



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora Republic of Seychelles

Leko Diplomatik

PROMOTING A PROACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

April 2026, Issue 19

Diplomatic Cocktail 2026

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure hosted the Annual Diplomatic Cocktail on January 30th, under the theme “*50 Years of Vision and Voice: Seychelles’ Journey with the Global Community Toward Shared Security and Sustainable Development*,” bringing together President Patrick Herminie, government leaders, members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, and national partners in a celebration of cooperation and dialogue.

Delivering the keynote address, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure, described the gathering as “*above all, a gesture of our sincere appreciation*,” acknowledging the diplomatic community as “*valued contributors to the Seychellois*



Minister Barry Faure addressing the guests

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national journey.”

Reflecting on Seychelles’ diplomatic evolution ahead of the country’s 50th anniversary of independence, Minister Faure emphasized how the nation’s foreign policy has matured alongside its development as a sovereign state. “*Over five decades, Seychelles has moved from a newly independent state building its basic institutions to a confident, respected actor on the world stage*,” he noted, adding that the

country has progressed “*from simple participation to active contribution, and now, to shared responsibility*.”

The Minister stressed that diplomacy remains central to national development, particularly for a small island developing state. He highlighted that domestic renewal and international engagement must advance together, explaining that “*for a small, open island economy, domestic progress and international engagement are two sides of the same coin*.” The inclusion of the Diaspora within the Ministry’s mandate, he



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said, strengthens Seychelles' global presence by deepening investment, cultural exchange, and people-to-people diplomacy.



Minister Faure underscored Seychelles' growing international leadership, particularly in sustainability and multilateral cooperation. *"Today, our foreign policy is defined by agency. We don't just speak of our vulnerabilities; we propose solutions,"* he affirmed. He pointed to achievements in the Blue Economy, environmental stewardship, maritime security, and Seychelles' election to key international bodies as examples of global confidence in the country's constructive role.

Addressing global uncertainties, the Minister warned that rising geopolitical tensions and renewed piracy threats pose real challenges for small states. *"Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity is not an abstract concept; it is the practical foundation of trust and stability for smaller states,"* he stated. He reaffirmed Seychelles' commitment to collective maritime security efforts while maintaining a principled policy of non-alignment, describing it as *"a conscious choice to exercise independent judgement, balanced engagement and constructive dialogue."*

Regional solidarity, he added, remains essential to resilience. Through engagement with regional and multilateral organisations, Seychelles continues to translate diplomatic cooperation into tangible outcomes for its people and partners.

Looking ahead, Minister Faure reaffirmed Seychelles' long-term diplomatic vision. *"As Seychelles looks toward its next fifty years, we will remain a principled, reliable partner—one that listens, contributes, and works to ensure that sustainable development leaves no country behind."*

In his first address as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Artem Kozhin praised Seychelles' international contributions, noting that the country *"has been, for a long time, the global champion in promoting Blue Economy,"* and expressed confidence in the continued strengthening of cooperation between Seychelles and its diplomatic partners.

The Diplomatic Cocktail 2026 thus served not only as an occasion of appreciation, but as a reaffirmation of Seychelles' enduring commitment to partnership, dialogue, and shared global progress.



Newly appointed Ambassadors undergo intensive induction programme

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora hosted 5 of the 6 newly appointed Ambassadors to a 2-week intensive induction session at the end of March. The sessions began with a presentation by the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Ambassador Ian Madeleine. After that, each Division and Unit within the Ministry gave an overview of their Division, the tasks they undertake and how their Division will work in conjunction with each Ambassador once they have been posted to their mission.



The Diplomatic Circle

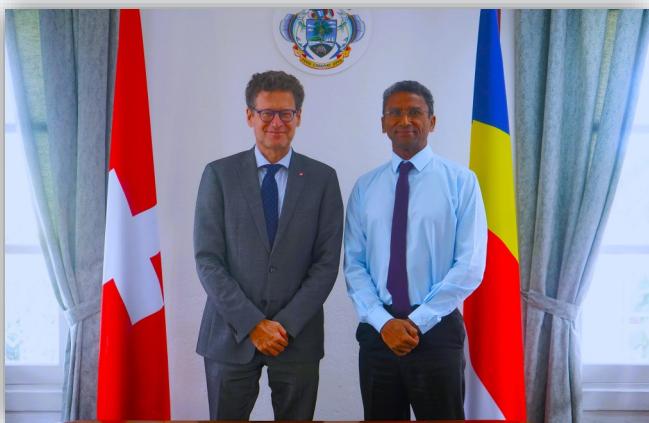
Representatives of Foreign States Accredited to Seychelles



