



Countdown to Election 2025

DAYS 1 9 5

United Seychelles President urges youth to register to vote

"You will revolutionise modern Seychelles after September 27."

The United Seychelles Youth Conference at the ICCS was a tremendous success yesterday. Attendees expressed their commitment to voting in September to replace the current administration, which they view as a failure, with United

Seychelles. The venue resonated with enthusiastic support for the presidential candidate, Dr Patrick Herminie. In his address, he emphasised the crucial role of the youth in raising their voices about the pressing issues that threaten their and the

country's future, making them feel valued and integral to the political process. Dr Herminie announced several initiatives to benefit the youth, focusing on education, arts and culture, science, and innovation to foster personal



'Ibou' is becoming more threatening!



The clandestine group of armed young 'soldiers' reportedly wear masks to conceal their identities. These masks, known as neck gaiters, cover both the face and neck, while some opt for bandanas that only cover the face. They often use fake beards and various disguises as they move around and, when commanded, engage in illegal and dangerous activities that jeopardise civilian safety. Many individuals have reported being robbed by these individuals; they can break into homes, steal belongings, and even dare to take victims to the police station, where they may face 24 hours of detention. They use drug searches as reasons to 'kidnap' people from their homes. Individuals who have criticised the country's leadership publicly have been their victims. The police



A dictator is dictating colours to be worn by athletes!



Prosecution under immense pressure



Enough is enough! Wife demands an investigation to free Leslie



Human Rights Commissioner identified urgent and significant issues following visit to Seychelles

One of the primary concerns noted by Solomon Ayele Dersso, the Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, is the lack of due process in the country's legal system. He strongly emphasised the urgent need for independent institutions such as the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman to be established and operate independently. Commissioner Dersso specifically



Afif's comments on Veronique Herminie reflect political persecution

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United Seychelles President urges youth to register to vote

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and national prosperity. He also mentioned that a United Seychelles Government, if elected, would work towards bringing competitive and fast internet access through Starlink as part of its commitment to technological advancement. We present his speech below.

"I stand before you at a decisive moment in our nation's history. We can no longer engage in political rhetoric. We must address the problems and challenges faced

by our youth and nation. This moment requires us to keep hope alive despite the challenges we face. I see all of you in this room today, brimming with energy, enthusiasm, and immense potential. You are not just the future; you are the architects of a new Seychelles, capable of shaping it into a better version of itself.

I recognise and salute the youth of United Seychelles. I admire your courage and determination. I believe in you

because you have proven yourselves to be true warriors who refuse to be intimidated by threats of victimisation. You have stood tall and proudly declared your support for United Seychelles. You have answered the call to relentlessly strive for victory in September 2025, determined to lead our country away from the regression and negativity we have experienced over the past four and a half

years.

On September 27 this year, you, the Seychellois youth, will play the most significant role in defining your future and that of your country. You are not just the architects of your future; you are the builders, visionaries, and leaders who will shape the destiny of Seychelles.

In my conversations with you during the past four years, I have seen your intelligence and desire for a better life for yourselves, your parents, and your families. You aspire to develop your country. You are true patriots—proud and resilient Seychellois who reject prejudice and the notion that citizens can be second-class in their land.

I have witnessed your ability to overcome racial prejudices and come together as a community, becoming a vibrant mosaic. I take pride in you because you result from a system that has always believed in equal opportunities for all, regardless of skin colour, social status, or religion.

However, you live under tremendous pressure to succeed, and many distractions can easily confuse you, lead you astray, and tempt you into a life of decadence. Therefore, I recognise the importance of guiding you on the complex path you've embarked upon. For the youth, this encompasses more than just sports; it also includes art, health, housing, employment, family, business, technology, science, innovation, and, most importantly, the life we live.

Across the globe, youth have been at the forefront of change, sparking revolutions and ensuring that our country has space to embrace a better life. Please join United Seychelles in the quest for a better Seychelles.

You must be more active, strengthen our message, and engage your friends to advocate for a better Seychelles.

Youth, you cannot afford to remain silent when the price of necessities, like a kilogram of tomatoes (at SR120), skyrockets, making it hard for your parents to put food on the table. You can't remain passive while foreigners seek to take control of your country. You cannot avert your gaze as corrupt politicians like those involved with Assumption and Ile Longue profit from selling our islands for personal gain.

Today, I am launching a cam-



paign urging the government to make the Assumption Lease public, and those responsible for corruption will be held accountable.

Let us stand together and work toward a brighter future for all Seychellois!

We have heard that some of the US\$20 million the Qataris gave has gone missing. Additionally, we learn that the same group of investors, whose names have appeared in foreign press reports associated with terrorism, will lease a significant portion of Coetivy.

Young people, you cannot remain indifferent when it takes SR 1.2 million to purchase a plot of less than 1,000 square meters. In comparison, 35 plots of 100,000 square meters, totalling 25 acres of land, were sold to UAE millionaires last week by the corrupt government for only US\$24 million—around SR240 thousand rupees for several thousand square meters of land. We will expose this issue in the National Assembly next week.

What kind of government do we have? Some individuals receive massive bribes, leaving very little for the people of Seychelles. Remember the presentation made at the State House? Apartments built for young professionals were sold for SR 6.4 million.

For United Seychelles, housing is an investment in a better environment for our children to grow and become responsible citizens and for their future families to live in comfort and security. For this reason, we believe in affordable social housing projects.

I want to inform you that negotiations with some friendly countries have already begun to build 2,500 houses over the next five years in Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue to help resolve the housing problem we have faced for the past five years. The LDS is a political party with no interest in providing Seychellois with decent housing.

As you know, LDS has only had ribbon-cutting ceremonies, and even those found in the housing minister's computer are projects of the United Seychelles. You need to become an agent of change, and the only Party that can bring that change is United Seychelles. The hope for change lies with United Seychelles.

EDUCATION

Youth, make it one of your essential principles that education is your passport to prosperity. Join our Party to ensure that free education is available for all our youth; many will be able to attend university. This is your opportunity to be what you want, shape your destiny, and contribute to Seychelles' prosperity. We will abolish student loans. It is unacceptable for a young professional to carry a monthly debt of 11 thousand rupees before they even start their career while aspiring to own a house and vehicle. In our effort to localise jobs—especially in masonry, carpentry,

electrical work, mechanics, and various tourism roles—we aim to replace thousands of expatriates currently occupying these positions.

We will establish a vocational school, the Seychelles Technical and Vocational School, with modern facilities for our dedicated and academically gifted youth. Students will join this school at a young age after completing S3. Discussions have already begun about constructing this school. Seychellois youth, you will build this country, not foreigners. If our parents did it, you, too, can do it. You must develop a hardworking and disciplined culture to look after your family and country.

We cannot criticise foreigners if we are not ready to do the work that they do.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

One of our biggest challenges today is substance abuse. Unfortunately, many young people cannot contribute positively to our country's development because they are trapped in this vicious cycle. Drug use is a significant threat to the existence of our nation. I have previously stated and will reiterate, that United Seychelles will reintroduce the Agency for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse (APDAR). This agency does well in education, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation related to substance abuse.

We will return to the UAE to secure the US\$5 million they promised Seychelles. An agreement was signed to construct four rehabilitation centres, a project the LDS destroyed.

Furthermore, we will reintroduce the URS as part of a work rehabilitation programme for those affected by drug abuse. Following my speech last Saturday, discussions surrounding the rehabilitation of youths struggling with substance abuse and employment have emerged after four years. The LDS is incompetent—why not let United Seychelles take the lead?

STEM

In today's world, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are essential for a better future. These fields will enable us to develop new career paths by utilising technology and artificial intelligence in health, climate change, and sustainable development. The world is changing rapidly, and the youth have the potential to drive this positive change.

To facilitate this, we need to reassess technology in Seychelles, especially concerning the cost of internet access. Telecommunication services are often too expensive, slow, and insufficient in Seychelles. Yet, companies continue to make significant profits at the expense of Seychellois. Last year, one company recorded a net profit of almost SR140 million. Therefore, my government will

negotiate to introduce Starlink in Seychelles.

The ensuing competition will decrease communication costs, particularly for the internet, benefitting the youth. This is vital to remain competitive with the rest of the world in science, innovation, and technology.

A modern and efficient telecommunication system will enhance Seychelles' competitiveness as a tourism destination. Our Party will remain committed to making business easy, particularly for the youth. Developing small businesses and embracing viable new ideas are essential to rapidly creating wealth and expanding the middle class in Seychelles. In line with this, we will prioritise the reimplementation of the National Institute of Science, Technology, and Innovation while emphasising mathematics in schools. We aspire to build a brighter future together in Seychelles. There is no room for non-science-based ideas, such as voodoo. Therefore, my government will revoke the law on witchcraft in the Penal Code and introduce new provisions that align with modern laws and the Commonwealth.

I hope that, as a result, we will never again witness a president imprisoning someone for 10 days or attempting to incarcerate a political opponent out of fear of voodoo.

SPORTS, ART, AND CULTURE

I want to address sports, art, and culture. I intend to use sports to promote national unity and harmony. Sports will be introduced in creches as a mandatory subject. The goal is to use sports to instil a healthy, disciplined, resilient, and hardworking lifestyle in our youth. Seychelles needs to respect and elevate our sports on both regional and African stages. We will invest in modern facilities for training and international competition. Youth, I count on you to raise our national flags high.

Culture is integral to a people's identity; it must thrive in a nurturing environment. It defines us through tradition, folklore, gastronomy, clothing, arts, heritage, etc. Young people should become guardians of our culture; this responsibility will empower you to shape our identity, unity, and inspiration.

My government will focus more on and invest significant energy into this new cultural revolution. You will be the foundation and catalyst for this journey.

