



**Countdown to Election 2025**

**DAYS 2 0 2**

# First 100 Days of Herminie's Presidency: Highlights from Women's Forum

Yesterday's forum at the International Conference Centre of Seychelles (ICCS) was more than just a traditional Party event by the women's organisation, coinciding with International Women's Day this year. It was a significant milestone in which Dr Herminie highlighted his First 100 Days in Office as the Party's presidential candidate in the upcoming

election. We were also honoured to hear from his wife, Mrs Veronique Herminie, the Guest of Honour at the event.

Dr Herminie proudly opened his speech by quoting his wife: "Mrs Herminie described women as the pillars of society. Women are pillars of our Party, and we need you.

In 2020, our Party faced one of the most

challenging periods in its history. Our opponents believed it was the end of United Seychelles and had even started writing their eulogy about us. But United Seychelles, always resilient, grew into a force we see today, and that shocked them to the core. Women have played a vital role in this. Therefore, I salute all of you gathered here today and

## Zot oule touf sa gro leks-plozyon CCCL



Gouvernman LDS i oule touf zafer sa GRO LEKSPLOZYON ki ti arive kot CCCL le 7 Desanm 2023.

On dire ki nanryen pa ti arive sa zour.

Me en kantite Seselwa in perdi en kantite keksoz sa zour.

En kantite Seselwa zot lavi in sanze pour touzour.

Wavel pa oule koz lo la dan son SONA.

Pourtan sa i reflekte en kantite lo leta nou nasyon.

Spiker Lasanble Nasyonal i ankoler letan manm US i koz lo la.

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## What you lost!

Dear People of Seychelles,  
It is not a time for complacency but to wake up and face the harsh reality. Many of you may still be in a state of slumber, believing the lies the President, his ministers, and MNAs fed us. These elites want to convince you that everything is fine. They claim there is money for everyone and that improvements are coming. Still, these are nothing but falsehoods and manipulations. Their promises are deceitful, relying on the hard work of United Seychelles to remain in power. The time to act is now, not tomorrow, not next week, but now.

If we stand united, we can only turn this around and rid ourselves of these selfish politicians. This opportunity will present itself on September 27th at the polls. I urge the youth to register and do their part.

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**“He is a man with unwavering determination, and I recommend him for the presidency of Seychelles.” – Mrs Veronique Herminie**

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## "If waste of time had a name, it would be Wavel Ramkalawan"



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# First 100 Days of Herminie's Presidency: Highlights from Women's Forum

those at home because you answered my call to help restore the Party to its rightful standing. It's this unity that will lead us to victory.

Fearlessly, we have metaphorically crossed oceans, enduring challenges with resilience. We have sacrificed our Saturday mornings for door-to-door campaigning and motorcades. You are our Party militants; we have shown courage and conviction.

The fruits of our labour are evident today as we have revitalised our structures in all districts. Anse aux Pins and La Digue have demonstrated that we are the most significant political force in Seychelles today, with increased followers.

Six months remain until the crucial elections on September 27, when history will demand that we decide the fate of our country.

We must choose: do we maintain the status quo, where everyone acts for themselves and the rich become richer while the poor become poorer? This system has caused many in our middle class to regress, making it difficult for families to make ends meet and provide food for their children.

Or will you opt for a system that places people at the heart of development, liberating the potential of our youth and ensuring our senior citizens live with dignity? A system that brings back the joy of living as Seychellois, restores hope to our people, and provides an equitable distribution of national resources so that every Seychellois receives their fair share?

We aim to establish a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

We are responsible for returning to our communities, engaging with the people, and informing them that our Party is the best option for Seychelles.

Recognising the vital role of women in our Party and country, I chose this platform to preview a document we will soon launch. It outlines the key actions we will take during the First 100 Days of my administration, encapsulated in a program titled "First 100 Days: A Contract with the People of Seychelles."

This document includes decisive steps we will implement immediately upon taking office to establish the foundation for a modern, civilised, and prosperous Seychelles where freedoms flourish. Our commitment to transparency and reform is unwavering; this promise should give you hope for a better future.

Firstly, Seychellois will no longer live in fear. We will annul the 10th Amendment of the Constitution, which has forced our



people into a constant state of emergency without the approval of the National Assembly.

From this point forward, our military will return to the barracks, continue necessary training, and only intervene in emergencies as outlined in the Constitution. The military will no longer be used against civilians in situations that the police can effectively manage.

Our youth must live without fear of masked individuals, and those officers involved in clandestine operations will return to their respective units.

We will demolish the systems that spy on our people and monitor their calls.

To combat the widespread corruption in our society, we will annul the LDS law enacted in 2021 that prohibits the declaration of assets for spouses and close family members. The LDS amended this law to make it easier for politicians to

misappropriate funds by transferring money to their families and taking bribes. My government will put an end to this deceitful amendment, and it will apply retroactively.

Immediately following the inauguration, we will initiate an independent investigation into the following matters:

- The CCCL explosion on December 7, 2023. We assure the residents of Cascade that we will provide them with a full report. Honourable Tamboo, a strong and courageous woman who will be the next MNA for Cascade, will not be again dismissed from the National Assembly for requesting a police report.
- The Assumption Island Project; anyone who received money from the Qataris will be required to return it.
- The Île Longue Island situation.
- Travisory potentially represents the most significant fraud in our country's

history, with several hundred million rupees in taxes (VAT) uncollected—funds that could have been allocated to health and education.

- The Covid Fund has been misused for personal medical treatment in America.

- A prison riot led to the deaths of two inmates, with many others injured by live ammunition, likely at the order of the President.

- The incomplete STC's cold storage project.

- The sale of 22% of shares in Nouvo-banq to friends is concerning. These shares could have supported the Pension Fund and helped reduce the pension age from 65 to 63.

We will only find peace of mind if we uncover the truth behind many criminal actions and our country's corruption ("Beelzebub") over the last five years.

Today, we commit to paying one million rupees as compensation when we take office to anyone who will provide information that will bring to justice the guilty person (s) for the removal of a body from the Takamaka cemetery and the vandalism of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Victoria. There is no place for such diabolical actions in a new Seychelles.

Five hundred thousand rupees will be set aside as compensation when we investigate the fires at Mission Lodge, the SPTC buses, and the gas incidents at our schools. Those responsible will face justice. Where fraud and corruption exist, agreements will be annulled.

Our progressive Party, which prioritises the welfare of workers, will remain committed to improving their circumstances. By January 1, 2026, we will pass legislation to reintroduce the 13th-month salary and the Long Service Allowance, effective January 2027.

Similarly, we will abolish allowances for politicians, including those for suits, dental care, housing, security, and overseas medical treatment. Politicians' salaries will not increase for the first five years. We will work to close the gap between the wealthy and the less fortunate, and the money saved will be redistributed to the workers.

Within our first 100 days, we will establish several agencies to improve health access, enhance information dissemination, and reduce poverty.

We will immediately reinstate the APDAR to combat drug demand, alongside creating a new agency for mental health, which is another epidemic affecting many Seychellois. Both of these agencies will operate directly under the Office of the Pres-



ident. We will re-establish the Seychelles News Agency to ensure the world knows what is happening in our country. My administration will convene an economic council of businesspeople from the private sector and government representatives to foster a sustainable economy. This council will work to revitalise our economy and will report directly to the Office of the President. We will review to make Seychelles more competitive and boost tourism revenue. Within the first 100 days, we will eliminate the environmental sustainability levy for small guesthouses; otherwise, our tourism industry may collapse. We will also reinstate the Seychelles Tourism Board, composed of private sector representatives, whose mission will be to promote Seychelles abroad and implement new tourism policies. We aim to make living in Seychelles affordable for all, reviewing the Seychelles Trading Company to remove

capitalist influences, stabilise prices, and eventually establish a franchise in each region and later in each district. However, we cannot implement our political programmes, to improve lives unless we win the elections on September 27. We will face many challenges ahead. The President, who claims to be robust and hardworking, has already sought to restrict our ability to buy promotional items like t-shirts, caps, and umbrellas and to conduct political programmes, including rallies. He is attempting to prevent United Seychelles from participating in the next election by blocking our access to finances. We had reserved and received approval from the NSC for the most significant rally on September 21. Yesterday, the police told us we could not hold our rally because Ramkalawan was against it. The Police Commissioner, Mr Ted Barbe, must act responsibly. There are only six months left for the people of

Seychelles to judge him by his actions. Ramkalawan knows that United Seychelles, the strongest and most popular Party, will win the election. We have two messages for him: first, he will not succeed, and second, while he may flex his muscles, he should be wary of karma. A dirty campaign filled with slander has begun to tarnish the reputation of our Party and my character, but this will also fail. They use fake profiles and exploit the National Assembly, hiding behind immunity. Today, I challenge them to make their accusations publicly. They will be unable to do so because they know they are lying. Meanwhile, we will stay focused and determined in our efforts. If every time a dog barks, someone seeks to throw a rock at it, they will never reach their destination. The LDS government fears losing because it amended the Constitution without consulting the people, granting it 30 days in power after losing an election. This vio-

lates the spirit of our Constitution. Following the election, on September 28, thousands of women from United Seychelles will gather at the gates of the State House to discuss these issues with him. We hope he will be there to meet them. I call on those who voted for LDS in 2020 and now regret their decision. Do not hesitate to join United Seychelles; we will welcome you with open arms. In Seychelles, there are no termites; instead, there are Seychellois who are telling the President that he has failed this country and must go. We need to unite and deliver a knockout in the first round—there will not be a second round. As a politician whose journey was influenced by a woman, my mother, I declare that for the first time in Seychelles, 50% of my cabinet will consist of women. Happy Women's Day."

