



**Foreign Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism
Republic of Seychelles**

Leko Diplomatik

PROMOTING A PROACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

October 2025, Issue 17

Long Service Award 2025

On Saturday 16th August 2025, staff of the Foreign Affairs Department convened at the Constance Ephelia Resort in Port Launay to honour colleagues who have worked in the public service and foreign service for the past 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years.

The ceremony, which was graced by the presence of President Wavel Ramkalawan, First Lady Linda Ramkalawan and the Chief Secretary of the Public Service Bureau, Mrs. Shella Mohideen; saw 26 employees receive an award for their perseverance and dedication.

The ceremony began with speeches by the newly appointed Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ian Madeleine followed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde.



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde addresses the members of staff and distinguished guests during the awards ceremony

What's inside?

FAD's Long Service Award 2025 –
Pages 01 - 02

The Diplomatic Circle - **Pages 03 - 07**

Events attended by FAD overseas -
Pages 08 - 10

Five Minutes with a Diplomat -
Page 10 - 11

Training Sessions and FAD's Social
Engagements - **Page 12**

Our Staff Activities and Others -
Page 13

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Both diplomats thanked each and every one of the awardees for their contributions and hard work throughout the years.

The Director General of the Human Resources, Budget Management and Administration Division, Ms. Selma Germaine had the honour of presenting the awards to the members of staff who were celebrating 10 years in the public

service and FAD. The awardees were: Ms Aline Morel (Senior Protocol Officer), Mr Aubrey Payet (Senior Protocol Officer), Mrs Bessy Banane (Financial Controller), Ms Elsa Lepathy (Third Secretary, Bilateral Affairs), Mrs Giselle Walter (Accountant), Mrs Katesine Rose (Human Resource and Budget Management Officer), Mrs Melissa Stravens (First Secretary, Legal Affairs), Mr Rodney Sinon (Second Secretary, Regional



Affairs), and Mrs Veronique Morel (Director, Regional Affairs).

This first segment was followed by a poem, written by Mr. Davis Mathiot from the Bilateral Affairs Division, and read by Mr. Carl Gedeon, an intern in the same division. The poem spoke about the complex and sometimes unseen work of a diplomat.

Ambassador Vivianne Fock Tave was next to present the awards to those who had clocked 15 years of service in the public and foreign service. The recipients were: Ambassador Georges Tirant, Ambassador Ian Madeleine (Principal Secretary), Ms Lindy Ernesta (Director General, Bilateral Affairs), Mr Lindsay Jeannevol (Senior Protocol Chauffeur), Ms Lizy Esparon (Senior Office Assistant, Bilateral Affairs), Ms Marie-May Hollanda (Protocol Assistant), and Ms Patsy Moustache (Acting High Commissioner).

This was followed by prizegiving for those who had completed 20 years of service. The awards were presented by Ambassador Madeleine. The recipients were: Ms Amenda Padayachy (Director General,



Multilateral Affairs), and Mr Francis Clothilde (Senior Protocol Chauffeur).

This segment was followed by an entertainment break where the crowd enjoyed a rendition of Mariah Carey's Hero, sung by our very own Selma Payet from the Regional Affairs Division.

The only employee to clock 25 years of service was Mr John Figaro who is the Head Protocol Chauffeur. His award was presented by Mrs Shella Mohideen. The latter also presented awards to those who had completed 30 years of service. The awardees were: Ambassador Beryl Samson, Ms Beryl Pillay (Executive Director, Minister's Secretariat), and Ms Lisette Cupidon (Administrative Officer).

Mrs Mohideen was joined on stage by Minister Radegonde to present awards to the employees who have completed 35 years in the public service. The three members of staff in this category were: Mr Terrence Malbrook (Director, Development Aid), Ms Marie-Therese Onezia (Third Secretary, Consular and Diaspora Affairs) and Ambassador Anne Lafortune.