One of the most critical components of our culture is the arts. Arts have shaped and defined our modern society. Through this expressive medium, the world has developed aesthetics, ethics, literature, craftsmanship, and fashion; we've built museums that preserve our humanitarian values and depict our lives through images and films, among many other achievements.

Through the arts, we aim to provide the Seychellois youth with dreams beyond

substance abuse and addiction. We will elevate the arts, enabling you to cultivate your talents and become proud ambassadors of our culture and nation.

Our Party has engaged in discussions with foreign countries, institutions, and organisations prepared to assist us. Seychellois excel abroad and lead in this domain; they wish to return and contribute to our youth if they receive the support and respect of our government.

We will develop high-level cinematography, allowing our youth to explore our history, from slavery to the present.

Our youth, with their unique talents, can rise to become laureates in film festivals, music, and other arts. What I say today is not a mere dream. This vision will materialise when we provide the necessary support and resources.

Through your art, you will create leisure to help eliminate a culture of insults and mediocrity.

Our youth must urgently embrace respect, honesty, and integrity to bring about this change. These principles are not just important; they are crucial for combating the corruption and dishonesty that threaten our society today. We must cultivate mutual respect, especially towards our parents and elders. It is simply unacceptable to witness any act of violence against older people driven by authority.

Recently, the Vice President misled the National Assembly to cover up governmental corruption. It was disheartening to see such cowardice as he tried to shift blame onto an innocent woman, Mrs. Herminie, who stood her ground. She chose to leave a lucrative position rather than compromise her principles or engage in unethical practices.

Mrs. Herminie's story should inspire us. Let's celebrate her commitment to integrity. Unfortunately, there are still individuals within public service willing to compromise their values for personal gain.

Moreover, United Seychelles' actions, taking the Office of the Registrar to court to invoke unlawful measures that benefit the government by blocking our financial transactions, are a disheartening display of irresponsibility. They gave the government a second chance to manipulate the situation.

Fostering a culture of integrity within our governance is vital to eradicating these harmful practices. Standing against injustice is crucial because failure to do so may leave you vulnerable to becoming a victim.

Many of you will succeed, but remember, in your opulence, do not forget where you come from.

For those who have yet to register, please do so. It is the only way for you to contribute to removing this incompetent LDS government from power in September.”

United Seychelles is far better than LDS, sums up US Deputy, Dr Marvin Fanny



Dr Marvin Fanny, the Deputy Party President, addressed the youth gathered at the ICCS, emphasising that their presence was not only as supporters of the US Party but as the young voices of Seychelles who refuse to accept the current direction set by the LDS government.

"Today, we find ourselves at a critical juncture in our country's political history—a chapter that you, as youth, are invited to help write. Our decisions in the upcoming election will determine our future and our children's. Over the

past four years, the government has failed to deliver on its promises. Those who claimed that Seychelles belonged to all its children have let them down. Our youth are disappointed. Instead of thriving, they are confronted with numerous challenges. Many struggle to find employment, and living costs continue to rise. The current government prioritises the privileged, focusing on their interests instead of serving all Seychellois. This is not the Seychelles we envisioned.

Let me be clear: the youth can change

the status quo. Today's theme is 'Voices of the Youth, New Generation.' Let's begin this meaningful conversation now.

What has changed under the LDS government? Have more young people found jobs? No! Has the housing crisis for young professionals been resolved? No! Has there been any real investment in our education system, especially regarding workforce development for youth? No! Have we seen a viable economic plan for the future of our country? No!

What have we experienced? Just excuses, lies, false promises, and policies benefiting a small minority while the majority struggles to survive. The LDS government has let Seychellois youth down. Isn't that right?

Yet, they seek another mandate to continue their policies. Youth, will you allow this to happen?

In the United Seychelles, we are not just a political movement but a large family. We believe every citizen must be at the centre of our society's development—regardless of ability, race, skin colour, sexual orientation, or social and economic status. We advocate for inclusivity, and it should not merely be a slogan.

We all have a role to play in our country's development. What do we have to offer? A clear vision. Our policies will ensure that every voice is heard, every contribution valued, and everyone has equal opportunities—not just a select few. All youth will have the chance to progress and prosper. We will create a stable and vibrant economy that provides actual employment—not hollow promises.

Our housing programme will be fair and affordable. We will comprehensively review our education system to equip youth with academic knowledge and vocational skills, preparing them for the job market. Our government will engage with young people and listen to their concerns because they are the future of Seychelles.

We will prioritise transparency and honesty in our governance. Youth, these are our commitments to you.

Much has transpired over the past four years; don't expect things to change unless we take action. Change will come if we want it and work for it. I urge you to vote for Dr Patrick Herminie on September 27. Ensure your voice counts in the ballot box.

Do not remain silent; do not let anyone instil fear or intimidate you. Every conversation you have with friends should convey the importance of voting for United Seychelles in the upcoming election. It is the only way to reclaim your future. Seychelles is our country, and it needs us. Together, we rise. Together, we stand. Together, we win."

"Let's raise our voices and engage the youth for change."

As we approach the September elections, the role of the youth becomes increasingly urgent. Your voices, actions, and votes are crucial in shaping the future of our country. The United Seychelles Youth Organisation chairperson, Mr Freddy Lesperance, is a dynamic and determined leader committed to guiding the youth in this crucial period. At yesterday's Youth Conference, he took the stage to offer encouragement. He has pledged to add his voice to ensure that Dr Herminie, the United Seychelles Presidential candidate, is elected President. But he cannot do it alone. Your active participation is needed now more than ever.

"Youth, your participation reflects your commitment and dedication to our Party, especially at this critical moment for our country. You support all Seychellois youth who see United Seychelles as the only option for a bright future for Seychelles.

The Youth Forum is established in the Party Constitution, and its annual conference allows the youth to engage in discussions and contribute to the Party's progress. This conference showcases the Party's appreciation for the contributions of young people to our nation's development. The youth play a vital role within the Party and government; our input is essential. Our theme, "Youth: Voices for the New Generation," emphasises that no decisions regarding our nation's future should exclude the youth, as we are the future generation.

Let me elaborate:

Seychellois youth have aspirations, but they also face numerous challenges. For example, in my district of Perseverance, many young people who should be in school are wandering the streets without education. This indicates that our education system has failed our youth. We must ensure that no young person is left behind and that our education system is modernised and adapted to the changing world. The slogan "Be what you want to be" remains relevant today despite attempts to undermine what we have achieved in this country. Today, young people are given choices for university options set as a menu; you have to be able to afford them yourself.

Unemployment among youth is another significant issue. It is increasingly chal-



lenging for young people to find jobs, as employers often require three to five years of experience.

In the past, we had programmes that placed youth in organisations for internships, allowing them to gain experience and often leading to employment. Nowadays, the focus is on degrees and master's qualifications, which many young people do not possess. Why not give them a chance to learn on the job? Youth, let's reflect on this. Another pressing issue is housing, especially for returning graduates. There are no specific programmes to help them secure decent housing. Young entrepreneurs face red tape and bureaucratic hurdles, making it nearly impossible to obtain loans from banks, which leaves them at a disadvantage, especially without family financial support.

Shall we continue down this path, youth? Supporting entrepreneurship

among young people is a priority, and we must develop necessary policies to facilitate their ability to start their businesses. Dr Herminie and the United Seychelles Party have specific plans to address these issues.

The rising cost of living also impacts the youth. Money comes in slowly but leaves our pockets quickly, making it difficult to make ends meet. We were promised that the cost of living would decrease, yet it continues to rise five years later. Although salaries are purported to be adjusted right before elections, they do not alleviate the burden. What is given to you through salary increments is often collected back through taxes, leaving you with less than before. Meanwhile, politicians have ensured their salaries are inflated, along with various allowances.

As the new generation, we must ensure our voices are heard and our contributions valued; after all, the future of

Seychelles rests with today's youth. Your vote is not just a mark on a ballot; it is a powerful tool that can shape the future of our country. On September 27, I urge you to choose by electing our presidential candidate, Dr Patrick Herminie, and supporting his team for the National Assembly elections. He needs them to guide Seychelles in the direction we aspire to see. Youth, I implore you to vote to make a difference in our lives. But voting is the next step. For now, please join the United Seychelles Party and Youth Forum and contribute your time and energy to the change we want to see. Let's make our voices heard throughout Mahé, Praslin, La Digue, and our outer islands. I assure you that if we unite, we can place Dr Herminie at the State House."

Human Rights Commissioner identified urgent and significant issues following visit to Seychelles



Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, Mr Dersso meeting with the Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Sebastien Pillay

pointed out a tragic incident at Montagne Posee Prison on December 6, 2024, where two individuals lost their lives. He stressed that legal procedures must always be followed when committing an alleged offence. This includes providing proper legal representation for the accused and en-

suring that appropriate facilities are available if detention and rehabilitation are necessary. He also mentioned the importance of separating minor offenders from those convicted of serious crimes, as this separation is crucial for the rehabilitation of all inmates. Furthermore, the Commissioner ex-



pressed concern that our human rights institutions are not entirely free from government and political influence. He is closely monitoring the investigation into the incident at Montagne Posee Prison. He believes it is vital to establish the facts quickly to prevent similar occurrences in the future. Regarding the newly enacted Hate Speech law, the Commissioner acknowledged that while it is a recent addition to Seychelles' legal framework, there is a real and significant risk it could be misused to limit citizens' freedom of expression. Although there have been no known cases of misuse of

that law thus far, he considers the potential threat to be of utmost concern. The Commission will closely monitor how this legislation is implemented in the coming years. Additionally, the Commissioner observed the operation of the nine existing homes for older people and the arrangements for providing legal aid to those in need in Seychelles. Commissioner Dersso and his team are currently gathering information. They will produce a comprehensive report on the human rights situation in Seychelles.