# What you lost!

Women encourage the men in your lives who are still loyal to the ruling party to vote for the sake of our families and children. Remember, our unity is our strength. We must vote out the worst President in Seychelles' history. He sought power and achieved it, enjoying himself while fattening his bank accounts. Now, it is time for him to go. It will be him or us. If we give him another chance, he will take it and ruin us for good. Meanwhile, what will happen to us? The reserves the President speaks about are not absolute; they are loans or debts for us and generations after us to repay. In other words, he has burdened us with loans. We cannot have revenues from poor-performing tourism, the primary foreign exchange earner. Let's put on our thinking cap and realise that the government would not have been without a finance minister if the economy had been that rosy. Ramkalawan's first term has been catastrophic for ordinary people. At the same time, he has lived his best life, ignoring our needs and prioritising his desires and those of his friends. Let us return the favour on September 27th when he asks for your support—ignore him. Let's work together to put him in the history books where he belongs. Remember, the people of Sey-

chelles, this man who desperately sought power, have made harmful decisions that adversely affect our livelihoods. He eliminated:

- Means-testing for the needy
- Our savings due to the high cost of living
- School breakfast programmes for our children (which only returned because of efforts by United Seychelles)
- The Unemployment Relief Scheme
- Free post-secondary education, forcing students and parents to apply for loans
- Affordable housing schemes
- The cleaner's cooperative
- The 13th-month salary and Long Service Allowance
- Benefits related to retirement age and pension age at 60 and 63 (you now must reach 65; how many of us live to see that age?)
- Half of your overtime pay and bonuses
- Subsidised prices for essential commodities
- Homeownership opportunities for Seychellois (without having SR1.2 million in the bank, you cannot afford a plot of land)
- Our sovereignty, as he is selling our islands to foreigners

During his tenure, we have seen an increase in:

- Corruption

- Crime
- Gas prices
- Electricity costs
- Water rates
- Bus fares
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Begging
- Drug trafficking and addiction
- Types of drugs
- Port fees
- Homelessness
- Victimization
- Fear and intimidation
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Suicides and self-harm
- Death

What has suffered under his leadership?

- Healthcare
- Education
- Sports
- Your right to own a decent home
- Your right to afford and build a house
- Our living standards
- Our values
- Respect
- Morality

The time for change is now. Let's make our voices heard on September 27th! Remember, your vote is not just a right; it's a responsibility. It's your chance to shape the future of Seychelles. Don't let it slip away.

# Zot oule touf sa gro leksplozyon CCCL



Pourtan i en size ki tre relevan. Zot oule anvoy en gouni mouye lo sa zafer leksplozyon CCCL. Zot oule touf li pour ki Seselwa pa tann ankore. Me zot pa pou zanmen kapab fer li.

En zour pou annan en vre lanket endepandan lo sa leksplozyon. En zour pou annan en vre rapor lo sa lensidan. En zour bann viktim pou bezwen ganny konpansasyon ki zot merite. Sa zour pa lwen. I lanmenm anba lipye. Sa zour i le 27 Septanm 2025.

Si gouvènmman LDS i oule kouver serten dimoun, se limenm ki pou ganny dekouver. Lepep Seselwa ki pou eksploze lo li dan bwat vote. Ozordi Sesel in arive koumsa. Nou annan en Prezidan ki pa oule rod en solisyon pour pli gro KALAMITE ki'n deza arive dan zistwar sa pei. ESKI SANMENM SA TRANSFORMASYON?



# “He is a man with unwavering determination, and I recommend him for the presidency of Seychelles.” – *Mrs Veronique Herminie*

“The President of the United Seychelles Party, Dr. Patrick Herminie, Deputy- President, Dr Marvin Fanny, Secretary General of the Party, Mr Wallace Cosgrow, All Central Committee Members of United Seychelles, Chairperson of the Women's Committee for United Seychelles, Mrs. Marie-Ange Denis, and all other committee members.

Good afternoon, everyone. I would also like to extend a good afternoon to all the women of the United Seychelles, including those at home tuning in.

I feel very privileged to address you today, especially on International Women's Day, celebrated annually on March 8. This forum's theme is "Women: Agents of Change for the Development of Seychelles." To be agents of change, we must commit to inspiring, influencing, mobilising, and engaging others to achieve the transformation necessary for our country. I will elaborate on this theme in my speech.

As agents of change, women must also reflect the realities of Seychelles. We must acknowledge and appreciate that the emancipation of women in our country began several decades ago. We have made significant strides in providing equal opportunities for women and young girls, a feat many in other countries have yet to achieve. This is one of the reasons why the international theme for Women's Day is "For All Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."

Today, we are fortunate in Seychelles to have access to education up to the university level and primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare. These are not just services, but a testament to our nation's commitment to the well-being and growth of its citizens. Many people overseas are surprised to learn that, as a small island nation, women here earn the same salaries as men for identical jobs. This remains a contentious issue in many African

nations and even more developed countries, including North America.

Thanks to progressive policies, I stand before you today as a proud professional woman.

Unfortunately, many among us, particularly older individuals, never had the opportunity to develop their potential at a

suitable age. Many of our parents had to attend literacy classes in the late 1970s and 80s to learn how to read and write. We must ensure that such regression does not happen again.

Let my professional success and many other women in our country and abroad inspire our young girls and Seychellois

women who have the potential and desire to move forward.

We must never forget that the principles of United Seychelles have remained relevant since its inception, especially regarding opportunities for all. As the saying goes, "In our opulence, we must never forget where we come from."

As a small island state, our greatest assets are our people—our citizens, women, and, most importantly, our youth. We must value the contributions of every individual who positively and constructively impacts the development of our country.

Women must not allow others or external circumstances to hinder their pursuit of goals. Taking time and remaining consistent is essential, as "Rome was not built in a day." We must work diligently toward personal development, ensuring that we leave behind a stronger Seychelles for future generations. Upholding law and order is crucial to attracting more visitors to our country, supporting our economy and maintaining peace and harmony within our communities.

Mothers must instil respect, honesty, and integrity in their children. We must equip them from a young age with essential skills, including emotional intelligence, to help them navigate their journeys. We must firmly reject violence and criminality, as well as any attempts to incite racial, ethnic, or religious conflict within our nation. Throughout my professional journey and various leadership roles, I have come to appreciate that Seychellois, including our women, are competent, intelligent, and proud people who aspire to succeed in their endeavours.

Today, Seychelles enjoys a standard of living that surpasses some other African nations, with most of our citizens belonging to the middle class. This is a testament to the hard work and determination of our women, who are the pillars of our society. We must continue to empower them to ensure that our country re-





mains inclusive and fosters diversity for further progress. Today's forum reflects our commitment to preserving our resources, which are unfortunately under threat.

March 8 marks 203 days until the elections in September, and it is crucial to remember the importance of our democracy. With increased choices for leadership, we need to make informed decisions. The upcoming election will determine whether Seychelles remains a proud and dignified country. We must consider whether our nation provides good healthcare services and quality education while ensuring that our senior citizens and other vulnerable populations live with dignity. Women's participation in these decisions is crucial, and I urge all women to actively engage in the political process and support United Seychelles in the upcoming elections.

Alternatively, if we continue on our current trajectory, we risk descending into decadence, insults, calumny, hatred, and, sadly, poverty. Many mothers struggle to make ends meet and cannot afford two meals daily. At the same time, fiscal policies disproportionately benefit the wealthy, further impoverishing those in need. Our economy is burdened with heavy taxes and levies, particularly in the tourism sector, where public services continue to decline due to frustration and lack of direction.

The choice is clear: In September, vote for United Seychelles. When you do so, remember the plight of the vulnerable, the sick who cannot work, and families facing difficulties, even while employed. The state has a responsibility—and a moral obligation—to provide the necessary support for these individuals to lead dignified lives.

We must never regard assistance such as welfare as a burden but rather as an investment in our children and future generations. Many of us, including those in leadership roles within our country, may have had opportunities that others did not. Thus, we must ensure that all Seychellois have the same opportunities, support, and encouragement to create wealth for themselves, their

families, and their nation.

The drug crisis is another serious issue affecting our society. Reports indicate that we must take decisive action against it, as it impacts our youth significantly—approximately 10% of our population is affected, equating to about ten thousand people, mostly young. We can observe the social, financial, and emotional repercussions on families. This problem poses the most significant public health challenge our country has ever faced, impacting every segment of society and threatening our existence.

We must unite in this battle against the drug crisis; otherwise, we will never build a strong society or families or prepare the next generation of future leaders for our country. The repercussions of drug abuse are long-term and severe, especially for the human resources and economy of a small island nation like Seychelles. But together, we can overcome this challenge.