The longest serving member of staff, Ms Lorna Low Hong, who has worked with the Foreign Affairs Department for 40 years, received her award as well as other prizes from President Ramkalawan and members of the senior management.

The ceremony ended with a vote of thanks by Ambassador Fock Tave on behalf of the award recipients. She also took the opportunity to thank staff and management for their support during her tenure as Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

The formal segment of the event ended with a family photo of the awardees with the distinguished guests.

Ambassador Ian Madeleine appointed as the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs



Mr. Ian Madeleine, born on 15 April 1985 in Victoria, Seychelles, holds a Bachelor in Secondary Education (Social Science) from Edith Cowan University, Australia (2009), and a Master of Public Administration from Tsinghua University, China (2013), with a focus on foreign policy.

He began his career as a teacher before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2011 as Third Secretary. Following his Master's, he served as Second Secretary for the Western Europe desk and later at the Seychelles Embassy in Paris (2015–2017), where he also acted as Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Returning to Seychelles, he became Director of Protocol, then Director for Maritime Affairs, and later Director for Regional Affairs, where he advanced maritime security and regional cooperation. Appointed Ambassador in 2021, he served as Seychelles' Permanent Representative to the USA and UN until July 2025. On 1 August 2025, he was appointed Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

The Diplomatic Circle

Representatives of Foreign States Accredited to Seychelles



Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Guinea, H.E Mr Moriba Alain Koné paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of his Credentials.



High Commissioner-designate of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Zokey Ahad called on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of his Credentials.



The new Resident Representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mrs. Farayi Gwenhamo, presented her credentials to Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



Ambassador-designate of the Republic of France, H.E Mrs Anne Tallineau, met with Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of her Credentials.

Farewell calls



High Commissioner-designate of the Republic of India, H.E Mr Rohit Rathish, met with Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Wael M. Nasr Eldin M. Attiya called on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde at the end of his tenure



The resident High Commissioner of the Republic of India to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E Mr Karthik Pande, paid a farewell call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The outgoing resident Ambassador of the Republic of France to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mrs. Olivia Berkeley-Christmann paid a farewell call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The Italian Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E Mr Roberto Natali, concluded his tenure with a farewell call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde

Courtesy calls by Representatives of Foreign States



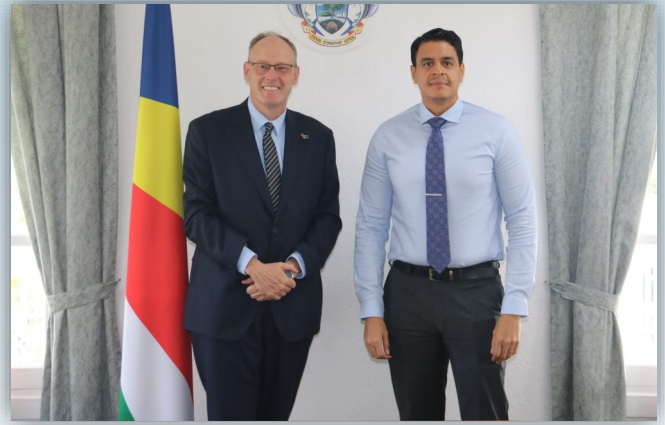
The Apostolic Nuncio to the Republic of Seychelles, His Excellency Monsignor Tomasz Grysa, paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde ahead of the inauguration of the Ferme de l'Espoir (Farm of Hope) Programme



Ms. Alia Hirji, the Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office for Mauritius and Seychelles, paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The resident Chinese Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E Ms Lin Nan paid a visit to Ambassador Ian Madeleine following his appointment as Principal Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Department



Ambassador Ian Madeleine received the Australian Climate Change Counsellor based in the Australian High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya, Mr. Daniel Featherston



The United Nations Resident Coordinator for Seychelles and Mauritius, Ms. Lisa Singh, met with the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ian Madeleine



The resident Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr SAKUTA Makoto, paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Ian Madeleine



Minister Sylvestre Radeconde received the Commanding Officers of INS Shardul, INS Tir, and ICGS Sarathi