Ambassador-designate of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Hatem Yousri Hosni paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



The High Commissioner-designate of the Maldives to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Masood Imad paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure ahead of the presentation of his Credentials



Ambassador-designate of the Swiss Confederation to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Stefano Toscano paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure ahead of the presentation of his Credentials

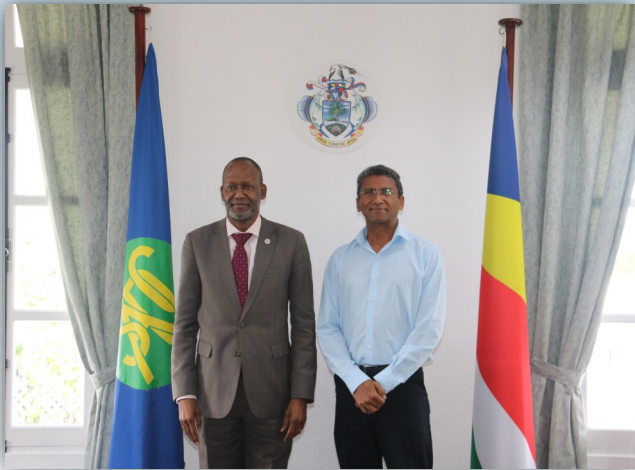


The High Commissioner-designate of Canada to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mrs. Emily Burns paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure ahead of the presentation of her Credentials



The newly appointed United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative, Mrs. Alka Bhatia, presented her letter of credence

Courtesy calls by Representatives of Foreign States



Minister Barry Faure received the Executive Secretary of the South African Development Community (SADC), H.E. Mr. Elias Magosi



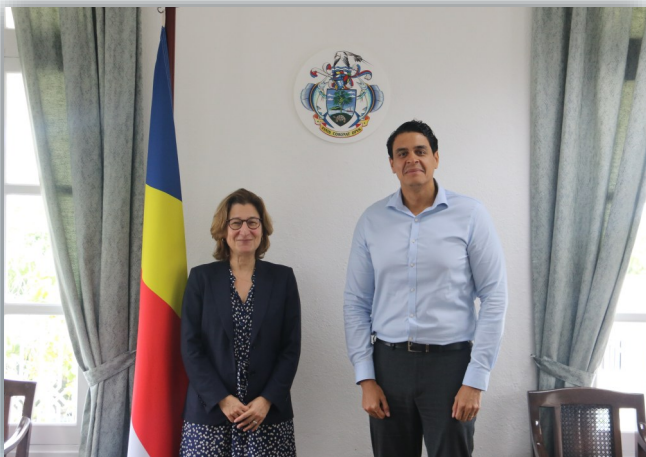
The High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, H.E. Mr. Jeffrey Glekin called on Minister Barry Faure



The High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Dr. Hlamalani Manzini paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



The Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Ambassador Ian Madeleine, received the Head of Country Cluster Delegation of the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), Ms. Maria Mercedes Martinez



Ambassador Rita Laranjinha, Portugal's Special Envoy for Africa, met with Principal Secretary Ian Madeleine to present Portugal's visions and priorities in their bid for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council



Minister Barry Faure received H.E. Ms. Marie Charlotte Tang, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of Seychelles



The United Kingdom's Special Envoy for Small Island Developing States, Mr. Tim Hemmings paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



The Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat (AfCFTA), H.E. Mr. Wamkele Mene paid a courtesy call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure



The Auditor General of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Gamini Herath, paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure following his appointment to the Board of Auditors of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)



The Commanding Officer of the ICGS Sankalp, Captain Vikas Walia paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



