

State of the Nation Address
by the President of the Republic of Seychelles,
Mr Wavel Ramkalawan

Thursday, 27th February 2025

Venue: National Assembly of Seychelles

Mr. Speaker, Hon Roger Mancienne

Mr. Deputy Speaker

Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly

Leader of the Opposition

All MNAs

VP Afif, Ministers and Members of the Executive

Chief Justice Govinden and Members of the Judiciary

The President of the Court of Appeal, Mr Fernando

All distinguished guests and staff of the National Assembly and

Dear People of Seychelles

Mr. Speaker,

In accordance with Article 65 of the Constitution of Seychelles, it is an honour for me to come before the National Assembly to deliver my State of the Nation address. On several occasions I have made it my duty to come and speak to the Seychellois people the state of our country, to talk on issues that reflect the challenges, opportunities and vision for a better today and that give hope for tomorrow. Today, I will once again speak frankly to our people because I believe that the only way for us to face reality is to confront the truth directly and honestly. When we analyze thoroughly, we can also make good decisions to transform weaknesses into strengths and challenges into opportunities. With a Seychellois people continuing to march towards maturity, I have no doubt that the year 2025 will once again show that with our Creole spirit, we have an intelligent people who are never intimidated by the roughest seas.

Seychelles today is different from the Seychelles of 2020 in many different ways. During the last four years we have made every effort to continue to work tirelessly in the transformation

of our country by giving our people greater choice, a better life, more opportunities and greater freedom.

We have put the emphasis on how to continue to reinforce our democracy by making our institutions stronger and more effective. We have come from a situation where people were afraid to exercise their freedom of expression to one where people have all the freedom to express themselves, to the point where the same freedom is abused, not by restriction, but by lack of respect for the freedom of others. We sometimes forget the principle that my rights end where yours begin. So I will immediately insist that we remain a people who shows respect and recognises the rights of others, the same respect that we ourselves would wish to receive.

During the years since October 2020, we have also seen a new spirit of governance where obligation is placed on responsibility and respect for each individual, where there is no victimization and where each person, especially those working in government, has been continuously asked to put the spirit of service for the people as their priority. This means that emphasis has been placed on how we valorise anew our Seychellois through his desire to work hard and what importance he attaches to everything that happens around him in his community. Young people, as well as the elderly, have been invited to participate fully in this national movement so that all individuals, families and members of our society can flourish and benefit more from what the country can offer. It is the principle of meritocracy that reigns today and not favouritism and nepotism.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that this is one of the greatest challenges for our people to face because it requires a change of mindset amongst those who occupy key positions where there is interaction with our people. Why do I say this? To get out of a situation where the power to make decisions and facilitate life and processes was in the hands of the central government, or the President under the old system, where your family's identity or political affiliation and others were determining factors in any process a citizen engaged in to move it to departmental level by simply looking at the merits of a case remains a big task for some. And this is where our population gets stuck stuck and frustration persists. It is easy for many to say fire people from their jobs. But I am one of those who has seen a lot of progress and change of methods, and I sincerely believe that as we move forward, we will build a workforce that is mature, conscientious and hardworking. Therefore, I want to encourage

everyone to continue moving in this positive direction so that our country makes progress for the benefit of our people.

Mr. Speaker, I make it my duty to visit and talk to government employees who deliver services to the public. I listen, discuss and look at how we can make things move so that the public receives an acceptable and appropriate service. This year has been no exception and I have already had the opportunity to visit the office of the Registrar General and government offices on Praslin. I have met workers on Praslin who, for example, refused to remove President Faure's portrait from the wall after the election, those who penalised people in need of social support and asked them if they did not “tik anler” (“tick for the candidate at head of the ballot paper”), those who told me to my face that even if I am president I would not be able to talk to their boss. All these people are still working and I simply ask that attitudes change and they leave their politics at home. I listened to the challenges and together we found solutions. I hope that now with the new formulae, for example, where all the pertinent agencies on Praslin involved in the issuing of licenses will now meet every second Monday, all customers will get an efficient and fast service. I simply ask that the people of Seychelles receive the services they deserve.

There is a cardinal point in all this that we must grasp. When we talk about the ease of receiving an appropriate service, there is a direct relationship with the cost of living and the economy of our country. The longer things are delayed, the more expensive it is for the individual to undertake their formalities and that business loses revenue and people do not get jobs. The individual who receives his parcel of land in time to build his house makes a saving on the cost of construction itself. For example, the person who received a plot of land after waiting for a long time will have seen the cost of construction rise from SCR8,000 per square metre to SCR12,000, an increase of SCR4000, which means his house will cost him much more, his age will have risen which can become an obstacle to obtaining a loan and all this has an impact on him and his family.. Foot-dragging has consequences , grave and economic, so all workers must become conscientious and take good decisions that will accompany a customer.

When a business receives the facility of an efficient and fast service, they get to work immediately, people get jobs and an additional service, they start paying appropriate taxes and the money that goes into the government coffers allows workers to receive a better salary,

the people get access to better services such as health, education, social and all others that we know and expect. So today, once again I urge you, making the same appeal that has become an annual litany here in the Assembly to all who work in any government office, to take your responsibilities seriously. I have published the telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of all senior officers from PS to director so that people can call them or communicate with them for one reason: To give the Seychellois people the service they deserve and that will facilitate their lives and remove frustration from the person looking for a simple service without having to call me. If that does not work we will even publish their mobile number. Everyone who receives a salary from government coffers must demonstrate that he is worth the money he receives. Just as we wait for the end of the month, let us put the same effort in giving satisfaction to the person who is waiting for that service.

One of the persistent challenges in our country remains the difficulty of establishing a business. Despite the significant progress made by the government over the past four years in dismantling bureaucratic obstacles and promoting efficiency and transparency, we continue to face many of the same struggles today.

Over these years, we have made every effort to streamline procedures, educate the public, and clarify processes. We fully support the government's vision for business development, and those who have been willing to listen and adapt have done so. However, there are still those who cling to outdated mentalities—where excessive control and even deliberate obstruction prevail.

This must end. The power some individuals believe they still wield to delay processes and create disorder will be curtailed. Following consultations with the Minister, the Seychelles Licensing Authority will undergo a transformation to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles. The licensing process will be made as simple as possible. Entrepreneurs will be responsible for meeting the necessary requirements, and failure to comply with regulations will result in consequences. The excessive barriers currently in place before obtaining a license will be entirely removed.