'Ibou' is becoming more threatening!

seem unable to intervene, as the "Ibous" operate with impunity. What can we, as citizens, do in such a precarious situation? These individuals will have to be investigated after 27 September, especially after inmates were killed at their hands. They will have to be held accountable for all their wrongdoings. We must take precautions as they continue operating in the night and early hours, even during broad daylight, to cause fear and intimidate our citizens. We need to record their activities. If we know them, we must unmask their faces and tell the public about everything they

do. We cannot live in fear in our country. However, we need to take precautions and avoid being in places alone or in situations that give them a reason to "kidnap" us and beat us and rob us. Remember, precautions are our shield, making us less vulnerable to danger. The international community needs to be aware of this situation, and we must raise awareness. Social media provides us with the tools to share information and highlight that a dictatorship has been in place in Seychelles since October 2020, preying on our fear and suffering. Seeking help from the police is futile, as they cannot protect us from this repres-

sion. Furthermore, organisations are also hesitant to stand up against the authorities. Our only recourse is to expose this reality to the world. Seychelles belongs to all Seychellois, and we deserve to live freely and happily. We must not allow 'Ibous' (owls in English because they prey at night) to control our lives and dictate our choices. We cannot be prisoners in our own homes; it is imperative to confront a situation that many believed was confined to a one-party state era, which has become far more perilous due to corrupt politicians. The international community's awareness is crucial in this fight for our freedom.



Prosecution under immense pressure

Recent developments in the arms and ammunition possession trial, which started Monday, saw the Defense unveil a letter of authorisation from former President France Albert René permitting Mr Mukesh Valabhji to establish an armory on his property. This evidence is of the utmost importance, as it directly relates to the legality of Mr. Valabhji's actions.

Furthermore, the Prosecution's alleged possession of a missing copy of the letter and their reluctance to cooperate added a layer of complexity to the trial. Their insistence on verifying the Defense's letter suggests that this evidence could sway the outcome of the main trial. This week's courtroom dynamics have underscored the pivotal role this piece of evidence can play in shaping the trial's direction, creating a sense of tension for the Prosecution.

The letter rekindled the public's interest in the arms and ammunition possession trial. Before this, Mr Valabhji, demonstrating remarkable boldness and honesty, explained the necessity of having a backup armory.

Let us now revisit the events that unfolded in court this week, events that could potentially shape the trial's outcome:

Defence Offers President Albert René's Authorisation for Armory at Morne Blanc

The first accused, Mr Mukesh Valabhji, took the stand to provide a first-hand account of the events and decisions that led to the establishment of a non-standard armory at his residence in Morne Blanc, which he shares with his wife, Laura Alcindor, the second accused, and his daughter.

The first accused began by explaining to the court how his decision to share his university thesis about the ineffectiveness of the IMF with the President via Guy Morel at the Ministry of Finance brought about a meeting with Mr René, "who shared a similar vision." This led to an offer by the latter for Mr Valabhji to become part of a team that would lead a company, SEYCOM, aimed at offering the people of Seychelles affordable prices for all the necessary items of consumption so that the people of Seychelles would "never go hungry." The

company, which was to become SMB Trading, run by Mr Valabhji under the chairmanship of President René, was not a limited company. "It was created by law. It had its own Act," Mr Valabhji told the court. Besides ensuring affordable pricing, its aims, especially on the core consumables, included the production and development of the fishing industry and small industries.

As one of the general managers in SEYCOM, he had weekly group meetings with the President and graduated to daily lunchtime meetings at the State House by the mid-1990s. He became the Pres-



ident's closest confidant, tasked with undertaking duties outside his appointed positions.

Mr Valabhji elaborated that one such example was when a judge had failed his exam, and he was entrusted with liaising with the relevant ministry to allow the judge a resit.

"We became very close." He explained that they went on family holidays together and shared most family milestones.

"I was offered the position of Minister of Finance twice," said Mr Valabhji, "First in 1993 and then again in 1998." He declined the post and explained to the President that he would be more useful in a non-political role. By then, President René had reduced his travels and sent Mr Valabhji to act on his behalf. The former also offered the first accused the position of Economic Advisor to the President, a role he accepted, as it lent legitimacy to the various roles he was undertaking on the President's behalf.

Mr Valabhji continued, "From 1999, the economic situation in Seychelles grew progressively worse. Tourism was on the decline, and foreign exchange was

scarce."

Led by his counsel, Mr James Lewis, KC, Mr Valabhji described some of the threats faced by Seychelles and by President René, who, at the peak of the Cold War, allied with the East and was keen to establish the Indian Ocean as a non-military, non-nuclear space. He was very vocal about the Chagos Islands.

He spoke of the 1991 mercenary attempt to overthrow the Government, led by Mr James Mancham and other dissident Seychellois, financed by South Africa with the possible involvement of the USA; in 1982, the internal mutiny by the

army which started in the Union Vale Barracks, and the one led by a former Finance Finister. The President was overseas then and was assisted by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, who provided his plane and bodyguards to fly Mr René back to Seychelles.

"The President was a man who did not want to panic the people, so he resolved it as quietly as possible." The mutineers were made to leave the army. In another attempt by a French licensed fishing boat by the French Government, the perpetrators were asked to go quietly.

Mr Valabhji also spoke of a plot by the CIA to assassinate the President. This involved the British MI6. In this instance, Mr Valabhji spoke of how one of the operatives entered a relationship with the Seychelles High Commissioner's wife to garner information about the President and the Government.

Mr Valabhji explained that, as President René's close confidant and his Economic Advisor, he was privy to most intelligence reports received. That lasted until 2016 when Danny Faure became President. He related this when he was asked to meet with the brother of Muam-

mar Gaddafi in France at the President's behest to discuss some of the intelligence that the Libyan leader wished to share in person. Further intelligence from Gaddafi spoke of the British Liberal Democrats' intention to capitalise on the economic situation in Seychelles to fund the former opposition. Mr Valabhji mentioned how, on one occasion, Wavel Ramkalawan had asked President René to step down. The latter had said that Ramkalawan knew he would never come to power as long as the President was alive.

The constant internal and external threats to himself and the people of Seychelles prompted President René to suggest the idea of a non-standard armory during one of his many regular visits to the defendant's home, in the wine cellar at Morne Blanc. Mr Valabhji said that the President had explained that such non-standard armory existed in the '70s and '80s'.

Mr Valabhji continued to tell the court how, after ensuring that the cellar would be secure, he would establish a non-standard SPDF armory that would furnish loyal soldiers in an emergency to protect the people of Seychelles.

The decision to import the arms was made in 2003. However, problems arose regarding logistics. Mr Valabhji explained to the court that he had business interests in Bulgaria. Hence, the President asked him if he could help. Through a business associate, Mr Crassi, he met with the head of Delta G, Mr Gri-gov, who put him in touch with a Mauritian firm that would arrange transportation of the order.

The court heard that when the President informed Mr Valabhji that he had ordered arms from Bulgaria, he also added that he would give him written authorisation to keep the armory.

"I would not have refused President René anyway."

Then, Mr Lewis produced the letter of authorisation, which stated that Mukesh Valabhji was authorised to keep the backup armory and that the authorisation was valid unless revoked by the President.

The Prosecution, led by Stephen Powles, with the assistance of the Attorney General, objected to the letter's authenticity, giving rise to a Voir Dire, in which the Defence team is

now tasked with proving its authenticity.

Prosecution Questions Authenticity of President France Albert René's Authorisation

It was during the afternoon session at the Supreme Court on Monday, the 10th March, that Mukesh Valabhji, while testifying, produced the letter that stated: **“Mr Mukesh Valabhji is authorised to keep an armory at his home at Morne Blanc as a back up to the main SPDF Armory and the ones at Barbarons and L'Exile Camps. This authorisation remains valid until it is revoked in writing by the Order of the President.”**

The court asked the Prosecution if they had any objections, to which the prosecuting attorney, Stephen Powles, replied, “No objection, but we will need more details.”

The Chief Justice instructed that the court could mark the document as Ex-

hibit D24. She explained that Mr Valabhji was a frequent visitor to the President and that she was sure that one of the drafts of the letter was handed to him.

M.S. De Commarmond remained steadfast under cross-examination. She told the court that it was customary for her to type such confidential letters and never questioned the president's instructions or decisions. She also confirmed for Joel Camille, Defence Counsel to Frank Marie, 4th accused, that the President would frequently sign and stamp blank documents.

Captain David Savy took the witness stand on Tuesday morning to confirm that President France Albert Rene's signature in the letter was indeed that of the President. Captain Savy explained to the court that, as the President's stepson from 1975 to 1992, he administered the President's bank accounts in the UK and was familiar with the signature.



hibit D24.

“The document dated the 12th November 2003 signed by FA Rene, President is tendered and marked as Exhibit D24.”

When Mr Lewis, lead counsel for the Defence, began questioning Mr Mukesh Valabhji about the letter, the Prosecution started to voice their objections. Chief Justice Govinden sided with the Prosecution and decided that a Voir Dire was required to determine the letter's authenticity. The defence team was tasked with proving that the letter was indeed written and signed by President France Albert Rene.

Marie Bernadette De Commarmond, President Rene's private secretary, confirmed that the President had instructed her to type 2 drafts of this very letter, and that she had no doubt that this was President Albert Rene's signature. She explained that she was very familiar with this signature, since she had worked for the President since he was a lawyer in 1974. She continued working for him for 2 years after he stepped down in 2004.

Sylvette Pool, more familiar to us as Minister Frichot, and Ambassador Francis Shamlaye both testified that the president's signature was indeed on the Document.

