

# ***KOSTE POUR SESEL***

*Save Our Today, Rebuild For Tomorrow*





# ***Table of Contents***

Foreword	<b>3</b>
Key Achievements since 2016	<b>5</b>
Our response to COVID-19	<b>9</b>
A Government of National Unity for Economic Recovery and Safeguarding Livelihoods	<b>13</b>
Rebuilding the Economy and Supporting Diversification	<b>15</b>
Building Resilient Families, Caring Communities and a Strong Nation	<b>19</b>
United Seychelles: Our Values and Guiding Principles	<b>29</b>

# Foreword



Seychellois brothers and sisters,

Over the months and years to come, we will face difficulties that we have never known as a nation.

What we went through in 2008 is incomparable with the storm ahead of us today. Today, as a result of COVID-19, the global economy is on its knees. Our economy is no different. Some countries are expected to lose a decade of development. In such a time, there is no room for mistakes, division or partisan beliefs. It is a time for national unity. It is a time for trusted and stable leadership. Today more than ever, Seychellois need to come together and work together to save Seychelles. It is for this reason that as a presidential candidate in the upcoming election, I present a manifesto centred on a Government of National Unity (GNU) to save today and rebuild tomorrow.

This means an inclusive government that works together with, and for, all Seychellois. A government that better reflects our political, economic, professional and civic strengths and voices, one that builds consensus, so that we can successfully navigate this storm together. A government that puts partisan politics aside, where the only priority is to save Seychelles. This government will be on your side.

When I took on the mantle of leadership almost 4 years ago, I committed myself to putting Seychelles above everything else. I took the

decision to remove partisan considerations in the governance of our country. I reinforced unity, stability and inclusivity to take Seychelles even further. I established and reinforced the independence of national institutions to ensure that they work without political interference. We focused on the well-being of Seychellois, channelling our energy and resources to promote principles and policies to ensure the safety, health and prosperity of our people.

During the time that I have been President, there have been moments where I was expecting cooperation but instead I received resistance and obstruction. I stayed calm, I kept my cool, I never walked away – I chose to reach out. I persevered because I am convinced that the spirit of working together, the path of peace and reconciliation, is the only path for Seychelles today.

When COVID-19 hit us, my focus was to save lives and safeguard our economy. Thanks to the hard work of our health professionals, supported by other agencies and volunteers, Seychelles has until now succeeded in controlling the coronavirus. While some countries around the world have suffered more deaths than the entire population of Seychelles, so far we have not had any deaths caused by this disease.

In this manifesto I outline a plan to keep Seychelles moving forward, offering a Government of National Unity for Economic

Recovery and Safeguarding Livelihoods; Rebuilding the Economy and Supporting Diversification; and Building Resilient Families, Caring Communities and a Strong Nation. This manifesto offers the chance of progress for every generation and every community.

Maurice Loustau-Lalanne and I have the experience, skills and qualities to lead the Government of National Unity that our country needs at this time, together with you. We will continue to listen and consult to implement the best solutions to our challenges. We will continue to build on the strong relations we have established with partners nationally and beyond. We will take decisions that are in the best interest of Seychelles. If there is a majority of United Seychelles MNAs, they can cooperate with us in working for you.

250 years ago, a group of people started a new chapter of our history. Today, as our country faces one of the greatest challenges of our time, I invite the generation of 2020 to join me and start a new chapter.

Koste pour Sesel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Faure', with a horizontal line above it.

**Danny Faure**

President of the Republic of Seychelles

# Key Achievements since 2016

In the last four years, we have achieved a lot together. Driven by your hard work and contributions, we have been able to support more families, help children realise their dreams, do more to protect our environment, and keep our economy stable in an increasingly challenging world. We built institutions to stop corruption, promote transparency and accountability, and protect human rights. Here is just some of what we have been able to do:



