

# PRESIDENT DANNY FAURE CELEBRATES TWO YEARS IN OFFICE



## Achieving Growth, Social Cohesion For Our Seychelles



President Faure taking the Presidential Oath

On October 16, 2016, Mr Danny Faure took the Presidential Oath to become the fourth President of Seychelles.

In his address on the occasion of his swearing in, President Faure called for national unity through a process of true reconciliation. He called upon the people of Seychelles to come together to overcome the differences and obstacles that divided the Nation.

As he outlined his vision for Seychelles, President Faure highlighted some of the main principles and values that would form the basis of the actions of his Presidency. He announced that policies would be reviewed to ensure that they reflect the principles of fairness, equal opportunities, social justice and fair redistribution of wealth.

The President reminded the citizens that “no one is above the law and the law applies for everyone”

and that everyone should take responsibility for their actions. He also conveyed the need for citizens to work hard and to discharge the responsibilities that they have been assigned. He underlined the importance of continuing to maintain a system of universal social protection so as to maintain social cohesion and harmony.

During the past two years, many policies and laws have been amended, many new ones have been developed and approved. Frameworks have been introduced to ensure good governance, transparency and accountability. Projects that directly touch the lives of citizens have been implemented as well as those that will further the development of Seychelles.

This publication seeks to highlight some of the major achievements during President Danny Faure’s two years in Office.

TRANSPARENCY

ACCOUNTABILITY

GOOD GOVERNANCE

## Some of the major achievements by President Danny Faure since October 2016

- 102 housing units completed in 3 districts; 353 units under construction in 15 districts; 7 districts with work to start, making a total of **605 units ready before the end of 2019**
- Redeveloped Corgat Estate
- Secured financing for **3000 houses**
- Introduced **Land Points System** for transparent allocation of residential land
- Amended the Industrial Estates Authority Act for greater transparency so that all industrial land is allocated by the Industrial **Estates Authority**
- **Exempted stamp duty** for transfer of property in the case of divorce and transfer from parents to children
- **786 applicants received SCR 186.7 million in housing loans from HFC through its various schemes**
- Adopted a **Comprehensive Plan for Agriculture**, inclusive of **new policies on allocation** and retraction of State Land; livestock; **credit access** to development funds; and **support** for farmers
- Extended Providence Artisanal Fishing Port, with **220 new metres of quay and a 10-ton-per-day ice plant**
- Exports of fresh and frozen fish in the first 6 months of 2018 **up by 116% compared to the same period in 2017**
- 6 major infrastructure projects in 2017, including La Digue waste water system; performance improvement of Baie Ste Anne Praslin power station and raising of **La Gogue Dam to increase storage capacity by 60%**
- **Established the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) Secretariat** in Seychelles promoting transparent and sustainable fisheries
- **Allocated 42,000 square kilometres of land to developers at Ile du Port**
- Secured financing for **massive port extension** and rehabilitation project



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- Held **First National Business Summit** on 3 July 2018, encouraging cross-sectoral dialogue and improvements to the business environment
- Seychelles declared a **good practice hub for Early Childhood Education by UNESCO** in 2017
- Signed agreement to set up **Seychelles' second submarine cable**, guaranteeing the security of connectivity
- Global leader in environmental protection: **ban** on plastic bags, polystyrene boxes, plastic utensils and single use plastic straws
- **16% (210, 000 square kilometres) of Seychelles' waters** declared as **Marine Protected Area**
- **Expanded territory by 14, 840 square kilometres (92 times the size of Mahé)** through the Extended Continental Shelf
- **First country in the world** to develop a **Blue Economy Roadmap**, with collaboration from the Commonwealth
- Established Seychelles as **the first Pan-African Shipping Hub**, creating a centre for all ship owners in Africa and a hub for all activities related to the maritime sector
- Improved Seychelles' air connectivity through **5 new direct flight agreements** with British Airways, Edelweiss, Joon, Turkish Airlines and Austrian Airlines
- Advocated for an **independent media** by amending the SBC Act, NISA Act and Seychelles Media Commission Act
- Introduced quarterly **Presidential press conferences** at State House, open to all members of the press
- Introduced the **Access to Information Act**, as per the right to Information under the Constitution, so that members of the public can be better informed
- Established working relationships with platforms such as CEPS, SIFCO and SCCI
- Created new boards and authorities and increased private sector participation on boards and