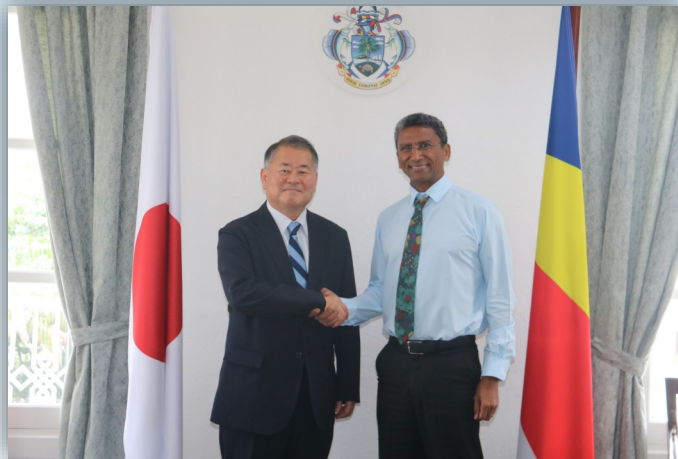
Minister Barry Faure also met with a delegation from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), led by the Regional Director, Mr. Luther Anukur Bois



Minister Barry Faure received the Commanding Officer of the INS Trikand, Captain Sachin Subhash Kulkarni



Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Ambassador Ian Madeleine met with the Vice-Minister for Political Affairs at the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs of Austria, H.E. Ambassador Hannah Liko



The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure received the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. OUE Sadamasa



Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Ambassador Ian Madeleine met with the Chief of Mission for the International Organization of Migration, Ms. Alia Hirji



A Russian Naval Delegation, accompanied by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Artem Kozhin, paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



H.E. Ambassador Lin NAN, paid a courtesy call on Minister Barry Faure



The Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Subutay Yüksel, met with the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Ambassador Ian Madeleine

Accreditation of Seychelles Ambassadors



Ambassador Cillia Ardyna Mangroo presented her Credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation, H.E. Mr. Guy Parmelin

Did you know?



The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a flagship project of the African Union's Agenda 2063, designed to deepen economic integration across Africa by creating a single continental market for goods and services. Approved in 2012, signed in 2018, and implemented in 2019, with trading beginning in 2021, it aims to significantly boost intra-African trade and strengthen Africa's global economic influence.

The AfCFTA's core objective is to reduce trade barriers and harmonise regulations so that goods, services, capital, and people can move more freely across borders. It supports industrialisation, economic diversification, and sustainable development, while enhancing Africa's negotiating power in global trade discussions. The agreement also promotes inclusive growth, gender equality, and structural transformation across member states.

Key goals include establishing a liberalised market through gradual tariff reductions, supporting investment flows, and laying the groundwork for a future continental customs union. It also seeks to develop regional value chains, improve agricultural productivity, and enhance food security. A major aim is to address the problem of overlapping memberships in regional economic communities, which often complicate trade policies and implementation.

The AfCFTA is underpinned by several protocols covering trade in goods and services, investment, intellectual property rights, competition policy, and dispute settlement. These legal frameworks ensure consistent rules and provide mechanisms for resolving trade disputes between member states.

Operational tools include Rules of Origin, which determine which products qualify for tariff-free trade, and tariff liberalisation commitments covering most goods over time. The agreement also introduces systems to remove non-tariff barriers that hinder trade.

Supporting infrastructure includes the Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS), which enables cross-border payments in local currencies, and the African Trade Observatory, which provides trade data and market information. Implementation is coordinated by the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana, supported by the AU Assembly, Council of Ministers, and technical committees overseeing progress and policy execution.

Seychelles advances global and continental diplomacy through strategic engagements

In February 2026, Seychelles pursued an active and forward-looking foreign policy agenda, reinforcing its commitment to multilateral cooperation, continental solidarity, and expanded bilateral partnerships. These diplomatic engagements, led by Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure, reflect Seychelles' continued efforts to strengthen its international presence while promoting dialogue, peace, and sustainable development.



At the global level, Minister Faure participated in a High-Level Consultation on the future of the United Nations, including discussions concerning the election of the next Secretary-General. Seychelles used the platform to advocate for inclusive multilateral reform and stronger representation for small island developing states.



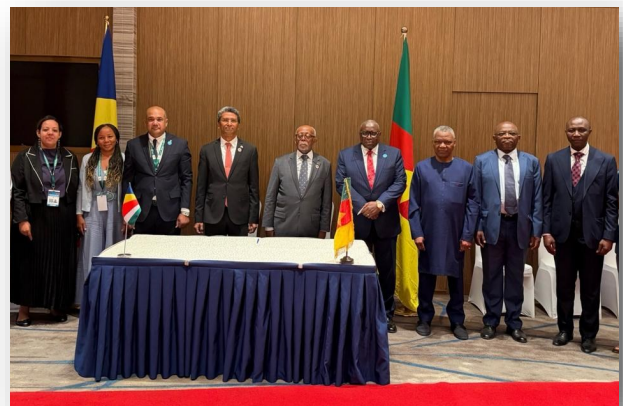
Complementing this engagement, Minister Faure met with Austria's Special Envoy to advance Seychelles' candidacy for



a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, reaffirming the country's commitment to international peace, cooperation, and dialogue.



