

# The Presidential and National Assembly Elections in Seychelles

20-22 March 1998

The Report of the  
Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie  
Observer Group



Commonwealth Secretariat

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Observer Group



Commonwealth Secretariat  
1998

Commonwealth Secretariat  
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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMONWEALTH/LA FRANCOPHONIE OBSERVER GROUP  
TO THE PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN SEYCHELLES

20-22 MARCH 1998

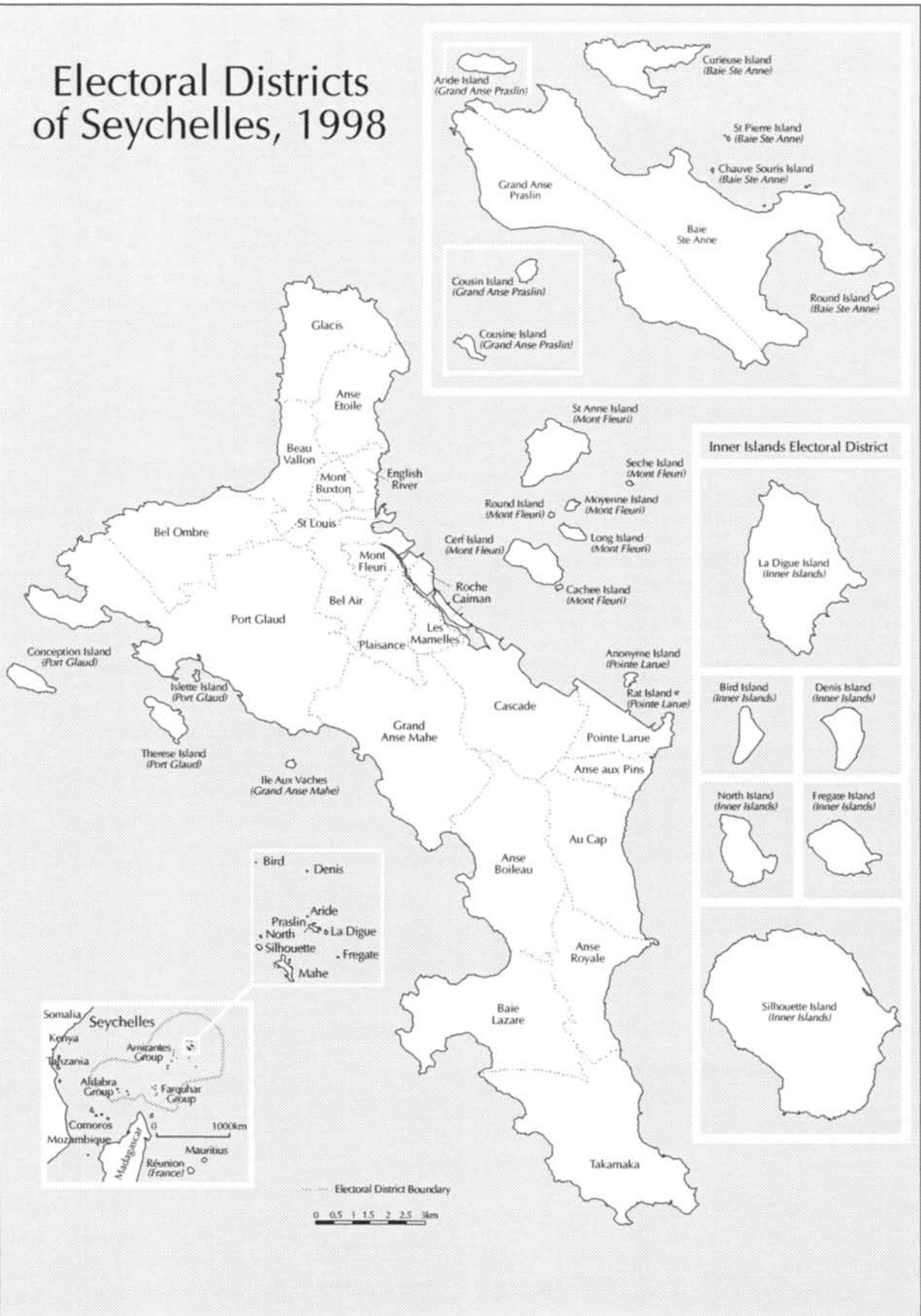
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# Electoral Districts of Seychelles, 1998



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



**Seychelles Presidential and National Assembly Elections 1998**  
**Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group**

20 - 22 MARCH 1998

24 March 1998

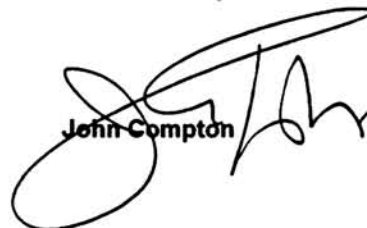
Dear Secretaries-General

We are honoured to have been invited by you to participate in this historic first Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Group to observe the 1998 Presidential and National Assembly Elections in Seychelles. We wish to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to play a part in strengthening democracy in Seychelles and to enhance co-operation between the Commonwealth and La Francophonie.

In our Interim Statement issued on 22 March 1998, we said that while we were aware of various complaints we believed the conditions we observed allowed the free expression of will of the people of Seychelles. We now have pleasure in submitting our full report.

We wish to take this opportunity to record our deep appreciation to the Government of Seychelles, the Electoral Commissioner and his staff, the political parties, the candidates and above all the people of Seychelles for their warm welcome and their assistance to us during the course of our work.

Yours sincerely,

  
John Compton

His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku  
Commonwealth Secretary-General  
London

His Excellency Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General of La Francophonie  
Paris



**Seychelles Presidential and National Assembly Elections 1998**  
**Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group**

20 - 22 MARCH 1998

**Mahé, le 24 Mars 1998**

**Excellences, Messieurs les Secrétaires-Généraux,**

Nous sommes particulièrement honorés d'avoir été invités par vos Excellences à participer à cette première et historique mission conjointe "Commonwealth-La Francophonie" d'observation des élections présidentielle et législatives de 1998 aux Seychelles. Nous voulons vous remercier de nous avoir donné, ainsi, l'occasion de jouer un rôle, d'une part, dans la consolidation du processus démocratique aux Seychelles, et d'autre part, dans le développement de la coopération entre le Commonwealth et La Francophonie.

Dans notre déclaration de presse rendue publique le 22 Mars 1998, nous avons dit que, sans méconnaître le bien-fondé des plaintes qui nous sont parvenues, les conditions qui étaient réunies, à l'occasion de ces élections, permettaient l'expression du libre choix du peuple Seychellois. Aujourd'hui, au terme de notre mission, il nous est agréable de soumettre à vos bienveillantes attentions notre rapport final.

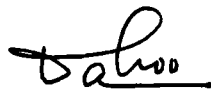
Nous voulons saisir cette occasion pour remercier, très vivement, le Gouvernement de la République des Seychelles, le Commissaire aux Elections et son personnel, les partis politiques, les candidats et, surtout, le peuple Seychellois, pour l'accueil unanime et chaleureux et pour l'hospitalité qu'ils nous ont manifesté tout au long de notre séjour en terre Seychelloise.

  
**John Compton**

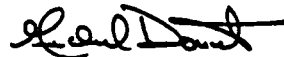
**Son Excellence**  
**Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali**  
**Secrétaire Général de la Francophonie**  
**Paris**

**His Excellency**  
**Chief Emeka Anyaoku**  
**Commonwealth Secretary-General**  
**London**

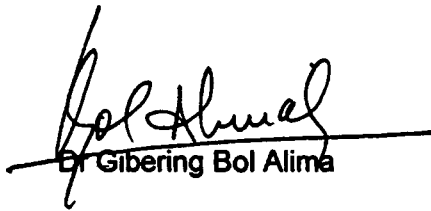
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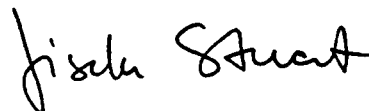
Michelle Morny



Anthony B Nyakyi



Elaine Raftopoulos



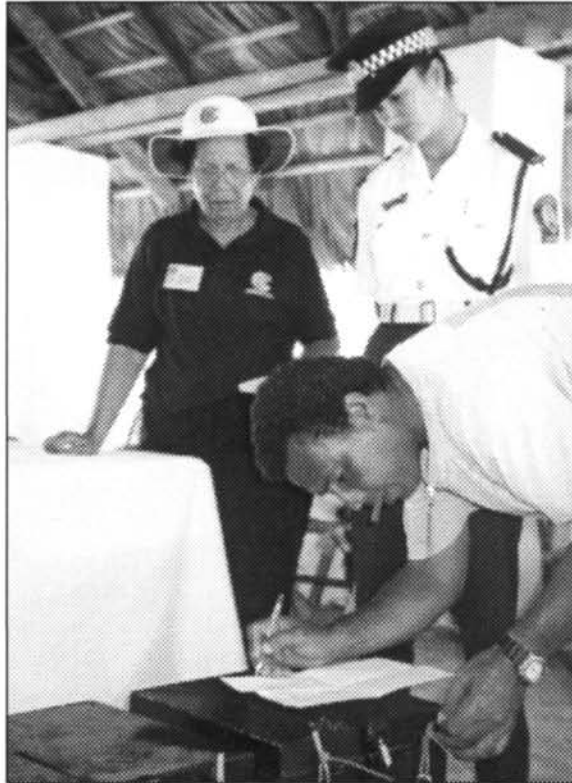
Gisela Stuart, MP



*The Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group (from left): Ambassador Anthony B Nyakyi, Elaine Raftopoulos, Michel Doucet, Gisela Stuart, Sir John Compton (Chairperson), Iqbal Masud, Dr Gibbering Bol Alima, Michelle Momy and Mahmud Ally Dahoo*

# Introduction

The historic decision to constitute a Joint Observer Group from the Commonwealth and La Francophonie to observe the 1998 Presidential and National Assembly elections in Seychelles followed invitations from the Government of Seychelles to Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Secretary-General of La Francophonie, to send observers to the elections. Following consultation between the two Secretaries-General, a decision was taken to send a joint Assessment Mission from both organisations to visit Seychelles from 1 to 5 February 1998. The mission comprised two staff members from the Commonwealth Secretariat, a representative of La Francophonie and an official from l'Agence de la Francophonie. They met with the Electoral Commissioner and his staff, representatives of all the political parties and groups with an interest in the elections. All supported the proposal that a Joint Observer Group from the Commonwealth and La Francophonie observe the Presidential and National Assembly elections.



*Observer Elaine Raftopoulos watches preparations for polling at Fregate*

## The Observer Group and its Terms of Reference

This was the first example of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie observing elections jointly in a country which is a member of both organisations. Heads of Government of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie regard the observation of elections in member countries as a means of strengthening democratic processes and institutions. In this context, it was considered that a joint initiative would assist the consolidation of multi-party democracy in Seychelles, while also strengthening Commonwealth/La Francophonie co-operation. Both organisations had separately observed the country's transitional elections in July 1993.

Our Group consisted of a Chairperson plus eight observers, supported by seven members of staff from the Commonwealth Secretariat and l'Agence de la Francophonie, as listed in *Annex I*. Our Group was led by Sir John Compton, former Prime Minister of St Lucia. Before leaving for Seychelles, each of us was informed of the Terms of Reference of the Group. They were as follows:

The Group is established by the Secretaries-General of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, following requests by the Government of Seychelles to the two organisations and supported by the political parties. It is to observe relevant aspects of the organisation and conduct of the elections in accordance with the laws of Seychelles. It is to consider the various factors impinging on the credibility of the electoral process as a whole and to determine in its own judgment whether the conditions exist for a free expression of will by the electors and if the result of the elections reflects the wishes of the people.



*A voter casting her ballot at Silhouette*

The Group is to act impartially and independently. It has no executive role; its function is not to supervise but to observe the process as a whole and to form a judgment accordingly. It would also be free to propose to the authorities concerned such action on institutional, procedural and other matters as would assist the holding of the elections.

The Group is to submit its report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and the Secretary-General of La Francophonie. It will be forwarded to the Government of Seychelles, to the leadership of the political parties taking part in the elections and thereafter to all member governments of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie.

A press release announcing our mission was issued in London on 10 March 1998. (See *Annex II*.)

### **Method of Work**

Most of the members of our Group assembled in London for briefing by the Commonwealth Secretary-General on 11 March 1998. We left later that evening for Seychelles, and arrived in Mahé on 12 March 1998. We were joined there by the other members of our Group. On 13 March we issued an Arrival Statement in English and French at a press conference (see *Annex III*) and began a series of briefings, beginning with a meeting with the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Gerard Ah-Shung, and members of his staff. Meetings were conducted in English and French, reflecting the working languages of both organisations as well as two of the three languages spoken in Seychelles.

Our meetings and consultations with representatives of the political parties contesting the elections, non-governmental organisations including the Chairman of the Liaison Unit of Non-

Governmental Organisations of Seychelles (LUNGOS), civil society, the Churches, the Commission for Women, the media and others, continued until the morning of 19 March 1998. We also met with some representatives of the diplomatic community from Commonwealth and La Francophonie countries located in Mahé. A schedule of our engagements is at *Annex IV*.