- Created the **Leaders' Forum** to encourage dialogue and discussion of forthcoming legislations
- Approved the law to set up the Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission
- Set up an independent **Seychelles Human Rights Commission**
- Secured a grant to build the **Government House** to house ministries and remove the rent burden on Government
- **Free unlimited Wi-Fi hotspots in 8 locations** around the country and **86% of all public schools**
- Goods for conservation or production of renewable energy **exempted from Value Added Tax (VAT)**
- Intensified efforts to increase use of renewable energy in the country's energy mix; decision to use **LNG** (Liquefied Natural Gas) for increased electricity demands, to reduce environmental pollution



- Secured financing for a 5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Farm to be installed on Ile de Romainville
- Allocated SCR32.7million directly on Climate Change Adaptation to improve drainage and avoid flooding, including 26 national Coastal Drainage Projects
- **Doubling of clean solar power through renewable energy legislation;** allowing private sector to participate in the production and supply of clean and renewable energy and individuals able to produce their own electricity using renewable energy technology
- **300 free units of electricity to 550 Seychellois families** currently receiving social assistance from the Government; from a 1 Megawatt solar photo voltaic democratisation farm funded by India
- **Allocated SCR20 million** in 2019 Budget for housing projects for the vulnerable
- Introduced the **Tourism Vertical Integration Policy** for fair competition between different actors and ensure all businesses can benefit from the tourism industry



- **Tourism earnings** up to September 2018 amounted to USD 403 million, representing an 8% growth over the same period last year
- 30% increase in allowance for A Level Graduates while on work attachment
- A new National Human Resource Development Policy and Strategy approved
- Top performing students from each professional centre awarded scholarships – leading to an increase in the number of non-academic students receiving scholarships
- New National anti-bullying Policy and Strategy for Schools and Professional Centres
- Autonomised schools and professional centres
- Rewarding teachers and supporting staff: revised Schemes of Service, allowances, and gratuity payments; recognition of prior learning certification; increased allowance for after School Child Supervision and Homework Supervision; introduced a Teacher Appraisal Performance Allowance with continued review of appraisal system
- 82 students benefited from the Alternative Education Programme, part of the Behaviour Intervention Programmes of the Education Department from 2016 to 2018
- 105 students benefitted from the Youth Integrated Support Residential programme
- Introduced Youth Engagement Programme in all Secondary schools
- **4209 students** benefitted from the Laptop Scheme from November 2016 to August 2018
- Opened Perseverance Secondary School



- Completed the second phase of Cascade Primary School and the School of Advanced Level Studies
- Built new blocks at: Grand Anse Praslin Primary and Secondary Schools, and English River Secondary School
- Established the Office for Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation with the mandate for lowering drug abuse
- Set up the Agency for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation
- 1400 citizens enrolled on methadone programme
- Implemented an **Overseas Diagnosis and Treatment Act** for greater transparency
- Successfully contained the risk of the plague outbreak in 2017
- Lowered **Infant mortality rate to 10.9 in 2017**
- Performed 97% of orthopaedic operations locally
- Achieved a Vaccination rate of more than 95%
- Introduced a **comprehensive School Nutrition Policy**
- Opened new Family Hospital on Ile Perseverance
- Reviewed the **School Health Programme**, catering for a total of **18,912 students** nationally from pre-crèche to secondary five; Exit screening introduced at S5
- **Created a Ministry for Family Affairs** to address social challenges and preserve the family unit
- Introduced a policy to **safeguard the privacy of children in the media**
- Set up an **Office for Poverty Alleviation** to develop a strategy and coordinate national efforts to eradicate poverty in Seychelles
- Introduced a **programme of assistance for medical beds**
- Introduced **the option of working, up to the age of 65**, without needing permission from the Ministry of Employment
- **Increased maternity leave** from 14 weeks to 16 weeks, and **doubled paternity leave** from 5 days to 10 days