Too many mothers and women are suffering because of this scourge. Far too many young men, in particular, are in prison, having lost their dignity due to this social crisis. Given this year's theme for Women's Day, I appeal to everyone to become agents of change and bring relief to the women suffering because their children have fallen into addiction.

I know that the president of United Seychelles, Dr Herminie, strongly advocates prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. However, I also believe it is essential to increase our coordinated fight against traffickers who continue to introduce this poison into our country and affect our youth.

Dr Herminie and his team understand the importance of engaging all committed to progress. This requires hard work, discipline, and respect for diverse opinions. He is a valued professional in our country. Coming from an ordinary family, he understands poverty deeply and often says he is "allergic to poverty" because he despises seeing people suffer.

He is a compassionate man who strives to comprehend the struggles of others. A Praslinois, he has had a fascinating journey through education,

government service, and politics, all while being proud of his Creole identity.

Having been married to Dr Herminie for 33 years, I can attest to his work ethic and energy. He is courageous and determined to ensure a fair and just Seychelles, where wealth is shared and everyone's positive contributions are acknowledged.

I admire his discipline and resilience, but what I appreciate most is his courage and mental strength, especially when he was maliciously accused of a so-called action of witchcraft. This vicious act aimed to imprison him, delay democracy in our country, and tarnish his reputation both locally and internationally.

This has been an emotional and painful chapter for all family members, children, and close friends, bringing ridicule to Seychelles on the world stage. I want to share with you that he did not show fear at any moment. He always told me, "I must always believe that the truth will ultimately prevail."

He is a strong man with unwavering determination, and I recommend him for the presidency of Seychelles.

Let us stand firm and not despair in any circumstance, as our children need us to build a better tomorrow for Seychelles. Let us strive to lift and support each other in any way we can because, ultimately, we women represent peace, humility, and respect.

Women are paving the way for progress in our country, and through our collective strength, we shape the future. I am committed to all women; you can count on my support and experience for professional and personal guidance. I will also take this opportunity to announce the formation of a new group for independent women to support women's development and advancement. If you are interested in joining, please reach out for more information. This impartial group, through an association, will thrive on the engagement of women with clear objectives. Join me in supporting the rights and dignity of all women. We will remain engaged and united. I believe it is essential that we stay "Fearless in Dignity."

## Jeanne & Marcel

Dear Marcel,

Father is facing rejection. His failures with the presidency over the past four and a half years have been terrible, and he made things worse with the fake State of the Nation Address (SONA). He has faced backlash from the public and his opponents, and the recent National Assembly debate on the SONA did not help his situation. Father feels like a hyena caught between the teeth of a lion. He cannot blame them; his speech was unconvincing and divisive. Ramka had no ammunition to defend himself—he shot blanks, and everyone laughed and ridiculed him. The calls for his resignation have grown louder.

If his inner circle wonders, he is packing and preparing for the inevitable. His impending defeat at the polls is becoming increasingly unavoidable, making it even harder for him to cope with the public's growing disdain. Not even the few activists he pays to campaign for him can save him from this impending change.

It is shameful for a man who has been the loudest when he should have remained silent and learned. He forced himself into the presidential seat, believing he was destined to take control. He led people on, gathered followers, and let his ego get the better of him. He should have admitted that he enjoyed the noise but was not suited to lead. He was merely fuel for the fire. Even though he manoeuvred his way into a position of power and privilege, what has come of it when the entire nation has seen him fail miserably? They witnessed his incompetence and gossiped about his lies and misleading statements. No amount of money can grant Ramka a good night's sleep; he is living through his karma, even though he still holds power.

As for those who continue to support him, hoping he will remain in office and thus maintain their high salaries and perks, I doubt he thinks of you as a priority because he has worries that keep him awake at night as big as mountains. Your votes are meaningless to him because you are a small group against the majority of Seychellois who are eager to vote him and the LDS out. Defending and protecting him is counterproductive; it is like harbouring a fugitive.

His leadership has been a facade; they have not managed anything

effectively. He travelled to enjoy the perks of his position, but he also had to beg for support as everything collapsed. In moments of reflection, I am sure he admits that United Seychelles has done an excellent job. If this Party had not been effective in governance, giving Ramka some ground to stand on, we would be in a very dark place now, and we are already drifting. In any case, no one can sympathise with him except those who are loyal to the benefits he provides. He must be held accountable for his actions because Ramkalawan deliberately placed himself in this role despite knowing he lacked the competence required. The need for accountability is urgent, as he has undermined what we worked hard to achieve as individuals, families, and a nation.

As our Creole saying goes, "It is not only when you kill someone that it is a crime." Robbing or denying people the opportunity to succeed or grow is equally criminal. As President, he took an oath to protect our country and its citizens, including providing opportunities to improve our lives. He failed to look after the Seychellois people, a crime against our lives. Our living standards have regressed due to a person's ambition to win a race. After he won, he forgot about the responsibilities that come with power. How do we reclaim what we lost as individuals or as a people? Is voting him out sufficient? He will live in wealth while we have to start over. Where is the fairness in that?

Some may argue that people voted for him, but he still bears responsibility. Just as any worker who accepts a promotion knows they have a duty toward the company and their colleagues, the President must also be held accountable. It is worth noting, Marcel, that people voted for him because he presented himself as the best candidate for the job. He must take responsibility for our loss.

I am getting agitated so that I will stop here. I hope to hear from you next week.

Kind regards,  
Jeanne



# "If waste of time had a name, it would be Wavel Ramkalawan"

The Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Sebastien Pillay, did not hold back in his response to the disgraceful State of the Nation Address (SONA) delivered by the incompetent and unpopular President, Wavel Ramkalawan. The truths presented by Honourable Pillay have been hazardous to the Speaker, a close friend and colleague of the President. It appears the President advised the Speaker to keep Honourable Pillay subdued to minimise the display of the President's deplorable leadership as elections approach.

Below are excerpts from Honourable Pillay's speech, including a part the Speaker did not allow the public to hear. He interrupted Honourable Pillay and suggested he could leave if he wished.

"On 27 February 2025, once again, the President abused his power and privilege to try to divide our nation at a time when, as the head of state, he should be uniting the country and fostering harmony. Unfortunately, SONA was just another opportunity for him to insult his political opponents and civil servants within his administration. It seems the President desires universal admiration for himself—indicative of typical narcissistic behaviour. Despite appointing most government heads, he has treated civil servants poorly throughout his term. He held 26 meetings in 26 districts, made countless promises, and spoke many untruths. If the waste of time had a name, it would be Wavel Ramkalawan.

When the President asked the public to stop contacting his ministers, we were left wondering what those ministers do when they're not avoiding roadblocks, endangering people with their vehicles, or collaborating with artists. The ministers travel excessively, yet the President is surprised that they receive numerous calls from the public! People are frustrated with an ineffective administration and a President who spends more time abroad than addressing his nation's issues.

The President displayed incompetence and paranoia for anyone needing convincing on 27 February 2025. One of the most significant shortcomings of SONA was its lack of vision for the country's future. The President focused on short-term benefits and administrative measures without offering a transformative plan for Seychelles. He failed to address critical issues such as the investigation into the recent riot at Montagne Posee Prison, which resulted in the deaths of two inmates and serious injuries to others. The incidents of gas poisoning in schools, arson at Mission Lodge, and the alleged kidnappings of school children have seen no exhaustive investigation or results presented. The President's address also neglected the syndicate and the CCCL explosion. The reason for this neglect is apparent: we have an arrogant President who believes he rules by divine right. He knows his government is accountable for the happenings at the CCCL, as members of his cabinet have already confirmed the number of containers that exploded. Nevertheless, he insists on manipulating our perceptions, which is the hypocrisy we must contend with at the State House.

He did not present our country's economic or development plan, indicating that we were heading in the wrong direction with

him in charge. His half-truths regarding increased tourism arrivals and progress in fisheries and other sectors since the pandemic do little to convince anyone, especially as our citizens struggle with an unprecedentedly high cost of living far exceeding their salaries.

His assessment of the tourism sector seems like it was made in a small ice cream container; how can he claim we do not see the number of tourists visiting because they choose different establishments? Fewer arrivals result in more revenue—we are eager to see how that works! Just before he resigned, the Finance Minister presented the most significant budget. Yet, when the President explained his SONA, he failed to mention whether those projections were on track.



**Honourable Sebastien Pillay**  
The Leader of the Opposition

Likely, he doesn't even know what's happening.

Listening to him speak reveals his frustrated mind—knowing he has failed to govern effectively and deliver results. This frustrated mind is aware of the many lies he's told, and the public is fed up and wants him to leave office. Unable to focus on delivering a meaningful SONA, he resorted to politics, employing stale slogans to elicit applause from his supporters in Parliament.

He is an authoritarian who infringes upon people's rights and freedoms when they express themselves publicly. His govern-

ment monitors what people post on Facebook. At the same time, a team of masked men in uniforms—known as 'Ibou' (owls) for their clandestine operations—intimidates citizens. Seychellois now hesitates to make regular phone calls, opting for WhatsApp and fearing state surveillance. This man is unfit to serve as President.

