hon. Philip Monthy
Member



Hon. Rocky Uranie
Member



Hon. Richard Labrosse
Member

It should be noted that there was a change in Committee Member. Hon. Clive Roucou was part of the Committee when it was first created, however he resigned from his position as a Member of the National Assembly. Subsequently, Hon. Richard Labrosse was appointed as a member of the Committee. The Committee is assisted by Mrs. Thelma Julie as Secretary, Ms. Linda Gerry and Ms. Gerda Panagary as Secretary Assistants.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PERIOD UNDER REVIEW.

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Committee has done its utmost within its capacity to forge ahead with its working schedule for the completion of Committee works. Given that the country has had to adapt to a "new normal" whereby a lot of things now have to be done digitally/online and has had to embrace restricted movements, grouping of people and working from home. The Committee was also affected by the adverse effects of the pandemic, as it has had to often post-pone or cancel scheduled site visits, however where permissible, the Committee has managed to convene its scheduled meetings.

The Committee had its first meeting on 11th November 2020 and has held 7 subsequent meetings. It has also conducted 5 site visits to inspect on-going and completed projects, involving Seychelles Public Utilities, Ministry for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, The Industrial Estate Agency; Zone 20 Bulk Infrastructure at Providence, the Seychelles Port Authority, as well as investigating several projects on Praslin and La Digue islands. During these field visits the Members interacted with high level officials from the Executive and through recommendations, the Committee proposed solutions to accelerate project implementation. (please refer to the appended reports of all site visits on this)

The table below provides a summary of the activities of the Committee.

Schedules of Meetings/Site Visits of the Committee on Government Assurances

DATE	ACTIVITIES	VENUE
11 th November 2020	Committee meeting	National Assembly
26 th November 2020	Committee meeting	National Assembly
18 th December 2020	Meeting/presentation by CEO of PUC and site visit to the La Gogue Dam	National Assembly/ La Gogue
25 th February 2021	Committee Meeting	National Assembly
18 th March 2021	Committee Meeting	National Assembly
28 th April 2021	Committee Meeting	National Assembly
13 th May 2021	Committee Meeting	National Assembly
10 th June 2021	Committee Meeting	National Assembly
15 th July 2021	Committee Meeting	National Assembly
5 th August 2021	Meeting/presentation by Ministry for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment/ Site Visit	National Assembly/ Providence/Grand Anse/Victoria
6 th August 2021	Meeting/presentation The Seychelles Ports Authority/Site Visit	New Port Victoria
12 th August 2021	Meeting/presentation CEO IEA/Site Visit Committee Meeting	Bureau of Standard Conference Room Providence National Assembly
9 th September 2021	Committee Meeting	National Assembly
28 th October 2021	Committee Meeting	National Assembly

5 th November 2021	Meeting/ presentation by IEA/Site Visits	Praslin
6 th November 2021	Site visits	La Digue
11 th November 2021	Committee Meeting	National Assembly

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS OF INTEREST

It is imperative that the members of the Committee as a whole gets the opportunity to broaden their knowledge on various technical matters from an expert in the field from another jurisdiction. Members have started discussions at the Committee level to establish cooperation with fellow organisations of interest, for capacity building training and knowledge sharing. The Committee would therefore welcome any future opportunities to work with similar Committees from other countries.

PROMOTING COGA's WORK

The Committee sent out invitations to all local media when carrying out all of its undertakings. The media is invited to cover COGA's meetings and interaction with the various branches of Government to keep the electorate abreast with the works of their elected representatives. Committee's work is also published online on the National Assembly's website, Facebook and Instagram accounts to further promote the work of the Committee to the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COGA

Based on our interaction with the various MDAs, the COGA makes the following recommendations:

That all MDAs endeavour to provide COGA with their feedback on assurances made by them before the house within the timeframes given to them.

To fulfill its oversight role, all MDAs shall adhere to any scheduled meeting requested by COGA at all times, except upon providing the committee with a valid reason, which will be determined by the committee.

The committee will take a proactive approach to engage with the Executive by following up on pledges it makes and to ensure implementation of the same in a timely manner.

That the Executive properly plans its projects in advance, before submission of its budget proposal in order to mitigate risks that will hinder the successful implementation of projects.

That the National Assembly Secretariat considers training opportunity for the Committee as a whole so as to maximise COGA's performance in its duties.

CONCLUSION

Despite the challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Committee acknowledges the effort of its Members to meet as regularly as possible to discuss pledges made to the National Assembly to monitor closely the implementation of such assurances in Government projects.

The Committee is grateful to its Secretarial support for keeping up to date with the volume of work.

COGA would like to thank the Speaker's office and all staff members who facilitated its work during the current year.

The Committee also thanks various Government departments for their open-door policy and for their willingness to share the challenges they face in the implementation of projects.