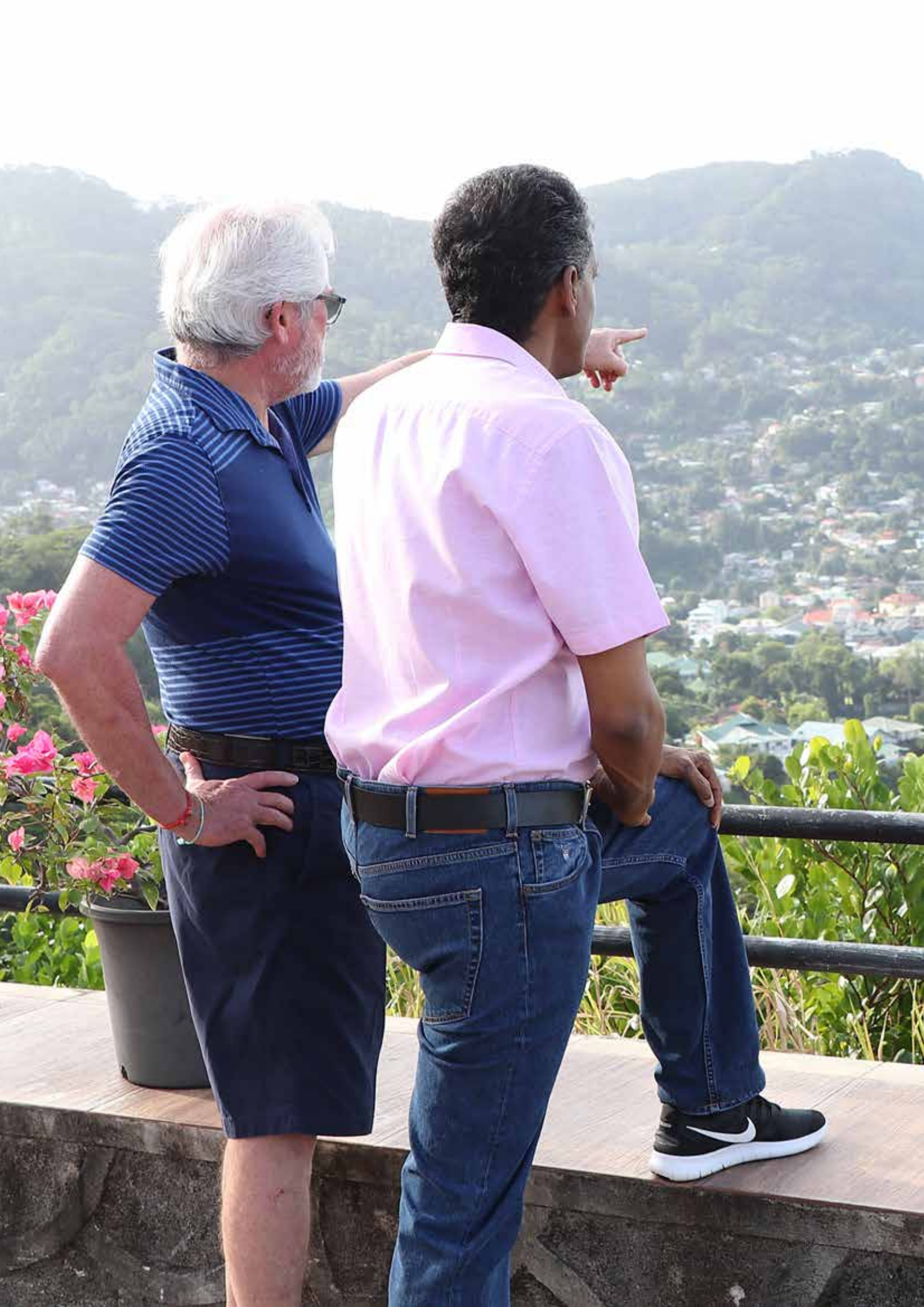
## ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SECURE LIVELIHOODS

- Created an environment for the economy to grow healthily, securing the highest-ever foreign exchange surplus and foreign exchange reserves in 2019.
- Average wages have grown by almost 40%, allowing our families to bring more money into their households every month.
- Increased the minimum wage – prescribed by regulations – by more than 15% in the past four years.
- Increased statutory pension (regulations), and the minimum pension offered by Seychelles Pension Fund has risen to SR 3,000.
- Introduced the Progressive Income Tax enabling everyone earning below SR 33,000 a month to pay less tax – all those earning less than SR 33,000 saw an increase in their take-home pay.
- Increased the loan tenure at Housing Finance Company (HFC) from 23 to 30 years, reducing monthly loan repayments and increasing the amount of money that a family can borrow. We also increased the amount that a family can borrow from HFC to SR 1.2m.
- In spite of the severe impact of COVID-19 on our employment sector, we preserved thousands of jobs through the Financial Assistance for Job retention scheme (FA4JR).
- Since 2016, more than SCR 1.455 billion has been disbursed to Small and Medium Enterprises to help create jobs and drive the economy forward. Post COVID, a further SCR 1.25 billion has been made available for businesses that need liquidity during this difficult period.
- Secured legal protection for all stevedores and domestic workers by amending the employment law.



## BUILDING INSTITUTIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Through the introduction of Performance and Policy Based Budgeting (PPBB) we integrated transparency and accountability principles in the way we do budgeting and reporting.
- Strengthened institutions to promote Human Rights, Anti-Corruption, mediation (through the Office of the Ombudsman) and numerous others in order to facilitate the lodging and tackling of complaints from our citizens. Introduced the Information Commission to hold public servants accountable and provide you with timely information.





## ENVIRONMENT

- Ensured that all Seychellois have access to beaches.
- Committed 30% of our EEZ, an area bigger than Germany, to marine protection. We achieved this target a full decade before the rest of the world, who have only committed to doing this by 2030.
- Set an ambitious target of 30% of our energy to come from renewable sources by 2030. A 5MW solar park today feeds carbon-free electricity into the grid, and we will have Africa's largest floating solar PV farm in the coming year.
- Banned the export of raw Coco de Mer kernel, banned the export of shark fins, imposed a ban on plastic bags, straws, and polystyrene take away boxes, and pressing ahead with establishing a refund system for glass bottles.