Our consultations were not restricted to formal meetings at our headquarters in Mahé. In the period leading up to the elections, members of our Group paid several visits to the temporary Election Headquarters at the Seychelles National Library to seek clarification of issues that had been raised by political parties and others, as well as to view the storage of election material and to gain an appreciation of the proposed set-up for the three polling days. We visited party headquarters and, in our designated electoral districts, met with District Administrators, Electoral Officers, party agents, the police and members of the public. We were able to observe the final rally of each of the three political parties and to witness door-to-door campaigns by candidates from each of the political parties.

The 115 islands which comprise the Republic of Seychelles are spread out in the western part of the Indian Ocean in an Exclusive Economic Zone of more than 1.3 million sq km. For this reason, the elections were held over three days from 20 to 22 March. Polling on the smaller Outer and Inner Islands took place on 20 and 21 March. We were permitted to travel with electoral officials, accompanied by balloting material, to observe every voting station on the Inner and remote Outer Islands. We travelled by boat or by plane to Farquhar, Assumption, Alphonse, Marie Louise, D'Arros, Remire, Silhouette, Desroches, Coetivy, Bird, Denis, Platte and Fregate. Some of those visits involved three hours of travel each way.

Polling on the two largest islands, Mahé and Praslin, as well as on La Digue, took place on 22 March 1998. We divided into six two-person teams and one team of three, led by our Chairperson, in order to observe polling in the districts to which we had been assigned. In almost every case our teams were composed of representatives of both the Commonwealth and La Francophonie. On Thursday 19 March two of us were deployed to Praslin to be in place for observation of the elections on Praslin and La Digue on 22 March. The rest of us observed polling at the 22 polling stations on Mahé as well as at the polling station which had been established at the Election Headquarters for voters from the Inner Islands who were stationed on Mahé. The Chairperson announced the deployment of Observers on 18 March (see News Release of 19 March at *Annex V*). A copy of our Deployment Schedule is at *Annex VI*.

In the days before polling on the main islands, we visited polling stations to check on preparations for the poll. On 22 March 1998, polling stations were scheduled to open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., except at the Election Headquarters where the polls closed at 12 noon. We arrived at polling stations early in order to observe the procedures for the opening of poll. We spent the rest of the day visiting all polling stations, where we talked to electoral officials, party agents and members of the public. We returned to polling stations which we had identified during the course of the day to observe the close of poll and the count. We were guided in our work by Observation Notes and on polling day used Check Lists. These are reproduced at *Annex VII*. During the day, and after the counting of votes had ended, some of us visited the Election Headquarters to witness returns from Electoral Officers by fax, the entering of results into a computer database and the announcement of the results. Some of our Group were present at the Seychelles National Library to observe the announcement of the results by the Electoral Commissioner and the press conference by President Albert René and leaders of the opposition which followed.

At 9.15 p.m. our Chairperson issued an Interim Statement (see *Annex VIII*). This was in order to register publicly and transparently the views of the Observer Group after the polls had closed but before the outcome of the elections was announced.

Late that evening, the two members of our Group who had been deployed to Praslin and La Digue returned to our headquarters and on 23 March we began an extensive debriefing in preparation for the writing of our Report.

We were honoured to have been invited to State House for the Swearing-in Ceremony of the President and Vice-President on 23 March 1998.

# Chapter 1

## Political Background



*SPPF leader President Albert René (centre) visited many polling stations on election day*

### Background

Seychelles achieved independence on 29 June 1976, with Sir James Mancham as the first President of the new Republic and Mr France Albert René as Prime Minister. This coalition, however, ended abruptly in June 1977, when supporters of the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP) staged an armed coup and installed Mr René as President. In May 1978, the SPUP was renamed the Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF) and declared to be the country's sole political party. A new Constitution was promulgated in March 1979, turning Seychelles officially into a one-party state.

After almost 15 years of one-party rule, however, President René announced a return to a multi-party system of government at an Extraordinary Congress of the SPPF on 4 December 1991. On 27 December 1991, the Constitution of Seychelles was amended to allow for the registration of political parties. Amongst the exiles returning to Seychelles was Sir James Mancham who returned in April 1992 to revive his party, the Democratic Party (DP). By the end of that month, eight political parties had registered to contest the first stage of the transition process: the election to a Constitutional Commission, which took place on 23-26 July 1992.

### The First Constitutional Commission and Referendum

The Constitutional Commission was made up of 22 elected members, 14 from the SPPF and eight from the DP. It commenced work on 27 August 1992 with both President René and Sir James Mancham calling for national reconciliation and consensus on a new democratic constitution.

However, following disagreements, the DP withdrew from the Commission and in its absence a draft constitution was duly agreed on 16 October.

A referendum to adopt the draft constitution was held from 12 to 15 November 1992. The DP together with five smaller parties formed a united opposition to campaign against the draft constitution. The law required the draft to be approved by not less than 60 per cent of the votes cast. It failed to achieve this.

### The Second Constitutional Commission and Referendum

The Constitutional Commission was reconvened on 11 January 1993 to prepare a fresh draft. President René appointed Mr Bernardin Renaud, former Chief Electoral Officer, to chair the Commission in place of a Government Minister. The proceedings of the Commission were opened to the public, with live broadcasts over radio and daily transmission on television. The smaller political parties, the Churches and members of the public were able to make representations to the Commission. Decisions, even on contentious issues, were eventually made by consensus.

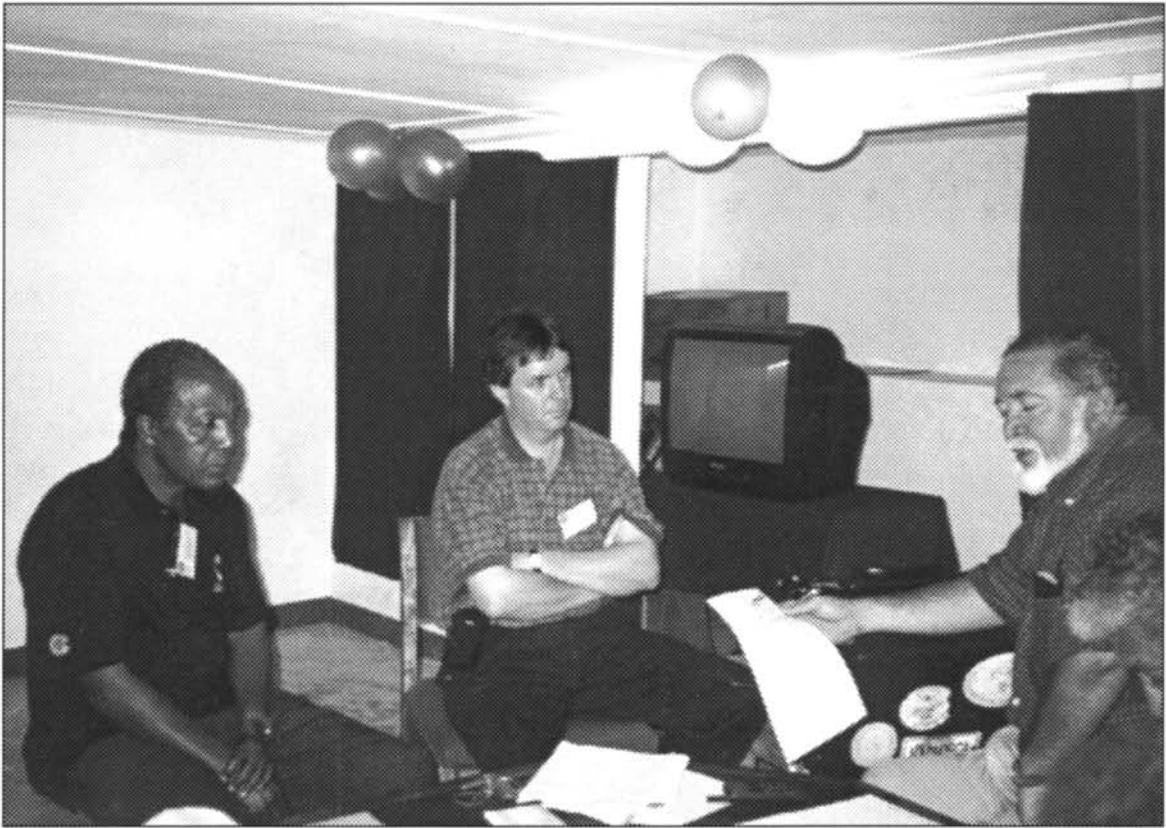
A consensus text was agreed on 7 May 1993 and a referendum to approve it called for 15-18 June 1993. The DP and the SPPF called for the draft to be approved, while Parti Seselwa and others campaigned against the draft. The draft was approved with 73.9 per cent of the electorate in favour and 24.1 per cent against.

### The 1993 Presidential and National Assembly Elections

The first multi-party presidential and legislative elections under the new Constitution were held in Seychelles on 23-26 July 1993. Three political groups contested the elections: the SPPF; the DP; and the United Opposition, a coalition of three smaller political parties, including the Parti Seselwa. Two other smaller opposition parties threw in their lot with the DP.



*United Opposition presidential candidate Rev Wavel Ramkalawan (left) and vice-presidential candidate Annette Georges*



*Democratic Party leader Sir James Mancham (right) at a party planning meeting which Observers Anthony Nyakyi (left) and Michel Doucet dropped in on*

Mr René won the presidential election with 59.5 per cent of the valid votes cast, while Sir James Mancham received 36.72 per cent and Mr Philippe Boullé of the United Opposition 3.79 per cent. For the National Assembly elections, the SPPF won all but one of the 22 first-past-the-post seats. The solitary elected opposition seat went to the DP. In the allocation of the 11 proportional representation seats, six went to the SPPF which had won 56.55 per cent of the votes cast, four to the DP for its 32.27 per cent and one to the United Opposition for its 9.71 per cent.

A Commonwealth Observer Group and a group from La Francophonie were both present to observe these elections. The reports of these two missions were published and can be obtained at the respective secretariats of the two organisations.

### **The 1998 Presidential and National Assembly Elections**

The 1998 presidential election was again contested by three candidates: Mr René, representing the SPPF; Sir James Mancham, representing the DP; and the Rev Wavel Ramkalawan, representing the United Opposition.

For the first time, vice-presidential candidates ran for election on a common ticket with presidential candidates. The candidates for the vice-presidency were: Mr James Michel for the SPPF; Mr Daniel Belle for the DP; and Mrs Annette Georges for the United Opposition.

The three parties also fielded candidates in each of the 25 elected National Assembly seats, and there was one independent candidate, Mr Marston Saint Ange (electoral district of La Digue). In the build-up to the elections, one opposition party approached the other opposition party and suggested a union to field a joint presidential candidate. This proposal was rejected.

Our Group was encouraged by the progress that has been made in the past five years to de-link the ruling party from the state and to establish a distinction between the resources of the state and those of the ruling party. We were particularly pleased to note that SPPF offices have been relocated out of

District Council offices and that all political parties have equal access to Community Centres. We have also taken note of the televising of debates of the National Assembly, and such steps as the arrangements to ensure that each party contesting the elections was given equal time on television and the radio during the campaign period.

### Party Manifestos

**Seychelles People's Progressive Front:** The SPPF campaigned under the banner 'The Party for the New Millennium'. The party manifesto reiterated what it said was the Government's long-term vision of good, fair, stable, and dynamic government that could initiate and manage change in order to create a high quality of life in harmony with the natural environment of the country. The manifesto promised a renewed commitment to providing an excellent health service to the people of Seychelles throughout life. It promised to guarantee a high standard of education to all Seychellois children from birth to adulthood. The manifesto also promised to develop a conducive environment for business while maintaining a 'hands-on approach to develop, in a systematic manner, the pillars of the economy so that everyone gets a share of the national cake.'

**The Democratic Party:** The DP manifesto was entitled 'A Fresh Future, A New Direction'. It attacked the Government for keeping prices artificially high and for holding back economic growth through high interest rates, high taxes, and disincentives for business. The party promised that if elected, it would scrap the monopoly of the Seychelles Marketing Board, allowing other traders to compete, thus giving the country the widest possible choice of commodities at the most competitive prices. The party promised to give the government a regulatory rather than a running role in the economy and to open some sectors of the economy such as electricity generation to the private sector. It also promised to reform the tax system and reduce interest rates.

**The United Opposition:** The UO produced a 20-point manifesto under the caption 'A Contract Between the UO and the People of Seychelles'. The manifesto promised that the party, if elected, would abolish the system of 'security clearance' so that all Seychellois would have the opportunity to pursue careers in government and in the parastatals free from what it called political victimisation. The party promised to reform the system for appointing judges and also to fight crime vigorously. The party also promised to reduce taxes on food, reform the educational system, and provide a good salary and pension scheme for workers.