Annex 1: Committee on Government Assurances- Amended Terms of Reference (2017)

The main functions of the Committee on Government Assurances is to scrutinize the assurances, promises and undertakings given by The President, Ministers, Chief Executive Officers and Chairpersons of Boards from time to time on the floor of the Assembly and to:-

1. Report on the extent to which such assurances have been implemented and where implemented whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose.
2. Exercise such other functions that are not covered by paragraphs (a) above which may be allocated to the Committee by the Speaker from time to time.

ASSURANCES APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE AND STATUS

The Committee have a total of 134 assurances culled out of verbatim plus 73 assurances originated from the 6th Assembly.

Annex 4: Monitoring of Assurances for period under review

Ministries/Departments/ Agencies	No. of assurances recorded	No. of Assurances Honored	No. of Assurances on-going
President Office	10	1	9
Vice President's Office	4	-	4
Ministry for Finance	7	1	6
Ministry for Fisheries	1		1
Ministry for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment	27	4	23
Ministry for Transport	6		6
Ministry for Home Affairs	2		2
Ministry for Health	2		2

Ministry for Investment Entrepreneurship	12	2	10
Ministry for Lands and Housing	36	3	33
Ministry of Youth, Family Affairs	4		4
Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs	16		16
Ministry for Local Development	4		4
The Judiciary	1		1
Anti-Corruption Commission	1		1
Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation	1		1

Appendix: Report of Committee Field Visits

REPORT ON COMMITTEE VISIT

Date: Friday 18th December 2020
Site: La Gogue Dam
Assurance: SONA/260219/6PAR/1-10

A. Delegations Present

Committee on Government Assurances

Members Present:

- Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel- *Chairperson*
- Hon. Norbert Loizeau- *Vice-Chairperson*
- Hon. Philippe Monthy
- Hon. Wallace Cosgrow
- Hon. Rocky Uranie
- Hon. Clive Roucou

Members Absent with Apology

- Hon. Desheila Bastienne

Committee Secretariat:

- Ms Thelma Julie- *Secretary to COGA*
- Ms. Linda Gerry- *Secretary Assistant to COGA*
- Ms.Gerda Panagary - *Secretary Assistant to COGA*

Public Utilities Corporation

- Mr. Phillippe Morin – CEO
- Mr. Eddy Belle
- Mr. Joel Valmont
- Mr. Steve Mussard
- Mr. Michel Bristol
- Ms. Erna Victor

General Introduction

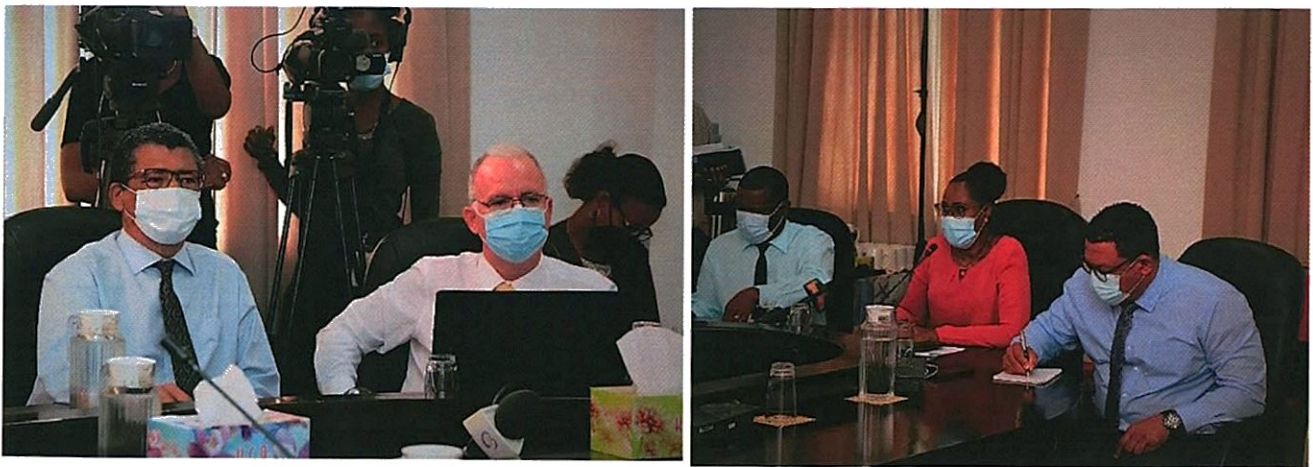
The Committee on Government Assurances met with the officials from Public utilities Corporation at the National Assembly precinct on the 18th December 2020 for a detailed presentation on the ongoing project of the La Gogue Dam and thereafter proceed to a site visit of same. The report provides a brief explanation of the visit and status of the assurances under investigation.

Purpose of the visit

The main purpose of the visit was to oversee the implementation of the project in relation to Assurances made in the National Assembly by the President of the Republic of Seychelles Mr. Danny Faure.