Former First Lady, Sarah Rene stated resolutely, “This is the most famous signature in Seychelles. I don't think anyone who ever worked for him would say otherwise.” She also explained to the court that her late husband was a lateral thinker. “When he decides to do something, he would cover all grounds. Yes, he would have 100% written this letter.” Under cross-examination, Mrs Rene stated, categorically, “I knew him well enough to say this is not speculation.” The court learnt that Mr Valabhji's sister-in-law, Christina Medina, had retrieved the letter from a flat in London, UK, following instructions from Mrs Laura Valabhji, the second accused. She said she had been asked in November 2022 to retrieve this document, which she had to submit to the defendant's lawyer, Varun Zaiwalla. She also explained how she had been stalked and had even

reported it to the Met Office in Hammer-smith.

Mr. Mukesh Valabhji testified to the court, that President Rene had handed him the typed authorisation in his office at State House. He also confirmed that he had seen the former sign the letters, of which one had been presented to him by the President. Mr Valabhji had made 2 or 3 copies of the original at his office, and had kept the original in a file with the documents of the ammunition imports in his study at Morne Blanc. Mr Valabhji said that either ACCS or the Police had taken the file, but they have yet to disclose it. He also explained that he had taken one of the copies of the letter with him when he went on a 6-week family trip to London in 2010. He had kept the copy and other documents in a file in his closet at the London flat.

Under cross-examination by Stephen Powles, Mr Valabhji explained that he had placed a copy of the letter in an envelope in a plastic bag along with documents of the arms in Hive 2, the receptacle in the cellar which housed the backup armory, when the arms were being stored. It was on top of one of the crates. However, neither the ACCS nor the police have ever disclosed it. This was testified to by Corporal Bethew during the Prosecution case last year. He was shown photos of the hide and said he could see something on top of the crate in one of the photographs. Still, it was absent in the photo that immediately followed. Bethew explained that when he was taking the pictures, he must have been looking at the photographs on his camera, and that's when somebody had to remove the plastic bag.

Still under cross-examination, when asked why he had not revealed this letter earlier, Mr Valabhji explained that he did not trust either ACCS, the police, or the AG's office.

He elaborated that since his arrest on the 18th November 2021, a team from Wavel Ramkalawan, led by Anil Bristol, had entered his cell threatening him at gunpoint to confess. The statement of that incident has subsequently ‘disappeared’.

“It has always been my defence that I have authority,” stated Mr Valabhji. “A copy of the letter was on a thumb drive in my safe at Morne Blanc. But when the authorities videoed the safe being opened, they claimed the video had stopped as they opened the safe.” The thumb drive was never mentioned.

Mr Valabhji told the court that the same authorities had destroyed the CCTV cameras and that his laptop was missing. Mr Valabhji also denied having any end user certificates at his house in Morne Blanc and that the rifle and other ammunition found in his bedroom and his study had been planted.

“So you can understand my reluctance to trust these people.”

Mr Valabhji also went on to say that he was putting his trust in the Chief Justice.

Arms and Ammunition Trial Adjourns till April

The trial for possession of arms and ammunition, a case of significant public interest, has been adjourned until after 3rd April. This adjournment is crucial as it allows the Prosecution time to have the letter of authorisation by President France Albert Rene forensically examined, a process that could potentially impact the trial's outcome.

The prosecution lawyer, Stephen Powles, asked the court for time to allow a forensic services provider to examine the Document to determine its authenticity. He asked the court to adjourn the Voir Dire for three weeks, whilst allowing the trial to continue. He also confirmed that he had no witnesses but that the Prosecution would review the report after receiving it.

The Defence strongly disagreed with the Prosecution's suggestion that the trial could continue without knowing whether this “crucial document” is admissible. James Lewis KC argued that Mr Valabhji could not give his evidence or be cross-examined, and neither would other witnesses, as this letter is “the cornerstone of our defence”. We cannot advise our clients without this being resolved. Mr Lewis underscored his point by stating that the Prosecution wanted 3 weeks. Still, it had taken them 7 months to present their case, and they had been given every adjournment they had requested. He reminded the court that on the Voir Dire regarding the end-user certificate, last year, Chief Justice Ronny Govinden had broken the hearing



Mr Frank Marie

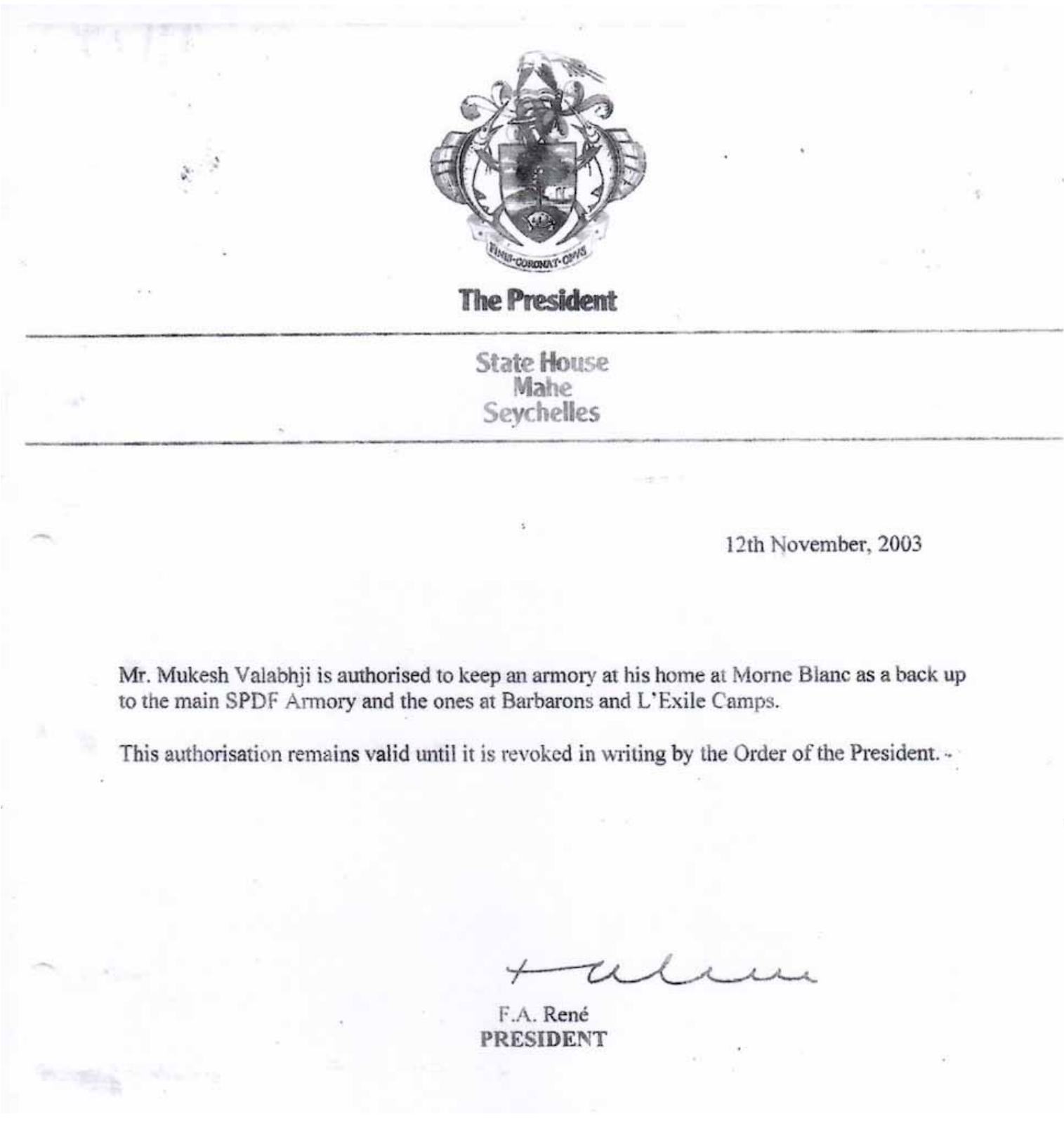
of the main trial until the Voir Dire ruling. Applying a different standard to my client would be a grotesque breach of procedural fairness.

Rachel Scott, a lawyer for Laura Valabhji, echoed James Lewis' submissions, as did Joel Camille for Frank Marie and Basil Hoareau for Leslie Benoit. She also added that the right to a fair trial is inconsis-

tent with Mr Powles' proposal, that there is no precedent for it, and that it would be wholly wrong and procedurally unfair in a way that couldn't be remedied. After carefully considering both sides, Chief Justice Govinden decided to adjourn the trial to 3rd April at the earliest.

Chief Justice Rules Against the Presence Of Defence Forensic Examiner During Testing

Chief Justice Govinden ruled on Friday to disallow the presence of the Defence's forensic expert during the examination of the authorisation letter by President France Albert Rene legitimatising a back-up armory at Mr Mukesh Valabhji's residence at Morne Blanc. He explained that examiners need to work in a quiet environment without any distractions. Chief Justice Govinden said that as the Defence had closed their case, there should be no interference in how the Republic conducted theirs. James Lewis KC, counsel for the Defence, pointed out in his submission that he had not formally closed the case for the Defence. The Court also added that the Defence team can cross-examine the Prosecution's Forensic expert on his report when he testifies in court. The letter will be flown to the UK under seal and placed in the personal custody of Deputy Registrar Marie-Angele Barbe, who will be responsible for maintaining a chain of custody for the document until its return to the Supreme Court. The Prosecution forensic examiner is to present his report by April 4, 2025. The trial is expected to resume on April 10.