Frankly, I am exasperated by the senseless and illogical decisions that reach my desk as President—issues that should never arise in the first place. Every public servant receiving a salary has a duty to perform their job properly. I am also calling on all ministers to take

decisive action within their respective ministries. Agencies that obstruct rather than facilitate business development must be held accountable. Ministers must hold weekly meetings with relevant agencies to ensure that files are processed efficiently, decisions are made promptly, and outcomes are communicated to clients without unnecessary delays.

To those officers who believe their role is to hinder business, complicate lives, and disregard the crucial role of private enterprise in job creation and national prosperity—your time is up. The era of obstruction is over.

Mr. Speaker, Seychelles today is recognized as the African country where Democracy is a reality and where its people can flourish in complete freedom. To come first on the Mo Ibrahim Index of good Governance and Democracy is not something that comes without great effort and determination. Here I can say to the Seychellois people that this was a target that I put before the Council of Ministers where I made it clear that we can make this happen. Each ministry made its efforts together with all national institutions and today, we are proud of our achievements as a country. While some are complaining about everything, the world is recognizing our achievements more than ever. We must note that this is the first time that Seychelles comes first on this index.

But we don't stop just there. There are many other indices that should make us proud as a nation. Among them are the least corrupt countries in Africa and where we come out ahead of the United States and many other European countries in 18th position out of 180 countries, the African country with the best economy, the country with the strongest and most modern passport in Africa, country with the highest GDP in Africa, the country that is most welcoming and easy to visit and much else besides.

So while we continue to work hard to raise our flag, I continue to invite all Seychellois to also put all their energy into advancing our democracy, individual freedom, transparency and the protection of all individual rights and freedoms.

I am pleased to say that a closer relationship is being established between the central government and the institutions in our country. For example, I see better collaboration with the Ombudsman's office. Through this, I hope that weaknesses in the government service will

be addressed as I mentioned earlier. Once again I appeal to all agencies in our country to eliminate the 'silo' element and develop a spirit of working together to develop more efficiency. Information must be shared and where one agency can assist another, please do it. Use ourselves as an example – if when our noses smelled burning, it did not alert our minds and bodies to move to action, the result would be a terrible disaster. Let us do the same and we shall see how we transform the lives of our people and live in a country that makes us proud.

Mr. Speaker, in the same vein, I would like to emphasize that Seychelles today is a country where it is the law that reigns supreme. There is no one who is above the law because the law applies to everyone in the same way. Your religion, political affiliation, the colour of your skin, social class or level of education is subordinate before the law. We must maintain this principle because this is what will allow us, as a country, to continue to promote the principle of equality and justice for all. What applies for one must apply for the other. When favouritism and nepotism are replaced with principles of uprightness and meritocracy, everyone will feel a greater sense of legitimate value and pride. And it is in this direction that in the year 2025 Seychellois want to continue walking.

It is important to note that it is such principles that will help maintain stability and peace in our country. This is what will allow Seychelles to preserve all the economic rights of our people, ensure that access to all services remains available to all Seychellois children, and above all, guarantee that any child, in whatever circumstance of life will succeed here in Seychelles, the jewel that becomes the true land of opportunity for all its children. Whoever is beyond the law in drugs, crime and corruption, the scourges that make us lose direction, will be fought at all costs with all appropriate efforts and means. We need to give our people the best and the spirit of justice must reign at all times. Let us never retreat from where we have come to and as Seychellois are today saying, 'No Turning Back!'

Mr Speaker, in the context of the law, I must report that the last four years has been the time when we have fought the greatest war against drugs and despite the stubbornness of some to continue in this business, I want to once again say to the Seychellois people that we will get to each and every one of these people who are stubborn. And so, my advice to them is to stop bringing into our country the poison that destroys our population, that transforms beautiful girls into a shadow of their beauty, strong young men into robots and that leaves children and families in total suffering while they are throwing that last fistful of soil on their coffins in the

cemetery. Stop shattering the future of our youth. Stop destroying our country. Stop breaking that parent's dreams. Heal the heart of the mother who is crying tears blood because of her daughter or son. Together let's make this happen.

Today the biggest traffickers are in prison after they have been found guilty. Unfortunately, even in prison some continue and as you have been able to follow there are at least three convicts who are facing new charges of importation. And while I am speaking, I can tell you not to be surprised if there are others who are arrested and charged. Many are also being charged with human trafficking, where they have mercilessly taken their Seychellois brothers to send as collateral for their poison to Iran. Some Seychellois have been killed in Iran and it is other Seychellois who have had to bury them. We will bring all those responsible to justice. The kind of torture that some have gone through and others are still experiencing is terrible. I am determined to bring back as many of our Seychellois as possible and take legal action against those responsible for their suffering. This is my commitment to these brothers who are still in captivity and to their families. Those of you who are responsible, get ready because we will arrive at your door without mercy.

We have destroyed tons of drugs at sea with the help of our partners. We have intercepted several shipments and arrested people. We have removed so much drugs and dirty money from circulation. Ill-gotten assets are being seized everywhere. Today, our communities are breathing much easier, but there is still work to be done. Those politicians who stand on the side of drugs and who are complaining that a line of SCR25 has reached SCR300, or those who are defending drug trafficking when the authorities conduct raids are not helping our country and our youth. I invite you to join us in this struggle to eliminate drugs from our country, instead of promising traffickers that their business will flourish again and promising addicts that they will get their normal deal without harassment if they vote to remove Ramkalawan from State House.

The mothers, fathers and friends of these victims condemn their attitude and the mother who lives in fear because everything in her home is stolen is asking that you help free them from this prison instead of pushing them in deeper.

So Mr. Speaker, today I once again give my administration's commitment that the fight against drugs will continue and without exception. I repeat once again that in this war politics does not feature. Whether you voted for me or not, if you get caught in the drug business, the

law will apply and there will be no special favour done. We must eliminate heroin, cocaine and crystal meth and those drugs that affect our youth in our Seychelles and that are troubling our communities.

Mr Speaker, today our country Seychelles is once again able to share the wealth it creates with its people. As the Government has This applies to those in government and those in the private sector. All our elderly will receive an added benefit to their social security, mature students in post-secondary institutions are also being treated differently, social benefits have improved to ensure a life in greater comfort, for the first time carers along with pensioners will qualify for a loan from HFC and all our school children will continue to be assisted with breakfast in the mornings and lunch for those who want it. That is why I am proud to say that this achievement means that no school child sits in class with an empty stomach. This is the state of our country today and Seychellois should be proud.