Brief Report

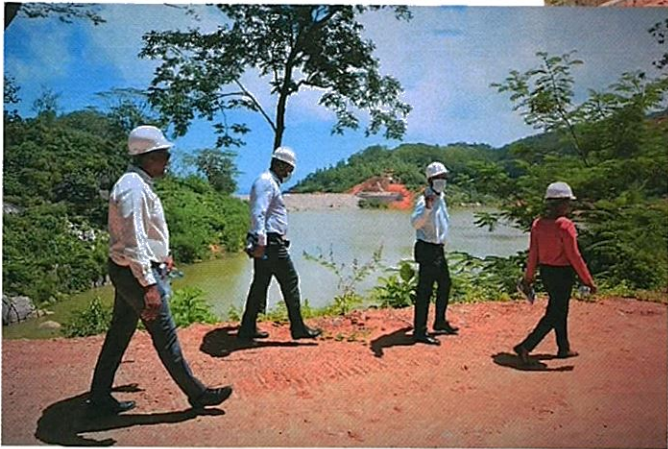
The Presentation started at 9.39am, Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel introduced the members of COGA and proceeded to explain the purpose of the meeting and site visit, subsequently Mr. Morin introduced all partners present and they provided an overview of the whole project and highlighted the main challenges they are facing contributing to delays on the advancement of the project. *(attached copy of presentation for full detailed of project development)*. Thereafter, the members seek clarifications with panel through several questions before they proceeded for a tour of the site at around 11.00am. Also present at the site visit was the Construction technical workers of the said project.





Conclusion

All members of the Committee expressed their satisfaction with the work being carried out at the sites and have a better understanding of the challenges and difficulties associated with the implementation of these projects.



REPORT ON COMMITTEE VISIT

Date: Thursday 5th August, 2021
Site: Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment
Assurance: BA-MFTIEP/051118/6PAR/1-42

Delegations Present

Committee on Government Assurances

Members Present: Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel- *Chairperson*
Hon. Norbert Loizeau- *Vice-Chairperson*
Hon. Rocky Uranie
Hon. Richard Labrosse
Hon. Wallace Cosgrow
Hon. Philip Monthy
Hon. Desheila Bastienne

Committee Secretariat: Ms. Thelma Julie- *Secretary to COGA*
Ms. Gerda Panagary- *Secretary Assistant to COGA*
Ms. Linda Gerry - *Secretary Assistant to COGA*

Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment

Present: Mr. Flavien Joubert - *Minister*
Ps Keven Nancy - *Ps for Agriculture*
Mr. Marc Naiken - *CEO National Biosecurity Agency*
Mr. Randy Stravens - *Principal Biosecurity Officer*
Mr. Jean-Paul Louis-Marie - *Senior Project Officer*
Ms. Linetta Joubert - *CEO Seychelles Agricultural Agency*
Ms. Alejandra Cubillos - *Principal Livestock Officer*
Ms. Nedzit Azemia - *Director Administration and Human Resources*

1. Introduction

The Committee decided to carry out visits to various projects further to responses to Assurances (as attached) received from the Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change & Environment.

2. Purpose of Visit

The main purpose of the visit was to follow up on the Assurances and to confirm the information provided to the Committee on Government Assurances.

3. Brief Reports

a) Introductory Meeting (held in the Member's Lounge at the National Assembly)

Prior to carrying out the visit the Members of the Committee met with the officers for a brief introductory meeting. The meeting was held for the committee members to be updated on various projects in relation to Assurances made in the National Assembly by the management and officials from The National Bio Security Agency (NBA) and The Seychelles Agricultural Agency (SAA)

Further to the introductory remarks, the officers made presentations on the current status on the numerous projects which are in different phases, with some nearing completion within the third quarter of the year and those yet to be completed, thus they highlighted limitations that hinder the achievement of its goals such as budget constraints, human resources and the Covid 19 pandemic challenges.

b) Site Visits

Following the meeting the delegation conducted on site visits to the small and large quarantine facility, Providence, the Research Centre, Anse Boileau, the Pig Genetic Centre Grand Anse and the Victoria Market.

i. Small and Large Animal Quarantine Centre

This project is to facilitate safe trade of live animals and improve local breeds, breeding stock and animal production. It is very important to have it to avoid the

spread of disease and also a place to monitor the performance of the animals by veterinarians and livestock technical officers before the farmers take them to the farm.