## SOCIAL

- Increased assistance to families for Child Minding and Day Care services to SR 750 per month per child, ensuring access to high-quality childcare services accredited by the Institute for Early Childhood Development (IECD).
- Increased maternity leave from 14 weeks to 16 weeks and paternity leave from 5 to 10 days to ensure that parents can spend quality time with their child and take an active role in their child's early development.
- Introduced free wi-fi in all schools and extended the laptop scheme to S1 students. Both have benefitted thousands of students and helped set them up for today and tomorrow's world.

- Supported 1,270 families with housing.
- No community transmission and no deaths caused by COVID-19 in Seychelles so far, a direct result of years of investment in our public health system.
- Continued to modernise our health system, investing in medical staff and introducing specialised healthcare. Today, a number of procedures which were being done overseas in the past are now done locally, such as maxillofacial (face and neck) surgery.
- Reintroduced the Unemployment Relief Scheme to provide financial support and re-skilling.
- Expanded international cooperation to maintain strict surveillance of suspected criminals and terrorists, working with other countries to track movements of passengers in and out of Seychelles.
- Created a prenatal screening system to identify victims of substance abuse, and provide them with the necessary support.



## TECHNOLOGY

- Seychelles is ranked second in Africa in terms of our Electronic Government Development Index (EGDI) in the last UN E-Government Survey Report published in 2020. Seychelles is only one of four African countries with its index above the world average EGDI score.
- Internet access is virtually universal with high data consumption and smartphone usage. In 2018, we signed a contract for a second submarine cable to ensure security of internet connectivity, due for completion next year.





## TOURISM

- More than half the available beds for tourists are Seychellois-owned, with over 650 small guesthouses, ensuring that a bigger portion of the benefits of tourism are enjoyed by local entrepreneurs.
- Through the SME scheme thousands of Seychellois have had the opportunity to invest directly in the sector – be it through businesses such as car hires, taxis, restaurants – or indirectly through catering, hair dressing salons, farming, and construction companies.
- We have looked after the interests of different actors in the Tourism Industry such as taxi drivers, dive centres, restaurants and guest houses through the introduction of the vertical integration policy.



## FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE

- We have set up a mechanism to directly assist livestock farmers based on the number of animals that they bring to the abattoir for culling. Following COVID-19, the level of assistance was further increased.

- Through the Livestock Trust Fund, we helped farmers with everything from improved road access to better irrigation systems. This, combined with financing mechanisms such as the Agricultural Development Fund to support farmers with cheap loans, has almost doubled local agricultural output over the last four years.
- Financing through the Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS), as well as support structures such as subsidised ice, has boosted the fisheries sector. Today we can see more semi-industrial fishing vessels, more industrial-scale fish processing plants, more exports of fresh fish, and more local markets – all proof of significant improvements in the fisheries environment.

**In this election, we all have a choice to make. We can keep moving forward and build on the progress we have made, or we can regress. We believe in moving forward – to save today and rebuild tomorrow.**



# Our Response to COVID-19

2020 was set to be an exceptional year for Seychelles. Our economy was projected to grow by 3.9%. The inflation rate, a measure of the general price level, fell to the lowest level to reach 1.7% at the end of 2019. We had accumulated the highest-ever foreign exchange surplus of 45 million Dollars in 2019 and the Central Bank reserves had reached 580 million Dollars.

We see that 2020 is exceptional, but not for the reasons expected. Despite our lives regaining a sense of normality, our situation remains extremely difficult. Seychelles relies a lot on tourism and our tourism industry has been hit. Instead of 3.9% growth of our economy, forecasts suggest that we will finish 2020 with negative 13.5%. This means that our economy is set to shrink by 13.5% and each of us will be severely affected.

COVID-19 is ravaging Seychelles' economy – but the policies and strategies implemented by our government have saved livelihoods and just as importantly – maintained the dignity of our people.

The decisive actions by government saved lives and safeguarded our economy. Seychelles has successfully avoided any deaths caused by the coronavirus. Early intervention cushioned the impact on local businesses to ensure that Seychelles can bounce back as fast as possible.

But as long as there is no vaccine against COVID-19 and the global economy does not pick up, our small economy will struggle to recover. That is why in the face of the greatest economic storm Seychelles has ever seen, we need to come together and work together to save Seychelles.

***This is not the time for division or confrontation. We need trusted leadership and a stable government. We need national unity.***

The Government's three-point COVID-19 recovery plan is already being implemented,

and while there are challenges ahead, there are also many opportunities.