## Chapter 2

# The Electoral Framework and Preparations for the Elections



*Preparing for the polls ... Electoral Commissioner Gerard Ah-Shung (left) briefs Sir John Compton (right) and the Commonwealth Secretariat's Jon Sheppard on the distribution of ballot boxes*

### The Legal Framework

The 1998 elections were governed by the Seychelles Constitution of 1993, as amended in 1994, 1995 and 1996, as well as by the Elections Act of 1995, as amended in 1996 and the Political Parties (Registration and Regulation) Act of 1991, as amended in 1995 and 1996.

### The Holding of Presidential and National Assembly Elections

The President is elected for a five-year term and cannot hold office for more than three terms. Members of the National Assembly are also elected for a five-year term although the Constitution provides that National Assembly elections shall be held during the period starting at the beginning of the 57th month and ending at the end of the 59th month of a session. According to the Elections Act, the Electoral Commissioner announces, by notice in the *Gazette*, the date or dates on which a presidential or a National Assembly election should be held.

## The Electoral Commissioner

Responsibility for the conduct and supervision of the registration of voters and of elections rests with the Electoral Commissioner, who is appointed by the President, from candidates proposed by a three-member Constitutional Appointments Authority, for a term of office of not more than seven years.

The Constitution provides for the President of the Republic and the Leader of the Opposition to each appoint one member to the Constitutional Appointments Authority, and these persons in turn, by agreement, appoint a third member to serve as Chairperson. Where the two cannot agree, they must submit a list of not less than two and not more than three candidates to the President who then makes a final decision. The present members of the body were appointed by the Constitutional Commission which drafted the Constitution and on which all the main political parties at the time were represented.

The Electoral Commissioner is responsible for the register of political parties. He also keeps electoral boundaries under continuous review and reports thereon to the National Assembly and the President. The present Electoral Commissioner is further responsible for the Civil Status Register, and the issue of National Identity Cards.

The Constitution provides for the complete independence of the Electoral Commissioner and a number of provisions are laid down to guarantee this. The Electoral Commissioner's allowances and salary are paid from the Consolidated Fund and cannot be altered to his or her disadvantage after appointment. He or she cannot be removed from office during their term unless for inability to perform the functions of the office, whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or from any other cause, or for misbehaviour.

The present Electoral Commissioner is Mr Gerard Ah-Shung. Mr Ah-Shung is assisted by a Chief Registration Officer, Ms Barbara Quan-Yat-Coune, and for the duration of the elections, by a Chief Electoral Officer, Mr Anacllet Tirant.

Polling station staff (Electoral Officers, Assistant Electoral Officers and a number of assistants) are selected from a list drawn up by the Electoral Commissioner and approved by all the contesting parties. On two separate occasions during the 1998 campaign, three electoral officers were replaced at the request of the DP after they were allegedly seen campaigning for a candidate of the SPPF. All the electoral officers are trained by the Electoral Commissioner's office.

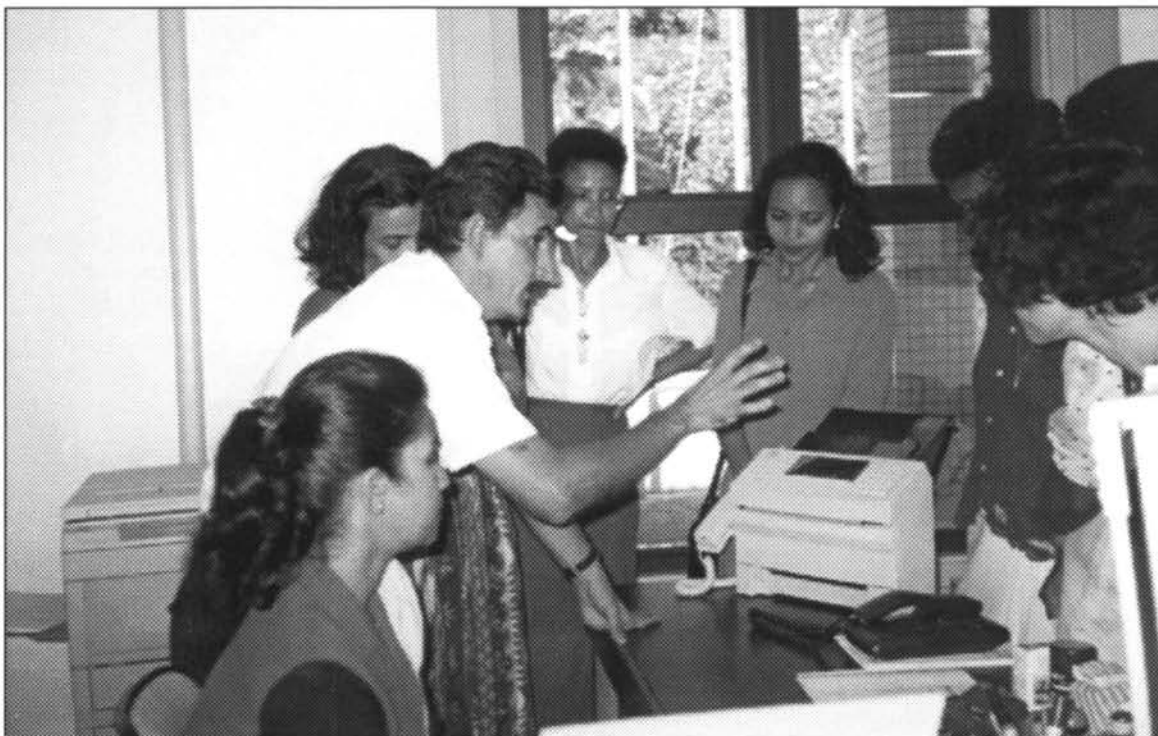
## The Funding of Political Parties

Under the Political Parties (Registration and Regulation) (Amendment) Act 1996, the registered political parties are entitled to monies from a fund (the Political Parties Financial Support Fund) appropriated by an Act of the National Assembly. The Registrar of Political Parties determines the total amount of financial assistance to be paid out of the fund on or before 30 January of each year.

Each registered political party which nominated candidates for the immediately preceding general election to the National Assembly is entitled to receive out of the total funds such sum as is equal to the percentage of valid votes cast in favour of the candidates nominated by that party. For 1997, a total of SR7.5 million was appropriated for assistance to political parties. Of this amount, the SPPF received approximately SR4.3 million, the DP received approximately SR2.5 million, and the United Opposition received approximately SR0.7 million, all paid monthly.

## Electoral Districts

For the purposes of the elections to the National Assembly, the country was divided into 25 electoral districts, 22 of which were on the main island of Mahé, two on Praslin and the remaining district covering La Digue and the Inner Islands. Voters in the Outer Islands voted for the candidates of whichever of the 25 districts they were registered in. A special polling station was created at the Election Headquarters, situated at the National Library, for voters registered in the Inner Islands who were in Mahé on 22 March 1998. A list of the electoral districts can be found at *Annex IX*. Three of



*Staff for polling stations were carefully trained before election day*

these districts (Au Cap, Les Mamelles, and Roche Caiman) were created in June 1996. While allegations were made that the three new districts were deliberately created in a way that favoured the ruling party, the Electoral Commissioner explained to the Joint Observer Group that the three districts had been created to reflect population movements within the country.

There is no provision in the Constitution and the electoral law for postal or proxy voting nor for voting by diplomats serving abroad.

### **Franchise System**

A direct franchise system was used for the 25 seats to the National Assembly (one per electoral district) on the basis of the first-past-the-post system. In addition, up to 10 seats would be filled by proportional representation, with the parties nominating a proportionally elected member for each 10 per cent of votes polled.

A constitutional amendment (Fourth Amendment Act) in 1996 had changed the necessary minimum share of the popular vote required for a party to gain a seat under the proportional representation allocation from 8 per cent to 10 per cent. The same constitutional amendment reduced the number of proportional seats from 11 to a maximum of 10. (For a comparison of the 1993 and 1998 National Assembly results, see *Annex X*.)

The presidential election was by direct popular ballot. The voting age for both the presidential and the National Assembly elections is 18.

### **The Electoral Register**

The Electoral Register is updated at the beginning of each year. The Electoral Commissioner informed the Group that a census conducted under the supervision of the Ministry of Administration and Manpower between August and October 1997 came up with a total estimated population of 78,496, of which 50,054 persons were above the voting age of 18 or would reach 18 years of age by the end of March 1999. The registration period from 3 to 16 January 1998 was followed by a period

for claims and objections ending 23 February 1998. A further 9,091 names were added to the Electoral Register at the beginning of 1998, hence making a total of 59,145 electors. However, 2,626 entries were subsequently deleted for various reasons. The Electoral Commissioner certified the Electoral Register on 24 February with 56,399 names on it. Copies of the certified Electoral Register were given to each of the political parties. Only those persons whose names appeared on the Electoral Register were entitled to vote.

Some concern was raised about the proportionately high number of registered voters in relation to the size of the general population. The Electoral Commissioner pointed to the country's low birth rate (about 1.6 per cent) as a possible explanation of the high proportion of adults in the general population. He also pointed to a high rate of emigration and explained that there were many persons on the Electoral Register who actually lived abroad. All political parties subsequently expressed satisfaction with the Electoral Register.

### **Nominations**

Under the electoral law, candidates for the presidency and for the National Assembly are required to complete nomination forms issued by the Electoral Commissioner and also provide a deposit either in cash or in the form of a bank guarantee. The number of signatures required for nomination for the presidential election was 500 and the deposit was SR15,000. For the National Assembly elections the number of signatures required for each candidate was 50, with a deposit of SR1,500 per candidate. A banker's guarantee was accepted in lieu of a cash deposit for all nominations.

Under the electoral law, a candidate could object to the acceptance of a nomination paper of any other candidate on the grounds that the other candidate was not qualified to stand for the election or that the nomination paper did not comply with the requirements laid down by law. The contesting candidates were therefore initially allowed by the Electoral Commissioner to inspect each other's nomination papers on nomination day, which was 26 February 1998. The opposition parties, particularly the United Opposition, alleged that SPPF candidates used the information on the nomination papers to intimidate their supporters and nominees. The SPPF for its part argued that its candidates had been simply trying to investigate cases in which the opposition parties had obtained signatures on their nomination papers by deception. The Electoral Commissioner stopped candidates inspecting each other's nomination papers once he realised that some candidates were writing down the names of their opponents' nominees.

### **Identity Cards and Ballot Papers**

A National Identity Card or passport, both of which show a voter's National Identity Number, must be presented in order to vote. Voters whose names were on the register but who could not produce either of these documents, would be permitted to vote if their identity was not questioned by the electoral officials, security personnel as well as all the candidates/party agents present.

To encourage those who had lost their National Identity Cards to obtain replacements in the run-up to the elections, the Electoral Commissioner announced a two-week period following the announcement of the elections, when the cards were to be issued free of charge. Normally, the replacement card cost SR50 to obtain. According to the Electoral Commissioner, 800 cards were issued during this period.

Following strong protests from the opposition parties against the printing of ballot papers at a local printing press belonging to a member of the SPPF, the ballot papers for the elections were printed in Singapore. There were separate ballot papers for the presidential and National Assembly elections. The two ballot papers carried distinguishing features: the ballot paper for the presidential election was beige, slightly larger and had a bordered edge, while that for the National Assembly elections was white and had no bordered edge. As an added security measure ballot papers were marked by a perforation unique to each polling station at the time of being handed to voters. The names and photographs of the candidates for both elections were printed on the ballot papers.

### Provision for Incapacitated Voters

The electoral law provides that where a voter is incapacitated by blindness, or otherwise or is illiterate, the voter shall, after receiving the ballot paper, be accompanied into the polling booth by the Electoral Officer and a person selected by the voter. The voter shall, in the presence of the person selected, direct the Electoral Officer how the vote is to be cast. The Electoral Officer shall then, again in the presence of the person selected, mark the ballot paper or papers as directed, fold it in such a manner as not to reveal the identity of the candidate or candidates for whom the vote has been recorded and after leaving the polling booth with the other two place the ballot paper or papers in the relevant box.

### Voter Education

The Office of the Electoral Commissioner ran an extensive voter education programme which started on 26 November 1997 and continued until polling day. The programme centered around three areas: good governance, registration and voting procedure. The programme was based on the production of literature which was distributed widely, including through schools, poster campaigns and advertisements on radio, television and in the daily newspaper.

The segment of the programme on 'good governance' was based on the provision in the Constitution on the rights and freedoms of the individual; 'registration' concentrated on the relevant provisions in the Elections Act; and education on 'voting procedure', which intensified in the 10 days preceding polling day, covered such items as the two different types of ballot paper which would be

used for the presidential election and the National Assembly election respectively, the procedures to be followed on entering a polling station and even how to fold the ballot paper. Voter education material was produced in Creole while guidance notes for Electoral Officers and electoral material, such as the ballot paper and tally sheets, were produced in English. It was quite common to see voter education posters placed alongside posters erected by political parties.

During our tour of our respective electoral districts, almost all the people we talked to were confident that they knew what to do on polling day. This was confirmed by our own observations on the three days of polling.