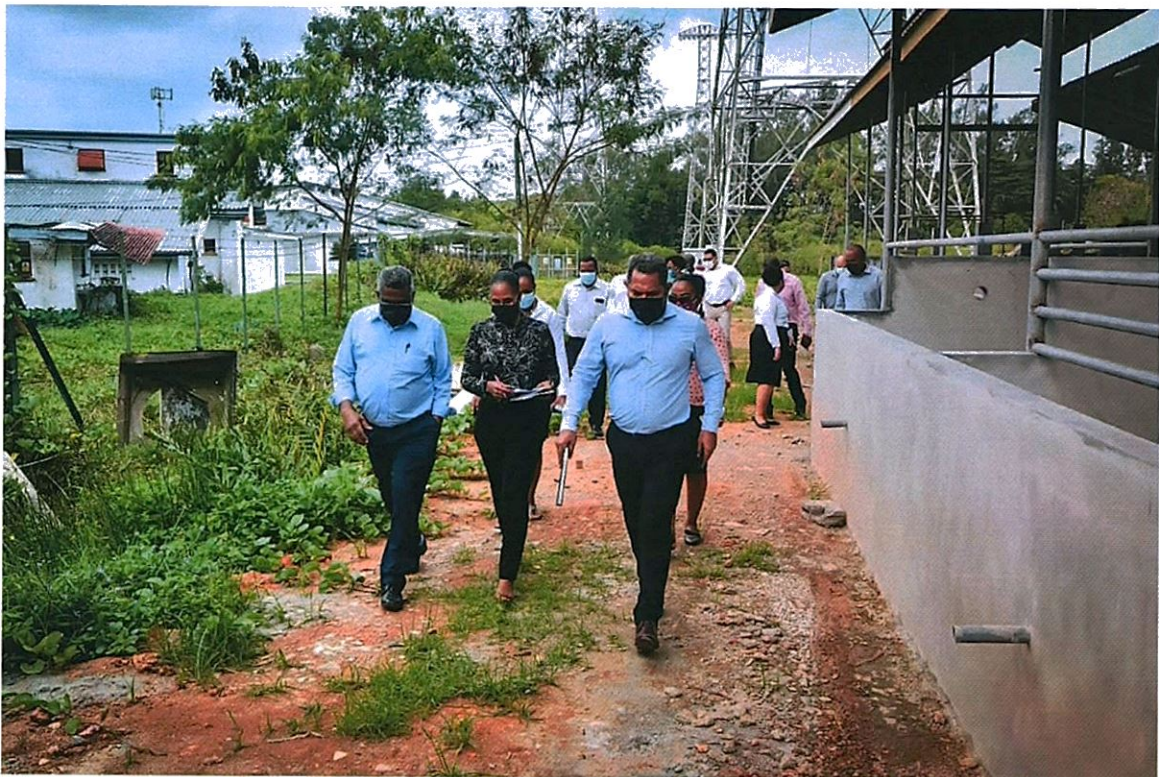
This facility, upon completion will cater for large animals (cows, horses, goats, sheep, pigs, poultry) imported into the country by farmers and government entities to control and avoid entry of diseases into the country and a dog pound unit with a capacity to hold around 60 dogs

The project is still under construction and is situated on Zone 20 at Providence and was initiated in 2018. The main source of funding is from government budget with a cost price of 1,945, 394.50 SCR and the contract were awarded in the third quarter of 2020. The starting date was on the 12th April 2021 and the delay due for the commencement of the project was due to the Covid 19 pandemic challenges. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-September 2021. There are extra recommended works that have been identified which has come to an estimated cost of 557,000.00. Eventually, they have managed to internally sustain the extra cost from saving they have made on their budget but they await approval to proceed with the completion of the project.



ii. Ruminant Centre Grand Anse

This project consists of the construction of access road, 1 sheep housing, 1 goat housing, a manure shed and a store. It is a project geared towards multiplication and providing farmers with new bloodlines of sheep, goats and ruminants. The project was marked down for a duration period of 3 months. The project started in January 2021 with a contract sum 3,311,775.07. New revised date of completion is 31st August 2021. It was observed that 90% of the work had been completed. The goat and sheep housing stands at finishing stage. Once ready for operation, the SAA intends to import ruminants from South Africa, or to start off with the breeds already available in the country.



iii. The Victoria Market

These projects comprised of replacing concrete slabs with steel Grills and to build five butcher's shops amounting to a total of 1,949,514.69 SCR. Initially it was to build six butchers' shops but due to the structure of the Victoria market they could only build five shops. The project was awarded to Fabsco Construction and started on the 4th November 2019 and was 100% fulfilled on the 4th February 2020. With the facilities complete, tenants in the old butcher's facility will be moved into the new facility for the possible construction of public toilets.

Several projects were also undertaken to upgrade the Victoria Market, precisely proposed amendment upon recommendation from the Ministry of Health on the butchers' shops, renovation on the security post, proposed new gutter, painting of concrete floor in vendors sale area, general maintenance work, concrete vendors stall phase 1, painting of existing concrete counter, painting of clear roof, replacing of existing gutter at souvenir shop, and proposed covering, bin site and extension of souvenir shop. Mostly all of the projects are completed except for the butcher's shop, the security post and proposed new gutter is 50%, 35% and 75% completed respectively. Altogether these projects have amounted to a sum of 2,625,255.00



iv. Pig Genetic Centre Grand Anse Mahe

Located behind the ruminant genetic centre, the pig genetic centre aims to provide farmers with means to multiply livestock by intensifying pig production eventually diminishing high dependency on imports.