Enough is enough! Wife demands an investigation to free Leslie

Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Benoiton, the son of the late President France Albert René, has been in remand for 1,206 days without bail, and his wife, Mukta Benoiton, is fed up. She has issued a public letter to the Human Rights Commission of Seychelles, urging them to investigate the abuses in Leslie Benoiton's case. In the letter, Mukta stated that Leslie had been wrongfully charged- a sentiment shared by most people. The Seychelles People's Defence Force (SPDF) initially claimed at the time of his arrest that there was no evidence of weapons being issued to him. However, two years later, the same SPDF (which had changed its name to SDF) asserted they had proof of having issued the arms in question. This shift occurred after "we provided evidence—without which he could have been unjustly condemned for simply serving the defence forces with honesty and integrity." She further pointed out that the arms were imported by the SPDF, with documented proof stored in their ar-



chives. This information was provided to the Anti-Corruption Commission of Seychelles (ACCS) three days after Leslie's arrest. She questioned, "How then can

these arms be classified as 'terrorist property'? It is widely known that the SPDF is not a terrorist organisation, and Seychelles is not a terrorist state." Mukta also asked, "If Brigadier Payet was acquitted (rightfully so), why are Frank Marie and Leslie Benoiton still facing charges?" She emphasised that they were junior officers at the time and were not in command of the army. This selective prosecution raises serious concerns about fairness and justice. Mukta Benoiton is seeking urgent intervention from the Human Rights Commission to ensure that justice is upheld and that no individual is wrongfully punished due to inconsistencies and contradictions. Leslie Benoiton, Frank Marie (who was René's chief security officer), Mukesh, and Laura Valabhji are being tried in court for possessing arms. The Seychellois public has perceived this case as political persecution by the leadership of the LDS.

Afif's comments on Veronique Herminie reflect political persecution

Now, they are targeting the wife of the United Seychelles Party President, the former Commissioner General of the Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC), Mrs Veronique Herminie, after she served as the Guest of Honour at the United Seychelles' Women's Forum. In her speech, she addressed numerous issues affecting women and highlighted her husband's potential as the next President. This has made her a target for the malevolent actions of the LDS party, which is a shameful and despicable act of injustice.

On Tuesday, in response to a Private Notice Question (PNQ) from the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Sebastian Pillay, the Vice President was asked who exempted Traversory (the company responsible for operating Seychelles' e-border control) from VAT payments. This exemption has cost Seychelles significantly, and the Vice President claimed they are currently finalising it. In his response, the Vice President implicated Mrs Veronique Herminie, suggesting she failed to address the issue earlier. Veronique Herminie served as the Commissioner General of the SRC from October 19, 2019, until January 27, 2023. Faced with these accusations, she responded with remarkable courage and dignity during an interview.

Below are excerpts from her interview:

"Honestly, I cannot express whether I was more disappointed or shocked by the Vice President's declaration alleging that I did not complete the procedure for Traversory to pay VAT. Firstly, I served as the Commissioner General at the SRC, not as the Controller General, which is a position based at the Ministry of Finance and involves policy-making. Secondly, I did not bring Traversory to Seychelles. Thirdly, I did not sign any agreement with Traversory on behalf of the Government of Seychelles. Lastly, I was not the one who exempted Traversory from VAT. My initial interaction with Traversory occurred through Customs and Tax. I first met with them regarding customs, and the discussions were held in the presence of the Commissioner for Customs after email exchanges with the former Principal Secretary, Alain Renaud. I requested permission from SS Payet to meet them because I was unfamiliar with the name Traversory and needed to research who they were and why they were in Seychelles. I discovered they came for COVID-19 assistance and worked with the Ministry of Health. I do not know who facilitated their arrival or their arrangements.

After meeting with Traversory, SRC and

Customs expressed interest in a technology providing advanced information about passengers. This is what Traversory is intended to be: an advanced passenger information system. It's worth noting that around the same time, the Americans had a similar system but with a broader range of information than Traversory and offered their service, too. The individuals behind Traversory are businesspeople who have convinced the government of their capabilities. However, the decision to proceed was made by the Seychelles government and not by Veronique Herminie or the SRC; it was a policy decision.

Suppose you grant any entity a tax exemption. In that case, I'm not just talking about VAT but taxes in general—that also constitutes a policy decision. The



SRC implements policies established by the Ministry of Finance. Interestingly, there is no VAT exemption in place. As the Commissioner General of the SRC, I typically did not interact directly with taxpayers unless necessary. I have met with more than 400 taxpayers in the presence of an SRC official, as usually, the officer manages their case.

Regarding Traversory, I remember the senior officer I assigned to oversee the responsibility. We asked them numerous questions during our first meeting, and they affirmed they could fulfil the requirements. We also inquired about tax obligations since any registered entity must pay taxes when operating in the Seychelles. When I raised this issue, both representatives from Traversory, PS Renaud and his officer, seemed taken aback, as if they did not expect Traversory to be liable for taxes. They registered and paid taxes on salaries, and they would only lodge their return and pay business tax after one year. I heard

the Vice President mention that Traversory signed the agreement on March 21, 2021. I learned that when Traversory came to Seychelles in 2020, it was more of a platform trial; therefore, they would lodge their return only after March 2022. The SRC monitored and knew the rates they were supposed to charge. However, a crucial question was missing: what about VAT? When a Seychellois exceeds the tax threshold, we ensure they pay VAT. When we inquired whether Traversory was paying VAT, I spoke with their representative at the SRC office, who informed me that they are exempt. This was surprising because when a business is exempted under tax regulations, the SRC is supposed to receive documentation.

Regarding the Traversory issue, I re-

ceived no responses to my email from the finance minister or SS Payet confirming any agreements with Traversory, at least regarding arrangements of concern to the SRC. I contacted Traversory, and they sent me a two-page agreement. The first page stated they were exempted from paying VAT. I was taken aback because tax laws do not stipulate provisions for VAT exemptions. So, I requested the policy document that granted this exemption, and they sent me a second page, which I assumed was the final page of the agreement. Notably, it was not signed by Veronique Herminie. I forwarded both pages to the Ministry of Finance. I needed someone to determine whether Traversory genuinely had a VAT exemption. Unfortunately, I never received a reply.

The Controller General's responsibility is to monitor the funds collected from Traversory. Still, I had not seen the agreement and was unaware of the arrangements made. I heard from the Vice President of the National Assembly that

Traversory had made some contributions. Still, during my time at the SRC, I never witnessed any financial contributions from them. Thus, the VAT payment issue remains unresolved, underscoring the urgent need for political accountability. I watched the news and heard the CEO of SRC say they never received my handover notes. I left my notes behind when I departed. At that time, the new Commissioner General (CG) had not yet taken her position. However, I prepared a hard drive containing all unresolved policy issues and activities done, which were well-detailed and organised in alphabetical order. I gave this hard drive to the deputy CEO with specific instructions: "Please let me know when the new CG arrives so that I can do a proper handover." I also included my handover notes with the hard drive, which I later sent to the new CG on March 1, 2024. I still have the email because I no longer have access to the office email, so I had to send it through my email.

In my notes, I mentioned that the VAT issue for Traversory remained unresolved and indicated that this was a policy issue that could be politically sensitive.

If I were the Vice President faced with this issue, I would admit we made a mistake instead of blaming Veronique Herminie. In his response, he should acknowledge a misunderstanding between government representatives and the Traversory; we did not intend to exempt them from paying VAT. We are actively seeking ways to resolve this problem, which is not complicated.

I refuse to let LDS drag my name through the mud for political gain; that is unacceptable. I am a professional. Although I left SRC, I ensured everything was in order after my departure. Today, politicians behave childishly, and people will understand why I chose to quit my job. We treat the National Assembly as a playground; my name has been used more than once.

I have carried the Herminie surname for thirty-four years, not because of a speech I gave last Saturday that inspired women in a way that the LDS could not handle.

Furthermore, the PNQ was brought by the US, and they decided to blame the US Party President's wife for the VAT exemption.

VAT regulations were established to restrict exemptions. Services are generally not exempted; we have an exempted supply policy but not an exempted entity. For the government to grant an exemption, it must amend the laws accordingly.

Do not underesti- mate and overlook the youth forces. We are not a tool for election solely



Under the theme "nouvo lazernes, nouvo zenerasyon," United Seychelles has given the youth a task to fulfill and that is to remain vigilant in the present and live with the hope of seeing a better future – a future which we would all help to make it brighter and more promising for the coming generation.

In this current situation of stagnancy, the energetic young bloods are the harbinger of change, which will push Seychelles and our government to discharge its role effectively.

It is the youth of Seychelles and only us who can sow the seeds of growth and progress. We are the backbone of the nation which will forge the foundation for a bright future based on principles and morals.

For years now, we have sat down watching current leaders take the youth forces for granted by laying to waste their optimum capacity. Irrespective of what they aspire to become in life – a doctor, engineer, teacher, sculptor, actor, the youth should be spared the space to engage and put their efforts forward.

In order to make Seychelles progressive and dynamic, young people should be made an essential part of it. It is rightly said that "today's youth is the force, hope and leaders of tomorrow" as they are the face of our community, society and country at large.

Our leaders of today have failed to create a sense of belongingness in our youth. This is reflected by the lack of activities that will capture youth engagements at national and district level. Total failure and I am not sure if I should postulate it as 'failurism.'

The young minds have been watching closely and drawing lessons from the past. We expected our leaders to have been doing the same, but unfortunately they have played a blind eye to our energy, dynamism and aspirations. Let us say enough is enough while it is high time to validate our efforts and motivation. Vote for a change and vote United Seychelles.