Seychelles' engagement within Africa remained a central pillar of its diplomacy. During a courtesy call on the leadership of the African Union, Minister Faure reaffirmed Seychelles' dedication to continental cooperation and collective action. The country further emphasized its commitment to African unity through discussions focused on strengthening cooperation, advancing shared development priorities, and enhancing coordinated responses to emerging regional and global challenges.



Minister Faure also led the Seychelles delegation to the 48th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council, where Seychelles contributed to deliberations on governance, economic integration, climate resilience, and regional peace and security. Bilateral meetings held on the margins of the session enabled Seychelles to bolster regional partnerships and deepen engagement with fellow African states.

In parallel, Seychelles expanded its diplomatic network through the formal establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Cameroon. These milestones support Seychelles' broader objective of strengthening South-South cooperation and enhancing diplomatic outreach across the African continent.

Minister Barry Faure attends Raisina Dialogue and undertakes bilateral talks on the margins of the meeting

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure represented Seychelles at the 11th Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, where he engaged in diplomatic discussions at India's flagship geopolitics and geo-economics conference. The event, organised by Observer Research Foundation in partnership with India's Ministry of External Affairs, convened more than 2,700 delegates from over 110 countries to examine shifts in the global order under the theme "Saṃskāra: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement". Finnish President Alexander Stubb delivered the keynote address as Chief Guest, outlining global challenges and cooperation frameworks.



This year's conference theme highlighted civilizational perspectives on global progress, emphasizing assertion of identity, accommodation of contradictions, and advancement through shared meaning. Minister Faure participated in panel discussions on international security and economic resilience, and held strategic conversations with thought leaders. He engaged in bilateral meetings with counterparts to strengthen Seychelles' diplomatic and diaspora relations.



He met Kenyan Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi on the sidelines, where both sides reaffirmed cooperation between Seychelles and Kenya as Indian Ocean neighbours. Discussions focused on diaspora engagement, maritime security, fisheries, counter-piracy efforts, and activation of a joint commission to implement agreements in trade, agriculture, and education. They exchanged views on the impact of conflict in West Asia on maritime and air connectivity and tourism-dependent economies.

Minister Faure also held talks with the Mauritian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Dhananjay Ramful, advancing preparations for the state visit by President Patrick Herminie to Mauritius. The ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation through future MOUs and coordinated responses to regional challenges, including energy security, food supply, fisheries management, and trade resilience. Mauritius facilitated an emergency shipment of cooking oil to Seychelles, which was appreciated as a gesture of solidarity.

He also met Bhutanese Foreign Minister Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel to explore diplomatic relations and sustainable development cooperation. The two sides discussed innovative frameworks including Bhutan's Gelephu Mindfulness City, renewable energy transition strategies, climate leadership through the G-ZERO coalition, and sustainable tourism models based on high-value, low-impact principles.



Minister Faure met India's External Affairs Minister, H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar to review ongoing bilateral cooperation and preparations for high-level visits marking Seychelles' independence anniversary celebrations. They reaffirmed commitment to infrastructure projects including healthcare development and discussed regional security concerns in the Indian Ocean. Minister Faure contributed to a panel on the future of the Indian Ocean, emphasizing maritime cooperation, climate resilience, and blue economy strategies alongside counterparts from India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and Australia.



Minister Barry Faure attends the 11th Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Summit

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Mr. Barry Faure met his counterpart, Minister Simeon Oyono Esono Angue of Equatorial Guinea, ahead of the 11th Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States Summit, representing President Dr Patrick Herminie.



The ministers discussed summit priorities and bilateral relations between Seychelles and Equatorial Guinea, agreeing to pursue a legal framework for cooperation, a visa waiver agreement, and a joint commission covering the blue economy, tourism management, maritime security, hydrocarbons and diaspora engagement. Both countries noted their shared membership in the African Islands States Climate Commission and La Francophonie, and anticipated marking 33 years of diplomatic relations in 2026.