Mr Speaker, my administration will continue to take care of our people. Although some may say that it is not enough, and I understand them, I want to invite all Seychellois to recognize of how far we have come since 2020 and to realize that every penny that this country has produced has returned to its people. That is why we are recognized amongst the top 20 least corrupt countries in the world. And if it is necessary to wear a jacket to better 'represent' and seek more benefits for our country, we will do it and not wear kitenge!

But once again, while the government is doing its part, it is important for the private sector to also play its role. The cost of living is not only controlled by the government, but by all of us together.. When food importers put on exorbitant markups onto their products, it is our people who suffer. When people do not do their job well and products stay at the port longer with the importer incurring surcharges, it is the consumer who has to pay the consequence. If every time the government gives a wage increase, immediately the price of goods and commodities increase in shops and if shopkeepers continue to use calculators to steal from customers, the cost of living will of course continue to increase and the government will then stand accused. If customers are being squeezed for the simplest small service, the cost of living will of course rise, and if we do not know our priorities and spend everything today, believing that tomorrow does not exist, of course we will see the cost of living as our biggest enemy, and rather than grasping what role we play in this, we simply put the blame on others.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the following appeal: First, I ask the population to take its responsibility and spend its money well. Get information on where commodities are less expensive, check whether you are not being robbed in the shop, know your rights and get the essentials and spend your money well. To all shopkeepers, I urge you not to exploit customers. Do not increase the price of commodities just for the sake of more profits, but treat our people well. For those who offer services, charge prices that are reasonable and acceptable. With such a collaboration, our people will have a better life and the business atmosphere will also be much more productive and encouraging. Would it be too much for me to ask all those who sell wholesale and retailers to undertake a thorough examination of conscience and to look at how they can bring down the price of goods that they are selling? I make this appeal now that Christians are entering Lent, Muslims are starting Ramadan and Hindus have just celebrated Thaipusam. As our faith tells us to be considerate of others, let us put into practice what is good for all and not just for our own pockets.

. Mr. Speaker, when we reflect on our country and its future, and we set our expectations really high, let us never forget that all this did not happen with a wave of a magic wand. Let us not forget COVID-19 that pushed us on to our knees without mercy, that emptied the state coffers, and that it is through our administration's good work and planning that we were able to vaccinate our people, reopen the airport, undertake capital projects such as building houses, rebuilding abandoned edifices such as the National Library, NIHSS and Carnegie Building, provide new fishing facilities in districts, a new passenger terminal, St. Mary's Hospital, the port of La Digue, facilities for the military and the police force, and rebuilding our economy in a serious manner.

Today, simply through our collective efforts our reserves at the beginning of February 2025 are US \$789m compared to US \$559m in December 2020 when we entered into administration. That's the highest it has ever been. In other words, we have increased our reserves by about 45%, or by more than US \$200m despite everything. In terms of net international reserves, it reached US \$641 million and exceeded the target of US \$622 million for the first quarter of 2025 by US \$19 million.

At the end of 2020, the country's debt stock totaled SCR 19.5 billion, equivalent to 80.2% of our Gross Domestic Product. At the end of 2024, preliminary figures show a debt stock of SCR18.8 billion, equivalent to 60.7% of our Gross Domestic Product.

This has happened because this administration is serious and has a good fiscal and monetary policy. It is also worth noting that this administration has never missed a single payment of its debt. The good news is also that when we came in to lead the country, we were on the European Union's 'Black List', but the work of our government means that today we are on the 'Grey List' and we will soon be added to the 'White List'. This is the serious government that this people elected in 2020 and which is delivering tirelessly for its people and making our country proud. I would ask all those who see the country sinking and shouting to 'remove him', to say thank you that we also have a strong economy is and that those who dream of leading this country, to at least recognise that this administration has worked hard and that the 5 new presidents with 35,000 votes each that Seychelles will get in September 2025, will not face the situation of 2020 of empty coffers. We have filled the coffers and now that it is full I invite all the opportunists who have given not a single helping hand during the hard times to at least use those months before they go to State House to stand on the side of the people and make a positive contribution instead of just talking. Put your hand in your pockets full of blades and make a contribution to the development of our country and this will allow you to get 36,000 votes each.

Speaker, this administration has overcome all the challenges that have befallen it. The Russia/Ukraine war has had a direct impact on our economy and caused the prices of all commodity prices to rise because transportation costs have increased. It has also destroyed a good tourism source market in Ukraine. The Israel/Hamas conflict has also had serious consequences by destroying our tourism industry, our livelihood, because the Israeli market has collapsed completely and Air Seychelles, not to mention hospitality establishments, has lost a good market. We have overcome this and we are still afloat. Today we are more determined than ever!

I realize that the greatest strength that this administration has is to make the best decisions for our people. We have resisted the temptation to take populist decisions that would have given us more support, but rather we have taken difficult and appropriate decisions that will give us more resilience and allow us to build a better tomorrow for all of Seychelles' children. This is once again what has helped our country move forward. Shutting down URS was a brave decision that drew political criticism. But today, are we not proud when we see many of these

young people who were growing old in such programmes standing tall and getting on in life? From time to time we see these young workers on television programmes telling their success stories. This gives me great pleasure personally because these young people are able to be part of the group of strong young entrepreneurs who will develop our beautiful country today and tomorrow.

In the same way, terminating the FA4JR programme brought a lot of criticism, but today do not we see that all businesses have resumed operations and even those who were abusing the scheme are refunding money? The SEBS immigration system was also criticised, but today Seychelles is recognized and many countries are using our example in their immigration systems. The introduction of the 13th month as a system based on the evaluation of a worker's performance to bring more productivity had become a political football, but once again, today workers themselves speak well of this method of evaluation because they say that this is pushing those who drag their feet to produce more. So, our administration has changed its approach to put the emphasis on becoming responsible and this is in the interests of our country. There is still much to be done in this direction.

In the same way I am happy when I hear some politicians talking about Air Seychelles and the big plans they have. But do they forget the effort that this administration had to make to save our airline? They forget that we had to negotiate, make Air Seychelles go into Administration so that we could save it and keep it flying without a single job being lost? Here I want to show gratitude towards the workers of Air Seychelles themselves for their sacrifices and all who accepted a salary reduction. They have shown what sacrifice for the country means and for that we all say to them 'chapeau!' Yes, today the company is recovering and with that of course we need to see how they are looked at more closely. Air Seychelles has started to register a small profit and is continuing to look at new routes within the region where its aircraft can fly to. So we will continue to wish them all the best. Mr. Speaker, I know where they come from because I have personally accompanied them, negotiated and helped to take the best decisions. It was not easy, but we succeeded in doing it.