By Daniel Laurence

Jeanne & Marcel

Dear Jeanne,
Are you seeing how the incumbent LDS gets more and more desperate as we close in on the September General elections? These people act like a bunch of losers with no qualms and no humility, and they expect the Seychellois public to swallow the line, hook and sinker just because they got away with it in 2020. Five years, they got. Can you imagine that? 5 years, 1825 days and they've been lying and manipulating while they run a corrupt system where some politicians have become millionaires on the backs of taxpayers and our country, Seychelles. See, the same US Party they hated gave them a prosperous nation, and some politicians pillaged whatever they could lay their hands on and also used this country to attract money to their bank accounts. The people, meanwhile, are like sleeping beauties waiting for the kiss of a charming prince, the same people who spent every Saturday morning at the clock tower in a protest when they had it all but were riled up by vicious politicians.

Did the Vice-President's actions against the former Commissioner General of the Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC) stem from a desire for revenge? On Saturday, Mrs. Veronique Herminie, the Guest of Honour at the United Seychelles' Women's Forum, significantly impacted the LDS party. The following Tuesday, the President dispatched his Vice President to the National Assembly to tarnish Mrs. Herminie's reputation. However, his efforts were in vain, and he failed to achieve his goal. The public understands that the LDS did not expect the profound impact of Mrs. Herminie's speech, where she boldly spoke the truth at the Women's Forum, highlighting the struggle of the mothers to make ends meet, those suffering due to their children's addictions, how LDS, especially the President targeted her husband, the President's opponent in the upcoming election, with a false charge. She even announced the launching of an association for women. As the former Commissioner General resigned from the SRC, they attempted to retaliate by blaming her for Trivisory issue, a controversial matter involving tax (VAT) exemption and potential financial mismanagement, has been a point of contention in the political landscape of Seychelles. This issue, which has been a hot topic in recent political debates in the National Assembly and social media, has raised serious questions about our country's financial management.

The Vice President's attempt to tarnish Mrs. Herminie's reputation was not just a low blow but a grave injustice. He seemed to forget that his target was a woman of utmost professionalism who

always upheld integrity in her career and never crossed her boundaries.

As her husband, the United Seychelles presidential candidate, Dr Patrick Herminie, expressed in a Facebook post, "Only cowards lie like that! United Seychelles will investigate this matter. Everyone in Seychelles knows who is accountable for the Trivisory issue: who signed the agreement, who received the US\$5,000 monthly retainer fee, who became consultants, who received the VAT exemption, and how long it took the SRC to receive a two-page agreement. One part was the so-called VAT exemption; the other consisted of demands and signatures. Perhaps the public should inquire about what the Finance Minister did to send the SRC a copy of the agreement. What response did they receive regarding the VAT exemption? It was a policy issue, not an SRC issue, at that time. However, if the Vice-President has forgotten, since January 2023, Mrs. Herminie has not been with the SRC. Now, we see why she left. Soon, the people of Seychelles will know everything... fearless in dignity."

Well, what did you think happened after that? You must have seen it. Boom! Mrs. Herminie gave SBC an interview and posted it on social media. She showed nothing but the truth.

As for you, Vice-President, your actions have led to a significant loss of respect from the public. They see you attending the National Assembly, lying to the public, or blaming others for concealing your government's mistakes. This is not a fitting legacy after so many years of public service. To take responsibility for a failed and incompetent President whose poor decisions continue to hamper our nation, Seychelles. In just six months, the same man will leave office, and you will be left to answer for his dismal performance while he hides behind his cabinet members and the National Assembly. The former Chief Executive of the Island Development Company (IDC), Mr. Glenny Savy, is the next one to reply to their lies and accusations. That's right, guys. Now, they are shifting the blame.

The man behind it all wants to retain his position to conceal his government's corruption. Along with him are some nasty and crooked individuals who fear jail time. They will do anything to avoid consequences. I learned that he's travelling to Madagascar again. He'll probably resolve the missing 22 bars of gold.

I look forward to hearing your reaction to my letter's content.

Best regards,
Marcel

A dictator is dictating colours to be worn by athletes!

Seychelles is currently under a level of dictatorship that poses a threat to the public, particularly as they witness the psychological ramifications of the leader's decisions. For instance, he removed the colour red from the sports facilities, such as the colour of the tracks, replacing it with the colour of his party, blue. During ceremonies, he often smirks or looks away when he sees someone dressed in red. Those around him have noted this behaviour, and he appears visibly displeased even when his wife wears red attire.

Will this change extend to the red uniforms worn by Seychelles athletes, replacing them with blue and green? The potential loss of our national identity is a concern. It's alarming that someone in such a position would harbour such aversion toward his opponents that he would eliminate a colour associated with them at national events. If he secures another mandate, it wouldn't be surprising if he sought to remove red from our national flag, leaving only yellow, blue, green, and white.

The man threatened all federations that his government would not inject money if they insisted on red-lining their attire. FIFA needs to know what is going on here? They only have to confirm if one federation has cancelled a batch of red t-shirts already ordered. If he doesn't already, the president must understand that red holds significant meaning and popularity; it symbolises courage, sacrifice, and struggle. All nations, including significant superpowers, have experienced hardship at some point in their history, and



Seychellois are proud of our national team- seen here in their traditional red and white coloured t-shirts

many newly independent countries have fought for their freedom. Red was chosen because it is associated with vitality, energy, and strength. In sports, red is linked to energy, dominance, and aggression, which can give athletes a competitive advantage due to psychological and physiological effects. Mr President, it's essential to recognise that this isn't just about you or the LDS; it's about the determination of individuals and teams striving to win as true patriots for their country. Presidents come and go, but the Seychellois people's energy to sports is vital for the nation, not for you or the LDS. Let's inspire our athletes to embody the true spirit of sportsmanship, regardless of the colours they wear. Please do not waste money or go to great lengths to seek to remove

the colour red on a t-shirt. Otherwise, it proves that you are so hateful that you keep dividing people with your decisions and actions. Moreover, there are more pressing matters to address. The stadium for the upcoming soccer tournament is slated to be ready on the eve of the event if everything goes according to plan. This means there will be no opportunity to test the stadium beforehand, making safety a priority for the event. As we have reiterated, we fully support our athletes and sports in general and hope to host the soccer tournaments successfully. However, political pettiness should not interfere. Remember that sports are about more than colours; they are ultimately about medals, trophies, and the unity they bring to our nation.

Tou dimoun in ganny ase avek LDS

Sa i en fraz ki ou tann pli souvan dan labous dimoun ozordi. Lamas travayer Seselwa in ganny ase. Bann profesyonnel zot in ganny ase. Dimoun ki dan biznes zot in ganny ase.

Bann dimoun ki dan lafors zot in ganny ase. Lazenés in ganny ase. Bann madanm US in ganny ase. E zot ti dir sa tre for dan ICCS Sanmdi



pase alokazyon lazournen bann madanm. Depi la ziska eleksyon, nou pou tann sa parol en kantite fwa ankor. Me aköz ki tou Seselwa in ganny ase? Seselwa in ganny ase aköz nou pei i annan en gouvènmàn ki PA BON. Seselwa in ganny ase aköz nou annan en Prezidan ki fer sa ki i oule. Me sa menm Prezidan pa fer sa ki lepep i demann li. Par egzanp: Seselwa i dir li aret gaspiy zot larzan pour vwayaze, me aprezan ki i vwayaze. Seselwa i dir li fer keksoz pou fer pri lavi desann, aprezan ki pri lavi i monte. Seselwa i dir li aret fer per dimoun lo semen, aprezan ki son bann tim Ibou i vin pli aktiv. Seselwa i dir li fer bann bon lanket lo bann lensidan bizar ki detanzantan pe frap nou pei, aprezan ki ou tann nouvo zistwar. Seselwa i dir li fer lanket endepandan dan sa zafer CCCL, aprezan ki i inyor

zot. Seselwa i dir li donn konpansasyon bann dimoun ki'n sibir okenn keksoz ki enzis, aprezan ki i fer sek. Konmdir limenm, wa kwar i annan LANM DAN SON POS. Nou annan detrwa sa bann group dimoun. 1. Viktim leksplasyon CCCL. 2. Viktim movetan Le Niol. 3. Viktim TRNUC. 4. Viktim delo La Mizere. 5. Viktim "fungus" dan batiman gouvènmàn. E lezot ankor. Seselwa i dir li aret esper nou vye granmoun karyate avan zot ganny zot pansyon, i zve sourd lo la. Seselwa i dir li aret fer nou granmoun sikonbe avan zot ganny zot sekirite sosyal, i pa tann ditou. Sa i fer ki ozordi dan Sesel, tou kategori dimoun in ganny ase. I reste nou zis pou war ki Seselwa i fer letan zot in ganny ase. E sa dat pa lwen.

Upping their game with lies

On Tuesday, Vice President Ahmed Afif boldly defended their decisions with Trivisory, claiming that Seychelles boasts the best e-border control system, even suggesting it's the best globally. However, this assertion is far from the truth. If Seychelles had the best system, visitors wouldn't be voicing their complaints, a fact that's widely known. The reality is that many tourists are opting to avoid Seychelles partly due to the so-called best system and the associated charges it imposes on visitors. Our investigation, however, found no substantial evidence to back the Vice President's claim that Seychelles has the best border control. Instead, our findings pointed to countries like the Schengen Area/European Union, Japan, the USA, the UK, Canada, and Hungary having more robust systems. We even probed whether any of these countries use Trivisory for their e-borders, and the response was, 'We cannot identify any information about countries that use Trivisory for border management.' When asked, 'Which country uses Trivisory for its e-border control?' The response was, 'Seychelles Government is currently using Trivisory.'



It's important to note that the issue isn't with Trivisory itself but rather with the current government in Seychelles. This raises serious doubts about the validity of the Vice President's claims and the effectiveness of the current leadership. Seychelles does not have the best system because of lousy government leadership, which is why United Seychelles will in-

vestigate. How can Seychelles claim to have the best e-border control while resorting to racial profiling of certain African nationalities and focusing solely on the continent as a source for drug importation? We hear cases involving other nationalities, such as Iranians and Brazilians, appearing in court. Moreover, foreigners

who are deported now return to their countries, where they may quickly go back to drug trafficking. At the same time, Seychellois, caught with these foreigners, faces prison sentences. It raises the question of why drugs continue to enter the country. Suppose we honestly had the best border control. How is it that we are facing the worst drug crisis, with new and more dangerous substances circulating, leading to a significant increase in drug-related crimes and health issues?