*As part of voter education, posters reminding people that their vote was secret were put up*



*Poster urging people to register to vote*

## Chapter 3

# The Campaign and the Media



*In the days before the elections, hundreds of people queued for hours to receive emergency funding and other social welfare payments. Some of the longest queues were outside Ocean Gate House in Victoria. Observers received complaints that the payments were a means of influencing people's vote*

### The Campaign

Campaigning for the 1998 Presidential and National Assembly elections began on 27 February and continued until 18 March. There was then a two-day 'cooling off' period, as required under Clause 50(1) of the Elections Act 1995. At the start of the campaign, representatives of the three parties met with the Electoral Commissioner and agreed with him a Code of Conduct (see *Annex XI*) within which they, their members and supporters would operate.

The first requirement of the Code was that existing election laws and regulations would be followed and that parties would not, by word or action, create tension and disrupt the atmosphere of the elections. The Code also said there would be equal opportunity for publicity, warned against the use of government or Defence Force vehicles for party purposes, and forbade the parties from establishing election camps, check-points (which had been complained of as points for intimidation in the 1993 elections) or handing out refreshments on election day. It reminded parties that attempts to influence voting through money or allurements were election offences. It specified that only certain billboards could carry party notices and posters. Because permission had to be sought from the police for the use of loudhailers, the parties agreed not to use them in the campaign.

The result was that on the surface at least, it appeared to us that much of the campaign period was curiously devoid of the openly festive air in the streets that has characterised campaigns in other countries, save for the broadcast media's high-profile party political broadcasts (PPBs) and party



*During the campaign, party billboards and banners were everywhere. This huge billboard of President René was erected outside SPPF headquarters*

announcements. It was not uncommon for the posters of all three parties to be clustered on a group of billboards at a roundabout or street corner, but in the days before the polling, we noticed a proliferation of cloth banners, with colour being central to the parties' identities – red for the SPPF, blue for the DP and green for the United Opposition. A huge billboard of President René, erected outside the Victoria bus terminal, was the subject of a complaint to the Electoral Commissioner, on the basis that it was within 200 metres of a polling station. It was taken down after the Electoral Commissioner wrote to the SPPF.

We attended the last public rallies and meetings of the three parties at Praslin on 15 March and on Mahé on 15 and 16 March, called at the various party headquarters to view their preparations for the polls, and accompanied some candidates as they campaigned from door to door. In the hours before a rally began, supporters streamed out of villages and suburbs dressed in party colours and symbols on headbands, T-shirts and leggings. SPPF supporters had, in addition, party torches, umbrellas, coffee mugs and cassettes of music. The rallies themselves were colourful, with balloons and streamers and popular music or musicians whipping up enthusiasm

before the main speakers came on. The parties also gave us various samples of party election materials, including posters and flyers.

The pointed but apparent good-natured political banter at rallies belied wrangling that had begun on nomination day when all the parties traded accusations over whether the names of the 50 people who support a candidate's nomination should be made known (see Chapter 2).

The Electoral Commissioner told us that he had received complaints that government vehicles were being used for campaigning and had been given an assurance that a government circular would be issued forbidding this. He similarly dealt with a complaint that in at least one district (Glacis), identity cards were being collected from elderly people, and he intervened to put a halt to this as it could be construed as a form of coercion.

We learned that there was no limit in law to either a party's or an individual candidate's campaign expenditure, but that Clause 94 of the Elections Act 1995 stipulated that within 60 days after the results of the elections were declared, a candidate, party or party agent had to submit to the Electoral Commissioner a statement of funds received and expenses incurred. This statement did not have to disclose the identity of the source of the funds or to whom payments had been made.

### **Distribution of Emergency Funds and Social Security Payments**

We received numerous reports that large numbers of people were forming around social security payout points in Victoria and mobile units in some districts and that through accelerated decision-making by the Means Testing Board on emergency funding, money was being given out to people just before the elections as a possible way of influencing their vote. We saw for ourselves long queues outside the Ocean Gate House payout point of the Ministry of Finance.

We were told, however, that such queues were not unusual for statutory benefits payouts. We were shown lists of people against whom payment was ordered and learned from the Means Testing Board that requests for emergency funding were properly channelled, and recommendations made, through

the District Administrators. This process could take two weeks, but authorisation could also be made within a few hours. Some people in the queue told us that they had been waiting for hours “for money” and that it was the first time they were able to obtain such payments; but others refused to talk to us.

We contacted the Electoral Commissioner to obtain clarification on this matter, and learned that complaints had also been lodged by opposition parties. The Electoral Commissioner wrote to the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs on 17 March requesting advice on the payments and asking that a press statement be issued on the matter. The Principal Secretary replied the next day, explaining that emergency payments were made to individuals and families in distress and explaining the process. She also said: “One-off payments are made throughout the year. It is evident that periodically, some members of the public turn up to ‘try their luck’.” She added that the Ministry did not consider it necessary to issue a press statement on the matter (see *Annex XII* for both letters).

Complaints about the payments continued and when our Chairperson made his Interim Statement at the close of polls on the evening of 22 March, he “noted, with concern, the method of payment of large amounts of social security benefits immediately before the elections, and consider(ed) this is a measure easily subject to misinterpretation” (see *Annex VIII*). Hours later, after being declared winner, President René said that it was unfortunate that the timing of the payments could have given rise to suspicion and said that the Government would look into the system of payments.

The Group also received complaints relating to the distribution of funds, gifts and favours, unattributed to government finances, by all three parties. These ranged from the alleged free distribution of alcohol to direct financial inducements to voters. It was not possible for our Observers to verify these reports with first-hand evidence.

### **Intimidation**

Our Group received some reports of verbal intimidation and allegations of implied threats of loss of government benefits, such as subsidised housing, should people fail to vote for government candidates. We were also told that people were afraid they would lose their licences to operate businesses should it become known that they voted for one of the opposition parties. Many people complained in this context of the pervasive influence of the government-operated Seychelles Marketing Board, the body responsible for the issue of business licences.

The campaign, however, remained free from violence until the eve of polls when, apparently, National Guard personnel fired shots which wounded the wife of a DP candidate and some other people. We investigated this incident immediately upon learning of it and were convinced by the evidence that a shooting had taken place, though details of the circumstances varied. As it constituted an unfortunate occurrence which could have raised tensions, we sought further details through the Office of the Electoral Commissioner. However, no explanation was provided and accordingly our Chairperson also referred to the incident in his Interim Statement. The President subsequently expressed his regret and said the matter would be investigated.

### **The Role of the Media**

As in many small island states, information travels quickest by word of mouth. We were repeatedly told that anything that happened on one end of Mahé was known at the other end within hours. To the extent that this was true, we felt that it acted as some sort of check on the government-dominated official media – for what was not officially reported was nevertheless most often known.

The different viewpoints reflected by the official media, and the smaller newspapers and newsletters with party allegiances, however, ensured that members of the public could, if they wished, have access to information on all party policies and on most issues if they wished. Nevertheless, the official media being the most pervasive, was clearly also the most influential and indeed was used to convey the Electoral Commissioner’s voter education programmes (see Chapter 2).



*On Silhouette, the lone independent candidate's poster (left) was put up on the side of a building*

### ***The Broadcast Media***

The Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) dominates broadcasting with its single television channel and two radio stations. It evolved from being an arm of the Ministry of Information into a corporation that is funded through the National Assembly. We were told that some 90 per cent of the approximate 14,000 households in Seychelles owned television sets, that almost all had radio sets, and that both mediums broadcast extensively in Creole, French and English. For many in the smaller Inner and Outer Islands, radio was the only means by which they were able to keep in touch with public affairs.

The importance of television and radio is underlined by Article 168 of the Constitution which proclaims that state-owned broadcasting media receiving state funding should be 'so constituted and managed that they may operate independently of the State and of the political or other influence of other bodies, persons or political parties.' The Article goes on to say that such broadcasting media should 'afford opportunities and facilities for the presentation of divergent views.'

The SBC has taken up this challenge. As part of its remit, in the past five years it had undertaken to extensively broadcast on television and radio the National Assembly sessions, the annual State of the Nation address by the President and the Leader of the Opposition's reply, and the annual national budget presentation and the full budget debate.

When election campaigning began officially at the end of February 1998, SBC programming concerning party broadcasts and campaigning immediately came under provisions in the Elections Act 1995, as amended in 1996, which guaranteed all parties and candidates the right to have their views broadcast. It also required the Electoral Commissioner, in consultation with the SBC, to allocate free and equal broadcast time to parties and candidates. The enshrining of these rights in law and the drawing of the impartial Electoral Commissioner into the broadcast process was a significant development since the 1993 elections.

The result was, in our opinion, a just and equitable airing of political views during the campaign period and we did not receive a single complaint from any party or candidate about unfair treatment in the political broadcasts. It was agreed between the Electoral Commissioner, SBC and the three

parties that there would be two 15-minute television and radio broadcasts by each presidential candidate, one at the beginning and the other at the end of the campaign period. In addition, each National Assembly candidate would have a five-minute party political broadcast slot on television and radio and each party would be allowed ten 60-second free spots to canvass votes and one 20-minute broadcast of a rally of the party's choosing. Airtime was free of charge but SBC levied production charges. Parties were allowed paid advertising of their meetings.

The Managing Director of SBC also told the Group that other areas of programming were adjusted for the sake of fairness to all political parties. For example, the signature tunes the parties adopted were banned from the SBC's playlists and Ministers had been informed that during the campaign period, the SBC would cover ministerial events but omit any political messages contained in their speeches.

The SBC exercised no censorship over any PPB, only omitting on two occasions, and after consulting the candidates, words which were considered either defamatory or likely to provoke civil unrest. It also relinquished editorial control over the production of the 20-minute programmes on party rallies.

We should also record with appreciation that the SBC broadcast in full, on both television and radio, our Chairperson's Interim Statement on the evening of 22 March prior to the declaration of the results.

Given the limited number of hours of television airtime SBC is to be commended for providing equal opportunities for all parties to put across their points of view during PPBs. We felt, however, that uncensored access to equal airtime was only a first step towards the development of a responsible public broadcasting service and that further steps should be taken towards the more objective airing of issues and events which impact on the political and social landscape as a whole.

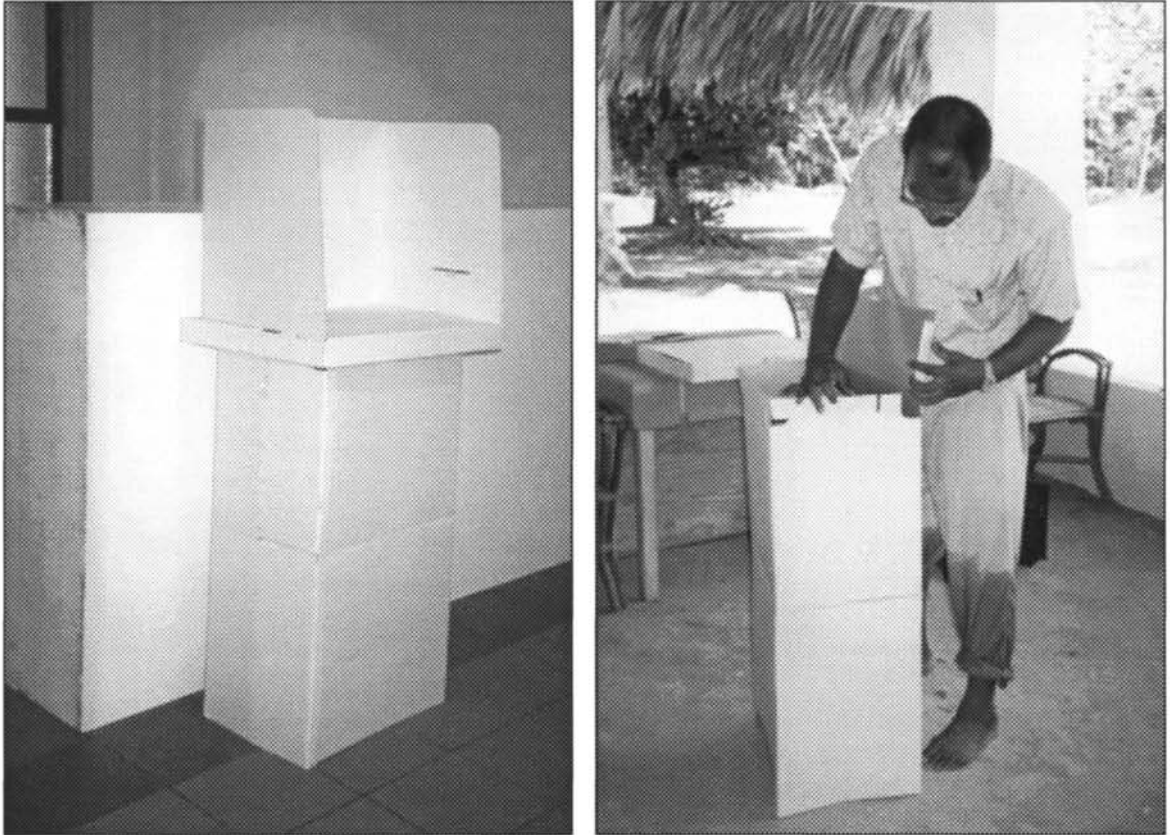
### ***The Print Media***

In comparison with the SBC, the print media played a more subsidiary role in the campaign period. The trilingual *Seychelles Nation*, published by the Ministry of Finance and Communications, continues to be the only daily newspaper. It had been criticised by the opposition parties for only publishing government news but during the campaign period appeared to have made a conscious effort to give all parties equal space.