Mr Speaker, our administration is continuing to place great emphasis on human development. Social scourges means a lot of pressure is being put on schools today and more children are

being placed in homes where they can be protected. This also brings its own challenges. The role of the family has diminished significantly and we need to, together, return the responsibility of children to their parents as together, including with NGOs and religious organisations, we help build more stable families that provide the appropriate security for the children. It is sad when you see young people growing up in an inappropriate atmosphere where it is easy to be abused. This is why we are continuing to fight against these small corners of the communities where illegal and criminal activities continue to occur. I appeal to all parents to become more responsible towards the children they have brought to earth so that they can have the best opportunities in life and become responsible and serious citizens who make a good contribution to the development of their country tomorrow.

We are seeing the academic development of our students continue at a very good standard although we need to do more. However, we need to explore every way to encourage more young Seychellois to enter the teaching profession so that we can cut down on the number of foreigners and develop our system better. At the same time I continue to encourage all of our young people to take their studies seriously and do the best they can, because after all it is their education that is the key that will open their doors tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned that education is the key to all human development. But when scourges strike our youth, we will of course see this reflected in the classroom. I am insisting that we keep the level of discipline in schools at the highest possible level so that the school atmosphere will remain one that encourages serious studies and individual progress. When I say this, I also recognize that with the lack of teachers there is more work pressure and this in itself is a discouragement. Let us together seek appropriate solutions so that we transform this difficult situation, which today is a global trend, into one that will be more pleasant and allow our youth to receive all the support necessary for their development.

Every challenge should be taken seriously, as the latest study has shown that there are some weaknesses in STEM education in Seychelles. This means that our students are showing certain weaknesses in subjects like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. We need to address this reality and take appropriate action to rectify these shortcomings. Just as we are not satisfied with the number of students who are getting grades C and above at IGCSE level. For A levels we will also need to encourage our students to do better.

This brings me to university studies. As we seek to develop UniSey and develop cooperation with other universities, it is essential that we look at how to offer more opportunities to study here instead of seeing the large number of students going to Malaysia and which of course costs the country more. Let's find ways in which students can do both. Spend some time here and some years outside Seychelles. I believe that our youth need this exposure to the outside world to give a different perspective of the world. All steps are being taken to change the status of UniSey so that it will have its own laws instead of today where it is an association. At the same time, we are finalizing the property that will be designated as the UniSey campus. This is in its final stages. There is much happening and I have no doubt that we will be able to develop this University of Seychelles even more, and that more Seychellois will be able to study up to doctoral level locally.

Mr. Speaker, we have also taken the development of our officers in the public service very seriously. This year, a second group of professionals has participated in the leadership programme offered by the UAE. This is an immense encouragement and we say thank you for the opportunity that we have received. Now it remains to implement the projects that they have worked on for the development of our country.

There are many more courses being offered on the subject of management targeting different people in the various institutions at TGMI. All this with the aim of strengthening leadership in government services. Here I must admit, Mr. Speaker, we have identified this as a weakness, and for our country to move forward, more technicians must also be able to acquire the necessary skills to become leaders in their workplace. With the knowledge they hold, they will be able to become better at making decisions that bring more pleasant solutions for all, in all situations.

Mr Speaker, I want to say very loudly and very clearly that all workers in government must have the orientation to deliver a service, faster and more efficiently. I challenge all departments to reduce this bureaucracy and as much as possible give an answer in less than a week. Let's take this as a challenge for 2025.. I will follow this very closely.

Mr. Speaker, our main industry, tourism, remains on the right track despite the various comments that we hear. There is a lot of analysis that we need to do when some say there are

no tourists. Firstly, there are many more facilities for our visitors to stay at today. So, with more choice, some places that used to be full are not getting the same number of visitors and new establishments engaging in types of marketing are taking customers. This does not mean that there are no tourists coming to Seychelles, but rather that certain places are not getting customers. That's where just about anything is now being said and all kinds of comparisons are made. But what is the reality?

When we look at tourism performance in 2024, we see a considerable positive change compared to performance in 2020, which fell during COVID. In 2020, a total of 114,858 visitors was recorded. This was a 70% reduction compared to 2019. Visitor numbers in 2024 are approximately 207% higher than those recorded in 2020. This follows from our post-pandemic efforts and the opening of the airport in March 2021. Europe remains the top market with 244% growth in visitor arrivals in 2024 compared to visitor numbers during 2020, with most visitors coming from Germany, France and Russia. From the Asian region, visitors increased by 94% in 2024 compared to 2020, with strong performance from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In 2024, Seychelles recorded a total of 352,762 visitors. While this number is slightly below our estimated target of 357,900, this represents an increase of 0.5% compared to the number of visitors in 2023, which was 350,879. Europe remains our largest source of visitors with a contribution of 73% of total visitors.

Tourism revenue dropped from US\$ 856 million in 2019 to US\$ 327 million in 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic.. The revenue performance of the tourism sector for the year 2024 is estimated to reach US\$ 986 million, i.e. higher than in 2019, despite the number of visitors being lower than in 2019.

The forecast for the number of visitors remains positive for 2025, with an estimated 361,581 visitors in total, representing a growth of 2.5% compared to 2024. There are many efforts being made by the relevant authorities, such as opening up to receive more aircraft coming to Seychelles from new markets such as India, China and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Speaker, it is important at this point for me to emphasize and make everyone understand that the tourism industry does not depend only on the Government through the Minister of Tourism, but it is an industry that concerns us all. In this industry, we are selling Seychelles.

So, when we decide to turn Seychelles into an overflowing dustbin, when we attack and rob customers, when there is no smile to welcome the visitor, when we strangle customers with exorbitant prices, when a simple ride costs a fortune, when we receive our visitors poorly, we are doing only one thing: We are killing the industry that brings the most revenue to our economy and that allows us to put food on our family's table.

Is it too much to ask that it not be only hoteliers and others who offer direct services who should play their role in a conscientious manner, but that each one of us also consider ourselves as an agent in the promotion of this industry and Seychelles? Let us bear in mind that today there is a lot of competition and that the Indian Ocean is full of competitors. So let us remain firm and serious in preserving our principal livelihood. And here I take this opportunity to thank all Seychellois, all agencies and operators, all partners and all workers for their devotion to make our visitors' stays pleasant and make them want to return.