## Our plan

### 1. Support our people

This Government has always put people at the heart of every decision. Our COVID-19 response is no different, providing income support and access to reskilling programmes. We:

- Supported the private sector with financial assistance to secure employee salaries, offering over SCR744 million in financial support so far. The scheme was extended from June to December this year.
- Expanded the list of Value Added Tax (VAT) exempted products available at STC and maintained a stock of essential items to support consumers.
- Introduced a 25% reduction in loan repayments for HFC and Property Management Corporation (PMC) clients until December 2021 to support them with housing financing.
- Expanded Employment Programmes to tackle youth unemployment, including the Skills Development Programme, My First Job scheme and the Unemployment Relief Scheme (URS). More than 300 young people have secured employment through the Skills Development Programme, 4,404 young people are benefiting from URS and another 300 are set to be absorbed into the workforce. An Internship Programme

for University Graduates was launched to support young graduates.

## 2. Secure livelihoods

No Seychellois should go hungry as a result of COVID-19. We understand the value of jobs and work to support families, industries and our economy. That is why we:

- Introduced Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme (SETS) to support those made redundant, facilitating retraining and up-skilling for over 300 people and securing temporary work placement services for almost 200 people to date.
- Developed National Workers' Participatory Programmes to allow individuals working with SETS to support national projects in public works, community-building and environmental conservation. This includes upgrading crucial infrastructure like schools, roads and public transport; local community projects such as community gardens and clearing footpaths; and contributing to tree-planting and ecosystem restoration so that the country we rebuild is better.
- Increased government projects tendered out to the private sector to support local industry and provide a steady pipeline of new work.
- Ensured STC bought any excess produce from local farmers and artisanal fishermen. Farmers received financial assistance to subsidise the cost of animal feed and other inputs to pre-COVID levels. STC contacted fish processors to process any extra fish stock on the market.

## 3. Support businesses, local entrepreneurs and job creators

The private sector is at the heart of our economy. That is why we are committed to protecting both Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and large enterprises. So far we have:

- Launched a Small Business Support Fund worth SCR 100 million and a rapid Interest Free Loan scheme to support micro and small businesses with the necessary financing.



- Made SCR500 million available for affected individuals and businesses falling within the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) category through the Private Sector Relief Scheme.
- Supplemented the Private Sector Relief Scheme with SCR750 million available to support large enterprises.
- Offered a moratorium of up to 3 months for individuals and up to 6 months for businesses on repayment of interest on loans, in addition to a series of tax deferrals.

### Other Measures

The Government acted early and acted quickly in the fight against COVID-19. We closed our borders within three weeks of the first case being detected, where other countries took much longer.

We were quick to introduce restrictions of movement when we felt it was required, and our measures were proven effective.

Within three weeks of our first case, Government prepared a new Budget to ensure we had the fiscal means to respond. We announced financial assistance measures to ensure no Seychellois lost their jobs for 3 months. The COVID-19 situation is dynamic, and we readjusted accordingly. We saw the need to extend the offer of financial assistance to assure the salaries of Seychellois in the private sector until December.

The Department of Foreign Affairs carried out extensive consular support and repatriation for Seychellois overseas including students, medical patients and others.

The Department of Employment through various programmes, the Department of Family Affairs through the Agency for Social Protection and SETS are working together to ensure that Seychellois are supported. Income relief payments and allowances support those who lost their jobs, to help them adjust and find new employment or retrain and reskill. The Food Security Surveillance Committee ensured the

stock and availability of basic commodities in the country and supported local production.

We also provided relief for small and medium-sized businesses. We made changes to the tax system to boost cashflow and support investment. We set aside SCR 1.2 billion for low interest and interest-free loans to businesses. We changed laws and regulations to support families and help people stay in work. We made funds available to help NGOs and community-based organisations deliver services and provide support. We set up a National Psychosocial Support Services platform to offer psychosocial support and services, including counselling, parental support programmes and budgeting consultancy support.

***Faced with the greatest public health crisis of our lifetime, the decisive actions by government saved lives, livelihoods and set us up for economic recovery. Backed by strong leadership, this Government avoided the worst and continues to put measures in place that support Seychellois.***

Currently the spread of the virus is accelerating around the world. When we closed our borders there were 1.2 million cases of COVID-19. Today there are more than 27 million.

We will continue our focus on:

- Maintaining tight border controls with testing and quarantine facilities
- Strengthening and reinforcing our contact tracing system
- Rallying national efforts to work together and overcome the crisis together

There are many challenges ahead, but also opportunities. We have an opportunity to set aside our differences to come together and navigate this storm, rebuild our economy and retake the path to greater socioeconomic development.



# ***A Government of National Unity for Economic Recovery and Safeguarding Livelihoods***

With the unprecedented circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the existing societal divisions along partisan lines, we believe that a Government of National Unity (GNU) for the next five years is in the best interest of Seychelles.

A GNU will prioritise the security and good health of the population in the face of the pandemic, safeguard livelihoods, secure economic recovery and improve service delivery. It will foster a climate of civility, cooperation and national reconciliation. It will make politics less divisive and encourage citizens, especially young people, to engage in civic activities and develop leadership skills geared to the service of the community and nation.