The SPPF and the two opposition parties had their own smaller papers or newsletters. *The People*, a fortnightly publication, promoted the SPPF; the monthly magazine *Seychelles Review* promoted the DP; and the weekly *Regar* strove to present itself as a professional newspaper but, with both its publisher and editor standing as United Opposition candidates in the elections, it was clear where its sympathies lay.

## Chapter 4

### The Poll and the Count



*The cardboard 'snap-to' booths used for polling (above left) packed flat and were light and easy to transport ... (above right) after wading ashore from a boat at Fregate during voting for the Outer and smaller Inner Islands, electoral staff swiftly assembled polling stations*

#### Method of Voting

A person votes by going to the polling station in the district where she or he is registered to vote. The electoral staff verifies that this person has not voted by examining her or his left hand with an ultraviolet lamp. She or he then presents identification (National Identity Card, passport or other acceptable form of identification) to the Electoral Officer. The staff verifies that her/his name appears on the Electoral Register. The voter's name is read aloud as well as her/his National Identity Number, the page and line on the register where the person's name appears. The party agents record this information. Once the voter's name has been checked-off against the register, the electoral staff marks the thumb of her/his left hand with visible, indelible ink and the index finger of the same hand is sprayed with invisible indelible ink which we were told would last for 72 hours. This hand is then examined a second time under another ultraviolet lamp before separate ballot papers for the Presidential and the National Assembly elections are issued. The electoral staff then explains that the voter must enter a booth, mark the candidate of choice on each ballot paper, fold them and put them into the relevant ballot boxes. After this, the voter leaves the polling station.

Elderly people and those who are mentally or physically handicapped can be accompanied by a person of their choosing, usually a relative, and a member of the polling station's electoral staff then assists them to vote. (See also Chapter 2.)

## The Voting Process

Polling was conducted over three days from 20 to 22 March. On 20 and 21 March, polling was conducted in the Outer and some of the smaller Inner Islands. On 22 March, it was conducted in Mahé, Praslin and La Digue.

### Polling – 20 and 21 March

Mobile polls were used in order to enable the small numbers of voters in the Inner and Outer Islands to cast their ballots. The time and place for polling was announced ahead of time. We are grateful to the Electoral Commissioner for allowing some of us to witness polling on these islands (see *Annex VI*) and to accompany electoral officials and party agents who travelled by plane or vessel with the ballot boxes and election materials. These polls were only open for a short period of time because of the small number of voters on these islands and polling proceeded smoothly, except that on Farquhar and Assumption, no party agents were present to witness the 24 people who cast their votes. The ballot boxes from these mobile polls were returned to Mahé at the close of poll. On 22 March the ballots in their sealed envelopes were distributed to the appropriate electoral districts and counted.

### Polling – 22 March

Polling on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, where the majority of the voters are registered, took place on 22 March. We deployed in all constituencies in order to observe the polling and the count (see *Annex VI*).

## Analysis of Polling

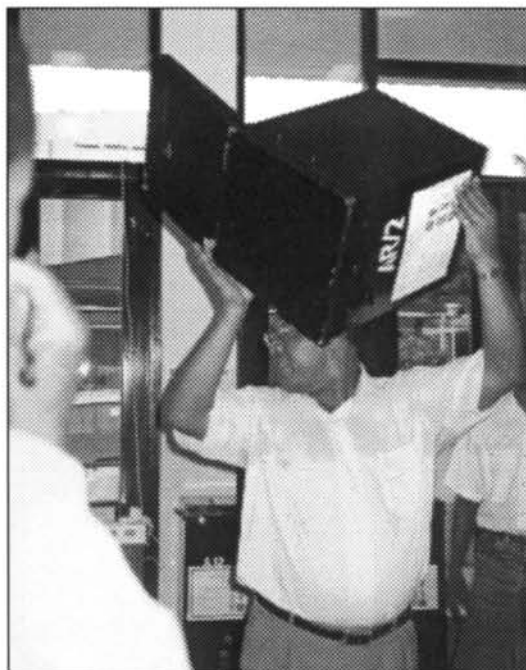
On our deployment, we used check lists (see *Annex VII*) developed by our respective organisations to record the following observations.

### *Location of and Access to Polling Stations*

Polling stations, which had been announced well in advance by the Electoral Commissioner, were usually sited in schools, church halls and community centres. These were well signposted and their location familiar to voters in the area.

### *Ballot Materials*

In the days before polling began, we familiarised ourselves with the voting processes and the relevant ballot materials when we visited the Election Headquarters. On polling day, we found that all stations had sufficient quantities of ballot materials, the voters' register and copies of the reconciliation statement. Electoral officials had organised their stations quickly and efficiently. Each polling station had black metallic ballot boxes with the names of the electoral areas printed on them, two green plastic strips, a pink ribbon and red sealing wax for sealing, portable white cardboard polling booths, two kinds of indelible ink (one visible and the other



*Before polling began, electoral staff demonstrated to party agents that the ballot boxes were empty before sealing them*



*Long queues quickly formed outside the polling stations. In the Glacis electoral district, this queue stretched down the road*

invisible), two ultraviolet lamps, a perforator to stamp the station's special code on each ballot paper, and different-sized ballot papers for Presidential and National Assembly voting.

Each polling station was also equipped with a telephone and fax to ensure constant communication with the Electoral Commissioner, especially of the results.

### **Voting**

With few exceptions the polling stations opened exactly on time (7 a.m.) and a large number of voters were already in the queue. The queues in some polling stations remained constant throughout the day. Voting was slower in the morning when many elderly and infirm voters were brought to the stations. We observed an improvement in the flow of electors as the day progressed. We observed that there was an uneven distribution of electoral staff at various polling stations which affected the speed of the voting process. In certain stations voting had to be extended beyond 6 p.m. to allow the people who were in the queue to vote. The set-up of the voting station was left to the discretion of the Electoral Officer and the majority of voting stations were very well organised; however, in a few stations where the layout was less well organised the voting process was affected. The electoral staff in the polling stations were competent, efficient and aware of their responsibilities. Party agents and some of the candidates were present in the polling stations. The three presidential candidates also visited some stations.

The voters of Seychelles, irrespective of gender, age or state of health, turned out in large numbers especially in the first few hours of polling. Some had begun queuing from as early as 5 a.m. Many were familiar with voting procedures because voter education programmes broadcast by the SBC or published in the newspapers were thorough, and electoral staff were also on hand to help others. Some voters had gone to the wrong polling stations by mistake, others did not meet various voting requirements. Some voters whose names did not appear on the station's register were allowed to vote when their names were found on the master register and after the Electoral Officer had consulted with the party agents.

We received no complaints of major irregularities in the polling and overall the secrecy of the ballot was respected.

Some voters grew impatient and frustrated after waiting for many hours to vote. Some of us suggested to the Electoral Officers that the layout and flow of voters through the station may not have been conducive to swift voting and as noted above, improvements were made in such arrangements in the course of the day. In general, voters were disciplined, voted freely, in an orderly manner and peacefully.

### ***Assisted Voting***

We observed the strenuous efforts made to assist incapacitated and elderly voters to cast their ballots. We also observed, in certain cases, that these people seemed to have been put in situations that caused tremendous stress. The secrecy of their ballot could not be assured.

### ***Security of Polling Stations***

We had been told that the police would be present at the polling stations and found them accordingly deployed in and around the stations to ensure security. No incident involving abuse of police powers was brought to our attention. The atmosphere at all electoral areas was peaceful, including at Cascade where on the night of 21 March the wife of an opposition candidate was seriously injured in a shooting incident. The presence of the police in the stations was not intimidatory.



*Electoral staff marked voters' hands with indelible ink. This staff member wore gloves so that her hands would not be accidentally stained with the ink, thus making her ineligible to vote later*



*Strenuous efforts were made to assist elderly and incapacitated voters though some seemed to have been put in situations which caused tremendous stress*

### **The Count**

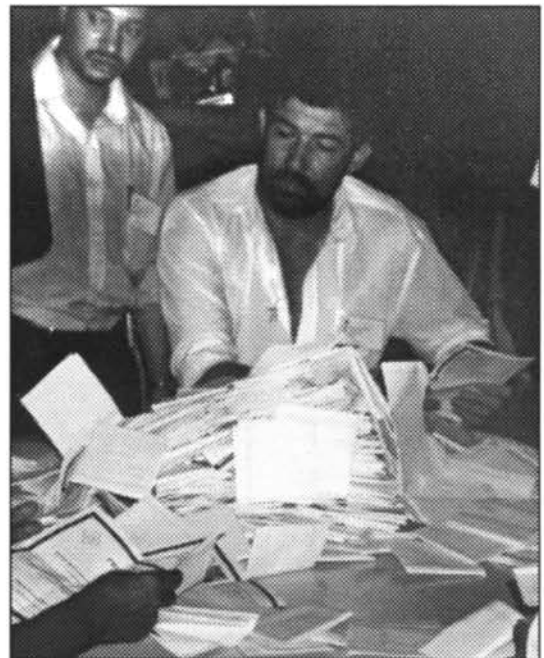
At the close of the polls, the doors of the stations were shut, and the ballot boxes were locked and sealed in the presence of the candidates and the party agents. Electoral Officers calculated the turnout and the ballot paper accounts.

Counting commenced with the presidential ballot papers. Those ballot papers classified as invalid were endorsed by the Electoral Officer in the presence of the party agents and candidates. Objections to decisions were recorded.

The same procedure was followed for the National Assembly election. The votes cast for each candidate were totalled and the Election Station Account form was witnessed and signed by all parties before being faxed to the Electoral Commissioner's office.

The results were verified and aggregated by the Electoral Commissioner before being proclaimed at about 1.30 a.m. on 23 March.

For the presidential election, Mr René was declared elected with 31,048 votes (66.67 per cent of the valid votes cast). The Rev Wavel Ramkalawan of the United Opposition and Sir James Mancham of the Democratic Party got 9,098 votes (19.53 per cent) and 6,427 (13.8 per cent) of the valid votes cast respectively.



*The count was conducted at polling stations and began with the presidential ballot papers*

For the National Assembly elections, candidates representing the SPPF won 24 of the 25 elected seats, with one seat going to the Rev Wavel Ramkalawan of the United Opposition. The SPPF received 28,640 votes (61.71 per cent), the United Opposition got 12,084 votes (26.06 per cent), and the DP 5,609 votes (12.1 per cent). The sole independent candidate, Mr Marston St Ange got 60 votes (4.07 per cent) in the electoral district of La Digue. The official results can be found at *Annex X*.

The voting and counting processes as well as the announcement of the results of the elections concluded peacefully.

# Conclusions

The formation of a Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group for these elections constituted an important step in the development of co-operation between the two organisations and demonstrates the common commitment of our member nations to promoting the principles of democracy.

We came to Seychelles at the invitation of the Government and with the support of all the political parties and other representative community groups. We wish to record our thanks to all the organisations and individuals who assisted us in our task and who generously gave us the benefit of their experience and knowledge.

We especially wish to thank the Electoral Commissioner and his staff whose co-operation and assistance was critical for the fulfilment of our mandate.

The preparations for the Presidential and National Assembly elections were thorough and professional. Voter education had been comprehensive. On the polling days it was evident that with few exceptions voters were aware of the voting procedures; and where there was a need to do so, electoral officials were able to provide clear and objective guidance.

There are, nevertheless, a number of procedural matters which the Group considers the Electoral Commissioner may wish to examine and include in his Report to the National Assembly and the President as provided for in the Constitution. We believe for instance that there is need to introduce measures which would speed up the voting process, especially in the larger electoral areas. Such measures might include changes in the numbers and the siting of polling stations. The Group also feels that the Electoral Commissioner might give consideration to recommending the introduction of a system of postal balloting which would assist persons within the Seychelles archipelago who are not present in their registered district on polling day. We further suggest that the Electoral Commissioner may wish to reflect on ways to ensure that the electoral districts have roughly equal populations. He may wish to consider how the absence of any expenditure limits for either parties or individual candidates affects the electoral process.

The Group wishes to stress the importance of continued efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law in Seychelles. In this regard, the Group acknowledges the development of multi-party democracy over the past five years. At the same time, it believes it is now time for the various players, be they political, judicial, or other parties, to consider within the constitutional framework, the further improvement of the effective separation of state and party political functions.

We note the changes to the Constitution made in 1996 which had the effect of increasing the number of members of the National Assembly and the increased electoral areas introduced in a modification of the Elections Act. The constitutional amendment further changed the threshold for proportional representation from 8 to 10 per cent. This has been further analysed in the Report.