Mr. Speaker, one of the important issues is the Truth, Reconciliation, and National Unity Commission (TRNUC). TRNUC is close to my heart. As everyone knows, it was I who initiated this process through a motion in the National Assembly in 2016. I am pleased that the first part of this process, knowing the truth, has been realized through the TRNUC and the participation of many Seychellois who came forward to let our people know what really happened during the One-Party era. Last year, the National Assembly passed a motion to recommend what process we should take as a nation to conclude the Commission's work. They proposed the appointment of a successor body to conclude the work of the Commission, and they recommended that the successor body make recommendations on a repository for the TRNUC archives, to propose a monument to recognise victims, and to propose reparation measures. I listened to them, and I appointed a successor body.

As a person who has been a victim of atrocities committed in our country and who has played a role in the establishment of this Commission for the Seychellois people to know the truth and walk the path of national unity and reconciliation, I must admit that the emphasis placed on compensation is sometimes considered an objective that has hijacked the main purpose of that exercise. This can lead to different feelings among our general population. When those people who have suffered in silence here in Seychelles during these dark years, endured curfews and lived in doubt and fear with news of disappearances, killings, loss of jobs, torture etc.. hear only talk of millions here and millions there, of selling islands to pay compensation, making

tax-payers pay, and many other things, I do not think this leading us in the right direction. I will continue to emphasize that our people must be united in order to achieve the great dreams and plans that we have for our beautiful country Seychelles.

As announced, a successor committee to the Commission has been appointed and at the moment, negotiations are underway on the allowance that the three people will receive and exactly what legal framework they will work under. The moment this is done, everyone will be informed. But I must also be frank on the issue of compensation. My administration has only inherited the debt incurred by the previous administration. The Court has asked that we pay Mr. Alain St Ange SCR7million because the previous Administration withdrew his UNWTO nomination, we have paid compensation for the polluted water at La Misere, and this is not yet complete because of payment preferences, we paid compensation for PUC, Praslin and this is also not complete, there is payment for compensation due to fungus infestations in several government departments, and let us not forget that at the moment the heirs of Dr Delhomme has lodged a case in Court and through their lawyer, Mr Boullé, are asking for more than SCR300 million in compensation for the land. Also let us take all this into consideration and not just say that the government does not have good intentions, but let's become realists and ask where the money will come from because the line for compensation that the old regime has left is really long. And as you also see, the party that recognizes that it is the successor of the one under which all these atrocities were committed - because even though they say that they are 'A new United Seychelles' they have celebrated 60 years, - sells property for hundreds of millions of rupees, but it is not interested in making any contribution!

Meanwhile, there is other work that has also been done in respect of returning property that had been taken by the regime of that time and that has not been developed. Several people have already received their property with terms they have agreed on, while others are still being negotiated. I hope that soon all these cases will be completed and this in itself will be yet another page in the dark history of our country that will be turned.

Another step was when we changed the names of all roads relating to the coup d'état. I am pleased that today the memory of those names that reflect of Seychellois blood that was shed, including mine, has been removed.

On the other hand, a competition was launched for two monuments that will commemorate all those who first were illegally imprisoned in Union Vale Prison, in the police station, Long Island and Grand Police for political reasons. We have also published a list of the names of the detainees in the Seychelles Nation newspaper so that if any names are missing, they can be rectified and added.

The second monument will be in memory of all the people who lost their lives during this period. They are the ones who paid for our freedom and democracy with their lives.

Many people participated in this competition and we will soon announce the winners whose proposals have been considered. The locations for the two monuments have already been identified – one will be at the former Union Vale Prison and the second at the Peace Park. All procedures are being undertaken and if all goes well they will be inaugurated on the occasion of the national holidays in June.

Once again, we must not forget our past, in case we repeat the same mistakes. Human rights abuses have no place in the life of a people and especially have no place here in Seychelles. Death in a ditch under a bridge must never again be repeated in Seychelles. The law should be above everyone at all times.

Mr. Speaker, recently the subject of the hotel on Assomption Island has been an important issue in our country and I see it as my responsibility to address this topic. First, let me make it clear that under my administration here since October 2020, no island of the Seychelles has been sold. All islands owned by the State still belongs to the Seychellois state and there are none that no longer belong to Seychelles. There have been only two transactions relating to islands of the Seychelles that have occurred under my administration. One concerns Long Island which we are all aware the previous administration tried to develop since at least 20 years, but with nothing to show. My administration has simply taken back the lease and advertised for new investors to show interest and come forward. Several bids were made and one won. The same conditions as before, i.e. to lease the entire island have been applied and the terms and conditions for development have been signed and we hope that the island will see construction work in the shortest possible time.

Secondly, on Assumption Island there was also a call for tender for a developer to come forward. Only one came forward, and so he was given the opportunity to rent part of the island to build a 37-room hotel. All procedures have been completed and the plan has been approved. All environmental conditions are being followed and work has already begun.

There have been several concerns in relation to proximity to Aldabra, a World Heritage Site with fragile biodiversity. People in the environmental sector, especially the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) and others have presented their views on this development. In this context, and conscious of my role as SIF Patron, I have engaged with SIF, the Islands Development Company (IDC) and the developer of the project on Assumption. The direction that this conversation is taking is that SIF, IDC and the developer will agree that SIF will be in charge of all biosecurity matters on Assumption. They will be the ones to control Assumption at this level and the developers will pay SIF to do the work. In this way Aldabra will receive full protection and the biodiversity of Assumption itself will be protected as everyone wants. I want us to get a win-win-win result.

But my administration will not stop there. We want to ensure that all Seychellois who wish to visit Assumption and Aldabra have access at all times. IDC already has a programme for Seychellois to stay on the islands it occupies, such as on Platte, Desroches, Silhouette, Alphonse, Farquhar and Remire. These facilities will be created on Assumption as well, and hotel will also have special prices for Seychellois visitors.

Another element that could lead to a Constitutional Amendment is the steps that this administration is taking to ensure that the Aldabra Group, which includes Aldabra Atoll, Cosmoledo Atoll, Astove Atoll and Assumption Island, receive special protection in terms of development and the protection of this group of islands with the greatest biodiversity in our archipelago. This will include that no foreign military base will ever be built on any of these islands. The National Assembly will have the responsibility later this year to make this Constitutional Amendment.

Mr Speaker, between 1-11 May this year, Seychelles will become the first African country to host the FIFA World Beach Soccer Tournament. And this will also be the first time that Seychelles organizes a competition at this level where we have so far seen teams such as Italy, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Tahiti and Mauritania which have qualified. During the coming

weeks other teams will qualify and this will make a total of 16 teams, which will certainly include Brazil to play on the sands of Seychelles. It will also be the first time that Seychelles participates in a competition at this level.