The resident Cuban Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mrs. Martha Caneiro called on Ambassador Ian Madeleine



The British High Commissioner to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E Mr. Jeff Glekin paid a visit to Ambassador Ian Madeleine



The Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Artem Kozhin, paid a visit to Ambassador Ian Madeleine



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde received a delegation from the SADC Electoral Observation Mission, led by Honourable Justice Andrew K. C. Nyirenda



Minister Sylvestre Radegonde received an Electoral Observation Mission from the International Organisation of the Francophonie, led by Ambassador André Parant



The head of the African Union (AU) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Joint Election Observation Mission, H.E. Mr Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili, former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The American Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr Henri Jardine paid a courtesy call on Minister Sylvestre Radegonde



The Head of the European Union Delegation to the Seychelles, H.E. Mr Oskar Benedikt paid a visit to Ambassador Ian Madeleine



Ambassador Cillia Mangroo presented her credentials as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations (UN) Office in Geneva, to Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva



Ambassador Mangroo presented her Credentials to the Director General of the World Trade Organization, H. E Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, in Geneva, Switzerland



Ambassador Gervais Moumou presented his Credentials to His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Ambassador Vivianne Fock Tave appointed as Seychelles' Ambassador to the United Nations in New York

Ambassador Fock Tave was appointed as Seychelles' Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Ambassador to the United States on 1 August 2025.

She studied economics in Berlin and began her career in 1996 as an Economist in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Planning and Environment. Rising through senior positions, she became Principal Secretary for Economic Planning in 2005, later serving as Principal Secretary for International Cooperation and Special Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Appointed Ambassador in 2009, she represented Seychelles in Belgium, the European Union, and several other European states and organizations between 2010 and 2014. From 2015 to 2021, she was Head of Mission in Beijing, also accredited to South Korea and Japan.

Returning home, she served as Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs from May 2021 to July 2025 before taking up her current ambassadorial role in New York.



Events attended by FAD Overseas

Seychelles represented at the 47th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union



Ambassador Selby Pillay represented Seychelles at the 47th AU Executive Council Session in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from the 10th to the 11th July 2025. The meeting adopted the 2026 AU budget, reviewed Agenda 2063, and discussed the upcoming theme on water and sanitation.

Ambassador Pillay highlighted Seychelles' commitment to climate and environmental sustainability as a Small Island Developing State. The session also completed AU Commission leadership elections, appointing new commissioners for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, and for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals.

Ambassador Pillay was accompanied by Mrs. Patricia Ilunga, Second Secretary at the Seychelles Embassy in Addis Ababa.

Seychelles' Permanent Representative to the United Nations delivered a statement at

Ambassador Ian Madeleine, the then Permanent Representative to the UN, addressed the High-Level Conference on the Question of Palestine from 28th to 30th July 2025, New York), co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia.

He urged urgent action amid the Gaza humanitarian crisis, condemned civilian suffering, and reaffirmed Seychelles' support for a Two-State Solution based on UN resolutions.

Seychelles, which recognised Palestine in 1988 and established ties with Israel in 1992, continues to call for a permanent ceasefire, the release of hostages, and renewed efforts toward lasting peace.



Seychelles participates in the 45th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government



The 45th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, along with the Senior Officials and Council of Ministers meetings, was held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, from 4th to 17th August 2025. At the opening ceremony, President Andry Rajoelina of Madagascar assumed the SADC Chairmanship from President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

Seychelles was represented by Principal Minister Jean-François Ferrari, leading a delegation that included Mr. Christian Faure, Director General for Regional Affairs, and Ms. Trisha Hoareau, Second Secretary in the Regional Affairs Division.

The Summit, held under the theme "Advancing Industrialisation, Agricultural Transformation, and Energy Transition for a Resilient SADC," focused on accelerating regional integration and development cooperation. Leaders reviewed progress on the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030 and discussed new initiatives, including a value proposition and investment roadmap for the North-South Economic Corridor and a SADC Maritime Corridor Strategy.