We will continue to support strong institutions to ensure the well-being of our people, equipping them to fight against corruption, uphold human rights and maintain citizen wellbeing.

## **We shall form a Government of National Unity that will:**

- Be led by the President and a Cabinet composed of able Seychellois, irrespective of political affiliation, who are willing to dedicate their time, energy and talents to work together for the country's economic recovery, creating the base for the next phase of the country's development, and the wellbeing of all citizens;

- Implement its policies through a professional, ethical and non-partisan public service;
- Work in a spirit of cooperation and respect with the National Assembly and encourage a system of effective checks and balances;
- Establish structures for citizen participation in government including:
  - district representative bodies;
  - effective consultation on national issues in order that decisions taken are based on sound information and in the best interests of stakeholders; and
- Be accountable to citizens through their representatives in the National Assembly and through the respective national bodies whose role is to ensure good governance.

## **In order to improve the effectiveness of government and the delivery of services:**

- Government departments and agencies will be right-sized and certain structures merged for greater synergy and efficiency;

- The different sections of Government will work in close consultation and collaboration and, through an integrated approach in addressing issues;
- Induction and refresher courses for all public servants will be organised to improve service delivery and ensure accountability, transparency and good governance at all levels;
- Periodic reviews and assessments will be carried out and a culture of continuous improvement promoted;
- Information on the work of Government entities will be provided to the public regularly and the views of the public sought; and
- The use of digital tools for effective communication and service delivery will be maximised.

**To safeguard livelihoods, we will:**

- Continue our efforts to make life more affordable for Seychellois;
- Ensure the Seychelles Trading Company (STC) continues to keep prices stable for the benefit of consumers and maintain food security;
- Continue monitoring the cost of living and ensure that minimum wage and pension payments are commensurate with inflation and other factors; and
- Revise the existing Public Sector Salary Table to ensure all workers are rewarded appropriately for their efforts and recognised for productivity and years of service.



# Rebuilding the Economy and Supporting Diversification

Our country is going through one of the most difficult moments in its history. COVID-19 exposed the fragility and vulnerability of our island economy, forcing us to rethink how we do things. We have to reunite, redesign, and retrain in order to rebuild.

We will enforce measures against corruption at all levels, improve revenue collection, continue to improve the ease of doing business and implement the planned revision of the tax regime aimed at its simplification, the removal of tax on tax and reducing bureaucracy.

Expanding our efforts thus far, we will rebuild an economy that is more inclusive, resilient and sustainable. We will continue to take a holistic approach to developing our blue economy, developing new sectors, reinforcing existing strengths in sustainable tourism and fisheries, and extending capacity building. There are challenges ahead, but also opportunities to develop a more robust and diversified economy, maximising our use of human resources in Seychelles and abroad.

We will continue to support innovative entrepreneurship development, particularly those integrating the concept of the circular economy, as the new normal requires a mindset shift on the part of both producers and consumers.



## TOURISM

### We will:

- Continue investing significantly to help tourism operators recover from COVID-19,

including access to financial and continuity planning advice and support services;

- Support the expansion into sustainable tourism and culture-supported eco-tourism;
- Reinforce the Seychelles' brand overseas as a safe travel destination in the context of COVID-19 and boost the use of technology designed for safe and touchless travel;
- Encourage local tourism and support the local industry; and
- Continue assisting stakeholders in the industry to adapt to higher standards in the new-normal tourism environment.



## FISHERIES

### We will:

- Prioritise research and development as the cornerstone of the fisheries sector to carry out a science-to-policy approach;



- Support potential investors with information on worldwide fish processing activities, export potential and market specificities;
- Strengthen the value chain in the fisheries sector to be more efficient, and concurrently, further develop parallel sectors such as marine-based aquaculture;
- Support the transition to sustainable fisheries leveraging innovative digital tools and project development to attract fish processing ventures;
- Enhance an enabling environment by increasing the accessibility of resources, prioritising capacity building and development of technical expertise; and
- Promote the usage and development of fisheries by-products from established fish processors for the enhancement of the fisheries value chain.
- Continue supporting farmers to coordinate production in order to meet demands and ensure food security throughout the year;
- Strengthen agricultural learning and initiatives in homes, schools and communities; and
- Encourage our population to use local products from the sector to support our farmers and allow them to grow.



## ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

### We will:

- Back the private sector, particularly Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises, to seize new opportunities for growth, expanding value addition from local products both for local consumption and exports;
- Support Research and Development (R&D) in blue economy related fields such as marine biology, biotechnology, renewable energy, and aquaculture;
- Consolidate existing industries like fisheries and agriculture to integrate sustainable practices that deliver more value and improve environmental outcomes;
- Increase the number of services on offer in the Financial Services Sector to improve the sector's yield;
- Improve infrastructure and create more land to lower the cost of production and encourage local entrepreneurs to boost local exports and develop new business opportunities; and
- Explore monetisation of Seychellois expertise locally and internationally in sectors where we are leaders such as conservation, early childhood education and sustainable tourism to add value to the economy and give our nationals the scope to grow internationally.