I must first congratulate our team who are taking this competition very seriously. They are taking their training to the next level and when I met with the team, the enthusiasm level was really high. Now that the Russian coaches are with the team, their work has moved to the next level.. Together with the whole of Seychelles, we want to tell you that we are supporting you and we wish you good luck.

Mr. Speaker, organizing this tournament has not come without its challenges. There has been a lot of disappointment, especially with the person who was supposed to seek sponsorship money and who gave his word even in writing, but who finally did not bring one Mauritian cent, as the old saying goes. But we are a determined government and we will never let Seychellois fail. We have made every effort, and I will say with pride that there is a strong team that is making sure that everything happens. Every week the team meets at State House where everyone gets an update on where we are. The government has had to invest, but here I would also like to thank two organizations that have donated US \$5 million to ensure that everything goes well. These are some of the actions I take when I travel. I make sure that I return with more than my travel budget, which for your information is SCR6.4m but so far I have used SCR 347,000 and I returned with about R100m for the benefit of Seychellois. I take this opportunity to invite everyone and all organizations who wish to make a donation to approach the National Sports Council (NSC) and bring their contribution.

But Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the solid team that is working very hard and taking everything in hand. Soon I will let the whole of Seychelles know who these people and organizations are.. I wish them all the courage and all the strength in the task they are undertaking. They are genuine people who love Seychelles and they are doing it with immense love and great heart. So I give Seychellois a rendez-vous in May for this very important competition and to come and support our young team.

Precisely, while we are on the subject of sports, everyone has surely noticed that many of our sports facilities have either been renovated or are under renovation. Stad Linite has received a new football field with new lighting, while the tartan track has been changed and a new one of

international standard has been installed and inaugurated by our youth last year through a School Relay Festival. All changing room facilities are currently being renovated and once this is completed, we will be able to see international football matches once again in Seychelles. All tennis courts have been renovated and inaugurated. The Palais des Sports is also nearing completion now that its flooring is already in the country. At the dojo, the roof is supposed to be replaced, while work at the School Meals Centre is due to start imminently. There are also other sports facilities that we are going to work on, or build.

Mr. Speaker, I must also inform the people of Seychelles that all preparations for the CJSOI are also going well. This committee is doing a good job and I have no doubt that all will go well in its organisation and that the young people in our region, about 1,500 of them will have a good time here in Seychelles for these games. I must add that sometimes when I see negative comments, I just wish that those people who only use only their fingers on a keyboard to write all this nonsense would just take a little time to talk to those who are doing without sleep just because they are committed and they want to succeed. Do not discourage these people, but rather find out how to give them every possible encouragement.

. Mr. Speaker, I cannot end this chapter without addressing the federations and associations in charge of the various sports in Seychelles. Yes, you are the ones who make sports run, but too often there are personal interests and agenda that do not benefit these sports. Young athletes are discouraged because of those personal agenda. The election of Committees are tainted with a whiff of corruption, and instead of seeing talent given the opportunity to develop and flourish, we see young potential being sidelined. Can you stop with this kind of attitude? Can you be genuinely responsible people who act as facilitators instead of playing favourites and destroying the sport for which you were elected? Can we see the sport you represent become one that attracts more youth who will raise the Seychelles flag and not your personal interests? I hope the message is clear because I am really discouraged when I observe these conflicts amongst adults and I see our athletes who become victims of these personal conflicts. Please give sports in Seychelles every opportunity to grow and develop.

Mr. Speaker, we have done a lot in the last four years with all the resources that we have been able to create for our country. The wealth has gone to our people. In all projects that we have undertaken it is our people who have benefited and most importantly, we have done everything to ensure that there is no corruption and that appropriate procedures are followed. That is why the Auditor General's office did not find it necessary to report on any project. It has not always

been easy, but it is our determination that has made us successful. But we will not stop there. On the contrary, the comfort of our people is our priority.

Our road network today gives us pride. Almost all main roads have been given a new layer of asphalt and widened where necessary. Whether it is the town to Beau Vallon road, the Bois de Rose road to Seypec station, the dual carriageway Eden to Pangea, the airport to Pointe Larue, Anse Royale to Anse La Mouche passing through Maravi, which has become a highway, the Vallée de Mai to BSA road, Anse Boileau and all the other roads that have been built in the villages such as Lafous Road, St Joseph and all this reflects a serious programme that makes us proud. They say that you get a good indication of the state of a country by the condition of its roads.. This reflects well on our Seychelles. That is why everyone wants to associate themselves with Seychelles today. We are top on all sides and this administration will continue to ensure that we continue to do even better.

Mr. Speaker, I mention that we emphasize projects that benefit our people. During the years since we received the responsibility for this country, we have seen the inauguration of facilities for fishermen at La Retraite, Anse Etoile, Glacis, Anse Aux Pins, Cascade, Grand Anse and Baie Ste Anne, Praslin, and La Digue. These facilities have come in the form of markets, places to store engines, expansion to moor boats, facilities for ice and others. We are interested in this industry and we are giving all the encouragement to our fishermen. And what better way to illustrate this than by introducing a pension system for all interested fishermen. We are taking care of them for when they retire.

In the same context, today Praslin has a new passenger terminal at the port where tourists experience greater comfort and our small entrepreneurs can earn a living. LLa Digue will also benefit from the same facilities soon. This will ensure that all passengers will experience real comfort while waiting and when they disembark. I am very proud when we look at the new facilities and opportunities for business, and I ask that everyone uses all these facilities well and to keep them as a source of pride for us. The new terminal on Praslin has ensured that the Coast Guard has its own facility where its largest vessels can dock and this allows for greater supervision of the Inner Islands.

Mr. Speaker, our military plays a very important role in the lives of our people. Better facilities and resources will enable them to do better work. This real collaboration between the different

branches, namely Special Forces, Air Wing and Coast Guard has allowed for great success in many operations at sea.

Dhows with drugs, illegal Sri Lankan, Malagasy and Comoros fishing vessels have been apprehended, operations to rescue people in danger have been carried out and the transportation of the sick between La Digue and Praslin, or Praslin and Mahe are among the operations that these men and women in uniform undertake for our country while many are resting at night.