A party in government inevitably enjoys an advantage of incumbency. On this occasion, the Group has seen fit to draw attention to one aspect of concern, namely, the payment of social security benefits through accelerated means-testing immediately prior to the polls. We invite the Government to reflect on the timing of such a practice.

Finally, we conclude that the 1998 Presidential and National Assembly elections in Seychelles marked another important step in the development of multi-party democracy in this country. On the day, we have no reason to doubt that the voters of Seychelles were able to exercise their franchise in such a way that the end result accurately reflected the will of the people.

## Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the people of Seychelles for their co-operation and assistance without which our Group could not have achieved its task. We were touched by the warm and friendly hospitality afforded to us wherever we went.

We wish to pay tribute to the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Gerard Ah-Shung and his team, who worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth and peaceful process. We were also impressed by the professionalism of electoral officials on the three polling days.

We are grateful to the Government of Seychelles, the political parties, the Ombudsman, members of the diplomatic corps, non-governmental organisations, representatives of the media and the Churches and all concerned citizens who found time to share with us their opinions and concerns.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, and the Secretary-General of La Francophonie, Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, for giving us the opportunity to serve the people of Seychelles and the common endeavour of our two organisations in promoting the cause of democracy. Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to those providing support from the Commonwealth Secretariat and l'Agence de la Francophonie. Without their hard work, dedication and determination to assist and help, the Observers' task would not have been possible.

# **Annexes**

## ANNEX I

**Composition of the Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group*****The Rt Hon Sir John Compton, KCMG (Chairperson – St Lucia)***

The Rt Hon Sir John Compton was Prime Minister of St Lucia for five months in 1979 and for 14 years from 1982 to 1996 when he retired. He is now a barrister and international consultant.

**Commonwealth Observers*****Mr Iqbal Masud (Pakistan)***

Mr Iqbal Masud is a retired member of the Civil Service of Pakistan, an elite career service, and has held senior positions in the Government of Pakistan as Permanent Secretary in various ministries.

***Ms Michelle C Momy (Canada)***

Ms Michelle Momy is currently a Returning Officer for Elections Canada at federal level and a Returning Officer for Elections Ontario. She has provided technical assistance and/or observed elections in Cambodia, Central Africa, Comoros and South Africa.

***Ambassador Anthony B Nyakyi (Tanzania)***

Ambassador Anthony Nyakyi was the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Liberia from 1995 to 1997. He was also Tanzania's Permanent Representative at the UN for four-and-a-half years, during which he served as Chairman of the General Assembly's Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Oil Embargo against South Africa. He has also been High Commissioner or Ambassador to The Hague, Bonn, Harare and London.

***Mrs Elaine Raftopoulos (Zimbabwe)***

Mrs Elaine Raftopoulos is a Commissioner of the Electoral Supervisory Commission in Zimbabwe and has been an observer to several elections in East Africa. She is a former Deputy Mayor of Harare.

***Ms Gisela Stuart, MP (Britain)***

Ms Gisela Stuart has been a Labour Party Member of Parliament since 1997 and is a member of the Social Security Select Committee. She has been an academic lawyer and lecturer and is a member of the Electoral Reform Society and Charter 88.

**La Francophonie Observers*****Dr Gibering Bol Alima (Cameroon)***

Dr Gibering Bol Alima is a Member of Parliament in Cameroon.

***Mr Mahmad Ally Dahoo (Mauritius)***

Mr Mahmad Ally Dahoo is the Principal Electoral Officer of the Electoral Commission in Mauritius.

***Mr Michel Doucet (Canada)***

Mr Michel Doucet is the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Moncton (New Brunswick).

**ACCOMPANYING STAFF**

Commonwealth Secretariat

Mr Jon Sheppard,  
Team Leader  
Ms Cheryl Dorall,  
Media Adviser  
Ms Lorna McLaren,  
Assistant to Observers  
Dr Victor Pungong,  
Assistant to Observers  
Ms Praxede Weerasinghe,  
Administrative Secretary

L'Agence de la Francophonie

Mr Issoufou Mayaki  
Mr Philippe Pejo

## ANNEX II

Commonwealth News Release of 10 March 1998 Announcing the Joint Mission



# COMMONWEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

ANTIGUA AND  
BARBUDA  
AUSTRALIA  
THE BAHAMAS  
BANGLADESH  
BARBADOS  
BELIZE  
BOTSWANA  
BRITAIN  
BRUNEI  
DARUSSALAM  
CAMEROON  
CANADA  
CYPRUS  
DOMINICA  
FIJI  
THE GAMBIA  
GHANA  
GHENADA  
GUYANA  
INDIA  
JAMAICA  
KENYA  
KIRIBATI  
LESOTHO  
MALAWI  
MALAYSIA  
MALDIVES  
MALTA  
MALDITRUS  
MOZAMBIQUE  
NAMIBIA  
NAURU  
NEW ZEALAND  
NIGERIA\*  
PAKISTAN  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
ST KITTS AND NEVIS  
ST LUCIA  
ST VINCENT AND  
THE GRENADINES  
SAMOA  
SEYCHELLES  
SIERRA LEONE  
SINGAPORE  
SOLOMON ISLANDS  
SOUTH AFRICA  
SRI LANKA  
SWAZILAND  
TANZANIA  
TONGA  
TRINIDAD AND  
TOBAGO  
TUVALU  
UGANDA  
VANUATU  
ZAMBIA  
ZIMBABWE

98/13

10 March 1998

### Commonwealth and *La Francophonie* Joint Mission to Observe Presidential and National Assembly Elections in Seychelles

A team of nine observers from the Commonwealth and *La Francophonie*, the association of French-speaking countries, will be present in Seychelles for the Presidential and National Assembly elections which are to be held from 20-22 March 1998. The team will be supported by staff from the Commonwealth Secretariat and from *l'Agence de la Francophonie*, the secretariat of *La Francophonie*.

This is the first time that the Commonwealth and *La Francophonie* are sending a joint observer mission to elections in a country which is a member of both organisations.

In making the announcement today, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, said that the Commonwealth and *La Francophonie* were responding to requests from the Government of Seychelles for the two organisations to observe the Presidential and National Assembly elections. A Joint Assessment Mission from the Commonwealth and *l'Agence de la Francophonie*, which visited Seychelles in February, established that there was widespread support for a joint observer group presence during the elections.

The Joint Commonwealth/*La Francophonie* Observer Group to Seychelles will be led by the **Rt Hon Sir John Compton KCMG**, a former Prime Minister of St Lucia. The other observers will be:

<b>Mr Iqbal Masud</b> Former Civil Servant	Pakistan
<b>Ms Michelle C Momy</b> Electoral Officer	Canada
<b>Ambassador Anthony B Nyakyi</b> Former Diplomat	Tanzania

.. /2

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\* Commonwealth  
membership currently  
suspended

- 2 -

<b>Mrs Elaine Raftopoulos</b> Member of the Electoral Supervisory Commission	Zimbabwe
<b>Ms Gisela Stuart</b> Member of Parliament	Britain
<b>Dr Gibering Bol Alima</b> ( <i>La Francophonie</i> ) Member of Parliament	Cameroon
<b>Mr Michel Doucet</b> ( <i>La Francophonie</i> ) Dean, Faculty of Law University of Moncton (New Brunswick)	Canada
<b>Mr Ally Dahoo</b> ( <i>La Francophonie</i> ) Principal Officer of the Electoral Commission	Mauritius

The Group will be supported by a seven-member team drawn from the Commonwealth Secretariat and *l'Agence de la Francophonie*, led by Mr Jon Sheppard, Director of the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

**Note to Editors:**

This first joint mission by the Commonwealth and *La Francophonie* reflects a new spirit of co-operation between the two organisations in areas of common interest. The two organisations worked closely when they both observed Parliamentary elections in Cameroon in May 1997.

This will be the third time that the Commonwealth is observing elections in Seychelles, the last one being the Presidential and National Assembly elections in 1993.

## ANNEX III

## Arrival Statement of 13 March 1998



**Seychelles Presidential and National Assembly Elections 1998**  
**Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group**

20 - 22 MARCH 1998

**Arrival Statement**

We are pleased to be in Seychelles at this important time. We are here in response to requests from the Government of Seychelles to Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, and Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of La Francophonie, for the two organisations to send observers to the Presidential and National Assembly Elections scheduled for 20-22 March 1998. Our presence in Seychelles is supported by all the major political parties contesting the elections.

As Observers, we will be serving in our individual capacities and not as representatives of the countries, governments or the organisations to which we may belong. Our remit is to observe all relevant aspects of the organisation and conduct of the elections in accordance with the law of Seychelles, and to reach a conclusion as to whether the conditions existed for the people of Seychelles to freely express their will through the polls.

We have no executive role. Our function is only to observe the process as a whole. On completion of our task we will present a report to the Secretaries-General of our respective organisations, who will make it available to the Government of Seychelles, the political parties which contested the elections, and thereafter to all governments of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie.

In carrying out our mission, we will remain in close touch with the Electoral Commissioner and his staff. We look forward to being briefed by them on the preparations in hand. We hope to have meetings with representatives of political parties, non-governmental organisations and other interested groups. We intend to cover as much of these islands as possible, both before and on each of the three polling days, as well as to observe the counting of votes.

This is an historic occasion, not only for Seychelles but also for the two organisations as it will be the first example of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie observing elections jointly in a country which is a member of both organisations. We believe that this joint initiative will benefit the cause of the consolidation of multi-party democracy in Seychelles.

We are honoured to be here as guests in your beautiful country and greatly look forward to our mission.

*Mahé*  
*13 March 1998*



**Seychelles Presidential and National Assembly Elections 1998**  
**Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group**

20 - 22 MARCH 1998

**DÉCLARATION D'ARRIVÉE**

Nous sommes heureux d'être présents aux Seychelles en cette période importante. La mission conjointe d'observation est mandatée par les Secrétaires généraux de la Francophonie, S.E. Monsieur Boutros Boutros-Ghali, et du Commonwealth, S.E. Monsieur Emeka Anyaoku, à la suite de la requête adressée par le Gouvernement des Seychelles aux deux organisations, et appuyée par les partis politiques, pour l'envoi d'observateurs en vue des élections présidentielles et législatives qui se dérouleront du 20 au 22 mars 1998.

Les observateurs agiront à titre individuel et non à titre de représentants de pays, de gouvernements ou d'organisations. La mission prendra en considération les divers facteurs de l'organisation et du déroulement des élections en accord avec les lois des Seychelles et déterminera, en toute indépendance, si les conditions existent pour une libre expression de la volonté des électeurs seychellois à travers leurs votes.

La mission conjointe n'a pas de fonctions d'autorité; son rôle consiste à observer le processus électoral dans son ensemble et à formuler une appréciation en conséquence. A l'issue de son mandat, la mission conjointe soumettra son rapport aux Secrétaires généraux de la Francophonie et du Commonwealth. Ce rapport sera communiqué au gouvernement des Seychelles, aux représentants des partis politiques participant aux élections, et, également, aux gouvernements des pays membres de la Francophonie et du Commonwealth.

Pendant l'exécution de notre mandat, nous serons en contact étroit avec le Commissaire aux élections et son personnel. Nous aurons, par ailleurs, une rencontre d'information sur l'état de préparation des élections avec la Commission électorale. Nous aurons également des rencontres avec les représentants de tous les partis politiques, d'organisations non-gouvernementales et d'autres institutions concernées. Nous avons l'intention de nous déployer dans autant d'îles qu'il nous sera possible, avant et pendant les jours des scrutins. Nous observerons aussi le décompte des votes.

Cette mission est historique à la fois pour les Seychelles et pour nos deux organisations puisqu'elle constitue la première mission conjointe d'observation d'élection de la Francophonie et du Commonwealth dans un pays membre des deux organisations. Nous croyons sincèrement que cette mission conjointe servira la cause de la consolidation de la démocratie aux Seychelles.

Nous sommes honorés d'être les invités de ce beau pays et entrevoyons avec beaucoup d'intérêt la réalisation de notre mission.