Seychelles is not a circus; we do not want a clown in the State House. We need a serious leader ready to tackle national issues head-on. We are facing a troubling drug epidemic that grows more alarming each day, with drug-related crimes on the rise and the health and safety of our citizens at risk. Crime rates continue to rise, with instances of theft, assault, and even murder becoming more frequent with his administration in office. Yet when the President

speaks about civil servants, he adopts a stern tone contrary to how he speaks to dealers and traffickers. He accuses his political opponents of the drug crisis, deflecting blame from his ineffective policies and leadership.

He has consistently misled our people with his nonsensical rhetoric. His failure to address the STC's role in the high cost of food is just one of many broken promises. He has not delivered on any of his pledges, not even the basic increase in social security payment for our senior citizens to SR10,000. Instead of safeguarding our interests, he has indulged

in excessive travel and defended the interests of foreigners and a select few individuals who now form his inner circle.

He thought he would have a magic wand once in office, yet he has failed in everything, including education. He has not fulfilled his promises to the youth, such as providing scholarships for those in vocational centres. Young people cannot start businesses because of all the red tape and bribes.

The President's lack of vision is evident in his suggestion of buying condos for SR7.6 million, a price beyond the reach of the struggling middle class. Seychelles cannot afford to be led by someone who fails to promote unity for stability and harmony. Under his leadership, our national flag has become a division symbol, and our national anthem has lost its respect.

He is a president who micromanages everything, including the police. He closed down the Unemployment Relief Scheme, part of a rehabilitation programme initiated by the United Seychelles government. There is no rehabilitation, yet he speaks of progress, even concerning crime and law enforcement. His State of the Nation Address (SONA) was a desperate cry for help from an embattled president who felt he was losing his grip on power.

The situation is such that we, on this side of the table (the opposition), must tackle the issues the people face, emphasising their difficulties. Far too many people die in this country, and the number continues to rise at an alarming rate. Even more concerning is the age group of those who leave us under strange circumstances. People continue to complain about the health system despite the efforts of our professionals, who are not receiving the remuneration they deserve. We see an alarming increase in suicide attempts, self-harm, depression, and anxiety among young people. Underage pregnancies are also on the rise, putting tremendous pressure on the health system. The President did not address these issues in his SONA; instead, he swept them under the carpet as if they were irrelevant to him.

In 2019, during a record year of economic success for Seychelles under United Seychelles, Ramkalawan described Seychelles as a beautiful woman. However, he likened her smile to having all her teeth rotten. Karma is accurate; today, his SONA for 2025 summarises our country as he described it in 2019.

The truth is that Seychelles has always been a beautiful and prosperous country. Still, in October 2020,



# "If waste of time had a name, it would be Wavel Ramkalawan"

it was entrusted to the worst person as President—someone without the competence and ability to lead a nation. Seychellois will not make that mistake again—United Seychelles will continue to stand with vigour and determination alongside the people. Despite their desperate attempts to undermine United Seychelles, including charging our leader with absurd accusations, the President must un-

derstand that our country has no place for the arrogance of power. Seychelles belongs to Seychellois, not to politicians who conveniently forget their roots when they attain power. Our nation is fed up with a mediocre administration filled with lies, including the missing 22 gold bars from Madagascar. His last SONA was a final attempt to mislead and fool the people with half-truths and blatant lies. He

is a pathetic President who has significantly failed. This is a disgrace for the LDS, which is why some within his party believe he should be replaced before the next election."

Honourable Pillay also addressed the confusion surrounding citizenship and immigration laws, welfare, and the red tape that hinders assistance for needy families. Furthermore, the government has failed to

build new houses, opting to continue projects initiated by United Seychelles. There is also hypocrisy surrounding environmental protection, highlighted by the hotel construction on one of the islands in the Aldabra group, an ecosystem that Seychelles has always aimed to protect. Ramkalawan's empty promises after the pandemic have not improved the people's lives.

## Opposition successfully debunked equivocating and misleading SONA

United Seychelles, with ten members in the National Assembly, has proven to be a formidable force for the LDS politicians. These members, directly and proportionally elected, have been vocal and inspiring in their commitment to stand alongside the Seychellois public. Their dedication to holding the executive accountable, scrutinising public finances, questioning ministers, approving beneficial laws, and opposing unfit or harmful decisions to the government and the nation is a testament to their commitment to their assigned districts and constituents.

Most of these MNAs have served more than one term, gaining maturity and experience. The newcomers have also stepped up, proving themselves to be effective representatives. Recently, Honourable Cecile Larsen took her oath and delivered a response to the State of the Nation Address, making us immensely proud. She was honest and courageous and presented accurate facts. Honourable Larsen replaces Honourable Rachel Spiro, who left the caucus. We thank Spiro for her equally remarkable performance in the National Assembly. She has also made the residents of St Louis, where she previously worked as the District Administrator, proud.

The United Seychelles team, led by the Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Sebastien Pillay, and Chief Whip, Honourable Sylvanne Lemiel, did an excellent job in their responses. The public's strong appreciation for

their honesty and boldness in exposing the shortcomings of the dysfunctional President and his administration, which have failed the people and the country, is a testament to their reassurance and confidence in the MNAs.

The President has been an absent leader, both physically and psychologically, throughout his mandate. He has failed the citizens who entrusted him with their well-being, resulting in a declining living standard. His administration's mismanagement and bad decisions have led to a declining economy, and his lack of action on key issues such as healthcare and education has further worsened the situation. Many have fallen back into poverty, facing alarming circumstances with little means to survive. They increasingly rely on others to help pay their bills and feed their families while resorting to casual labour due to a lack of accessible employment opportunities.

We in the United Seychelles and the public acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of MNAs who have fought tirelessly and faced humiliation for doing what is right for the people of Seychelles. The public has supported the MNAs, with many expressing gratitude for their efforts and commitment.

**Read their reactions to the State of the Nation Address (SONA), which has only further tarnished the President's reputation and unpopularity as the September election approaches**

## State of our nation affecting both adults and children



**Honourable Sylvanne Lemiel**  
Elected MNA for Anse Royale and Chief Whip

"Promises made by Wavel Ramkalawan during the 2020 election have disappeared. As the opposition leader, he proposed solutions to reduce the cost of living and find ways to put more money in people's pockets. However, once he became President, he lost sight of those solutions. Under his leadership, the cost of living has doubled and, in some cases, tripled. A salary that used to last a month now runs out in just three days after paying bills and loans, leaving people counting the days until their next paycheque. Their wallets are empty, and the promised financial relief is nowhere to be seen.

We hear politicians talk about slight salary increases but fail to mention the significant rise in gas prices, utility bills, and food costs. They give with one hand and take away with the other.

The state of our nation is troubling, affecting both adults and children. A juice in the school canteen costs SR12, while the same juice is SR8 in local shops. A bottle of water is SR10 in the shops but can cost SR13 in some school canteens. We've reached a point where compassion is scarce; many follow the Leader's example, taking advantage of every opportunity to fill their pockets.

The President stated that his government is performing so well that people tend to forget. I want to assure him that the people forget nothing; it's just that his administration has done little to improve lives. Instead, they have seized the opportunity to enrich themselves, set up personal business ventures, and exploit their positions. Rest assured, Mr. President, that on September 27, the people will demonstrate that they aren't

forgetful when they vote you and the LDS out of office.

He also spoke of a better life for the populace, but he is not truthful if "the people" refers only to a small group of elites. Most Seychellois have seen their lives decline and become more challenging than ever.

In a conversation with a professional regarding the President's speech, the individual stated, "The situation in Seychelles today is different compared to 2020. We must ask ourselves whether all Seychellois are better off now than they were four years ago. The government discusses transformation and aims to provide Seychellois with better choices and an improved quality of life. However, many Seychellois are still facing hardships that have not been easy to endure. Despite these challenges, LDS urges us not to look back and to continue supporting them in power, even though they often reference the Coup D'Etat and other events they describe as unfavourable. Are they genuinely moving forward and allowing past wounds to heal?"

Let me pose a few questions for people to reflect on:

1. Have your lives improved under the LDS?
2. Is it easier to start a business today?
3. Can you speak freely without fear of intimidation or threats?

If your answer to all these questions is "no," then on September 27 2025, let's tell Ramkalawan and the LDS that they are "naughty children" and must be punished at the ballot box. Their punishment should be their removal from office."



# Poverty at 60%



**Honourable Egbert Aglae**  
Elected MNA for Port Gland

"The President should have addressed the healthcare system honestly and shared his plan for its improvement. Similarly, he needed to discuss education to ensure our children can achieve better results, as the current outcomes are unsatisfactory.

What about his plans to enhance our central economic pillar, tourism? Instead of making excuses about the decline in arrivals and the lack of tourists to fill our tourism establishments, he should focus on actionable strategies.

How does he plan to support sports that have underperformed during his administration? What measures will he take to assist our athletes? The government appears rushed to prepare for the Beach Soccer Tournament, especially after FIFA threatened to withdraw Seychelles as the host due to poor planning. Will they blame United Seychelles for this? We achieved record success in sports during our time in government; we were champions in the Indian Ocean for several events, brought home gold from the All Africa Games, and improved our results in the Olympics. We successfully hosted numerous tournaments. He also neglected to address the pressing issue of the high cost of living, which his former Finance Minister, who recently resigned, claimed was a political invention. What are his plans for the agricultural sector? Food security is crucial for our nation. Local farmers are struggling, especially after losing the subsidy that had significantly aided them. Many are now facing financial difficulties and frustration about how to continue farming.