We will soon see the construction of a new jetty for our Coast Guard, following the laying of an asphalt road to our Coast Guard base after all these years when it was still made from coral fill. Here, I take the opportunity to thank the Chinese and Indian governments for the two new patrol boats. On Tuesday, there was a ceremony where India delivered a vessel, the Boudeuse and soon China will hand over a ship the size of Etoile, called Andromanche, which will assist in patrols. We must also thank the government of Bahrain for gifting us four fast boats that are playing a major role in operations amongst the Inner Islands. The army camp at Exile has already moved to Barbarons. All this means that the military today is completely independent and with more training, our force is now focusing on important work in the economic development of our country. Seychellois are proud of the work they do and we wish them good luck and to carry on putting Seychelles first.

Mr. Speaker, all the other security forces are continuing to do their best. There is a lot of work and the police are also doing their part to respond to all calls from the public. The rate of crimes detected continues to increase, although it has not yet reached 100%. Every effort is being made to provide more training so that our force turns into one that is really professional with all the required human resources. There is a lot of work to be done and I would like to congratulate all police officers who do a good job and take their responsibilities seriously. You are the ones who bring this pride among our people. I am very happy when I see positive comments. But sadly, there are those who give the police a bad name and serious action must be taken against them. It is unfortunate.

But it is very important to mention that the immense collaboration between the intelligence services, military and police has allowed for several crimes to be discovered and legal action to be taken. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the officers who participated in these operations that helped to protect our population and eliminate crime. This shows that the decision to make this Constitutional amendment was a good one and necessary.

Mr. Speaker, of course the housing of our people is very important to us. That is why when some in this Assembly were calling for the cancellation of all capital projects such as housing construction, we refused to follow that advice. We rejected such a proposal because it would make our people suffer. Just consider what would have happened for an instant. All the housing projects in Cascade, Corgat Estate, Port Glaud, Bel Ombre, Pointe Larue, English River, Bel Air, St. Louis, Glacis, Perseverance and in many other districts would not have been built. Think of how many families would still be living in an overcrowded house instead of in the comfort of their own homes where their families would be growing well, with an appropriate place for children to do their homework.

This year we are increasing the budget to ensure that more houses are built and more plots of land are made available to our people. In the meantime, we are also making sure that more people who are making their contributions can be assisted with part-rental while they are waiting for their own facility. All this is to ensure that our people obtain the necessary comfort so that every Seychellois family can thrive. That is what this administration is looking for for this people who we love so much. We are on the right track and we hope to be able to do even more in the coming years. The Ministry gave many details of its plans when they came before the Assembly for the Budget.

In the same vein, too many people who have bought flats and have completed their payments are yet to receive their deed of purchase, sometimes after more than 10 or 20 years. This is not acceptable. Everyone who has bought a house needs his deed of purchase. The delay is because these blocks of flats had to be surveyed and registered under the Condominium Property Act. I am proud to say that this work has accelerated in recent months and that an attempt is being made for a person to be appointed by the residents of each block of houses as a Condominium Manager to ensure that the block is used properly, that maintenance is done when necessary and that residents live well. Residents who have purchased their homes will receive their deed of purchase as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, it is also clear that the SIA agency is doing a formidable job of sorting out these projects and even accompanying residents in their misfortunes. Many government projects have been delayed after the December 7th incident simply because SIA has been the principal agency tasked with making all assessments and responsible for receiving and even making

payments for repairs and reconstruction of the homes of the residents. I am proud to say that all this work has been well executed and today the last payments are being made. SIA is also the agency leading the preparations for the FIFA World Beach Soccer in May and for the CJSOI later. I really appreciate all the energy and effort that is put into ensuring that the project is well planned and executed. Whether it concerns a renovation, a new construction, an advice, an environmental project to protect the coast, a new hospital, a school, drainage to prevent flooding or any kind of project, we count on SIA and its officers to lead. Once again, congratulations and good luck in all that you continue to do in the development of our country.

Mr Speaker, all ministries within the administration make sure that our people are well looked after. During disasters and calamities and in projects to benefit our communities, we continue to look at how to spend the people's money properly. The hundreds of small projects that are accomplished each year through Local Government ensure that that small road, those steps and other community projects allow the person with some form of disability, that elder or those who are sick to move about more safely. Our DAs and officers in the districts are the group of people who always have their fingers on the pulse of the district where they are working and I have been really touched by the solidarity they show when there is a misfortune. They leave their district to stay close to the district where disaster has struck. I see it when a house catches fire, or there is a flood. But the people of Seychelles people really experienced this team spirit with the disasters of December 7th. In the North and in Cascade, they all came together to bring support and relief to all those affected and make sure that everyone had a place to rest during these calamities, whilst we observed some playing politics at a time of misfortune and choosing who to assist. They worked in close collaboration with all agencies to ensure that this giant operation was accomplished. During this year, the Ministry of Local Government will once again work closely with all residents and their MNAs to look at the needs of all residents without taking political considerations into account. That is the way the LDS administration acts – without favour and without political preference. Keep up the good work.

Mr. Speaker, as a small country that needs to ensure that our local workers get a job to feed their families while at the same time we consider imported labour, the subject of the Gainful Occupation Permit (GOP) will remain an important issue. Sometimes it is difficult for the business thinking only of getting its worker to forget that as a government it is not just a question of issuing a GOP, but that the Seychellois worker must also be considered for a job. Today, I am proud that through these continuous efforts, the unemployment rate remains below

5% and that more than 1,498 job seekers were placed in employment. Through various programmes, there continues to be training to enable the job seeker to be more prepared for the world of work or for those seeking a career change to set off in a new direction. I continue to encourage our youth to enter employment as early as possible so that they can gain the stability for their own development and fulfillment. The only way to gain experience is through permanent employment.

With the challenges that society continues to face, the role of social services remains very important. Unfortunately, the good work that these workers accomplish goes to waste when disaster strikes. I must say that much emphasis continues to be placed on child protection and strengthening the role of the family in bringing stability and protection to growing children. Several new programs are being looked at to ensure that not only are workers well-prepared, but that all recipients of these services follow the work programme together to deliver the best results. It is not an easy task and that is why I continue to seek the support of our population to help identify where there are problems - that often can help save a life before a potential tragedy destroys the life of an innocent. So I give all my encouragement to all social service workers.

Mr Speaker, one agency that receives the largest budget is the Agency of Social Protection. As we have seen, this administration has conducted a review of the assistance that people receive. This comes after decades that such an exercise has not been conducted. Today, we have been able to eliminate abuse and assist people in need. In addition, these applications are being processed as fast as possible so that people in need can receive the assistance required. I will continue to call for good cooperation between clients and agencies. When you are asked to bring some simple documents, do it because that is what will facilitate the process you are undertaking. I also urge the employees of this agency to keep politics out of their work. You are here to serve our citizens. Keep your focus on your work and not on what the person has done politically. This complaint has come before me and I ask that this stop please.