The Seychelles delegation, including Ambassador Kenneth Racombo, First Secretary Marco Larsen and Second Secretary Rodney Sinon, participated in preparatory meetings and the Council of Ministers session.

Minister Barry Faure aligned Seychelles with the Malabo Declaration, supported stronger climate finance commitments, and successfully proposed language welcoming the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on climate change obligations. He reiterated support for the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index as essential for fair financing for small island states.



At the Summit, Minister Faure commended outgoing leadership and welcomed the new Chair, stressing the Organisation's relevance in a changing world. He called for stronger climate justice, debt relief cooperation, and expanded trade and technology transfer among member states.



He advocated institutional reform, improved efficiency, and relocating the OACPS Secretariat to a member state to reduce costs and improve effectiveness.



As Rapporteur of the Youth Forum, Minister Barry Faure presented recommendations on youth employment, digital skills, climate resilience and inclusive participation. He proposed an OACPS Youth Compact, Youth Advisory Board, structured internships and dedicated financing mechanisms. Seychelles also contributed to shaping the Malabo Declaration, reinforcing climate action commitments and proposing a study on Secretariat relocation.

Seychelles participates in the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM)



Ambassador Jacques Belle led the Seychelles delegation at the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM), held on 8 March 2026 in London.

The CFAMM provided a platform for Commonwealth foreign ministers to engage on issues relevant to global cooperation and to prepare for the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November 2026 in Antigua and Barbuda.

Prior to the meeting, ministers attended a retreat themed “*The Commonwealth at a Moment of Strategic Opportunity*”, focusing on multilateralism, economic diplomacy, innovation, partnerships, and institutional resilience.

Delegates then finalised key documents for submission to Heads of Government, addressing climate finance, trade, investment, digital transformation, youth empowerment, and environmental sustainability. On the sidelines of the CFAMM, Ambassador Belle laid a wreath at the Commonwealth Memorial Gates in London and attended the Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey. He was accompanied by Ms Patsy Moustache, Acting High Commissioner at the Seychelles High Commission in London.

Ambassador Belle reaffirmed Seychelles’ commitment to strengthening Commonwealth cooperation, promoting sustainable development, climate resilience, and inclusive growth, while supporting stronger partnerships in trade, investment, innovation, and youth empowerment. He also highlighted the importance of multilateral collaboration and expressed Seychelles’ readiness to actively contribute to outcomes of CHOGM 2026 and beyond.

Seychelles partakes in the SADC Council of Ministers Meeting in Pretoria



Ambassador Selby Pillay led the Seychelles delegation at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers Meeting held from 12 to 13 March 2026 in Pretoria, South Africa, representing Minister Barry Faure.

The meeting took place under the theme “Advancing Industrialisation, Agricultural Transformation, and Energy Transition for a Resilient SADC,” as adopted at the August 2025 Summit in Madagascar. It was preceded by sessions of the Standing Committee of Senior Officials and a special meeting on the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030, which guides long-term regional integration and sustainable development.

During his intervention, Ambassador Pillay highlighted Seychelles’ structural economic vulnerabilities, noting its limited diversification, human capital constraints, and increasing exposure to climate change impacts. He stressed the

persistent asymmetries among SADC Member States, particularly between small island developing states and larger, more diversified economies, and called for regional policies that better reflect these differences.

He also expressed Seychelles’ support for strengthening cooperation between SADC and India in areas such as sustainable development, digital transformation, and the responsible development of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

Ambassador Pillay was accompanied by Mrs Veronique Morel, Acting Head of Mission at the Seychelles High Commission in South Africa, and Ms Trisha Hoareau, Second Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora.

The Seychelles delegation reaffirmed its commitment to regional cooperation, inclusive development, and addressing shared challenges within the SADC framework.



Five minutes with a Diplomat

For the first quarter of 2026, we took some time to get to know Ms. Juana Alcindor, First Secretary, to learn more about her and the work she does at FAD.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

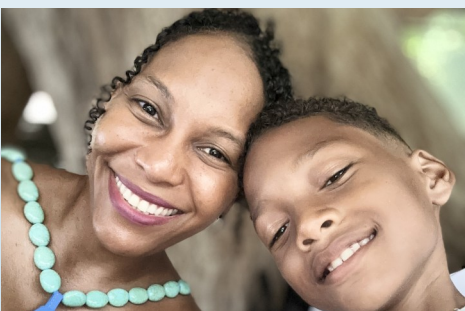
I've had the benefit of growing up across 2 different communities (Mont Plaisir and Anse La Mouche), which gave me an early appreciation for adaptability.



