



# Leko Diplomatik

PROMOTING A PROACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

December 2022, Issue 6

## Wrapping up 2022



### What a year!

2022 has been an eventful year for FAD. We have accomplished many of our goals and managed to overcome many obstacles in our way. With the experience gained in 2022, we are looking forward to welcoming 2023 and are ever so determined to overcome the many challenges it may bring.

FAD has had a successful year in 2022, as evidenced by the number of Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements signed, which will pave the way for increased cooperation with our bilateral and multilateral partners.

Seychelles has also taken part in a number of Summits and international meetings/fora, which have allowed us to raise awareness about issues that are very important to the country, such as the need for the adoption and implementation of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Implementation of an MVI will give middle and high-income SIDS access to concessional financing for their development needs.

The Department is looking forward to continuing harnessing opportunities through international relations in the coming year, as well as consolidating Seychelles' leadership role in niche areas.

As we prepare to welcome 2023, I seize this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and prosperous New Year 2023.

**Ambassador Vivianne Fock Tave,  
Principal Secretary  
Foreign Affairs Department**



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# The Work of our Divisions and Units in 2022

## Bilateral Affairs

Bilateral Affairs provided technical support to the President, Vice President, and Ministers for high-level incoming visits by foreign officials such as the State Visit of the then President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta and their visits abroad such as for the International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Tunisia in August.

The Division also coordinated the first technical meeting on joint bilateral political consultations with the High Commission of Sri Lanka and the 3rd Seychelles – South Africa Senior Officials Meeting of the Joint Commission of Cooperation, which resulted in the signing of the minutes by Minister Sylvestre Radegonde and Deputy Minister of International Cooperation of South Africa, Ms. Candith Mashego – Dlamini.



## Regional Affairs

Regional Affairs successfully chaired the Strategic Planning Steering Group. SPSG has the responsibility to mobilise resources to sustain the activities of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

Additionally, it provided technical support to President Ramkalawan at the SADC Summit where he called for greater attention to issues related to maritime security in the western part of the Indian Ocean.

It also organised a workshop with Australia and the IORA Secretariat aimed at conducting a tabletop exercise on Search and Rescue and maritime assistance services.



## Protocol and Public Diplomacy

This Division provided protocol support at events hosted at national and international levels attended by high-ranking local and foreign officials. It collaborated efficiently with MDAs and Divisions within the Department to organise events in conformity with the protocol norms.

Additionally, it achieved to increase the Department's visibility nationally and internationally through its PRs and social media presence.

## Consular and Diaspora Affairs

The highlight for Division this year was the organisation of the biennale Honorary Consuls' Conference 2022 under the theme 'Harnessing Opportunities through Diplomatic Relations' which saw the adoption of the districts by Seychelles Honorary Consuls.

## Legal Affairs

The Legal Affairs has played a significant role in ensuring that all the MOUs signed are in line with set terms, conditions, and laws. Most recently, three MOUs on High Impact Community Development Projects were signed between Seychelles and India. In addition, Seychelles has also signed several International and Regional Treaties.

## Multilateral Affairs

Multilateral Affairs was involved in various international conferences, namely, the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA in New York and COP 27 in Egypt.

It also organised the Seychelles-UN Multi-sector Policy Dialogue in May in collaboration with UNRC and successfully coordinated the 9<sup>th</sup> Seychelles-EU Political Dialogue in October.

The Division was involved in the decision-making for Seychelles, voting in favour of the U.N. resolution for a ceasefire in Ukraine and Russia.

## Human Resources, Budget Management and Administration

The Division provided guidance to FAD's Heads of Division and Units to ensure the effective implementation of the Performance Management System.

## Development Aid

The Unit coordinated the Development Aid received by Seychelles through bilateral and multilateral cooperation in line with signed Agreements and MOUs.

## Accounts

The Unit provided valuable guidance to FAD's programme managers which resulted in the Department spending within its allocated budget.



# My Christmas Wish and New Year Resolution



Our two favourite holidays are back—*Christmas and New Year*. As most of us have planned something nice to celebrate the two special days, we were curious to learn about the Christmas wishes and New Year resolutions of some of the staff of the Department.