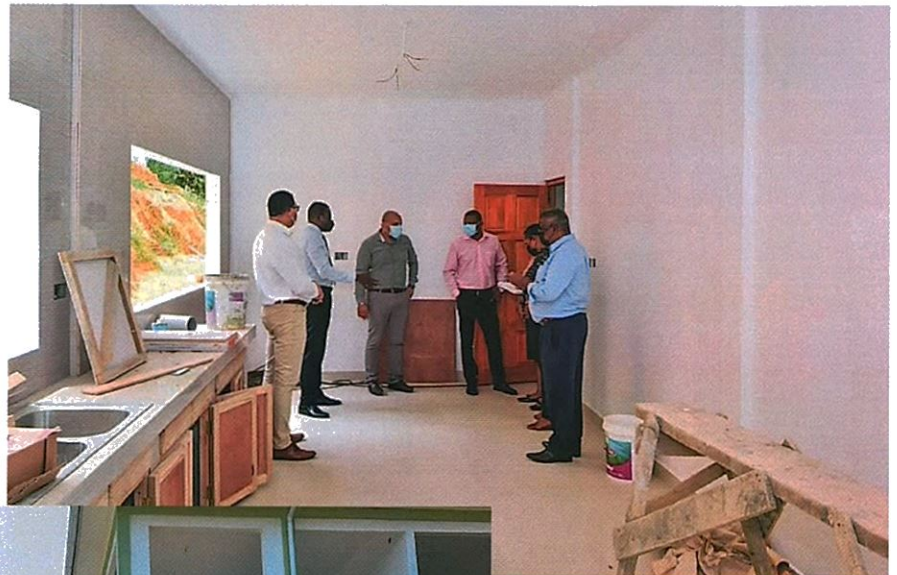
Projects include extension of store for guard room, artificial insemination building, Forrowing bay, Water and Sow bay which had already been completed. It was explained that till now it is indecisive when they will fulfil the remaining work which is to build a lagoon and holding tank. The latter was redesigned and the amount cost submitted by the contractor was not approved, hence neither willing to reduce cost submitted, at this stage they are still in negotiations process.



v. Research Building Office Anse Boileau.

The SAA will in the near future be better prepared to conduct crop research and other research related to agriculture. Upon completion of the facility, they will be engaged to establishing links with educational institutions to increase youth interest and engagement in agricultural sectors.

The Access road and retaining wall had already been completed and the building office is at finishing stage. Remaining work yet to be done is wiring, installation of windows and doors. This project was awarded to Furui construction for 7,771,721.85 SCR. The project began on the 7th September 2020 and completion date is set to September 2021.



4. Conclusion

The Committee on Government Assurances of the National Assembly is satisfied with progress on the project assurances of the various departments under the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment

Members of the Committee expressed satisfaction at the progress made on the project assurances, and proposed that the ministry works on promoting the various projects, and work of the departments, to keep the public abreast with the developments and efforts made by the Ministry.

The Committee thanked the Minister and officers from the Ministry for the visit and for explanations provided during the site visits.



REPORT ON COMMITTEE VISIT

Date: Friday 6th August, 2021
Site: Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA)
Assurance: SONA/260219/6PAR/1-10

Delegations Present

Committee on Government Assurances

Members Present: Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel- *Chairperson*
Hon. Norbert Loizeau- *Vice-Chairperson*
Hon. Rocky Uranie
Hon. Richard Labrosse
Hon. Wallace Cosgrow
Hon. Philip Monthy
Hon. Desheila Bastienne

Committee Secretariat: Ms. Thelma Julie- *Secretary to COGA*
Ms. Gerda Panagary- *Secretary Assistant to COGA*
Ms. Linda Gerry – *Secretary Assistant to COGA*

Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA)

Introduction

The Committee on Government Assurances in the National Assembly carried out a meeting and visit to the Seychelles Port Authority on Friday 6th August 2021 at 9.30hrs onwards.

After the meeting, the delegation was taken on a boat tour where members had the opportunity to see for themselves the area where the extension was to be constructed.

Purpose of the visit

The aim was to update COGA on the Port Victoria Rehabilitation and Extension Project and the La Digue Jetty Project.

Brief Report

The CEO of SPA, Mr. Ronny Brutus welcomed the members of COGA and introduced his team working on both projects. Hon. Lemiel also introduced the members of the Committee and again explained the purpose of the visit.

Mr. Brutus, made a brief presentation of the activities of the port and also explained that the vision is to have a modern port and one which is in compliance with the international standards norms.

Port Victoria, which is currently 270 metres long, will be extended by an additional 330 metres to accommodate two boats measuring up to 250 metres in length at the same time. Space will be also be made for the installation of two mobile cranes for loading and unloading of ships, storage yards and warehouses.