The Coastguards, also a key component of our border control system, claim to apprehend boats involved in drug trafficking. However, despite their efforts, drugs continue to enter our shores. This raises serious questions about the effectiveness of our border control measures and the claims made by the Vice President.

In conclusion, the Vice President must acknowledge that they lie to conceal failures and corruption. Still, Seychellois sees that the LDS politicians hide behind a veil of virtues, and the worst one wears an invisible mask. The responsibility for this situation ultimately falls on the President.

Bann politisyen pares

Premye semenn travay, Lasanble LDS napa travay pour Mercredi. En laont apre plis ki de mwan vakans. Oli tou sa lalwa ki zot prezidan in dir zot annan? Travayer Seselwa dan sekter piblik pe ganny 'assess' baze lo zot performans pour deside si zot pou ganny 50% bonous ek 50% 13 enm mwan saler- selman politisyen ki sipoze deservi lepep e ki ganny pli gro saler, grwatite e dan 6 mwan, zot pansyon pour lavi, menm si zot ankor en bann zenn zonm ek fanm,

pa pe travay aköz napa nanryen lo 'Order Paper'. Inital vin dir nou ki zot pe fer lezot travay, Seselwa i konn sesyon Lasanble ki pas an koman zot priyorite travay. Me nou konnen ki zot pe servi sa bann letan pou 'campaign' pour eleksyon; parey nou tande ki zot pe fer dimoun ganny loan 50 mil rroupi vitman pou ganny vot. Sa ki zot pa konnen se ki Seselwa pou pran zot larzan me pa pou vote pour zot.

Lasanble LDS in konmans lannen ek en teknik anvoy bann MNA lopozisyon deor, sa avek bi donn lenpresyon dimoun ki sa bann MNA pe donn poum. Seselwa i konnen ki si Spiker in dir en MNA sorti, e i pa sorti, i pou fer tir sa MNA. Si sa MNA i reziste e pa sorti, zot pou ganny war koman bann fouter dezord. LDS pa kapab diriz pei, e protez lentre Seselwa aköz zot ankor pe azir parey avan- fer malis, servi manipilasyon ek mansonz, fo lakizasyon pour reste rel-

evan. Zot servi laenn e kree divizyon. Me sa ki diferan ek avan, se ki Seselwa in war zot pour sa ki zot ete. Bann enkonpetan ki servi zis zot labous me aksyon zero aköz zot napa abilite pour fer nanryen. Zot in vin dan ladministrasyon pour zis ganny gro saler ek privelez. Apre le 27 Septanm, sa larzan pou fini, sa pansyon pour pey loan zot bann gro sato ek biznes. Sa bann biznes pou 'fail' aköz karma. La ki zot pou realize ki zot in mal fer ek Seselwa. 5an, zot in byen manze, byen bwat, byen voyaze, byen akimile san en sou pitte pour mazorite fanmiy Seselwa ki'n eskente, me pa'n reisi kapab fer de bout zwenn.

United Seychelles pou sanz ankor lavi sa bann fanmiy. Zot pou war laklerte o fon tinel- kot zot pou aford pey zot bann bil, aste manze pour donn zot zanzan trwa repa par zour, e fer seving. Sa Parti i travay ek Bondye dan son kote pour li kapab reisi fer diferans pour lezot. Nou dir ek bann politisyen LDS sa de parol: proverb i dir "100an pour voler me en zour pour son met." E "Apre movetan i annan soley." Tandis ki zot realize ki proverb i dir "ou pa fer soufer en zanzan." E ki "boul retour sa ki nou apel karma, pa en fars."



Pa ekspekte nanryen avek LDS

Ozordi Seselwa pe koz koumsa lo sa gouvèrnman ki i annan dan son pei. Sa i vreman en laont. “Ou pa kapab ekspekte nanryen avek sa gouvèrnman LDS. Plito ou fer ou debrouy lo oumenm.” Se sa ki dimoun pe dir partou kote.

Si ou pe rod en travay, i annan problem. Si ou dan lanplwa, i annan problem menm. Si ou pe rod en pti lasistans sosyal, pli move. Si ou pe rod en lakaz, ou napa okenn lespwar. Si ou pe rod en bout later, ou pou napa ase larzan pour aste en kare. Si ou pe rod en pti “loan” pour devlop ou later, ou pa pou gannnen. Si ou pe esey konmans en biznes, lobstak partou kote. Si ou dan biznes, ou ganny tiraye avek taks toulezour. Si ou bezwen reste kot ou, personn pa enterese ek ou.

Si ou sot dan semen, fer sir ki wa pe fer. Seselwa in ganny anserkle avek problem. E sa gouvèrnman LDS pa kapab fer nanryen pour person. Bann sef ki kapab fer keksoz, zot fer zis pour zot lekor.

Seselwa alor in rekonnet en keksoz. Anba sa gouvèrnman LDS, zot napa en rev. Zot napa en lespwar. Zot pe zis les sa gouvèrnman LDS fini son manda e fer li ale. Bokou in dir ki selman apre le 27 Septanm 2025 ki zot pour konmans okenn nouvo demars dan zot lavi. Pour konmans la, i initil. Zot pou pe zis gaspiy zot letan. Zot pou zis vir an ron pour apre fini menm landrwa kot zot ti konmanse. Se selman anba en gouvèrnman US kot zot pou war laklerte ankor dan sa pei. Me kimanyer Seselwa in zanmen kapab met en gouvèrnman parey LDS opouvwar? BONDYE KONNEN.

Plito nou al bwat anba pye koko

LDS ti mont avek en tim lo La Digue 2 semenn pase. Bi sete pour al tat delo laba. Dapre konpran, delo ti bwi. Sote 200 degre. Bann Digwa ti donn zot en bon bilan lo zot move performans konman en gouvèrnman.

Ti annan anviron 60 dimoun dan sa group ki ti mont La Digue sa zour. Lentansyon sete pour disperse an pti group e al enpe partou lo sa zil. Me letan Ramkalawan ti’n war sitiasyon, i ti donn lord pour zot reste an sanm konman en sel gro group. Koumsa, si zafer i sal, i ava annan ase zot ansanm pour defann zot lekor. Dapre lenformasyon, olye mont lo teren pour fer kanpany, mobilizater ti prefere al bwat labyer anba pye koko enpe partou. Zot ti war ki napa lavi pour LDS La Digue. Anmiz zot lekor anba pye koko ti en meyer opsyon ki al ganny afron devan laport dimoun partou kot zot pase.

Lo tar apremidi, dimoun ti war zis Ramkalawan pe pas pase enpe partou dan en “buggy”. Tou son bann mobilzater ti pe soule anba pye koko. Vi ki ti osi annan en “match “ futbol enteresan sa zour, en kantite dimoun ti sorti Mahe pout al get sa “match”. Zot dir ki lanbyans dan bato Cat Coco ler pou retourn Mahe ti parey en lanterman. Bann siporter LDS ki ti osi lo sa bato ti desann tou kanmi kanmi. Zot lazournen La Digue ti en vre dezapwentman. LDS i en parti politik ki dan bokou problem dan tou distrik lo Mahe ek Praslin. Preski tou Seselwa pa krwar dan zot. Ki zot al rode La Digue? En landrwa kot zanmen okenn parti politik in deza ranport eleksyon, eksepte US. La leksperyans La Digue i zis en avan-gou ki pou arive le 27 Septanm 2025.

Pa zanmen annan en plas pour vander

Si i annan en kategori travayer dan Sesel ki pli soufer anba en move sistenm, se pa lot ki bann vander anvil. Zot louvraz i ganny menase toulezour. Depi ki LDS in vin opouvwar, nek zot ganny bouze isi, bouze laba. Tir en bor, e anvoy lot bor. Zanmen zot stab. I’n annan lenstans, zot in ganny tire kot zot ete, zis akot en siporter LDS pa kontan war zot akote son propriyete. Alor bann sef LDS i bezwen soutir zot kapris. Tousala o detriman bann vander.

La nou tande ki zot pe ganny tire dan bazar anvil e pe ganny anvoye kot Ex-SMB ti ete. Bann ki dan lezalantour bazar osi pe gannt evakye. Eski zot kontan sa nouvo landrwa ou non? Vander napa swa. Gouvèrnman in decide e i pe fer li. Be gouvèrnman LDS i bezwen



konn serten keksoz. Vander pa kontan ditou avek sa nouvo laranzman. Zot in abitye kot zot ete. Sa se anndan dan bazar anvil. Oubyen dan bann lespas akote. Zot dir ki se la kot dimoun i pase toulezour. E se la kot zot annan en pli gran sans vann zot prodwi.

Konmdir sa msye ti dir avek nou journal “Be fourtou. Deside ennfwa pour tou ki zot anvi fer ek nou. Si zot oule al met nou lo lalin, fer li. Sesel pour zot.” Sa bann dimoun i fristre. Zot bezwen ganny stabilite ek proteksyon dan sa ki zot pe fer. Zot osi zot bezwen viv. Pa zis milyoner.

Sa ki pe aspire pou vin Minis

I annan en MNA LDS ki Ipa pou debout dan distrik kot i ti ranporte an 2020. Rezon se ki aparaman in ganny promet en pos Minis si LDS i ranport eleksyon 2025. Alor i pa kapab anpay li. I bezwen kit son lanmen lib pour li pran sa gro pos. Set en pti madanm ki pe vin ranplas li konman Kandida dan sa distrik.