Here's what they had to say:



My Christmas wish is to be around my loved ones and have a joyous moment. My New Year resolution is to practice mindfulness and be grateful for what I have. In 2023, I intend to live my life to the fullest.— ***Bellinda Mirabeau, Office Assistant***

My Christmas wish for this year is for everyone to have a wonderful time with their near and dear ones. As for my resolution for 2023, it is to go to the gym to lose the weight gained during the festive season.— ***Aline Morel, Senior Protocol Officer***



My Christmas wish is peace on earth and goodwill to everyone! As for resolutions, I believe that what the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year. I do not believe in New Year's resolutions, I believe in daily resolutions, just keep doing more of what's already working for me.— ***Manuella Servina, Protocol Assistant***

I just wish that this Christmas be a blessed, peaceful and memorable one, spent with my loved ones. Living through the COVID-19 Pandemic has taught me that I should not take myself and my wellness for granted. Health is more important than wealth. I have taken a decision to ensure that in this New Year I will not overwork because life is more than just working. I will celebrate my life, thank God immensely for the little things, live in the moment, be optimistic, simple, humbled and grateful for what I have and who I am. Creating wonderful memories with my son, having a peaceful lifestyle, and staying connected with the people I love and value, these are key to my happiness. - ***Johnette Stephen, Principal Counsellor***



I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2023. Let us welcome this year on a positive note and deliver well on our task at work.— ***Selwyn Bristol, Facilities Maintenance Technician***

My Christmas wish is for everyone to have peace, joy and unconditional love at Christmas and always. I would like to start the New Year with high aspirations and focused on achieving all my plans for 2023 and beyond —***Lizy Esparon, Office Assistant***



# The Diplomatic Circle



## New Seychellois Ambassadors Appointed

The nomination of Ambassadors by the President of the Republic of Seychelles is stipulated in Article 64.1 of the Constitution of Seychelles; accordingly, their appointment is made by the President, on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and approved by the National Assembly. It is the President's prerogative to appoint any person to represent Seychelles abroad. The President's choice would, undoubtedly, be on the basis of merit guided by that person's integrity, experience, knowledge, competence, and ability to be a worthy representative of Seychelles.

On Monday 12 December 2022, the Seychelles National Assembly unanimously approved the nominations of Mr. Kenneth Racombo, Principal Secretary for the Blue Economy, Mr. Gervais Moumou, Chief of Protocol at the Foreign Affairs Department, and Mr. Georges Tirant, Chief Executive Officer of the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission (PEMC). The Ambassadors are scheduled to receive their instruments of appointment from the President of the Republic of Seychelles.

*Congratulations to our New Ambassadors!*



*Mr. Kenneth Racombo*



*Mr. Gervais Moumou*



*Mr. Georges Tirant*

## Resident Representatives of Foreign States and International Organisations Accredited



*H.E. Mr. Kartik Pande presenting his Credentials to President Ramkalawan*

**H.E. Mr. Kartik Pande**, High Commissioner of India presented his Credentials and was accredited on 15 November 2022. He replaces General (Retd.) Dalbir Singh Suhag who ended his tenure earlier this year.

**Mrs. Aissatou Diallo**, the first IMF Resident Representative to Seychelles presented her Credentials to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Monday 05 December 2022.

## Non-Resident Representatives of Foreign States Accredited



*H.E. Mr. Kang Seokhee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea posed for a photos with President Ramkalawan on the day of his accreditation on 29 November 2022.*

The Principal Secretary Vivianne Fock Tave received the Credentials of H.E. Mr. Benny Yan Pieter Siahaan, Chargé d'Affaires e.p of the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of Minister Sylvestre Radegonde on 14 November 2022.





## Programmes de coopération tripartite

Dans le cadre des programmes de coopération tripartite initiés entre le Maroc et Singapour au profit des pays africains, l'Agence Marocaine de Coopération Internationale (AMCI) et Singapour Coopération Programme (SCP), un programme de formation sous le thème "Leadership et Gouvernance" s'est tenu du 10 au 14 octobre 2022 au Maroc plus précisément à Rabat.

Madame Zénab Kanté, jeune Diplomate a été désignée pour participer à ladite formation. 17 participants venant d'autres pays Africains y étaient également présents.



L'objectif de cette formation était de développer des compétences permettant aux participants de comprendre, d'analyser et de s'appropriier le leadership; la gestion et la gouvernance nécessaire pour une organisation publique performante et efficace dans un contexte de reliance post-Covid 19 marqué par des défis sécuritaires, climatiques et technologiques.

*"J'ai énormément apprécié la formation notamment la disponibilité des formateurs. En outre, la formation m'a permise d'approfondir mes connaissances dans les ressources humaines et de comprendre la structure de gouvernance dans le service public"*

De plus, ce cycle de formation a été assuré par des experts Singapouriens du Civil Service College (CSC) et Marocains issus de nombreuses institutions du Royaume telles que l'Agence Marocaine de Développement des Investissements et des Exportations (AMDIE), l'Institut des Finances (IFD) et l'Agence Marocaine de Coopération Internationale (AMCI).