Mr Speaker, there is some serious work that the Ministry of Agriculture is undertaking to ensure that farmers have all the materials they need from the agricultural stores at all times, allowing for greater production. The procedures to facilitate imports have been taken care of and farmers will soon see more products at the agricultural stores. The topic of animal feed remains a sensitive issue and here, I want to appeal to those who produce locally and those who import

feed not to view this activity as one they engage in just to make a profit, but to also take into consideration the key role they play in ensuring food security for our country. I know that there are certain schemes in play to make farmers angry and even criticize the government. Let's work together for this country.

We are continuing to look for ways to make more agricultural land available to farmers. Whether on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue, all efforts are continuing. With the opening of the Amitie road, Praslin, I hope that these farmers will have access to their parcels of land and that production will begin. We need to put the emphasis on increasing production and provision of more facilities so that all our farmers receive this encouragement and that all malicious practices in this sector are eliminated. Here, I would also like to talk to the shopkeepers who have acted inappropriately on what price they sell chicken eggs.

The Seychellois did not appreciate learning how much you buy eggs for from farmers and how much you were selling them for in retail. I make the same appeal – do not kill these people and raise the cost of living just because there is no price control and you can do it. You too should have a social conscience.

Mr Speaker, our youth remain our hope for the continuation of our culture, our existence and our future. As the song says, the youth are adopting positivity as their way of doing things and that on earth there are a lot of young people who are doing well. But it is unfortunate that all too often, all young people are put in the same basket those who have gone in the wrong direction. I attended the presentation of awards for youth in different categories such as motivation, innovation, role model, and several other categories.. It was a very encouraging evening where motivated young people, one after another, boys and girls alike, came forward to be rewarded. This is a motivated youth who will go as far as possible when you put the wind under their wings. And these young people come from all over Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. Which means they are good role models that can change the direction of our country.

When a young person like Liam Dunienville, who won the top award, talks about his journey and his achievements, we get a new breath and new hope shines on our beautiful Seychelles. Young people who want to see the best not only in their lives, but who believe in the future of their country. Today, once again, I will say that SNYC, under the leadership of Mr. Duncan and the other coaches are doing a formidable job. Continue to sow the message of positivity in our

country through your actions, your performance, your studies and your participation. Seychelles needs its youth and my administration will continue to give them all the support to fulfill their dreams. I will personally accompany them at all times and here I want to tell you that in all my meetings with them, either at State House during activities or in the Youth Assembly or in other activities, their energy is contagious and gives me renewed courage and determination to lead this country always towards what is wholesome and good for our people. Congratulations to all the coaches and all who are looking for the best for our youth. Here I salute Tania and her academy, the young people in environmental protection, the school bands, the athletes who make us proud and of course the young people who are taking their studies seriously. Keep it up !

Mr Speaker, the development of the spirit of entrepreneurship among our youth and our population in general must continue. Although we lack land to distribute, we are continuing to provide all possible encouragement through the various facilities that we make available to our people. All plots of available land have been distributed and the administration is continuing to seek out land that is not being developed to be able to redistribute this to those who are interested. We are continuing to facilitate negotiations so that access to finance is not itself an obstacle, but a means of development. Soon the project on the Regatta site will be completed and we will get new recreational facilities in Beau Vallon. This spirit of innovation needs to continue to grow in our country. I invite all Seychellois to grasp the opportunities that have been made available to them and to make good use of them.. Play a positive role in the development of your country.

Mr Speaker, The health of a people is at the heart of the life of a people. Over the years, we have seen great improvements in the services that our people receive. Complaints about bedsheets have become a thing of the past, the level of service continues to improve and all facilities are being made available to our people. Slowly, slowly, but with certainty, we are able to make good use of our manpower to provide our people with the appropriate service. Of course, like everything in life, what is wholesome and good never gets the same publicity as what is bad. A simple picture of something negative is published everywhere on Facebook, but what is good never draws that kind of publicity. Photographs of new beds and new mattresses that have filled the hospital do not get shared as much or generate as many comments as a mattress that is being replaced because it is old. The newly-renovated labour room that will be ready soon will never receive the exposure that the change of labour room a few months ago

received. I am simply saying that there are a lot of positive things happening in our health service. For example, the list of people who need cataract surgery is under control for the first time. Let us give encouragement to our health workers, while requiring those who are not delivering a good service to improve their behaviour and to give all patients and their families a smile despite being tired.

Precisely Mr. Speaker, we have already laid the foundation stone for the regional health centre that will be located on Ile Soleil in the district of Anse Aux Pins. This modern facility will serve a large part of our population when it opens its doors. The Baie Lazare Clinic, a project that we have talked about several times here in the Assembly, is in the final stages, and soon, patients on La Digue who require dialysis will not have to go to Praslin for their intervention. The equipment has already been installed and once we resolve the staffing situation, the service will start. All our medical facilities are delivering to their maximum and I take this opportunity to give all the encouragement to our health workers and thank them for the care they give to all patients and clients who pass through their hands.

Mr Speaker, there are too many positive things to speak on in our country. Positivity is the destiny engraved for our people. Wherever we look we see progress and development and all facilities have been put in place so that our people can climb the steps to the highest platform and fulfill their dreams. That is the spirit with which this administration works and that is what motivates to work for this people. We will continue to do it with all our heart and the energy we possess.

As I conclude, allow me to encourage all our young professionals who are making a great contribution to our country. There are many strong Seychellois who have the commitment and determination to make our country progress. Our democracy is alive and vibrant. Don't let our country regress.. As a people consider that the only direction is for us to move forward always and rise as high as possible.

Thank you very much to my team, VP Afif, PM Ferrari and all ministers, not forgetting former Minister Naadir Hassan who served his country with great ability and devotion. Thank you to the LDS caucus who continue to do a great job to make government programmes work here in the Assembly and in the community. Thank you Mr. Speaker for your patience and wisdom. A big thank you to all the people who lead the independent institutions in our country. Continue

to do your work without fear or favour. The biggest thank you goes to the Seychellois people for their continued encouragement and support. I wish our people and our country every success and all that is wholesome and good.

I present myself once again as your servant. I make myself available to you and I will give you all of my courage as long as I am able to. Thank you always.

May Almighty God bless our people and our country.

In my duties, Mon pa pou zanmen les tonbe !