- Professionalised the Home carer service
- Introduced a **special pension** for long serving teachers, nurses, doctors, members of the police and military forces, prison officers, fire brigade officers employed at the Fire and Rescue Services Agency, Allied Health Workers, and staff at the Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority
- Established a **Regional Centre for Operational Coordination (RCOC)** in Seychelles that prevents criminal activities at sea and coordinates non-security matters at sea such as oil spills, search and rescue, and maritime safety
- Set up a **National Information Sharing Coordination Centre**; modern communication and network infrastructure that guarantees reliable, long-range radio communications
- Repealed the NDEA Act and **created the Anti-Narcotics Bureau (ANB)** under the Police



- Secured financing for a **forensics lab**
- **Increased prison officers in prisons**
- **Decreased crime rate by 34% in 2018** compared to the same period in 2017
- **Sent 92 police officers for training abroad** on 26 courses; **Anti-Narcotics Bureau sent 24 officers** for international training
- **Approved 14 Development Plans for 14 Outer Islands** managed by IDC
- **Reintroduced Unemployment Relief Scheme** to provide employment opportunities for those without a job – 246 people placed on URS programme since re-introduction
- 1641 youths were placed on **My First Job Scheme** between 2016 and 2018
- Introduced regulations to **protect employment conditions of stevedores**
- Introduced **new savings opportunity** for individuals with the Aldabra Bond
- **First country in the world** to develop **Blue Bonds of USD 15 million** as a means of innovative financing for sustainable fisheries
- Reviewed **48 Strategic Plans** from Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- Began consultations for the conception of a **national long-term vision** “Seychelles-Vision 2032” and the five-year National Development Strategy (NDS) 2018-2022
- Exempted non-monetary benefits **tax for tuition and training** to

- promote capacity building
- **Revised VAT Exemption List** to include liquid milk, tea and coffee, cereals, cheese, healthy cooking oils, soups, sauces, and household detergents
- **Exempted funeral services** from payment of VAT
- Allocated Corporate Social Responsibility Tax from State Owned Enterprises to fund public housing development
- **Introduced 0% Customs Duty** on clothes, dietary supplements and building materials
- Implemented the final phase of a **Progressive Income Tax System** one month earlier, a fairer system that **reduces the tax burden on people with a lower ability to pay**
- Increased Average monthly earnings per person (as of Q2 2018) is **SCR 12,490 – an increase of 6.5% compared to the same quarter in 2017**
- Established **7 Regional Councils** to strengthen the local government system
- Re-launched sports and cultural **activities at district level** through District Social and Animation Committee
- Introduced a **Youth Animateur Scheme** for community-based activities
- Completed **482 projects** under the District Small Community Projects to improve community life
- Introduced regular mentoring for secondary school students through the Inspire to Aspire Programme
- **300 young people** participated in the Young Citizens programme each year
- **350 young people** supported through the holiday programmes and mental and physical wellness programmes from SNYC in 2017



- Introduced a successful baby gym programme
- **165 small businesses** so far have benefited from the Government’s seed capital grant scheme of 2017
- **Approved 672 loans totaling SCR 534.23 million** through the SME Financing Schemes from January 2017 to July 2018
- Established Enterprise Seychelles Agency, replacing SEnPA, to **provide micro, small and medium enterprises with the necessary services and support**
- **Business Tax exemption and new opportunities for investment** in Nursing Homes, Day Centres and Homes for the elderly
- Encouraged collaboration with the private sector; offered plots of land for entertainment and leisure centres and offered land for creole restaurants
- Collaboration encouraged in the construction and management of a **Technical and Vocational School on Ile Soleil**