## Diplomatic Fun Fair in Pretoria

The staff of the Seychelles Embassy in Pretoria participated in the annual Diplomatic Fun Fair in Pretoria. This event was hosted by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and was held on the grounds of the Union Buildings, the seat of Government, on Saturday 22 October. The last edition was in 2019, because of the pandemic.

It was an occasion to showcase one's country to the diplomatic community and members of the public at large in a friendly and casual atmosphere.

Tourism brochures were distributed, and scenes of Seychelles depicting nature, its people, and its culture were shown on a TV screen. Homemade *nouga koko* and *gato piman* were offered to those visiting the stand.

Representing Seychelles at the fair was Mrs. Margaret Morel, High Commissioner Morel's spouse, the Embassy's Secretary, Mrs. Rivonia Pekeur, her daughter, Vani, as well as the driver, Tom, who assisted in setting up the Seychelles stand.



### Protocol and Etiquette Corner

#### FORMAL TABLE SETTING



## Events Attended By FAD Overseas

The Department, through our Minister and other members of staff was represented at various events overseas. Some key events are illustrated below:



*Ambassador Beryl Samson and Second Secretary, Mr. Marco Larsen formed part of the presidential delegation at the 10th OACPS Summit of Heads of State and Government being*



*Le président et la secrétaire générale de l'OIF assistent à la signature du plan d'action pour la langue française aux Seychelles lors du XVIIIe Sommet des chefs d'État de la Francophonie à Djerba, en Tunisie.*



*Minister Radegonde and Ambassador Madeleine accompanied the President at the Atlantic Council welcome dinner on the occasion of the US-Africa Leaders' Summit.*



*President Ramkalawan and Minister Radegonde pausing for a photo with Mrs. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives at US-Africa Leaders Summit.*



*Protocol Assistant, Ms. Marie-May Hollanda providing protocol assistance to the Presidential delegation at COP 27, Egypt.*



*Ms. Rebecca Julienne and Ms. Patricia Ilunga, Second Secretaries at the Agenda 263 Technical Validation Workshop in Kenya.*





*Ms. Myra Laporte*

The Public Diplomacy Unit met with Myra Laporte, a young diplomat who has recently returned from a four year posting in our Embassy in Brussels and who has just been promoted to the position of Director in the Multilateral Affairs Division. Myra accounts her experiences on posting and headquarters.

**LA: Good day Myra. How are you on this fine Monday?**

**ML:** Hi Louisa, I am fine, thanks, ready for the week ahead!

**LA: We are pleased that you are able to make time for a small chat with us. To begin, tell us, how long have you been employed at the department?**

**ML:** I have been working at the Department since April 2012. Already a decade now! Feels like yesterday!

**LA: Haha! time flies! Do tell us, for how long were you based at FAD headquarters before you were posted?**

**ML:** Around 6 years. If you minus the period that I left the Department temporarily to venture into something different.

**LA: How did you take the news?**

**ML:** I had mixed feelings. However, after a discussion with my family, I decided to go for it.

**LA: I imagine your educational background and experience in the field of diplomacy helped you overcome the many challenges you faced during your posting?**

**ML:** Yes indeed, my field has focused mostly on sustainable development. I studied Economics and Development Studies, BA (Hons) at the University of Manchester and undertook my post-Grad and Masters in Development Studies.

## Diplomat Back to Base

It has allowed me to have an understanding of how global events and crises can impact the development of countries, especially for small island states such as Seychelles. You, moreover, acquire an understanding of the evolution of development cooperation— its successes and failures - over the years. These are particularly useful when advocating for the interests of vulnerable economies, as well as assisting in devising practical development programmes.

**LA: At the Embassy, what did your duties consist of? How has it changed since your arrival?**

**ML:** Louisa, one thing is for sure as a diplomat in a small Embassy, you are obliged to wear multiple hats! As well as being the Desk Officer for all the international organisations and bilateral countries within our jurisdictions, I was also the Consular Affairs Officer and, on several occasions, the Protocol Officer, amongst many other duties performed. My main tasks, however, involved attending multilateral meetings on an almost daily basis. With the pandemic, organisations are now more conscious of resource constraints in scheduling meetings.

**LA: So you have to be an “all-rounder” in the Embassy! Now that you are back in your homeland, has the transition been easy?**

**ML:** In some aspects, easier than I had imagined. Being back home has done wonders for my family and my well-being. There is something about the fresh air in Seychelles that improves your mood and stimulates relaxation. It is the part where you have to start anew all over again that makes the transition more challenging. A lot is new and different, but I am hopeful that by the end of the year, everything would have settled nicely into place. My son is absolutely loving it. When we left he was only two so his recollection of Seychelles is very poor but he just loves being here, surrounded by a big family and absolutely loving his new school.