Additionally, we need to support business owners experiencing significant financial hardship, especially those who took out loans to repair their businesses after the CCCL explosion.

We must not forget to assist all the victims affected by this explosion, which also destroyed many homes. People in need often wait one to two months for assistance, only to face bureaucratic red tape. Many receive responses stating they do not qualify for assistance or are eligible for minimal help.

The President mentioned he is tired, but he must recognise that the people are also fed up with unfulfilled promises, including those from his few supporters, who are dealing with mental stress. We are witnessing an alarming number of odd deaths, particularly among our youth. Some engage in harmful behaviours to cope with life challenges, which I won't elaborate on.

While Seychelles' President praises the country's achievements according to the MO Ibrahim Index, a respected measure of governance and leadership, he fails to inform the public that the impressive scores were not a result of his leadership. He forgot his statement during the 2020 presidential debate, where he urged us to stop boasting about our rankings and instead focus on the people's suffering. What has changed since then? Poverty has reached 60% of the population, with many living in dire conditions. Life is tough in Seychelles, and the President has offered no viable solutions to ease families' burdens, particularly single parents raising multiple children. This hardship affects not just them but everyone in Seychelles, except for him and his inner circle of politicians and close friends. He continues to blame shopkeepers, COVID-19, and international conflicts in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine. Yet neighbouring countries like Mauritius and the Maldives are doing significantly better."

# Shifts blame to conceal failures



**Honourable Churchill Gill**  
Elected MNA for Baie Ste Anne

"Despite the fatigue, the Seychellois people understand that the President is not tired of travelling but of working. He doesn't tire from travel; it's as if he leaves his bedroom and enters the living room daily. He should stop underestimating the people's intelligence; we are not fools.

His predecessor, President Faure, travelled twice. Ramkalawan, as the former Opposition Leader, brought forward a Private Notice Question seeking clarification and details about those trips. Yet, the extent of Ramkalawan's travel during his presidency is not acceptable; he must not travel that frequently.

When he fails in his duties, he shifts the blame onto the civil servants, most of whom he appointed to their positions in the LDS government. So, where does the real problem lie? I am not convinced that all professionals are incapable; the issue lies in how they are micromanaged with directives dictating their actions. When things go wrong, they are often blamed.

Micromanagement stifles initiative, creates uncertainty, compromises productivity, and prevents professionals from delivering according to their expertise. I assure all public service professionals that this approach will change when a new team from United Seychelles takes control at the State House after the September elections.

During his nearly four and a half years in office, the President has held around 1,800 to 2,000 cabinet meetings with his ministers. Yet, what have they discussed in so many meetings that they remain unaware of what happens in the country? What contributions have the ministers brought to the cabinet meetings? They lack insight into their departments, yet meetings are being held. Ideally, the President of a small country like Seychelles, along with his cabinet ministers, should be well-informed about the affairs of the entire nation.

I note that Praslin falls directly under the Office of the President and has failed miserably. The residents are deeply disappointed. Even with two MNAs, two District Administrators (DAs), and a Liaison Officer in Praslin, they appear to mislead the President, failing to provide him with the truth while protecting their interests. They undoubtedly do not inform him about the situation in Praslin. Consequently, it's unsurprising that when you visit Praslin with a boatload of activists, encouraged by the flattering words of your two MNAs and the Liaison Officer, you are not well received and must return to where you came from. This is a total embarrassment for you, Mr. President.

The people of Praslin know what they need; manipulation will not work again. It is interesting to compare this with the President of the United Seychelles' visits. The residents warmly welcome Dr Patrick Herminie. When the United Seychelles held rallies on Mahé, approximately 800 Praslinois participated, fully supporting Dr Herminie. The same cannot be said for LDS rallies.

Let me ask the Proportionally Elected Member for Baie Ste Anne, who has mentioned the district's projects: Where were you when discussions about these projects took place? Does she realise these projects were initiated with United Seychelles, not LDS? The people of Baie Ste Anne know who indeed championed these district projects.

The President has made several visits to Praslin, including public meetings to identify problems. We even saw pictures of him inspecting a toilet on social media, but the issues remain unaddressed. It is inappropriate for LDS to rush into Praslin asking the residents what problems they think should be addressed by the President. This does not reflect the quality of governance our country deserves."



# Transformation he speaks about, not ground- breaking



**Honourable Audrey Vidot**  
Elected MNA for Roche Caiman

"The President emphasised the need for more local study opportunities instead of sending many students to Malaysia and other countries. He also mentioned a second leadership programme offered by the UAE.

These exchanges and opportunities did not begin with his administration and were a source of pride for the Seychellois public. In 2002, under the United Seychelles administration, the Seychelles Polytechnic initiated its first exchange programme with the University of Manchester. Many professionals now working in finance, including the Central Bank and the FSA, participated in this programme. They spent one year at the Seychelles Polytechnic before continuing their second and third years based on their specialisation at the University of Manchester. The success of this initiative, which led to the establishment of the University of Seychelles, gave us hope for the future of our education system.

This programme, officially launched in September 2001, was a significant step towards enabling our students to further their studies internationally, thereby broadening their horizons and contributing to the development of our country.

I want to remind the President that he is not reinventing work initiated by the United Seychelles and should not mislead the public into believing that his

administration's transformation is ground-breaking.

Another example is the positivity campaign started by the SNYC, particularly the Positive Youth Image Awards in 2004. Sixty young people were recognised for their hard work and community service, and some received financial prizes to encourage others to promote positivity. Currently, the SNYC is struggling. The atmosphere of positivity once fostered in our youth organisations nationally is now overshadowed by political discrimination, adversely affecting our country's youth and sports. This situation must be addressed, and your vote can make a difference. Youth have a special place in my heart.

In the United Seychelles, we remain committed to supporting programmes that benefit the youth and help them become responsible citizens. I commend the young people who are keenly aware of the situation in our country. I congratulate those who will be voting for the first time in September and have registered to be on the voter's list. Your participation is crucial in bringing about the change we all aspire for. I also encourage those who have not yet registered to vote to do so to help bring about change in our country's leadership."

# There's no way to escape con- sequences; it's checkmate



**Honourable Conrad Gabriel**  
Elected MNA for Pointe Larue

"Our families are suffering, which I've consistently highlighted in my responses to the State of the Nation Address (SONA). Our people are grappling with insufficient funds for essential commodities, leading to soaring prices. During my visits to my district, I've heard countless stories of residents struggling to make ends meet, particularly single mothers who face significant hardships. Sadly, many people are deterred from seeking assistance due to red tape and bureaucratic hurdles, a clear sign of the government's neglect.

Residents of Pointe Larue understand the need to work hard ("leve debrouye"). However, the government still has a responsibility to provide the necessary support. Several motions have been presented to the National Assembly from our side to help improve the lives of Seychellois. However, the ruling party, the LDS, and their supermajority have consistently refused to approve these motions. They seem intent on demonstrating their power, which leaves their Leader to tackle the challenges alone, so to speak.

After more than four years of enjoying taxpayer-funded benefits, they ask for another five years. It is clear that the public has formed their opinion, and the results will be revealed on September 27. They have failed to deliver on their promises, and they will likely be voted out, as many cit-

izens are eager to see them replaced. They have made significant mistakes, and their actions have resulted in an apparent "red card." There's no way to escape the consequences—it's checkmate, and it's simply too little, too late.

Many Seychellois have watched the National Assembly's live broadcasts over the past four years. They are disappointed in the MNAs they elected from the LDS, who have chosen to defend government interests rather than those of the people. Despite their attempts to undermine our party's popularity through insults, all signs indicate that United Seychelles is the strongest contender and is on track to win the upcoming elections, which would lead to removing the LDS from power.

We must not forget that the LDS administration has prioritised increasing allowances and salaries for its politicians while neglecting our teachers, nurses, and other professionals. They have discontinued the Long Service Allowance—why have they not reinstated it?

The previous system was functional and achieved milestones in all economic and social sectors. Still, the LDS disrupted it with their incompetence and self-serving. Thankfully, our government will reintroduce the 13th-month salary and bring back development and growth to improve the lives of our citizens."



# Reserves or external debts



**Honourable Johan Loze**  
Proportionately-Elected MNA

The Seychellois economy, praised as one of the best under a so-called remarkable finance minister, who 'fled' after presenting what they termed the most significant budget for the year, faces substantial challenges despite the government's claims of success. This so-called success is not benefiting the Seychellois people. Our country needs a strong and inclusive economy rather than the exclusive one we currently experience. The government's misrepresentation of our economic success is a betrayal to all of us.