For the extension project, the Seychelles Ports Authority has received \$41 million -- \$35 million from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The European Union (EU) has also provided a grant of around \$6 million.

He stated that the delay they faced was due to technical and financial difficulties and as it stands, the proposed size of the extension had to be decreased. Many challenges were encountered, including the Covid 19 pandemic which prevented the Consultants and their sub-consultants from coming on site, contributing to further delays.

La Digue Jetty Projects update

All procedures correlating to starting the project had been adhered to. It is anticipated to begin on June 2021 and complete in 2023.

Conclusion

All members of the Committee expressed their satisfaction with the work being carried out and have a better understanding of the challenges and difficulties associated with implementing these projects.

Recommendations

That Port Authority strongly seek with parent ministry to gain suitable technical personnel to fast track work and also to assist Government in resourcing funding to finance the project.



REPORT ON COMMITTEE VISIT

Date: Thursday 12th August, 2021
Site: Industrial Estate Authority (IEA)
Assurance: BA-MFTIEP/051118/6PAR/1-42

Delegations Present

Committee on Government Assurances

Members Present: Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel- *Chairperson*
Hon. Norbert Loizeau- *Vice-Chairperson*
Hon. Richard Labrosse
Hon. Wallace Cosgrow
Hon. Philip Monthy

Members Absent: Hon. Desheila Bastienne
Hon. Rocky Uranie

Committee Secretariat:
Ms. Gerda Panagary- *Secretary Assistant to COGA*
Ms. Linda Gerry – *Secretary Assistant to COGA*

Absent: Ms. Thelma Julie- *Secretary to COGA*

Seychelles Industrial Estate
Mr. Roy Collie – *Chief Executive Officer*
Mr. Barry Assary – *Deputy CEO*
Mr. Wilven Alcindor – *Project Officer*
Mr. Antoine Pierre-Louis – *Consultant*
Mr. Michel Laporte - *MLUH*

Introduction

The Committee on Government Assurances carried out a meeting at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards Board room and site visits on Friday 14th August 2021 to Zone 20 Providence. The report provides a brief explanation of the meeting/visits to all the sites and status of the assurances under investigation.



Purpose of the visit

The main purpose of the visit was to oversee the implementation of the projects in relation to Assurances made in the National Assembly and responses to the assurance pertaining to the bulk infrastructure projects aimed at developing Zone 20 leading up to Zone 19.

Brief Report

The project, which started in 2018, was expected to be completed by the end of September 2020 but came to a standstill as a result of the company having been wind up in 2020.

The infrastructure project on Zone 20, inclusive of infrastructural works on Zone 19, consisting of the construction of roads, sewer, water and electricity distribution and drainage was given to Vijay Construction Seychelles at a cost of Rs49million.

It has been decided that the remaining 40% of the work to be completed will be offered out to other contractors. At the time that work stopped on the project following the liquidation of Vijay in 2020, only 60% of work on the zone had been completed at a cost of around R20 million.

It was explained that as Vijay Construction Seychelles took an upfront payment for the project, to be offset during construction phases and the company still owes IEA a balance of R4.7 million for works yet to be completed. He added that there is an ongoing discussion with the company to seek ways to refund the money either by completing some of the works or through other means of repayment

Completed works so far are access roads, the storm water drain, the electrical man hole and the sewer network.

Work left to be done on Zone 20 with regard to electricity network, includes covering some manholes with covering slabs, the construction and fit out of sub stations and the procurement of electrical cable and equipment to fit out the network.

With regard to the storm drainage, some existing cover slabs have been damaged and will have to be repaired. For the sewer services, it still has to be fitted with pumps, generator set, power reticulation and be connected to the pressure sewer line of the PUC sewage system.



Conclusion

The committee, is quite satisfied with what was seen on site. They got to have a better insight of the situation, saw the progress and challenges with regard to the implementation of the projects.

Recommendations

Needs to pursue with Vijay to acquire back the R4.7 millions the company owes IEA so that they can used the money to complete the unfinished tasks.

Government assist IEA financially to complete the pending work.

The Committee suggested that IEA tender out available plot albeit the necessary utilities are not available, so that they could generate cash and move forward with works on the Zone 20 project.

IEA seeks to work in partnership with private sector to develop infrastructure for the small business operator.



REPORT ON COMMITTEE VISIT

Date: Friday 5th and Saturday 6th November, 2021
Time: 0900hrs onwards
Site: Praslin & la Digue

Present

Committee on Government Assurances

Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel - *Chairperson*
Hon. Norbert Loizeau - *Vice Chairperson*
Hon. Phillip Monthy – Member
Hon. Wallace Cosgrow – Member
Hon. Richard Labrosse – Member
Hon. Desheila Bastienne – Member
Hon. Rocky Uranie – Member
Ms. Thelma Julie – Secretary
Ms. Linda Gerry – Assistant Secretary
Ms. Gerda Panagary – Assistant Secretary

1. Introduction

The Committee on Government Assurances, headed by its Chairperson, Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel held sites visit on Friday the 5th and Saturday the 6th November, 2021 at Praslin and La Digue. The two-day working sessions were part of the Committee’s mandate regarding investigating the progress of projects pledged by Ministers on the floor of the House during Statements, Question Time, the Budget Address and as per the President’s speech regarding the State of the Nation address.