**LA: Indeed, all will be well by end of the year, you’ll see. Give us some insights on life at the Embassy.**

**ML:** Well the day begins at 9am with a quick checking of and responding to yesterday’s emails.

By 10am, there is usually at least one committee or sub-committee meeting taking place. The meeting ends at 1pm for lunch. At 2pm, attend to emails sent during the day. At 3pm, there is usually another 3-hour session of a different committee or sub-committee meeting, until 6pm.

**LA: Now, locally speaking, what do you enjoy most about your work at the Department?**

**ML:** Being creative! I enjoy writing speeches or statements. It’s funny because, ironically, that is the part I disliked most many moons ago. I also enjoy working on projects/programming, you get to see your work turn into tangible benefits for others.

**LA: What is it you most appreciate about the Department?**

**ML:** Its resilience. Despite the challenges, there are those who give their very best to ensure the Department succeeds. It is a joy to know and work with such people.

**LA: What are your aspirations for your career?**

**ML:** I hope to one day contribute substantially in shaping the foreign policy of Seychelles, in whatever capacity that may be.

**LA: As you are faced with a lot of responsibilities. How do you manage your time and allow some “me” time?**

**ML:** I love a good book. Between work and parenthood, however, there’s very little time to fully immerse yourself in reading, so thankfully, there is audiobook.

**LA: Audiobook! That’s a smart way of completing a good novel. Additional word of advice for aspiring diplomats.**

**ML:** Take every opportunity you get to expand your network. Be open and engaging with others. You can gain valuable information and support from the connections you have built over the years.

**LA: Myra, It was a pleasure chatting with you.**

**ML:** Louisa, It was my pleasure.

# Our Most Valuable Asset - Our Staff

## *The Quatre Epice Social Committee*

Our active social committee has organised a series of events and activities throughout the year 2022. Let us rewind some of the Quatre Epice Social Committee's activities.



*Aiming at building a community through social activities while fostering a sense of community spirit....*



*Running group activities and creating opportunities for social interactions have built a strong sense of understanding, tolerance, and friendship among the staff of FAD...*



*Bravo Quatre Epice! Thank you for contributing to bringing FAD's staff together through your fun and innovative activities. We look forward to more out-of-office activities in the upcoming year 2023!*



# The Foreign Affairs Choir

## Back again—Sing for Charity

Ending the year on a **HIGH NOTE!** The choir regrouped again for the annual SBC Sing for Charity Competition. As has been the case for past competitions, each choir had to reveal the 'CAUSE' of their choice and compete for one of the top 3 positions to win a cash prize that would go towards that CAUSE.



## FAD's Cause

The Department's *CAUSE* is Mrs. Jeanne d'Arc Brutus, a resident of Baie Lazare and mother of Mr. Anil Brutus, an SBSA student who was on work attachment with the Department during the year. She had a brain tumor and whilst undergoing surgery to remove the tumor, she had some complications and lost her eyesight. She is currently being cared for by her son.

## The Songs

The Choir entered the competition with a moutya entitled *Zenn Zan Katalog* originally composed by Mr. Joseph Monnie. The song received rave reviews from the public and it earned the Department a place in the finals.

Choir member, Ms. Tania Pothin did the choir the honour of picking the song *Lapli Nwel* by Ms. Florette Botsoie from SBC's selection.

## Expert Guidance

As it has done since its creation, the Choir counted on the guidance and vocal arrangements of non-other than Mr. Terry Rose. Mr. Rose joined the Choir virtually whenever possible for rehearsals.

## THANK YOU!

We at the Foreign Affairs Department wish to thank all of our faithful and loyal partners who have contributed in one way or another to our achievements in the year 2022.

We look forward to your continued support and collaboration in the New Year and for years to come.

Once again thank you!



The Choir Members pause for a souvenir photo minutes before the finals

## FAD Choir—A Winner!

On the day the winners were revealed, nerves took center stage. FAD Choir took 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Jury's and People's choice and took away SCR 10,000 for our CAUSE who had through the Choir's journey become part of the FAD family.

We did it! We did it for Mrs. Brutus, we did it for our friend...

*"On behalf of the Choir, I wish to thank everyone who has helped us in one way or another throughout our journey this year. Thank you to all those who have voted for us and have helped us help our newfound friend..."*

**Ms. Corinne Rose**  
Choir Director