The meeting also approved the reappointment of Elias Magosi as SADC Executive Secretary for a second four-year term. On the sidelines, Seychelles and Angola strengthened bilateral ties with the signing of a Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement, concluded by Angolan Foreign Minister Tête António and Minister Ferrari.

Minister Radegonde addresses Plenary Session on Peace and Stability at the 9th edition of TICAD and holds Bilateral Meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the conference



The 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), took place in Yokohama, Japan, from 20–22 August under the theme “Co-Create Innovative Solutions with Africa.”

On the sidelines of the Summit, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde, held bilateral talks with Japan’s Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. IWAYA Takeshi. The ministers reaffirmed the long-standing partnership between Seychelles and Japan, expressing gratitude for Japan’s support in maritime security, including assistance in Maritime Law Enforcement and the construction of the Seychelles Marine Police Headquarters. Discussions also covered counter-piracy, illicit drug trafficking, tourism development, people-to-people exchanges such as high school student visits, and the pending Visa Waiver Agreement for

diplomatic and official passport holders, with the aim of eventually facilitating travel for all citizens. Both ministers pledged to continue cooperation under the TICAD framework.

During the plenary session on Peace and Stability, Minister Radegonde called for deeper, balanced, and forward-looking partnerships between Africa and Japan, anchored in mutual respect and shared commitment to peace, security, and development. He emphasized the growing maritime threats in Africa, including piracy, arms and drug trafficking, illegal fishing, human smuggling, and emerging cyber risks. Highlighting the recent conflict in the Red Sea, he underscored the urgent need to strengthen the resilience and security of maritime corridors that are vital for African trade and supply chains.

Minister Radegonde also stressed the importance of cybersecurity, advocating for collective efforts to build cyber resilience, uphold digital sovereignty, and promote the responsible use of emerging technologies. He commended Japan’s continued support for African maritime security, noting that technical assistance provided through the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme has enhanced law enforcement capabilities, strengthened institutional resilience, and improved operational coordination across coastal states.

Minister Radegonde was accompanied by Ambassador Anne Lafortune, Seychelles non-resident Ambassador to Japan.

Seychelles participates in the 2nd Africa-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit



President Wavel Ramkalawan was represented at the 2nd Africa-CARICOM Summit on 7 September 2025 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa by Ambassador Conrad Mederic, Seychelles’ Permanent Representative to the AU. The Summit, held under the theme “Transcontinental Partnership in Pursuit of Reparatory Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations,” aimed to strengthen people-to-people ties, deepen interregional economic cooperation, and reinforce the AU-CARICOM MoU on engagement with people of African descent.

In his plenary intervention on “Forging Stronger Relations Between Africa and the Caribbean Region,” Ambassador Mederic highlighted similarities between Seychelles and

the Caribbean, including shared Creole culture and maritime resources. He called for increased cultural exchanges, stronger political collaboration on climate change, fair financing, and the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.

Ambassador Mederic was accompanied by Member of the National Assembly, Honourable Clifford Andre and Second Secretary, Mrs. Patricia Ilunga.

Seychelles Elected to Key Organs of the Universal Postal Union



The Universal Postal Union (UPU), a UN specialised agency, held its 28th Congress in Dubai, UAE, where elections were conducted for its principal governing bodies.

Seychelles was elected to both the Council of Administration (CA) and the Postal Operations Council (POC) for a four-year term starting January 2026, chosen from among 15 African countries. This marks a significant achievement for Seychelles, highlighting its strong international standing and the confidence of the global community in its contribution to the postal sector.

As a member of the CA and POC, Seychelles, through the Seychelles Postal Services (SPS), will play a key role in decision-making and representing the perspectives of small island states. The Seychellois delegation included Ambassador Gervais

Moumou, SPS CEO Mariella Buisson, Postal Regulator CEO Neddy Padayachy, and other SPS officials.