Sa boug i tre anbisye li. E i osi en boug ki voras e pare pour pran tou sa ki pour li. Me i pe fer en gro fot. I annan gran posibilite ki i pou kapot ek las. I pe tay deryer plizyer poul, me i kapab war li san okenn poul dan son kazo.

Son karyer politik pou fini lanmenm le 27 Septanm 2025. Apre i pou pran pozisyon MINIS ZANMEN.

San okenn dout, tou dimoun i konnen ki LDS pe al perdi sa eleksyon. E se United Seychelles ki pou ranporte. San okenn distrik anba son kontrol e san okenn pos Minis, sa boug pou war lavi drol. I pou war li san okenn karpet anba son lipye. I annan zis de swa. Pour reste kot li e manz son gro pansyon. Oubyen retourn kot i ti sorti. Anba sa pti pye zanmalak Arpent Vert.

World Glaucoma Week: Understanding the Silent Threat to Your Vision

World Glaucoma Week: Understanding the Silent Threat to Your Vision

March marks World Glaucoma Week, an important reminder to raise awareness about glaucoma, a condition that can silently steal your sight. In Seychelles, as around the world, many people are unaware they have glaucoma until it's too late, which is why early detection is so crucial.

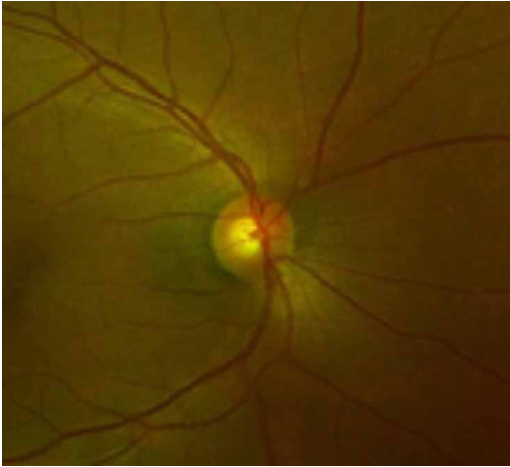
Glaucoma is not just one disease; it's a group of complex conditions that can damage the optic nerve, the part of the eye that sends information to the brain. While high pressure inside the eye is often linked to glaucoma, it's important to know that not all cases are caused by this pressure. Some people have normal pressure in their eyes but can still develop glaucoma due to other factors, such as problems with the drainage system of the eye or weaknesses in the optic nerve itself.

One of the main reasons glaucoma can go unnoticed for so long is that it often causes no pain. Unlike many other eye conditions, glaucoma doesn't typically give warning signs, especially in its early stages. In fact, you might not notice any symptoms until the condition has already caused significant damage to your vision, often affecting your peripheral (side) vision first. This is why regular eye checks are so important.

Certain groups of people are more at risk of developing glaucoma. If you are over 40, have a family history of the condition, are diabetic, or have high blood pressure, your risk is higher. People of African, Asian, and Caribbean descent may also be more likely to develop glaucoma.

How is Glaucoma Diagnosed?

Diagnosing glaucoma requires a battery of tests to get a full picture of your eye health. The process begins with measuring the pressure inside your eye (tonometry), but that's just one part of the puzzle.



Normal Optic Nerve

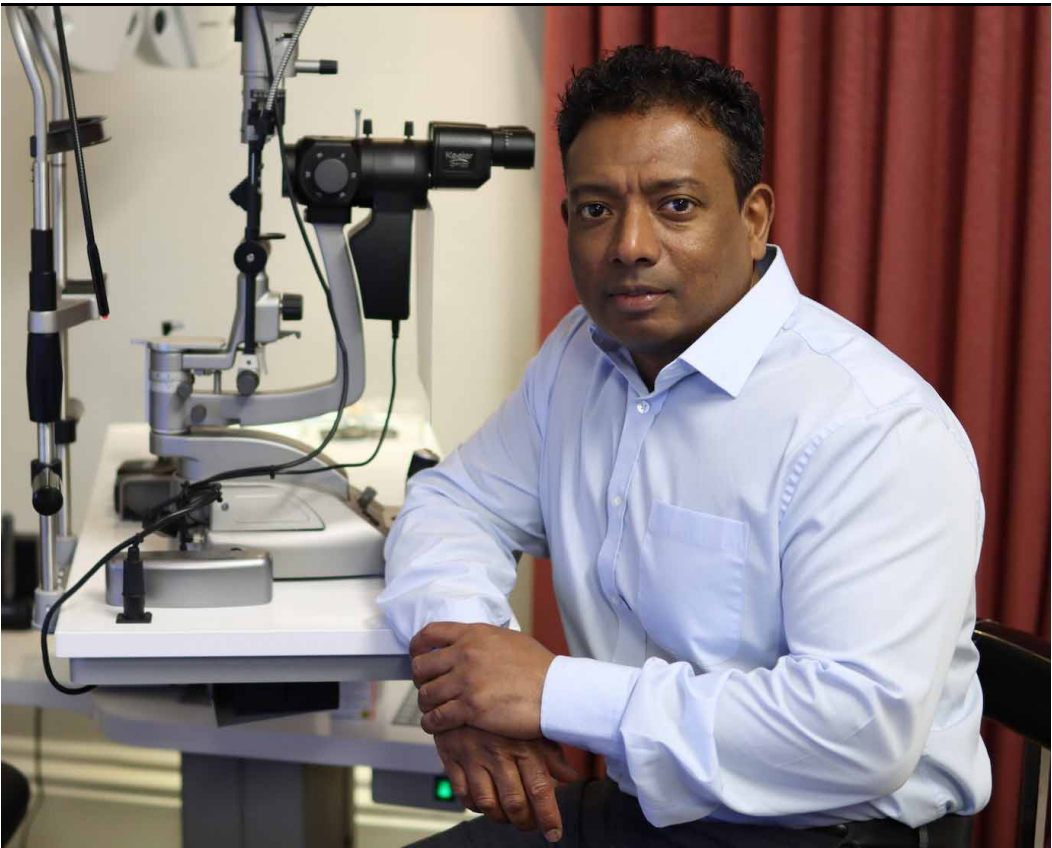


Damaged Optic Nerve from Glaucoma

Visual field testing is performed to check for any loss of peripheral vision, which can be an early sign of the condition.



Glaucoma often leads to a gradual loss of peripheral (side) vision, which, if untreated, can progress to tunnel vision and, in severe cases, eventual blindness.



About the Author

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One of the most advanced tools in diagnosing glaucoma is Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), which gives detailed images of the optic nerve, allowing us to detect any early signs of damage. The GMPE (Glaucoma Module Premium Edition), which is a specialised tool on the OCT specifically designed for glaucoma detection, providing highly accurate readings. Most importantly, a detailed optic nerve examination is essential to determine the health of the optic nerve, as it's the area most affected by the disease.

While glaucoma can't be cured, it can be controlled with treatment. Many people with glaucoma are prescribed eye drops to lower the pressure in the eye. These drops work in different ways: some help the eye drain fluid more effectively, while others reduce the production of fluid inside the eye. In addition to drops, laser treatments like Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) can help by improving fluid drainage and lowering eye pressure. In other cases patients require surgery for eye pressure management.

This World Glaucoma Week, let's remember that regular eye exams are the best way to catch glaucoma early, especially since it's painless and can develop without noticeable symptoms. If you have a family history or other risk factors, make sure you get your eyes checked regularly. Early treatment can help preserve your vision for the future and prevent unnecessary sight loss.

US ON THE MOVE



Zenn i dir met li deor

























Mauritius Independence Day

Dear Honourable Prime Minister Dr. Navin Ramgoolam,
On behalf of the United Seychelles Party and the people of Seychelles, I extend my warmest congratulations to you, your government, and the people of Mauritius on the joyous occasion of your nation's Independence Day, March 12th.

This day marks a significant milestone in Mauritius's history, a testament to your nation's resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to self-determination. We in Seychelles share in your celebration and admire the remarkable progress Mauritius has made in building a prosperous and vibrant nation.

Our two island nations, Seychelles and Mauritius, are bound by deep historical ties, forged through shared experiences and a common heritage in the vast Indian Ocean. We are neighbours, partners, and friends, connected by the currents of our shared history and the aspirations for a brighter future. The bonds of kinship and cultural affinity that exist between our people are a source of great strength.

As Leader of the strongest opposition party in Seychelles, and with our nation preparing for elections this year, I want to emphasize that strengthening the partnership between Seychelles and Mauritius is a key priority for United Seychelles. Regardless of the electoral outcome, we are dedicated to building upon the strong foundation of our existing relationship. We recognize that sustained collaboration is essential for the prosperity and stability of our region. I am confident that the upcoming electoral process will further reinforce our commitment to democratic values, which we share with Mauritius. I believe that through enhanced cooperation in areas such as sustainable blue economy initiatives, trade, tourism, maritime security, and cultural exchange, we can unlock the immense potential that lies within our partnership. In an increasingly complex global landscape, the stability of the Indian Ocean region is paramount, and our close cooperation is vital in safeguarding our shared interests.

The challenges and opportunities facing our region demand that we work together, sharing our knowledge and resources to ensure the sustainable development and prosperity of our island nations. I am confident that by building upon our existing foundations of friendship and collaboration, we can create a future where both Seychelles and Mauritius thrive.

On this auspicious day, I reiterate my commitment to promoting stronger relations between our two countries and wish you, Honourable Prime Minister, and the people of Mauritius, continued peace, progress, and prosperity.

Please accept my sincerest best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Patrick Herminie
President & Presidential Candidate
of the United Seychelles Party



Office of the President of the United Seychelles Party
Maison du Peuple, Republic of Seychelles