ANNEX IV

Schedule of Engagements

**Friday 13 March**

- 0830 Joint Commonwealth/l'Agence de la Francophonie staff meeting
- 0915 Chairperson's meeting with Observers and Support Staff
- 0945 Press Conference
- 1030 Mr Gerard Ah-Shung (Electoral Commissioner), Mr Anaclet Tirant (Chief Electoral Officer) and Ms Barbara Quan-Yat-Coune (Chief Registration Officer)
- 1430 Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF): Mr Danny Faure (Principal Executive Co-ordinator), Mrs Aude Labaleine (Co-ordinator, Communications) and Mrs Marina Pascal (Assistant Co-ordinator, Communications)
- 1930 Chairperson's Dinner in honour of the Electoral Commissioner

**Saturday 14 March**

- 0900 United Opposition (UO): The Rev Wavel Ramkalawan (Party leader), Mrs Annette Georges (Treasurer) and Mr Roger Mancienne (Party Secretary)
- 1000 Mr Bernardin Renaud, Ombudsman and Chairman, Liaison Unit of Non-Governmental Organisations of Seychelles (LUNGOS)
- Afternoon Chairperson, Ms Momy, Ambassador Nyakyi, Mr Sheppard, Mr Mayaki and Ms Dorall attend SPPF rally on Praslin
- Mr Doucet, Mr Masud, Mrs Raftopoulos, Ms Stuart and Dr Pungong attend UO party meeting on Mahé

**Sunday 15 March**

- 1000 Visit to Election Headquarters to view preparations for the elections
- 1100 Tour of Mahé
- 1530 Attendance at Democratic Party rally on Mahé

**Monday 16 March**

- 0900 Mr Ibrahim Afif, Managing Director, Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation
- 1000 HE Mr John Yapp (British High Commissioner) and HE Mr Marcel Surbiguet (Ambassador of France)

- 1130 The Rev Bishop French Chang Him (Anglican Diocese of Seychelles) and the Rev Bishop Xavier Baronnet (Roman Catholic Church)
- 1400 Mr Matthew Servina, Chairman, Forum for Progress
- 1445 Democratic Party (DP): Mr Daniel Belle (Secretary-General), Mr Bernard R Elizabeth (National Committee) and Mr Georges Bibi (National Executive Committee)
- 1600 Mr Albert Payet (Chairman, Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and Mr Basil Soundy (Chairman, Federation of Employers' Associations of Seychelles)
- 1930 Chairperson's Reception for Observers and invited guests

### **Tuesday 17 March**

- 0900 Meeting of Observers to review events to date
- 1000 Mr Maxime Ferrari, Director, Seychelles Institute of Democracy
- Observation of door-to-door campaigns
- 1400 Mr Gaetan Didon (Assistant Commissioner of Police), Mr André Valmont (Chief Superintendent) and Mr Robert Georges (Public Relations Officer)
- 1630 Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier, Secretary-General of the Seychelles Women's Commission, and 11 representatives of member organisations
- Observers meet to discuss deployment arrangements
- Observation of door-to-door campaigns

### **Wednesday 18 March**

- 1200 Visits to the Headquarters of all political parties
- 1330 Some Observers attend Final Briefing of Presiding Officers by Electoral Commissioner
- 1400 Mr André Sauzier, former Director of Elections
- Afternoon Observers visit electoral areas and polling stations; check on arrangements for polling day; meet with candidates, party agents, representatives of District Councils, electoral officials and the general public

### **Thursday 19 March**

- 0930 Mr Bernard Adonis, Secretary, Federation of Workers' Union
- 0930 Chairperson, Mr Dahoo and Mr Sheppard call on President René at State House

1000 Chairperson, Mr Dahoo and Mr Sheppard call on the Foreign Minister at Quéau de Quinssy

1230 Press Briefing to announce deployment schedule

Observers assigned to polling stations on Mahé visit electoral areas; check on arrangements for polling day; meet with candidates, Regional Electoral Officials, representatives of District Councils, the police and the general public

1815 Mr Dahoo and Ms Stuart deployed to Praslin/La Digue

#### **Friday 20 March (Polling Day on Outer/Inner Islands)**

0700 Mr Doucet observes polling on Farquhar and Assumption

0800 Ambassador Nyakyi observes polling on Alphonse and Marie Louise

0800 Mr Masud and Ms McLaren observe polling on Silhouette

0915 Chairperson and Mr Sheppard observe polling on D'Arros and Remire

Other Observers check on arrangements for polling on 22 March on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue

#### **Saturday 21 March (Polling Day on Outer/Inner Islands)**

0800 Ms Momy observes polling on Desroches and Coetivy

0800 Dr Gibering Bol Alima observes polling on Bird and Denis Islands

0800 Chairperson, Mrs Raftopoulos, Mr Pejo and Ms Dorall observe polling on Fregate Island

Other Observers make preparations for polling day on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue

#### **Sunday 22 March (Polling Day on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue)**

Observation of the poll and the count in designated Electoral Districts

2115 Chairperson's press conference to announce Interim Statement

2300 Some Observers attend at Election Headquarters for declaration of results

00hrs Observers return from Praslin and La Digue

#### **Monday 23 March**

1630 Attendance at Swearing-in Ceremony of the President and Vice-President at State House

ANNEX V

Statement of 19 March 1998 on the Deployment of Observers



**Seychelles Presidential and National Assembly Elections 1998  
Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group**

20 - 22 MARCH 1998

**News Release**

19 March 1998

**Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observers Deploy for Elections**

Members of the Commonwealth/La Francophonie Joint Observer Group for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections will be present at polling in the Outer and Inner Islands of Seychelles on 20 and 21 March. The Observers will travel with the electoral officials and party agents accompanying the ballot boxes on planes or vessels to Farquhar, Assumption, Alphonse, Marie Louise, D'arros, Remire, Silhouette, Desroches, Coetivy, Bird, Denis, Platte and Fregate.

On 22 March, the Observers will be deployed to all constituencies in Mahe and Praslin, and on La Digue. They will observe the opening of the polls, the process of voting, the close of polls and finally the count at selected polling stations.

The Group will be deployed as follows:

Sir John Compton, Mr Jon Sheppard, Mr Issoufou Mayaki: *Les Mamelles, Plaisance;*

M. Michel Doucet, Ambassador Anthony Nyakyi: *Bel Ombre, St Louis, Port Glaud, Bel Air;*

Mr Mahmud Ally Dahoo, Ms Gisela Stuart: *Praslin, La Digue;*

Ms Michelle Momy, Ms Cheryl Dorall: *Takamaka, Anse Royale, Au Cap, Baie Lazare, Anse Boileau;*

Ms Elaine Raftopoulos, Dr Victor Pungong: *Mont Buxton, Victoria, Mont Fleuri, Roche Caiman;*

Dr Gibering Bol Alima, Mr Iqbal Masud: *Cascade, Pointe Larue, Anse Aux Pins, Grande Anse;*

M. Philippe Pejo, Ms Lorna McLaren: *Glacis, Anse Etoile, English River, Beau Vallon.*

Since their arrival on 12 March, the Observers have been briefed intensively on various aspects of the electoral arrangements by the Electoral Commission, the political parties and representatives of civil society.



**Seychelles Presidential and National Assembly Elections 1998  
Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group**

20 - 22 MARCH 1998

**COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE**

19 mars 1998

**Deployment de la Mission conjointe du  
Commonwealth et de la Francophonie  
pour les élections**

Les membres de la Mission conjointe d'observation, du Commonwealth et de la Francophonie, des élections présidentielles et législatives assisteront aux opérations de vote dans les îles éloignées et les îles proches de la République des Seychelles les 20 et 21 mars. Les observateurs accompagneront les agents électoraux et les délégués des partis politiques, transportant les urnes, dans leurs déplacements, en avion et par bateau, vers Farquhar, Assomption, Alphonse, Marie Louise, D'Aroos, Remire, Silhouette, Desroches, Coetivy, Bird, Denis, Platte et Fregate.

Le 22 mars, les observateurs se déploieront dans les circonscriptions électorales à Mahe, Praslin et La Digue. Ils assisteront aux opérations d'ouverture des bureaux de vote, aux opérations de vote jusqu'à l'heure de clôture des scrutins, et suivront les opérations de dépouillement et de décompte des suffrages dans certains bureaux de votes.

Les équipes d'observation, constituées par la Mission, se déploieront ainsi qu'il suit :

Sir John Compton, Mr John Sheppard, Mr Issoufou Mayaki : *Les Mamelles, Plaisance;*

M. Michel Doucet, Ambassador Anthony Nyaki : *Bel Ombre, St. Louis, Port Glaud, Bel Air;*

Mr Mahmud Ally Dahoo, Ms Gisela Stuart : *Praslin, La Digue;*

Ms Michelle Momy, Ms Cheryl Dorall : *Takamaka, Anse Royale, Au Cap, Baie Lazare, Anse Boileau;*

Ms Elaine Raftopoulos, Dr Victor Pungong : *Mont Buxton, Victoria, Mont Fleuri, Roche Caiman;*

Dr Gibering Bol Alima, Mr Iqbal Masud : *Cascade, Pointe Larue, Anse Aux Pins, Grande Anse;*

M. Philippe Pejo, Ms Lorna McLaren : *Glacis, Anse Etoile, English River, Beau Vallon.*

Depuis leur arrivée, le 12 mars, les Observateurs ont eu à leur disposition d'amples informations, sur les divers aspects des préparatifs électoraux, qui leur ont été fournies par la Commission électorale, les partis politiques et les représentants de la Société civile.

## ANNEX VI

## Schedule for Deployment

	20 March	21 March	22 March
<b>Team 1: Les Mamelles/Plaisance</b>			
Chairperson	D'Arros/Remire	Mahé	Mahé
Mr Sheppard	"	"	"
Mr Mayaki	Mahé	"	"
<b>Team 2: Bel Ombre/St Louis/ Port Glaud/Bel Air</b>			
Mr Doucet	Farquhar/ Assumption	Mahé	Mahé
Ambassador Nyakyi	Alphonse/ Marie Louise	Mahé	Mahé
<b>Team 3: Praslin/La Digue</b>			
Mr Dahoo	Praslin/ La Digue	Praslin/ La Digue	Praslin/ La Digue
Ms Stuart	"	"	"
<b>Team 4: Takamaka/Anse Royale/ Au Cap/Baie Lazare/Anse Boileau</b>			
Ms Momy	Mahé	Desroches	Mahé
Ms Dorall	Mahé	Fregate	Mahé
<b>Team 5: Mt Buxton/Headquarters Victoria/Mt Fleuri/Roche Caiman</b>			
Ms Raftopoulos	Mahé	Fregate	Mahé
Dr Pungong	Mahé	Mahé	Mahé
<b>Team 6: Cascade/Pointe Larue/ Anse Aux Pins/Grande Anse</b>			
Dr Bol Alima	Mahé	Bird/Denis/Platte	Mahé
Mr Masud	Silhouette	Mahé	Mahé
<b>Team 7: Glacis/Anse Etoile/ English River/Beau Vallon</b>			
Mr Pejo	Mahé	Mahé	Mahé
Ms McLaren	Silhouette	Mahé	Mahé

## ANNEX VII

### Observation Notes for Poll and Count and Check Lists for Polling Station Visits

#### OBSERVATION NOTES FOR POLL AND COUNT

##### PART A

The Observers may focus particular attention on the following aspects of the conduct of the elections:

##### THE CAMPAIGN

1. Balance of TV/radio election coverage and extent and nature of access by the parties (e.g., allocation of time for political broadcasts and advertisements).
2. Print media: nature of coverage and extent of access by the political parties.
3. The tone and content of material put out by the political parties, access to facilities.
4. The conduct of political meetings/rallies (permits for public meetings?).
5. The conduct of house-to-house canvassing of voters.
6. Nature, scale and effectiveness of office of Electoral Commissioner and other voter education on radio and television, in the print media and by other methods.
7. Activities/measures to encourage the participation of women.
8. Access to funds and sources of funds.

##### THE POLL

1. The location of polling stations.
2. Distances travelled by voters to polling stations, particularly in rural areas.
3. The procedure followed at the opening of the poll.
4. The length of time voters wait to cast their votes.
5. The adequacy or otherwise of facilities at polling stations and their state of readiness.
6. Availability of adequate supplies, e.g., ballot papers, official stamps and stamp-pads, indelible ink, etc.
7. The performance of electoral officials at the polling stations visited.
8. The procedures in place to ensure proper security of ballot papers, ballot boxes and official seals.
9. Arrangements to facilitate voting by women.
10. The steps taken to ensure that the secrecy of the ballot is assured.
11. The general atmosphere at the polling stations visited.
12. Access of party agents to polling stations.

##### THE COUNT

1. Inspection of seals.
2. The process of reconciling the number of people who voted with the number of ballots cast.
3. The determination of invalid ballots.
4. The facilities for parties to witness and verify the count and overall transparency.
5. Access by domestic and international observers.
6. The conduct of electoral officers.

## PART B

Questions that may be put:

### BEFORE POLLING DAY

1. Was the Voters' Register compiled in a satisfactory way? Were people missed out? Were the names of dead people or 'phantom voters' included?
2. Who are the election officials? How were they chosen? Are voters confident that they will be impartial?
3. Is the person in the street satisfied with arrangements? Will he/she vote? If not, is he/she afraid to do so? Were there any attempts to discourage/encourage the participation of women and were they effective?
4. Have all parties been able to campaign freely? Has the campaign been free of intimidation, etc? Have all parties had full access to the mass media?
5. Is there freedom to advertise and distribute posters, leaflets, etc?