The largest businesses are flourishing and are primarily dominated by foreign investors, while Seychellois investors are left behind. Many face harassment from the police and have their operations shut down by the Ministry of Industry to make room for what we can only describe as 'imaginary projects', which often fail to materialise or benefit the local economy. Furthermore, our Seychellois employees are marginalised in the same key sectors where the government touts economic victories. Ministers enjoy champagne, canapés, and complimentary accommodations in industries marked by exploiting our workers. Instead of merely flattering the government, I have often advised my colleagues on the other side (LDS) to analyse and constructively criticise, as is their duty as Members of the National Assembly. Unfortunately, they tend to obscure the truth instead. They stubbornly refuse to confront reality; they have overlooked the figures since last year's budget. They refer to the country's debts inherited from the United Seychelles administration but neglect to inform the people that, be-

tween September 2020 and September 2024, Seychelles' external debts rose from SR8.014 billion to SR9.225 billion—an increase of SR1.8 billion. This represents their record on reserves.

They create a reserve based on external debts that future generations must repay. If we are honest, Seychelles' foreign exchange reserve, which resembles a collection of debts, is more akin to a castle built on sand rather than on solid foundations. The government's narrative of economic success, which is built on these falsehoods, directly contributes to the economic disparities we see today.

For instance, while the government boasts about Air Seychelles' financial success and claims profits, it fails to address why pilots are still on contracts with reduced salaries. Only when these pilots are returned to their original agreements with full salaries can the government genuinely calculate profits. Instead, it generates profits at the expense of workers, which is immoral and unethical—another half-truth.

A similar tactic was employed by the Seychelles Trading Company (STC), which claimed profits of SR66 million while burdening less fortunate consumers, including single parents, low-income families, and the elderly, struggling to make ends meet. The government then blames shopkeepers for the high cost of living, conveniently ignoring the STC's role in stabilising the prices of essential commodities. While shopkeepers rely on the STC, their responsibility is not solely to ensure affordable living costs.

# Arrogance of power made him fail



**Honourable Rocky Uranie**  
Elected MNA for La Digue

"The United Seychelles Government has a record in housing; it constructed 300 houses annually, a stark contrast to LDS, which claims to have built only 267 since 2021, averaging a mere 67 annually. This disparity underscores the current government's failure in the housing sector, especially considering that many of the 267 houses are projects initiated by the United Seychelles. Those in need of housing face a longer wait if they choose to keep this liberal capitalist government in power. Fortunately, most people do not subscribe to the 'no turning back ideology, as they see themselves regressing. They are disillusioned.

Our (US) government had many good economic and social programmes that developed Seychelles, and our people blossomed. Our people did well in the business sector. With LDS, tourism has declined—if the President compares the number of arrivals in 2020 and 2024, he is in deep trouble. In 2020, all countries closed their frontiers due to the pandemic. The man thinks he can fool people, but the reality is that his actions have directly impacted the lives of our people.

Mr President, be grateful to your predecessor, and not when you do some renovation work on a few buildings that were already there, that we have to be thankful to you. You never show appreciation for the 43 years that the US Government and its predecessors made milestones in the economy, social, cultural, sports and religious sectors, to name but a few. You arrived and cut the ribbons of your predecessor's work.

That's all you know what to do, like cutting social support and making it difficult for an individual to get assistance due to the bureaucratic red tape. The arrogance of power has made you fail, and your government became less effective from day one in power. Your administration has a leadership problem, so do not blame the civil servants.

It's a shame and sad that you blame Praslin workers in your SONA, accusing them of maliciously preventing the licence process. Before issuing a licence, there is a process, and several entities are involved—will the President bypass them and give licenses as he wishes just because there's an upcoming election? The President blames everybody else except himself and his ministers.

The main reason the President was angry was his frustration because he was not welcomed in La Digue for his door-to-door campaign. Diguois sent him packing. For four years, Honourable Churchill and I fought for our islands; we used our voices in the National Assembly to push for projects and raise concerns for our islands; the government played deaf, and here in the National Assembly, we were laughed at and ridiculed. This is what backfired on LDS. I know everything, even if I am not invited to attend your meetings. When they fail, they ask what Honourable Uranie is doing. Why not ask what the Liaison Officer for both islands and your two MNAs on Praslin are doing? They will continue to fail, and the buck of all their failures stops with the President.



# His depression and fatigue hint at a state of depression



**Cecile Larsen**  
Proportionally-Elected MNA

"On February 27, President Wavel Ramkalawan delivered his speech. Did it accurately represent our reality? As I understand it, the State of the Nation Address (SONA) is meant to provide an honest account of the country's economic and social conditions and the state of its people. Unfortunately, much of his speech focused on the past rather than addressing the current state of the national economy, education, our youth, and senior citizens. The public expected him to discuss present realities, the direction we should take, how to improve the living standards of our citizens, and what advancements we could look forward to in our communities and districts. His lack of emphasis on addressing these pressing social issues leaves us concerned. Instead, we heard a campaign speech filled with political rhetoric. The President spoke about the 'Kitege' and blamed his predecessor for his shortcomings during his five years in office. Is it appropriate for the President to use political slogans like "no turning back" and "we will never give up" (Zanmen les tonbe). I noticed he neglected to mention his election slogan from 2020: "Seychelles is for all its children" (Sesel pour tou son zanfan)? Is it acceptable for the President to insult his opponents before the National Assembly? In his SONA, he once again filled our ears with a list of empty promises. He is running out of genuine commitments, as the people can see through his façade. This situ-

ation reflects a lack of responsibility on his part. In 2020, he campaigned on a manifesto filled with lofty ideals. Still, he failed to realise these promises during his term, attributing all his problems to the past administrations. The nation's actual state was absent from his speech; what we, the Seychellois citizens, experience daily is painful. Rather than inspiring hope, he has pushed us into despair. We recall he expressed frustration last year and mentioned being tired this year. This frustration and fatigue might even hint at a state of depression. He is worn out from excessive travel, leaving little time to rest. He could genuinely relax after September 27, when the people will vote him out of office. He should have placed more emphasis on assisting those living with disabilities. Inviting them to the State House does not address the concerns and dedication of their parents. We observe many children born with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and we see their parents struggling to ensure that these children are integrated into society. Numerous parents are desperate for proper diagnoses and support, especially since many services are unavailable in Seychelles. This lack of resources limits the assistance less fortunate parents receive to care for their children, often forcing many to leave their jobs to fulfil these responsibilities. It's crucial that we, as a society, show more empathy and support for these families."

# Invest the millions you claim to have received in CCCL victims



**Honourable Louissette Tamboo**  
Proportionally-Elected MNA

"The President spoke about the freedom Seychellois have to express themselves. Yet, how many have been arrested and jailed for 24 hours? How many have been detained and questioned merely for voicing their concerns about the President's inability on Facebook? This lack of accountability is not what the people of Seychelles deserve.

I was a victim of your abuse of power simply because I chose to stand up and fight for the residents of Petit Paris, Brillant, and Cascade. Mr. President, respect is earned. I urge you to reflect on your actions and consider making a good turnaround, one that takes you back to 2020 when you were photographed with alleged drug dealers because your party probably needed sponsors. Wasn't a portion of the LDS campaign financed with drug money? Where are the drugs that were seized by your government, if not found in the ghettos, destroying the lives of our young people?

I also want to address the hypocrisy regarding the victims of the CCCL explosion—the residents of Cascade. Why has there been such a long delay in addressing this matter? Why haven't you visited the affected residents, especially those in need? The residents signed an agreement for financial compensation in October 2024 but have heard nothing. Some are still waiting for assistance, and their homes are affected when it rains.

What happened to the police report? Mr. Speaker, I will give you two mi-

nutes of my allocated speaking time to answer this question. I am inquiring about the police report so that the affected residents and all victims can seek the justice they deserve. Mr. President, you must extend your help beyond your supporters and friends to ensure that everyone affected receives the needed assistance.

Please show compassion for the residents of Cascade and invest the millions of dollars you claimed to have received from the Sheikh. Those funds were donated to help after the explosion. Instead of constructing a district office that costs SR12 million, you could have repaired the victims' homes. You could have provided food for struggling families—you are supposed to be the President of all Seychellois.

The President and other politicians in the LDS have merely acted as a coconut crab, entering a shell that does not belong to them; they've done that at Cascade. He takes credit for the work accomplished by United Seychelles and Honourable Charles de Commarmond. To name a few: the project 'Dan Zanblon', even the condominium yet to be built, was conceived by United Seychelles—the Cascade market, roads, and the resurfacing of existing roads. The LDS has contributed nothing new for Cascade; they've merely completed the work initiated by United Seychelles. This disconnect from the people is not what Seychellois need in a leader."



# MNA punished for defending rights of CCCL explosion Victims

As the Speaker, Roger Mancienne holds a significant position in the National Assembly, responsible for maintaining order and enforcing the rules of parliamentary procedure. This week, he exercised his authority by punishing Honourable Louisette Tamboo, the proportionally elected MNA for United Seychelles, for advocating on behalf of the victims of the explosion that occurred on December 7, 2023, at the CCCL Quarry.

As a penalty, 1,000 rupees will be deducted from her salary for March 2025. However, what exactly was deemed her offence from the Speaker's perspective? In her response to the State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2025 delivered by President Wavel Ramkalawan last week, Honourable Tamboo highlighted the President's failure to address the promised report on the explosion. And she was correct; the President did not mention it. Following this, Honourable Tamboo offered to forfeit two minutes of her allocated speaking time so the Speaker could update the National Assembly regarding the report. Speaker Mancienne deemed this suggestion inappropriate and disrespectful to his position, which led to Honourable Tamboo's expulsion from the National Assembly. He also requested a written apology from her to be submitted the following day. However, she did not provide an apology,



resulting in the punishment determined by the Speaker under the "Standing Orders" of the National Assembly.