Headquartered in Bern, Switzerland, the UPU coordinates postal policies and serves as the primary forum for international postal cooperation.

Five minutes with a Diplomat

For this third quarter, we had a sit down with Mr. Andry Accouche, Second Secretary in the Regional Affairs Division to find out more about him.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I was born and raised in Seychelles and attended Independent School and the School of Advanced Level Studies (SALS). I initially pursued law to understand justice and societal frameworks, earning an LLB (Hons.) in Law with Criminology from the University of East London and a Master's in Commercial Law from the University of the West of England, Bristol. While I began my career in law, I discovered a stronger calling in diplomacy, where I could combine my legal background with strategic engagement and service to my country.

Outside work, I strive to maintain balance, respect others, and stay true to myself. Music has been part of my life since age nine, teaching focus, patience, and calm. Chess, in which I was a national champion and represented Seychelles at the 38th Chess Olympiad in Dresden, strengthened my strategic thinking and composure under pressure. Football has been a lifelong passion, from training at the Bobby Charlton Soccer School to playing for university teams and trialing with a First Division club in Cyprus, instilling discipline, resilience, and teamwork. Martial arts, including Kyokushin karate, kickboxing, and MMA, taught me perseverance and adaptability. I am also deeply interested in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship, developing projects that can make a meaningful impact.

Above all, I am a devoted father and partner, inspired daily by my daughter and family. I am grateful for my parents, whose integrity, leadership, and work ethic have shaped my values and continue to guide me personally and professionally. Their example motivates me to give my best in everything I do.



How long have you been with the FAD and what sparked your interest in diplomacy?

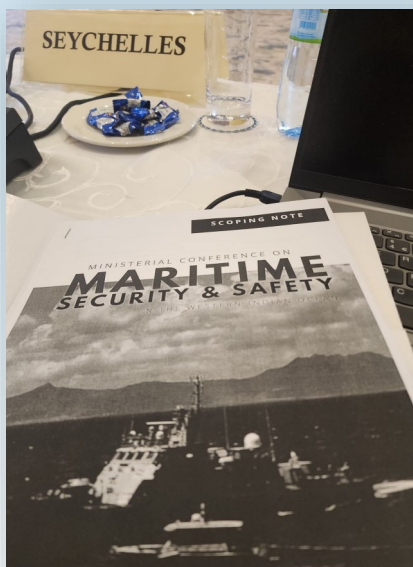
I have been with the Department for over six years now. My interest in diplomacy was sparked by a strong desire to represent Seychelles and play a role in shaping how our country engages with the rest of the world. Growing up, I was always aware of how global events could have a direct impact on small island states like ours. I gradually became interested in wanting to be part of the work that ensures Seychelles' voice is heard in those conversations.

My mother's own journey in public service gave me a first-hand understanding of the depth, challenges, and opportunities the profession offers. I was inspired by how diplomacy can build partnerships, navigate challenges, and create opportunities even in the most complex circumstances. What appealed to me most was the idea that, through diplomacy, a nation's influence is not determined by its size, but by its ability to engage strategically, uphold its values, and work collaboratively with others.



What is your favourite part of your job at FAD?

What I value most about my role is the opportunity to work on issues that directly impact Seychelles' future. Every day presents a different challenge, whether it is preparing for high-level meetings, coordinating with regional and international partners, drafting speeches, reports, and carrying out research. I particularly enjoy the problem-solving



aspect of the work, where complex issues require not just technical knowledge, but creativity, diplomacy, and the ability to find common ground among diverse perspectives.

Another part I deeply appreciate is the chance to contribute to tangible outcomes. Whether it is advancing maritime security initiatives, strengthening bilateral relationships, or creating opportunities for our people, it is rewarding to see how diplomatic efforts can translate into real benefits for the country. The fast-paced and dynamic nature of the job means that no two days are alike, and that constant variety keeps me motivated and engaged.

What drew you to focusing on the field of Maritime Security?