My academic journey began with a focus on English through the University of London programme offered locally. I began my professional journey as an English teacher, an experience I found incredibly rewarding and one that has greatly shaped who I am today.

Over time, driven by a longstanding aspiration for international relations, guided me to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I later pursued a Master's degree in Diplomacy from the University of Malta in 2019 to broaden and strengthen my expertise.

On a personal note, I am a mother to a young son, who keeps me grounded and motivated, and the eldest of two sisters. Family has always played an important role in shaping who I am. Outside of work, I indulge my love of cooking, satisfy my curiosity through travel, and enjoy relaxing with Netflix and spending time with my family and friends (we love a good hangout session..haha)



What is your favorite part of your job at FAD and how long have you been with the Ministry?

I began my journey at FAD in 2016, returning in 2018 after a brief interval. As a Consular Officer, the most rewarding part of my work is providing support and assistance across a variety of consular matters. In my role, I encounter people from all over the world, and each interaction offers a unique perspective and experience. Being able to make a tangible difference, even in small ways, is what makes this work truly fulfilling.



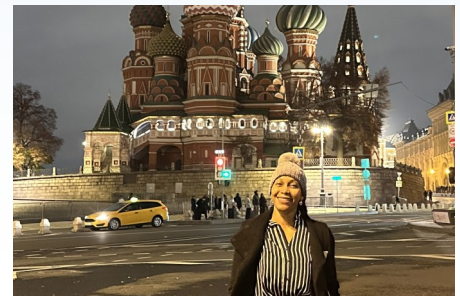
Why did you choose to join the Consular and Diaspora Affairs Division and what dossier/duties do you undertake?

Initially, I was interviewed for openings in both Bilateral and Consular Affairs. By what I can only describe as a fortunate alignment, I was placed in Consular Affairs, and it has truly been the best fit.

My main dossier focuses on Honorary Consuls, where I handle their appointments and the ongoing management of over 90 Honorary Consuls representing Seychelles abroad, as well as around 26 Consular Representatives of Foreign State in Seychelles.



Beyond this, I provide support and assistance across various consular matters, serving as something of a 'jack of all trades' within the Ministry. The work is both challenging and immensely rewarding, and I feel grateful to contribute in this way.



As a youth yourself, what advice would you give to younger people who wish to join FAD?

As a young professional, my advice to young people who wish to join is to be curious, proactive, and open to learning. Working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora offers a wide range of experiences. Success often comes from being adaptable and willingness to take on different challenges. Most importantly, don't be afraid to take up any opportunity that presents itself, as every experience builds skills and insight that can guide your career forward.



Training Sessions and FAD's Social Engagements

Protocol and Etiquette Training

The Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division had the honour of conducting its first Protocol and Etiquette Session of the year with the First Lady, Mrs. Veronique Herminie and her team.



International Women's Day Activity

To commemorate International Women's Day, the Human Resource and Budget Management Division organized a luncheon for the female employees of the Ministry. During the event, the Principal Secretary, Ambassador Ian Madeleine, presented gifts to the female staff as a gesture of appreciation for their contributions.



Our Most Valuable Asset - Our Staff

New Faces and Promotions:

The Foreign Affairs Department is thrilled to welcome the following new staff and announce the following promotions :



Ms. Farella Charlie

Third Secretary in the Consular Affairs & Diaspora Division



Mr. Jency Marie

Protocol Officer in the Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division



Ms. Freda Amour

Third Secretary in the Bilateral Affairs Division



Ms. Elaine Naiken

Third Secretary in the Bilateral Affairs Division



Ms. Zara Farabeau

Accounts Technician in the Accounts Section



Ms. Deerah Dufrene

Protocol Officer in the Protocol and Public Diplomacy Division



Mr. Hubert Sarah

Driver in the Human Resource, Budget Management and Administration Division



Mr. Jean-Philippe Banane

Promoted from Third Secretary to Second Secretary in the Regional Affairs Division



Mr. Andry Accouche

Promoted from Second Secretary to First Secretary in the Regional Affairs Division