The Honourable Tamboo, firm and resolute, stated that she could not apologise for defending the rights of the explosion's victims. She emphasised that these victims deserve to know what transpired that day, regardless of the Speaker's interpretation of her remarks. Furthermore, she is a victim of the explosion and a resident of Cascade. The CCCL Quarry is situated in this district. Her sense of injustice is palpable and resonates with many. What transpired in the National Assembly on Tuesday should not come as a surprise. It can be easily understood. Louisette Tamboo is a United Seychelles MNA and candidate for the Cascade district in the upcoming elections.

Her punishment could have significant implications for her political future, making her advocacy for the victims all the more courageous.

On the other hand, Roger Mancienne, the Speaker of the National Assembly, is a senior leader of the ruling party, LDS. Since assuming the role, he has tended to be biased in his rulings, which has not gone unnoticed by the public.

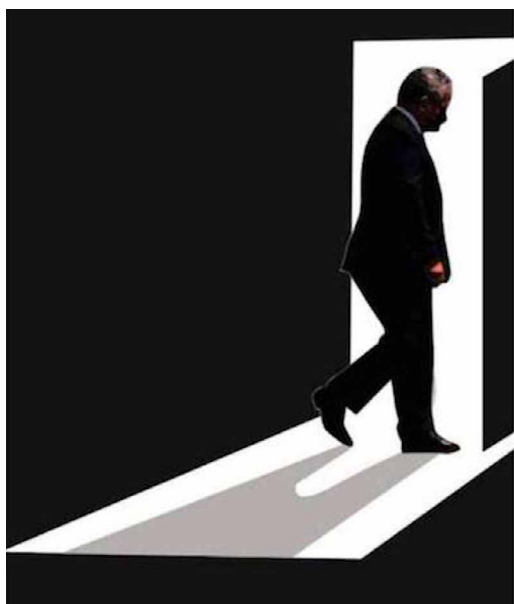
Honourable Tamboo's frustration with his party's failure to produce the report on the catastrophic explosion is something he and the President cannot politically accept. The punishment imposed on Honourable Tamboo merely asserts that she has surpassed the limits of what is deemed acceptable.

It is important to remind her and the other US MNAs that Mancienne is the Speaker of the House and that his party

is in the government. Regardless of his motivations for taking such a drastic action, it is evident that President Wavel Ramkalawan has let the Seychellois people down. More than a year following the most calamitous event in Seychelles' history, he has failed to produce a proper investigative report detailing what occurred that day. In contrast, Honourable Tamboo's efforts to seek justice for the victims of the explosion have garnered widespread public support. This raises the question: why does the Seychellois public sympathise with her after the events of Tuesday's parliamentary session? The answer lies in the public's shared belief in defending the victims' rights, a belief that Honourable Tamboo has steadfastly upheld.

## The worst president in the history of Seychelles already feels defeated

President Wavel Ramkalawan is in a precarious situation and urgently seeks support for the upcoming elec-



tions. His recent flight back onboard the Emirates, which reportedly had to wait for him due to his late boarding, has sparked suspicion among the Seychellois public. It is believed that he is seeking financial backing for the elections. Despite his efforts to lay the groundwork for projects his government has failed to initiate, there are doubts about his ability to complete them by the election date of September 27. If he is not attempting to appropriate projects planned by United Seychelles as his own, then his use of the police and military to arrest individuals on alleged drug charges seems to be a ploy to gain sympathy from the families of victims.

Throughout his presidency, Ramkala-

wan has spent much of his time traveling to the Gulf and the Middle East to cultivate relationships with wealthy individuals. Now, he realises that winning the people's acceptance is more challenging than anticipated. Many places he visits to seek votes remind him of his absence and failures. Their potential decision to sell or lease part of Seychelles for 99 years to raise funds for the upcoming election could have significant consequences. However, it is unlikely that Ramkalawan will spend as much money as he did in 2020, as he is aware of the possibility of losing and the need to conserve his finances. Given his position as president, he is likely seeking funds from local and foreign sponsors, raising the

crucial question of whether the money he receives belongs to him or the country.

The people of Seychelles must remain vigilant and aware of President Ramkalawan's actions and any financial support he receives from foreign benefactors. As the head of state, he represents the Seychellois people, and any donations he obtains should belong to Seychelles, not to his personal bank account or campaign fund. We must ensure accountability and transparency in this matter.

Politicians have gained enough from our struggles, and we must not allow them to use the next seven months to leave with what rightfully belongs to our country and nation.



# Gervais, seeing you biting the hand that once fed you is ironic!

Everyone listened to Gervais Henrie as he criticised the SPPF/PL/US Government and offered advice to the youth, conveniently overlooking his hypocrisy regarding how he received his scholarship, the many opportunities he had, and under which administration. Now comfortably, Gervais seems to forget his roots and feels the need to disparage the former government. It's crucial to remember that you did not receive your scholarship from an LDS administration. Your educational background has been instrumental in your career and political ascent within the LDS. So, the next time you decide to advise the youth, remind them of how you benefited from the previous government.

You have spoken about walkouts by opposition members who faced biased treatment from the Speaker. It was unprecedented for the Leader of the Opposition to be interrupted while reading his speech and told to leave if he disagreed. Gervais labelled these walkouts despicable, but

how would you describe your speech in a verbatim translation of Mr Albanese, the Australian politician/Prime Minister? You took his work and ideas and passed them off as your own. Plagiarism is dishonesty. It's cheating. You have no moral authority to preach to the youth and your opponents. Many people claim they won't vote for LDS after listening to you speak, as you are one of those individuals in the LDS who fails to reflect on your beginnings and the distance you've come. At the start of your journey, there was no LDS. Therefore, speaking less and letting others view you as intelligent would be wise.

More importantly, showing humility in your actions and words is crucial. You have talked loudly over the past four years, but disrespecting the previous government and its members has left many indignant.



# Anba ladministrasyon LDS, SPTC pa pe fer byen

Bokou Seselwa pe perdi larzan dan Ben fason bet.

Sa i senpleman aköz SPTC pe ofer en servis bis ki pa “reliable”.

I pa a la oter.

Personn pa kapab fye lo la.

Bokou pe konplent ek nou lofis. Zot menm dir ki tou dernyenman, en kantite dimoun in reste anvil lo “bus stop” vizavi anyen Zarden Zafan. Aköz?

Personn pa kapab dir zot egzaktman ki ler dernyen bis i kit depo anvil.

SPTC i dir ki bann dernyen bis i kit depo anvil 7 er diswar dan lasemenn. Me parfwa sa pa DITOU VRE.

Dimoun i ariv kot depo anvil avan 7 er diswar, me i pa zanmen trouv okenn bis.

Tou bis in fini ale.

Tou travayer in ferm biro.

Stasyon bis anvil i dezerte.

Eski se sa bann drayver etranze ki pe kit nou dimoun ater?

Menm zafer i arive pandan wikenn.

Personn pa vreman kler lo ki ler dernyen bis i kit stasyon.

I annan i dir 6 er.

Lot i dir 6er edmi.

E i menm annan ki dir 7 er.

Me souvan bokou dimoun i kapot ek las.

Bis pa zanmen vini.

Alor sel opsyon, dimoun i bezwen fer en lot demars pour ariv lakour.

E sa i vedir zot bezwen pey en taksi pirat 300 rounpi ou menm plis larzan pour ariv kot zot destinasyon.

Me ki i arive si en dimoun ki’n ganny kite ater NAPA sa larzan?

Se la kot dimoun pe war zot dan bann sitiasyon dezespere.

E sa pa bon ditou, sirtou dan sa Sesel ozordi.

SPTC i bezwen vin kler lo sa zafer ki ler dernyen bis i kit stasyon anvil.

Sa manklarite pe fer dimoun reste dan semen aswar.

Anplis, i ariv serten ler kot personn pa reponn telefonn kot SPTC.

Sirtou dan wikenn.

Pourtan zot bis i ankor pe monte desann lo semen.

SA PA NORMAL DITOU.

Tan ki bis SPTC i ankor pe roule, en dimoun devret kapab annan en landrwa pour demann en kestyon oubyen fer en konplent.

Dan tousala, nou pa blanm travayer SPTC, zot annan zot problem zot osi. Eski zot pe ganny peye dapre kantite travay ki zot ganny demande pou fer? Eski zot ganny zot ‘overtime’? Eski zot ganny bonous ek 13enm mwan? Si napa rekonpans, napa motivasyon. Etranz pe pran zot plas, sirtou drayver, e staff ki oule eksprim zot, sirtou piblikman pou bezwen vey byen aköz ya ganny pouse dan travay. Oule al pli vit, telefonn SBC.

Anba sa ladministrasyon LDS, tou keksoz in deranze kot SPTC, e travayer i parey manm piblik, fristre e dan konfizyon. Se latet politik ki pa bon, e zot lenkonpetans i ariv pli ba, apre Prezidan a mont lo televizyon e blanm travayer, ekspete son lekor ek son bann minis enkonpetan.





