

Toast by

**Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism**

On the occasion of Germany's Reunification Day Reception

**Friday 18 October 2024 at 18:00 Hrs
Hilton Northolme Resort**

- **Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Sebastien Groth;**
- **Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Oskar Benedikt;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Members of the National Assembly;**
- **Principal Secretaries;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is a pleasure to be here this evening to commemorate the German reunification – the Day of German Unity. On behalf of President Wavel Ramkalawan, the Government, and the people of Seychelles, I offer warm congratulations to Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and the people of Germany on this occasion.

Tonight, we celebrate the momentous occasion that saw the emergence of a reunified nation at the heart of Europe. The 3rd October 1990 stands as a powerful testament to the unyielding resilience and determination of the German people, who overcame decades of division to reunite as a nation. This historic event not only altered the course of German history but also reshaped the landscape of Europe, strengthening the pillars of unity and peace.

The principles of "Unity, Justice, and Freedom," which resonate in Germany's national anthem, continue to inspire far beyond its borders. Germany's path to reunification serves as a powerful example of what can be achieved through dialogue, cooperation, and a shared vision for peace. It reminds us that walls – whether physical or symbolic—can be dismantled through understanding and trust. In this, Germany has provided the world with an enduring lesson in reconciliation and renewal.

Today, Germany is recognised for its leadership in engineering, innovation, technology and culture, as well as the strength and resolve of its people. Its high-quality products have earned global respect, and its commitment to social progress and sustainability has made it a valued partner for Seychelles.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Seychelles and Germany have shared a longstanding relationship since the establishment of diplomatic ties on 18th January 1977. Our cooperation spans several sectors, including maritime security, tourism, and capacity building, and has been mutually beneficial over the years.

One key area of collaboration is maritime security, particularly through the EUNAVFOR Operation Atalanta, an EU initiative in which Germany plays a crucial role. This operation safeguards vital sea lanes in the Indian Ocean, protecting international maritime trade from piracy. This partnership is essential for Seychelles and contributes to regional stability and security.

Our cooperation extends to capacity-building efforts through short-term training programmes in areas like climate policy, environmental sustainability, peace and diplomacy. For Seychelles, a small island nation, these initiatives are vital, and we deeply appreciate Germany's support in enhancing our national capacities.

With the recent adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, we look forward to working with Germany and other UN member states in its implementation and in developing Vulnerability and Resilience Country Profiles.

Germany is also a key partner for Seychelles in tourism. Last year, we welcomed 54,925 German tourists, drawn to the natural beauty of our islands. This relationship reflects not just numbers, but a shared appreciation of culture, nature, and sustainable tourism. We are committed to strengthening these ties further.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate the Day of German Unity, let us also acknowledge the enduring friendship between our two countries. I once again congratulate Ambassador Groth, his team and the German community in Seychelles on this special occasion.

Please join me in a toast to the good health of Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and to the continued friendship between the Republic of Seychelles and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Thank you.