## AGRICULTURE

### We will:

- Continue to make land and expertise available to farmers, especially young entrepreneurs with long term plans for production, leveraging outer islands wherever possible;
- Back the agricultural sector to seize new opportunities for growth, including funding to enable the introduction of imported plant material for the sector to develop new high-value crops and cultivars;
- Together with producers, determine measures to make local production more competitive vis a vis imports;
- Actively support value addition of agricultural products to explore the scope for exports of niche Seychelles-made products;



## EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND PRODUCTIVITY

### We will:

- Foster stronger relations between employers and employees with emphasis on a culture of reward and recognition to support mutual understanding and support;
- Continue cultivating a multi-skilled and resilient local workforce in line with our localisation plan to reduce reliance on expatriate labour and secure better pay for Seychellois workers;
- Expand the My First Job scheme and apprenticeship training to help people upskill and retrain, partnering with the private sector to fill skills gaps;
- Continue connecting young people with opportunities to access trades training through Skills Development Programmes and provide support for them to stay in training and employment;
- Better support people displaced from work and facing barriers to enter the labour market, strengthening the Unemployment Relief Scheme to facilitate access to employment;
- Improve the existing framework to increase the number of in-service staff who wish to upskill and pursue further education whilst continuing their work; and
- Create shorter and more targeted skills-based courses so that young people wishing to enter employment can do so with the necessary safeguards.





# ***Building Resilient Families, Caring Communities and a Strong Nation***

Seychelles is a young nation with less than 100, 000 people. All of us have family, friendship or acquaintance relations with each other. We have challenges owing to our small size and limited resources, but our culture and traditions are a valuable resource to help us build a society that is inclusive and caring and resilient in the face of threats including climate change, social ills and global economic hardship.

A Government of National Unity will provide the strong and stable leadership required to improve social welfare and strengthen areas such as education, health, housing and social security. These services all contribute to your empowerment so that every Seychellois can realise their potential and contribute, in cooperation with others, to the wellbeing of our families, communities and country.

We stand for fairness and equality of opportunity, celebration of diversity, and community empowerment. We are working diligently to improve the wellbeing of all Seychellois. We have been doing just that, and will continue to place the wellbeing of our communities at the heart of everything we do.

We believe that every individual should have the opportunity to grow holistically, fulfil their potential, live in dignity and contribute meaningfully to their family, community and country. We will promote inclusive and caring communities where people of all backgrounds – based on ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social and economic status – are valued members that contribute to the good of society.



## **VALUING OUR FAMILIES**

### **We will:**

- Continue to train community-based workers over the next five years, so that more people seeking mental health and addiction support have someone to turn to, as part of our creation of the National Psychosocial Support Services platform;
- Provide a funding boost for the disability sector so people with disabilities are empowered to live fulfilling lives, and can have access to tailored education support;
- Continue our partnership with the private sector to construct adult day care centres, homes for the elderly and nursing homes to support our elderly population;



- Expand district projects and support to promote community renewal, boosting partnerships with community-based organisations to empower families and communities;
- Develop measures against hate speech to protect people from threats or abuse on account of colour, race, disability, ethnic or national origin, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation; and
- Continue strengthening measures against child abuse and domestic violence.



## HOUSING

### We will:

- Continue to aggressively invest in housing for citizens through projects like 24/24, condominiums, transit homes, self-finance and special housing for poverty alleviation, increase the number of houses we have provided to over 4000 units;
- Strengthen partnerships with private sector to widen and vary housing offerings;
- Continue developing schemes that expand housing opportunities for those with high merit based on needs and means, especially those having applied before 2017; and
- Continue to ensure young people can access housing opportunities.



## HEALTH

Health is a cornerstone of our people-centred approach to national development. We have invested effort and resources to protect the health of all Seychellois with no exception. We have created a society in which all Seychellois

can enjoy the highest level of wellbeing and can contribute to social and economic progress.

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven the resilience and capability of our health system. We have successfully avoided the devastation seen overseas. Our response has demonstrated the resilience of our health professionals, our ability as a nation to rally around a common cause and the strength of partnerships nationally and internationally.

We will continue to invest in our healthcare services to meet the evolving needs of our population and to build our capacity to face future health emergencies.

### We will:

- Strengthen our public health emergency response through continuous training of health professionals, health specialist facilities, community and port of entry surveillance, public education, and international cooperation;
- Continue making substantial investment in our hospitals and health services to ensure all Seychellois can access quality care;
- Implement the Health Information System linking all health facilities and services for improved service delivery, resource allocation, and data analysis;
- Continue decentralising primary healthcare policies, increasing resources in prevention programmes and promoting healthy lifestyle awareness to reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases in our community; and
- Promote careers in healthcare, further supporting Seychellois professionals in their public health service, clinical practice, and academic and research endeavours.





## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Quality education allows young people to build on their capabilities and reach their potential. We will continue to strive for excellence, providing a public education system that prepares our students for the future of work, strengthens quality of life in communities, and boosts the human resources that Seychelles needs for its economy. Education is key to national development.

### We will:

- Give children the best start possible by reinforcing childcare and development in day care centres, homes and the first two years of primary school;
- Review the curriculum to ensure that it enriches students and provides the skills development needed to respond to labour market demands and societal needs;
- Create an enabling environment to encourage and support youth entrepreneurship and development of innovative opportunities;
- Continue investing in the professional development of teachers, managers and education support staff and promote a culture of safety, empowerment, and sense of community across the education sector;
- Strengthen the focus of early education on literacy and numeracy;
- Increase integration of ICT and STEM resources to improve teaching and learning;
- Nurture interest in the teaching profession and increase the number of young Seychellois teachers; and
- Strengthen School Councils and the involvement of parents and the community in education development and school life.



## YOUTH

Today's youth face new challenges, from mental ill health to lowered job prospects, amplified by the severe economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We owe it to every young person in Seychelles to match their ambition with the resources needed to connect them with new opportunities and job prospects. We will continue to ensure that every young person can fulfil their potential and feel secure in their future. A Government of National Unity pledges to implement new policies for young people that will ensure that they have the opportunities and support systems to fully develop their potential and attain their aspirations.

### We will:

- Reform existing careers advice, working towards an integrated information, guidance and advice system that values workforce exposure and consistent support;
- Ensure every young person has access to local, high-quality youth workers;
- Guarantee students learn the science behind the climate and environmental emergency, and acquire the skills necessary to respond;
- Increase opportunities for youth entrepreneurship development and provision of engaging socio-recreational and educational activities at district level;
- Support the provision of sports activities by federations and other organisations and encourage young people to excel in sporting activities, at both local and international level; and
- Empower young people to participate actively in the process of rebuilding our economy, offering leadership roles and opportunities for innovation in areas such as sustainability and food security.









## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is an existential threat to the world. Seychelles with its low-lying coral islands and narrow coastal land on the granitic islands is particularly vulnerable to coastal erosion as well as to changing weather patterns. Rising sea temperatures affect corals and fisheries, and threaten our livelihoods.

### We will:

- Strongly promote forestation activities across our islands, and help stop the spread of invasive species, strengthening programmes like 'Rebwaz mwan';
- Continue to nurture public engagement around the blue economy and transform existing sectors into economically viable entities by diversifying operations and services;
- Move towards cleaner air and cheaper means of energy generation, continuing to invest in renewable energy sources and supporting our families with energy spend;
- Introduce a fleet of electric buses to serve the eastern corridor of Mahe to encourage clean transportation;
- Continue to invest heavily in coastal management and protection; and
- Continue to advocate for climate action in international fora.



## CULTURE

The year 2020 marks the 250th anniversary of the first settlement in Seychelles. Over that period of time the Seychellois people have come into being. United by our Creole heritage, our values are based on social cohesion and the spirit of working for the common good.

### We will:

- Further promote Seychellois culture in schools and communities;
- Support intergenerational exchanges for the transmission of knowledge, skills and values to create connection and foster mutual appreciation between the older and younger generations
- Promote the creative industries and support artists, performers, artisans and other practitioners in cooperation with their representative bodies;
- Support research on our heritage and its safeguarding and promotion; and
- Support the development of products drawn from our heritage and traditions in order to ensure their preservation while contributing to employment and new export possibilities.



## REHABILITATION FOR VICTIMS OF DRUGS

### We will:

- Strengthen the work for the rehabilitation of victims of drugs by the Agency for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation (APDAR) and its partners;
- Promote community awareness of substance abuse and strengthen counselling services available to families impacted by drug addiction;
- Introduce additional support for victims of drugs in recovery through projects such as Drop-In Centres and support groups;
- Complete Seychelles' first rehabilitation centre at Bon Espoir to institute an effective residential drug rehabilitation programme; and
- Foster an integrated approach between APDAR and other institutions to ensure victims of drug abuse have the necessary support in place to lead meaningful lives.



## SAFETY AND SECURITY

While it is the duty of established forces to maintain law and order, it is also the responsibility of individual citizens and communities to respect the law and contribute to the wellbeing, safety and security of all. We recognise the need to work together with civil society including faith-based organizations as well as the private sector in the realisation of this vision.