I first started out in the Bilateral Affairs Division, before later moving to the Maritime Affairs section, where I was first introduced to the maritime security dossier. During my time there, my work also covered the blue economy, which gave me a broader appreciation of how economic development, environmental sustainability, and maritime governance are deeply interconnected. It was in this role that I came to understand just how closely our national interests are tied to the ocean, and how critical it is to protect and manage our maritime domain.

Now serving in the Regional Affairs Division, that early experience has carried through, and my understanding and knowledge of the topic has been further enhanced. My work today focuses on maritime security and

maritime diplomacy, both of which require strategic thinking, regional cooperation, and a commitment to finding innovative solutions.

For me, maritime security is about more than preventing illegal activities at sea. It is about safeguarding our sovereignty, ensuring the sustainability of our resources, and strengthening Seychelles' role as a leader and active partner in regional and international cooperation across the Western Indian Ocean and beyond.

What advice would you give to young people who wish to join?

Be curious, stay grounded, and keep an open mind. Diplomacy is as much about listening and understanding as it is about speaking and representing. Build a strong foundation through your studies, but also develop the interpersonal skills, cultural awareness, and adaptability that are essential in this field.

Do not be afraid to step outside your comfort zone or take on challenges that might seem daunting at first. Each experience will help you grow, both professionally and personally. Above all, remember that diplomacy is a responsibility.

When you represent your country, you carry the trust of your people. Serve with integrity, work hard, and let your purpose guide your path.



Training Sessions and FAD's Social Engagements

Careers Week 2025

On the July 17th and 18th 2025, members of staff from all divisions and unit of the Foreign Affairs Department welcomed groups of students who toured the premises in a bid to learn more about the workings of the department and the different career options available.

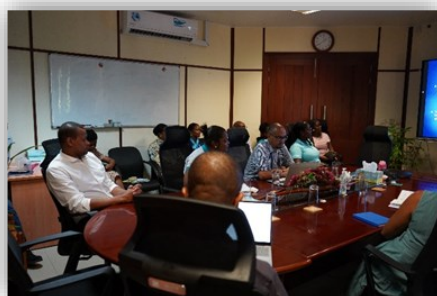


The open day gave students the opportunity to exchange with the teams and ask many questions on their daily duties, overseas missions they get to attend as well as preferred academic pathways which would allow them to work in the foreign service. The department received three groups of students from three secondary schools and one primary school.



Protocol and Etiquette Training

During the third quarter of 2025, representatives from the Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division conducted Protocol and Etiquette Sessions with staff members from the Ministry of Lands and Housing, Ministry of Transport, Seychelles Prison Services and National Assembly of Seychelles. These sessions are integral to the Department's objective of enhancing collaboration with our partners and stakeholders.



Our Staff Activities

Foreign Affairs Department hosts its mid-year staff meeting

The Foreign Affairs Department held its mid-year staff meeting on Monday, 4th August 2025, bringing together team members for an afternoon of updates, announcements, and open dialogue. The meeting was chaired by Minister Sylvestre Radegonde, who shared a comprehensive overview of the Department's work and progress so far this year.

A key highlight of the meeting was the official introduction of Ambassador Ian Madeleine as the new Principal Secretary, while Ambassador Vivianne Fock Tave was introduced as Seychelles' new Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.



Staff members also had the opportunity to voice their thoughts, raise concerns, and offer suggestions in an open and constructive forum. This exchange reflected the Department's ongoing commitment to transparency, collaboration, and shared goals.



Minister Radegonde closed the meeting with a message of encouragement, calling on all staff to continue working together to ensure the Department meets its targets for 2025.

Our Most Valuable Asset - Our Staff

New Faces, Postings and Promotions

We are thrilled to welcome the following new staff :



Ms. Maria Vital
*Second Secretary in the
Legal Affairs Unit*



Ms. Valerie Morel
*Third Secretary in the
Legal Affairs Unit*



Ms. Norine Albert
*Housekeeper in the Administration &
Support Services Division*