# An angry Speaker and a protest attempt by the LDS

## Who's the mastermind?

This week, a situation in the National Assembly took a troubling turn when the Leader of the Opposition, Sebastien Pillay, walked out, and the LDS attempted to protest this exit. The root of the issue, which should raise serious concerns about the fairness of our democratic process, lies in the Speaker's evident bias. The Speaker, who plays a crucial role in maintaining order and impartiality during debates, has shown unfairness in his judgments. On Monday, the Speaker told the Leader of the Opposition that he could walk out during a session when he interrupted his response to the President's State of the Nation Address (SONA).

However, there's likely more to this story. It appears someone else may have orchestrated these events—a figure possibly offended when the United Seychelles caucus walked out in protest of his lies and insults during the SONA. This individual likely directed the Speaker to curb the Leader of the Opposition's attempts to expose these untruths.

As an LDS member, the Speaker complied, refusing to tolerate the truth from the Opposition Leader. His suppression of dissent, a grave concern for our democratic process, was evident when he even silenced Proportionally Elected member Louise Tamboos simply for asking about the police report regarding the CCCL explosion that had devastated homes and businesses in Petit Paris, Cascade, and the Industrial Estate. Despite her multiple requests for clarity, the Speaker responded angrily and abruptly called for a break in the session.

The Speaker's unfairness, violation of rights, inconsistent rule enforcement, and manipulation of agendas have led to a deplorable start to this year's National Assembly. If President Ramkalan intended for the LDS caucus to silence the Opposition and obstruct their efforts to reveal his leadership's lies and incompetence, their plan would backfire. The planned protest by the LDS on Wednesday appeared to be a last-minute decision made without the Speaker's knowledge as he hastily ordered them back to the Assembly. The Speaker reacted by cutting it short.



He panicked upon realising that the LDS members' absence meant there could be no legitimate seating, unlike when opposition members were absent. The Speaker sternly instructed LDS Chief Whip Sandy Arissol and his caucus to return to the Assembly and resume proceedings, expressing his frustration and threatening severe action.

At that moment, the United Seychelles members were present in the Assembly, waiting for their turns to respond to the President's SONA from the previous Thursday. The real issue lies not with the Opposition but with the Speaker. Had he been impartial and not favoured one particular political figure—the President—while suppressing the Opposition's efforts to disclose the falsehoods in the SONA, this situation could have been avoided.

When the Speaker hinders the Leader of the Opposition from exercising his right to express himself during oversight processes, it can have serious repercussions, including eroding democratic principles. Parliamentary oversight is fundamental to democracy;

blocking the opposition leader undermines the necessary checks and balances that hold the government accountable. This lack of accountability can result in unchecked power and potential misuse of authority, significantly threatening the democratic process.

Public reaction on social media reflected anger and disappointment at the Speaker's denial of the Honourable Sebastien Pillay's right to complete his speech. The expectation of transparency and fairness in governance was not met, validating the concerns raised about the Speaker's actions. Furthermore, the President's nearly two-and-a-half-hour SONA—a significant event in the political calendar—did not address the pressing issues that would have provided the public with key insights into government operations. Thus, responses from the Opposition and LDS members should have been an opportunity for constructive debate regarding the SONA. The public's reaction on social media, which ranged from frustration to outright condemnation, underscores the need for open and

fair governance.

However, suppressing the Opposition's freedoms stifles such discussions. Opposition members often critique and present alternative perspectives and solutions, and restricting their voices can hinder meaningful dialogue and progress. The opposition's role in providing alternative perspectives and solutions is crucial, as it enriches the political discourse and ensures that all aspects of an issue are considered. As we witnessed during the LDS protest attempt, the Speaker's position as a member of their party ironically complicates the situation. Marginalising Opposition voices can lead to more significant tensions and, in some instances, even political unrest, as it signifies a lack of inclusivity in governance.

Just as he advised Honorable Tamboos to seek guidance from her leaders on crafting a SONA response, the Speaker should revisit the fundamental principle that the people elect not just one but two distinct representatives, highlighting the importance of both perspectives in a functioning democracy.



UNCERTAINTY!

Tou i mor lo li

When thinking about Seychelles, one cannot help but recall the beautiful song "World of Uncertainty" by the reggae group Third World. Indeed! In Seychelles, we live in a country marked by uncertainty from a group of incompetent local politicians. These leaders take comfort in blaming everyone but themselves. They point fingers at the Middle East conflict, the war between Russia and Ukraine, and the rising oil prices in Arab countries. Soon, they'll likely blame the policies of the U.S. under Donald Trump's new administration. This has been their pattern over the last five years. Their incompetence is evident in the lack of progress in our healthcare system, the rising costs of living, and the decline in education for our children. These politicians refer to themselves as "Linyon Demokratik Seselwa" (LDS), which translates to "Democratic Union for Seychellois" in English. They assumed power in 2020 through deceit and lies. Today, however, most Seychellois are discovering, at a painful cost, that this party is neither a unifier nor democratic. It is a clear example of the proverbial wolf in sheep's clothing. The leaders of this party are merely a group of rogues who managed to brainwash enough Seychellois with empty promises and lies to win the election five years ago. Thankfully, their misdeeds are finally catching up, and they are on the verge

of relinquishing power. This change is not just a possibility, but a necessity, driven by the people's unwavering desire and will. Under the LDS, the Seychellois people have endured five years of hardship and uncertainty. This includes:

- Rising costs of living.
- A decline in the quality of education for our children.
- A degrading healthcare system.
- An increase in lawlessness.
- The zombification of our youth through rampant drug use.
- Extreme poverty affects most Seychellois, while few have grown extremely wealthy.

The President claims he is tired of the complaints from the Seychellois people that continually land on his desk. But if that is the case, why is he still President?

Who can confidently assert that they live in a country with a secure future under the leadership of a President who has publicly admitted to being tired? A tired President should retire; there is no other option. Otherwise, the future of Seychelles will be at stake. He will be forced to step down by someone else, which will happen on September 27, 2025.

And that will happen on September 27, 2025, when we, the Seychellois people, can choose a new leader who will listen to our concerns and work for our collective prosperity.

“The buck stops at the office of the President.”

Sa i en leson politik ki Wavel Ramkalawan in toultan ansenny Lepep Seselwa.

I vre.

Sa ki ansarz ki responsab tou.

Me ozordi Wavel in vin en move anse-nyan.

I’n menm vin en move zelev.

I’n zet tou son kaye, son kreyon ek son lardwaz.

Ozordi i pe blanm tou dimoun ki travay anba li.

I pa zis blanm zot, me i pe menas zot osi.

“BANN KI PA TRAVAY, ZOT POU BEZWEN PEY LE KONSEKANS.”

Sa li sa!

BE ANT 2020 EK 2025, KOTE I TI ETE LI ?

Eski an 2020, i pa ti war bann ki pa travay?

Eski an 2021, i pa ti war bann ki pa travay?

Eski an 2022, i pa ti war bann ki pa travay?

Eski an 2023, i pa ti war bann ki pa tra-

vay?

Eski an 2024, i pa ti war bann ki pa travay?

Eski se zis an 2025 ki i dekouver sa problemn?

Lannen dan ki i annan eleksyon.

Me selman:

1. Preski tou son Minis i ankor la.
2. Preski tou son PS i ankor la.
3. Preski tou son bann direkter i ankor la.
4. Tou MNA LDS i ankor la.
5. Tou son bann gro sat lake ponpon i ankor la.

Kimannyer ki ou fatige?

Kimanyer tou bann keksoz nanryen ditou i vin fini lo ou latab?

Kimanyer ou pe zis blanmen e blanmen.

La i annan en problemn.

Ki problemn?

Wavel Ramkalawan in larg en lesen mous zonn lo lepep Seselwa.

Me sa bann menm mous pa oule li.

Zot pe vir kont li.

E zot pe fer larout State House.

I nepli kapab kontrol zot.

I POU BEZWEN SOVE.

Beach Soccer tournament is facing several challenges



First, the buffer zone or run-off area is no longer available, which has raised serious concerns for the President. This could potentially affect the safety of the tournament. Second, the boat carrying 40 containers with the stadium for the tournament is running low on fuel, leading Ramkalawan to question whether it will arrive as scheduled on March 13. After departing from the UAE, the ship encountered engine problems and had to stop in Oman for repairs. We sincerely hope everything is safely removed from the 40 containers if they arrive on time. However, we must also prepare a contingency plan if the boat doesn't come as scheduled. Let's also hope

nothing happens to one or two containers. After all, 40 containers are quite a lot. Perhaps Seychelles should have allowed Dubai to host the tournament once again, and this is said with good intentions. Dubai has successfully hosted such events and has the necessary facilities. FIFA is not mistaken in its assessment—Seychelles is not adequately prepared and is now rushing to meet deadlines, which should make the audience feel the situation's urgency. We suspect the President would have preferred to hold the tournament in Dubai. However, he sees the value in hosting it here, as it could boost his popularity before the upcoming election.



# Women's Forum





# Women's Forum





# Women's Forum





# Women's Forum