These visits provided the Members of the Committee with the opportunity to have on-site knowledge of all the different projects and addressed pertinent questions that the officials were concerned with.

Eve Island Bulk Infrastructure

On Friday 5th November 2021, the Committee Members met with the CEO, Mr Roy Collie, Deputy CEO of the Industrial Estate Authority, Mr. Barry Assary, and Mr. Jitesh Shah from the Ministry for Land Use and Habitat in a meeting at the District administrative office of Baie Ste Anne Praslin. Mr. Collie and the officials of whom accompanied him made a well-

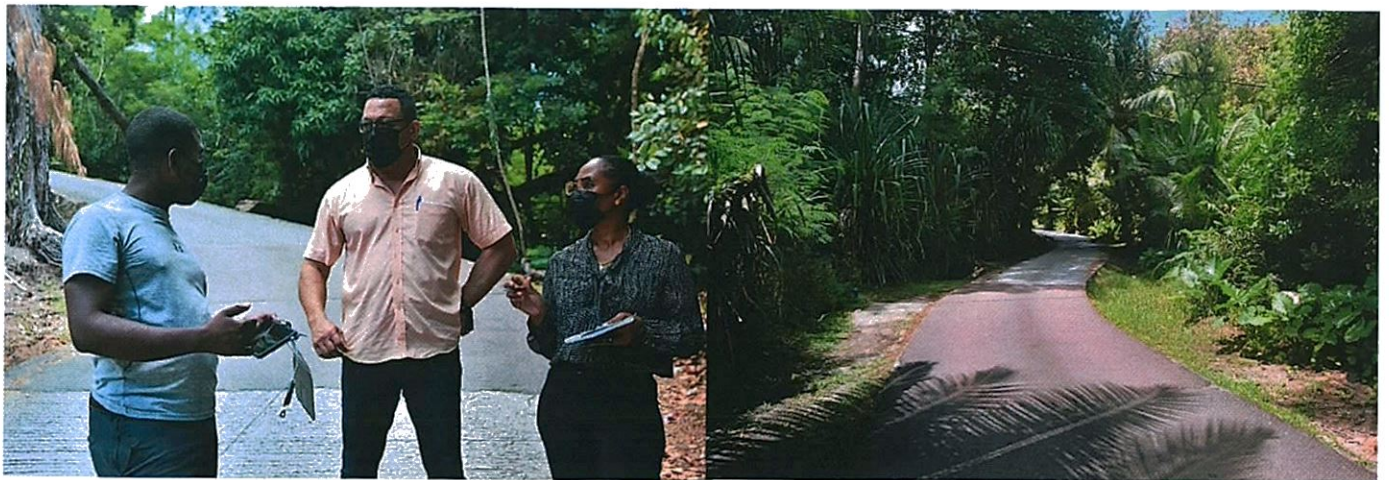
detailed presentation giving an insight on the ongoing project of the Eve Island Bulk Infrastructure project. The delegation including Hon. Wavel Woodcock and Hon. Doyace Porice then proceeded to Eve Island for further onsite observation. They visited access roads and the drain built to mitigate flooding opposite the Seychelles Fire and Rescue Services Agency building. The project had been delayed for various reasons; the Committee however, was satisfied with the amount of work that was already underway.

Following these on-site observations, the committee visited two other projects – the road enlargement project at Anse La Blague, Baie Ste Anne and the La Plaine Hollandaise Road project at Grand Anse Praslin. The following persons were in attendance along with the Committee Members: Mr. Terry Volcere – Seychelles Land Transport Officer.



Anse La Blague Baie Ste Anne

Wayleave consent remains an issue. Plans for the project have already been drafted and the Government are currently negotiating with landowner(s) for areas of encroachment. Most, if not all, the encroachment is for one particular owner and up to now they have not reached an agreement for him to give the necessary permission. He was proposed an offer, which to date, he is not in favour. The project will not be implemented until an agreement is reached. It is important to note that the road is very narrow and dangerous and requires widening.



Pasquere Road, Grand Anse Praslin

The project is to construct a 3Km motorable access road from Pasquere to Grand Anse via La Plaine Hollandaise, as an alternative route from one side to another. The road is being constructed in phases and is dependent on funds available in each year's budget. To date, two phases has been completed. Phase I of the project which comprised civil work for 600m of road has been completed starting at the Pasquere junction at Baie St Anne Praslin amounted to 4,500,000.00. Only backfilling and surfacing work is yet to be completed, whereas phase II which comprised of a 120m of road, which has been completed, upgraded and widened to accommodate two passing vehicles. A footpath has also been constructed for pedestrians, together with a boundary wall along the St Mathew's church property with a cost of SCR750,000.00, whereas the third phase is ongoing and comprises of the construction of a 500m long road starting at the completion point of phase 1 at Pasquere. The project is going well, however the contractor is facing a shortage of materials on Praslin. The project is around 45% completed for this phase with an estimated cost of SCR 6,800,000.00.