### We will:

- Enhance the police force through targeted recruitment and training across the whole spectrum of law and order;
- Promote community policing including good relations with district habitants to contribute toward maintaining law and order and minimizing criminal and anti-social behaviour;
- Strengthen community awareness in disaster preparedness and the capability of DRDM and partners in responding effectively to natural disasters and emergency situations;
- Boost the resources of the Seychelles Coast Guard including the establishment of its presence in the outer islands to strengthen its capability in maritime surveillance and the fight against criminal activities, particularly drug trafficking;
- Strengthen the Financial Crime Investigation Unit to monitor and identify suspicious transactions;
- Boost resources and professional development available to the Anti-Narcotics Bureau (ANB); and

- Enhance the cooperation of the police force and the Coast Guard with international partners to ensure national security and tackle transborder issues such as illegal trafficking.



## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Our approach to diplomacy remains focused on building strong relations with bilateral partners and participating in multilateral organisations centred on promoting the interests of Seychelles and its citizens while contributing to peace and development in the region and the world.

### We will:

- Pursue a principled, pragmatic and proactive foreign policy that safeguards and promotes the interests of Seychelles and its people;
- Continue to strengthen Seychelles' advocacy on issues such as climate breakdown, given our responsibility to act and speak on the threat of climate change to our Indian Ocean region and Small Island Developing States;
- Continue to cultivate friendly relations with bilateral and multilateral partners with the aim of furthering our socioeconomic development; and
- Enhance the reputation of Seychelles as a peace-loving and forward-thinking member of the international community.



# United Seychelles: Our Values and Guiding Principles

*(from the Preamble to the Constitution of United Seychelles, adopted in November 2018)*

As a progressive, patriotic and democratic political movement, we are open to all Seychellois who share our values and objectives and we are ready to work with all forces in society in order to build a Seychelles where power, wealth and opportunity are justly distributed, where we are conscious of our rights and duties as citizens of Seychelles and where we live in peace, unity and solidarity.

## **We believe:**

---

- That Seychelles should be above all else;
- That partisan politics that divide our people is not in the best interest of Seychelles;
- That the unity of the Seychellois people, in all its diversity, is a necessary condition for progress.

## **We believe:**

---

- In human dignity, social justice and equality of opportunity;
- In each Seychellois having the opportunity to realise his/her potential and in his/her responsibility to contribute to the common good;
- In a society that is inclusive, tolerant, compassionate and just;
- In a society that values and rewards hard work, ability and talent;
- In good governance based on democracy, transparency and accountability.

**We believe** that Government has the duty to work for the achievement of the above goals and also recognize that the resources of Government are not unlimited and that the effort and contribution of individual citizens, the Private Sector and Civil Society are also required.

## **And we commit:**

---

- To uphold the country's Constitution as the supreme law;
- To hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and to promote these in the conduct of public affairs;
- To devote ourselves to working for the unity and prosperity of our nation.

## **We stand for:**

---

- A dynamic Seychellois-driven economy that creates wealth for the country's development and people's wellbeing, powered by the private sector, facilitated and regulated by the State, and engaging workers and small entrepreneurs meaningfully and with due regard to their rights and responsibilities;

- Caring, resilient and responsible families and homes that nurture positive spiritual values and foster each member's growth as an individual and a responsible member of the community;
- The empowerment of women and men at all levels of society so that they are both the driving force and the beneficiaries of development;
- Promoting youth empowerment and development so that young Seychellois people may realise their aspirations and potential and contribute to a vibrant, prosperous and harmonious Seychelles;
- The active engagement of graduates and professionals at all levels of Government and society;
- The social and economic integration of persons with disabilities, recognizing their ability to contribute to development;
- The upholding of the dignity of older persons and promoting their active participation in society so that all may benefit from their wisdom, knowledge and experience;
- Development that is people-centred and sustainable and takes due account of the safeguard and promotion of our culture and the preservation of the rich biodiversity of our land and territorial waters as well as global challenges including climate change;
- The exercise by all of the freedom of religion and belief in accordance with the country's Constitution;
- The equal rights of all individuals without any discrimination whatsoever including on the grounds of colour, race, religion, nationality, disability, gender and sexual orientation;
- Quality provision of education, health and other public goods that is accessible to all citizens;
- The integration of science, technology and innovation in the education and training system and the country's development agenda;
- A modern agricultural and fisheries sector that contributes significantly to food security and maximises the potential of all our islands and our waters;
- The private provision of services that are complementary to the state-provided services and thereby providing options and choices to our people;
- The maintenance of law and order to safeguard the security of all citizens, residents and visitors and to provide a conducive environment for peaceful development;
- A professional, ethical and non-partisan public service that is accessible to all citizens;
- The responsible use of power where public officials maintain the highest ethical standards at all times and where public office is not used as a vehicle to gain personal privileges and favours;
- The participation of citizens in public life that contributes to an open, accountable and democratic society where fundamental human rights are guaranteed;
- Safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Seychelles;
- The promotion of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and ensuring that no part of Seychelles' territory is used as a foreign military base;
- Maintaining and developing external relations with bilateral and multilateral partners in order to promote the interests of Seychelles, further international cooperation and promote peace and development.













**KOSTE POUR  
SESEL**

 @DannyARFaure  
 @kostepoursesel

 @dannyarfaure  
 @unitedsey