La Digue

The Committee visited 3 projects on La Digue including the L'inyon Land Bank Road, the Vanilla Road and the Boule de Neige Road. The following persons were in attendance along with the Committee Members:

Mr Gitesh Shah Director Contract Management from the Ministry for Land Use and Housing;

Mr. Terry Volcere from the Seychelles Land Transport Agency; and District Administrator Mrs Babara Barallon.

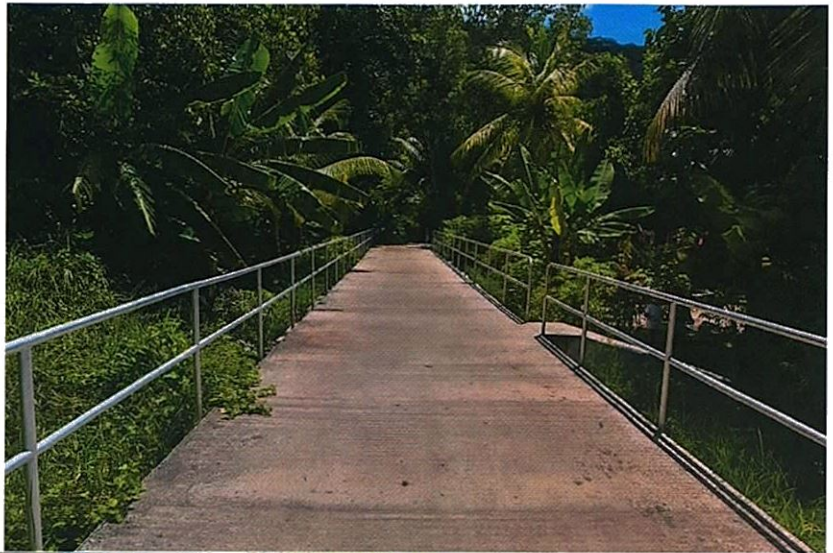
L'inyon Land Bank Road

The road is completed, but the committee members raised concerns on the safety of the architectural design of the constructed road. They suggested that it is backfilled and that the Ministry takes it up. It was further recommended that they complete the end part connecting to the other road enabling better flow of traffic, as the road itself is narrow and there is no possibility for a two-way traffic flow.



Boule De Neige Road

This project has been fully completed. It was carried out in two phases, with the first phase costing SCR.3 Million and second phase costing SCR. 1.6 Million. The total length of the road construction is 1Km. The members reckoned that provision for turning area is desirable to reduce risk for drivers when maneuvering vehicle to reverse.



Vanilla road

This project is still ongoing and around 95% completed. The total length of the road is 800m long. The project has been ongoing for a while due to it facing lots of delays. The contract with the contractor for the project has been terminated and the remaining works has been tendered, however the project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.



In conclusion, reassurance was given by the officer's present that all issues raised will be taken up. All members of the committee expressed their satisfaction with the works being carried out at all the different sites that they visited on both islands. They have had a better understanding of the challenges and difficulties associated with the implementation of the yet to be completed projects and they will submit their recommendations to the respective Ministry.

After the field visits on both island the members made recommendations as follows;

The Committee proposes that the Ministry considers cleaning of road drainage system across La Digue more frequently in order to ensure that it is adequately maintained.

L' Union Land Bank Road

The Committee is concerned with the safety element relating to the architectural design of the road. It has been proposed by the Committee that the strip road is backfill to close up the empty space. It is further recommended that work is undertaken to connect the latter to the other road thus enabling better flow of traffic, as the road itself is narrow and there is no possibility for a two-way traffic flow.

Boule De Neige Road

The Committee proposes that the Ministry engage to makes provision for a turning area, as, it will reduce the risk of accidents when drivers when maneuvering vehicle to reverse.

Anse La Blague Road Enlargement project in Praslin

There is a need for the Government to meet come to a mutual agreement in order to resolve the wayleave issue, with the landowner so that the Ministry can forge ahead and complete the project.

La Plaine Hollandaise Road Praslin

The Committee proposes that the Government inject more funds annually in the budget, in order to ensure completion of the project.

It is further recommended that the Seychelles Land Transport Authority intensify negotiations with the Public Utilities Corporation regarding the way forward and a conclusion be reached for SLTA to finalize and complete a project.

Vanilla Road La Digue

To date, the project is still in progress and the Committee recommends that the drainage is completed, additionally there is a need to finish the culvert, build and to install drainage slabs for the prevention of accidents, and put in place drainage grills on the road at the demarcated areas should also be attend to.