### ON POLLING DAY

1. Before polling starts, are the ballot boxes empty? Are they properly sealed? Are all procedures being adhered to?
2. Are all parties represented at polling stations? Are they satisfied with the process?
3. Are voters apparently voting freely? Are they enthusiastic? Do they talk freely? Do they exhibit signs of fear or intimidation?
4. Do voters understand the procedures properly? If not, are the procedures being explained fully and impartially? Are attempts being made to suggest how voters should vote? Is anyone voting without a national ID card or other form of identification? Has any registered voter been turned away because they had no ID card?
5. Does the turnout indicate that women have been deterred from voting?
6. Is only one person at a time being allowed into the voting booth?
7. How long are voters waiting to vote? If a long time, are some being put off?
8. Will all parties be represented at polling centres throughout voting and count? Are party polling agents adequately trained and vigilant?
9. Will foreign observers have free access to all stages of the process?
10. Is the security presence effective/oppressive?

### THE COUNT

1. Are the boxes kept safe until opened? Are all parties present at opening?
2. Does the number of used ballot papers tally with the record of those who voted?
3. Are the papers counted properly? Are counting agents present? Are they satisfied with the procedure of the count?

**CHECK LIST FOR POLLING STATION VISITS**

Name of Observer(s): .....

Place and Region: .....

Polling Station: .....

Time of Arrival: .....

Time of Departure: .....

Voters in Queue: ..... Rate of Processing: .....

- 
- |    |  |                                |                                |             |
|----|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | <b>Opening of Poll:</b>                  | On time?<br>No/Yes<br>Details: | Procedures followed?<br>No/Yes |             |
| 2. | <b>Layout and Facilities:</b>            | Good?                          | Adequate?                      | Poor?       |
| 3. | <b>Polling Staff:</b>                    | Efficient?                     | Satisfactory?                  | Poor?       |
| 4. | <b>Security Presence:</b>                | Discreet?                      | Intrusive?                     | Oppressive? |
| 5. | <b>Complaints by Party Agents:</b>       | No/Yes                         | Details:                       |             |
| 6. | <b>Complaints by Voters:</b>             | No/Yes                         | Details:                       |             |
| 7. | <b>Presence of unauthorised persons:</b> | No/Yes                         | Details:                       |             |
| 8. | <b>Atmosphere at Station?</b>            | Orderly?                       | Tense?                         | Chaotic?    |
| 9. | <b>Secrecy of Ballot:</b>                | Assured?                       | Poor?                          | Uncertain   |

10. **Voting:**
- (a) Personation attempts alleged: No/Yes  
 Details:
- (b) Multiple voting attempts alleged: No/Yes  
 Details:
- (c) Women deterred from voting: No/Yes  
 Details:
11. **Closing of Poll:** On time? Numbers still in queue?  
 Procedure followed? No/Yes
12. **The Count:** Are procedures being observed? No/Yes
13. **Apparent fairness overall:** Good? Acceptable? Questionable?
14. **Other Comments:**



**LA FRANCOPHONIE**

**Mission d'observation des élections présidentielles et législatives aux Seychelles  
20 – 22 mars 1998**

Nom de l'Observateur :  
 Région /Lieu :  
 Bureau de Vote n°  
 Heure d'arrivée :

**Bureau de vote**

- Heure d'ouverture..... Heure de fermeture

- Composition du bureau :

- Complet :
- Incomplet

- Nombre d'électeurs inscrits

- Nombre d'électeurs attendant pour voter

- Temps d'attente : ..... Taux de participation : .....

- Présence de la sécurité :                    oui                     non

**Matériel électoral**

- Urnes    oui                     non
- Cadenas                                        oui                     non
- Isoleurs                                        oui                     non
- Liste électorale                            oui                     non
- Procès verbal de dépouillement        oui                     non
- Bulletins de vote en nombre suffisant    oui                     non
- Encre indélébile                            oui                     non
- Tampons encreurs                            oui                     non

Commentaires : .....

.....

.....

.....

ANNEX VIII

Interim Statement of 22 March 1998



**Seychelles Presidential and National Assembly Elections 1998  
Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group**

20 - 22 MARCH 1998

**Interim Statement by Sir John Compton, Chairman of the Joint  
Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Mission to the  
Seychelles Presidential and National Assembly Elections**

**22 March 1998**

The Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group has been present in Seychelles since 12 March 1998, and was preceded by a joint assessment mission in February. Our team consists of myself as Chairman, with five observers from the Commonwealth and three from La Francophonie, supported by staff from each organisation. Our observers are experienced parliamentarians, election officials, diplomats and academics representative of our member nations and sharing a common belief in the fundamental principles of democracy.

Our group has taken care to develop a thorough understanding of the background to these elections and in particular the process of transition to multiparty democracy in Seychelles. Since our arrival, we have engaged in an intensive series of discussions with all political parties, the electoral authorities, the media, and representatives of civil society. We have viewed the physical arrangements for the elections, toured all the electoral districts, observed rallies, political campaigning and spoken with a large number of concerned citizens. We observed the elections taking place on the Outer and Inner islands on 20 and 21 March, and today (22 March) we have had members of our group present in each of the 25 electoral districts; we have observed the opening of the polls, the conduct of all concerned throughout the day, the closure, and the count which is still taking place.

We are honoured to have been invited here for this important occasion. We hope that our presence has in some small way contributed to the continuation and consolidation of multiparty democracy in the Seychelles.

It is our impression that the electoral process itself has been very well planned, organised and conducted, and this is a credit to the Electoral Commissioner and his staff. It is also clear to us that the people of Seychelles, and the three political parties, embrace the democratic spirit, and are to be congratulated on the harmony and enthusiasm which have marked these elections. We were, however, disturbed to learn of an incident on the eve of the polls in which a person was seriously injured by gunfire from the National Guard. We regret that this incident upset what had otherwise been a peaceful election campaign.

Our Group has encountered a number of comments relating to the linkage which still appears to exist between the ruling party and the state apparatus, and which has allegedly affected the extent to which the elections were being staged on what is commonly described as a "level playing field". There is no doubt that the party in government has enjoyed a major advantage of incumbency, especially in relation to funds available for its campaign. In particular, we have noted, with concern, the method of payment of large amounts of social security benefits immediately before the elections, and consider this is a measure easily subject to misinterpretation.

At the same time, we believe progress is being made to separate the Party from the State, and whatever Government emerges from these elections must consider itself to be the Government of all the people of the Seychelles and not only of the people who voted for the winning party.

At polling stations and as part of the voter education programme, voters were assured that "Your Vote is Secret". In our view, the secrecy of the poll was indeed assured.

Thus, while we are aware of various complaints, we do not consider them of such magnitude as to have affected the overall outcome of the election. We therefore conclude that the conditions we observed allowed the free expression of the will of the people of the Seychelles.



**Seychelles Presidential and National Assembly Elections 1998  
Joint Commonwealth/La Francophonie Observer Group**

20 - 22 MARCH 1998

**Declaration provisoire de Sir John Compton, Président de la Mission  
conjointe "Francophonie-Commonwealth" d'observation des élections  
présidentielles et législatives aux Seychelles.**

**22 Mars 1998**

La Mission conjointe "Francophonie-Commonwealth" d'observation des élections se trouve aux Seychelles depuis le 12 Mars 1998, et a été précédée d'une Mission conjointe exploratoire en Février. Notre groupe est composé, ma personne mise à part, de cinq (5) observateurs du Commonwealth et de trois (3) observateurs de la Francophonie, et est assisté par par deux équipes de coordination technique envoyées par les deux organisations. Nos observateurs sont des parlementaires expérimentés, des responsables électoraux, des diplomates et des universitaires, provenant de pays membres de nos deux organisations et ayant en partage la croyance aux principes fondamentaux de la démocratie.

Notre groupe a particulièrement veillé à avoir une bonne connaissance du contexte politique et social de ces élections et, notamment, du processus de transition à la démocratie multipartite entrepris aux Seychelles. Depuis notre arrivée, nous avons eu une série d'entretiens approfondis avec tous les partis politiques, les responsables des élections, les médias et les représentants de la Société civile. Nous avons examiné les dispositions techniques mises en oeuvre pour la préparation des élections, visité toutes les circonscriptions électorales, assisté à des manifestations politiques organisées par les partis politiques pendant la campagne électorale et nous nous sommes entretenus avec des électeurs Seychellois rencontrés au gré de nos déplacements. Nous avons observé le déroulement des élections dans les îles éloignées et les îles proches les 20 et 21 Mars, et, aujourd'hui (22 Mars) les équipes mobiles d'observateurs ont sillonné les 25 circonscriptions électorales; nous avons, ainsi, assisté à l'ouverture de bureaux de vote et observé le comportement des personnes concernées par ces scrutins. Nous étions également présents au moment de la clôture

des opérations de vote et avons assisté au démarrage du dépouillement et du décompte des suffrages, activités qui se poursuivent encore à l'heure où la présente déclaration est rendue publique.

Nous sommes honorés d'avoir été invités à venir vivre, ici, et avec vous un événement aussi important. Nous espérons que notre présence a pu, un tant soit peu, contribuer à la poursuite et à la consolidation du pluralisme démocratique aux Seychelles.

Nous pensons que le processus électoral a été bien organisé, aussi bien dans sa conception que dans son application, et ceci est tout à l'honneur de la Commission électorale, en général, et du Commissaire aux élections, en particulier. Nous sommes convaincus, et nous en avons eu les preuves, que le peuple Seychellois et les trois partis politiques ont foi en l'esprit démocratique, et doivent être félicités pour l'harmonie et l'enthousiasme qui ont marqué ces élections.

Toutefois nous avons été désolés d'apprendre qu'un incident est survenu, la veille des scrutins, à l'occasion duquel une personne a été sérieusement blessée par un coup de feu tiré par un membre de la Garde Nationale. Nous regrettons qu'un tel incident vienne perturber une campagne électorale que l'on pouvait déjà considérer, d'une certaine manière, comme pacifique.

Notre groupe a enregistré un certain nombre de commentaires relatifs à la politisation, toujours vivace, au profit du parti politique au pouvoir, de l'appareil d'état, et qui a eu pour conséquence d'empêcher les élections de se dérouler, comme d'aucuns diraient, sur un "terrain neutre". Il ne fait aucun doute que le parti au pouvoir a tiré un avantage majeur du fait de sa position, spécialement en ce qui concerne le financement de sa campagne électorale

Nous avons constaté, avec un intérêt marqué, en particulier, le paiement, inopportun, avant la tenue des élections, de grosses sommes d'argent, provenant des fonds de la sécurité sociale et nous estimons que ces actions peuvent prêter à diverses interprétations.

Toutefois, et parallèlement, nous croyons qu'il y a un progrès en ce qui concerne la séparation de l'Etat et du parti au pouvoir et, selon nous, tout gouvernement qui sera installé, à l'issue de ces élections, devra se

considérer comme étant le gouvernement du peuple Seychellois dans sa totalité, et non celui de la fraction de la population qui a apporté les suffrages qui ont permis à son parti d'être victorieux.

Quant à vous, électeurs Seychellois, dans les bureaux de vote, et conformément au programme de formation des électeurs, vous étiez assurés que "Votre Vote est Secret". De notre point de vue, nous considérons que le secret du vote a été très largement respecté.

Ainsi, alors que nous parvenaient des réclamations de nature variée, nous ne croyons pas qu'elles aient été assez significatives pour avoir pu affecter le résultat final de ces scrutins.

Nous concluons que les conditions qui étaient réunies, à l'occasion de ces élections présidentielles et législatives, permettent l'expression du libre choix du peuple Seychellois.

## ANNEX IX

## List of Electoral Districts

**Elections , March 1998**  
**Polling**

<b>Electoral Areas</b>	<b>No of Eligible Voters</b>
<b>Anse Aux Pins</b>	<b>2717</b>
<b>Anse Boileau</b>	<b>2865</b>
<b>Au Cap</b>	<b>1959</b>
<b>Anse Etoile</b>	<b>2622</b>
<b>Anse Royale</b>	<b>2725</b>
<b>Baie Lazare</b>	<b>2119</b>
<b>Baie Ste Anne</b>	<b>2274</b>
<b>Beau Vallon</b>	<b>2617</b>
<b>Bel Air</b>	<b>2172</b>
<b>Belombre</b>	<b>2175</b>
<b>Cascade</b>	<b>2230</b>
<b>English River</b>	<b>2251</b>
<b>Glacis</b>	<b>2507</b>
<b>Grand Anse Mahe</b>	<b>1694</b>
<b>Grand Anse Praslin</b>	<b>2040</b>
<b>Inner Islands</b>	<b>1737</b>
<b>Les Mamelles</b>	<b>2137</b>
<b>Mont Buxton</b>	<b>2624</b>
<b>Mont Fleuri</b>	<b>2687</b>
<b>Plaisance</b>	<b>3052</b>
<b>Pointe La Rue</b>	<b>1866</b>
<b>Port Glaud</b>	<b>1476</b>
<b>Roche Calman</b>	<b>1268</b>
<b>Saint Louis</b>	<b>2655</b>
<b>Takamaka</b>	<b>1930</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56399</b>

## ANNEX X

## Final Results of Presidential and National Assembly Elections (1998 and 1993)

<b>Seat allocation</b>			
<b>1993</b>	<b>SPPF</b>	<b>DP</b>	<b>UO</b>
<b>Direct election</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Proportional representation</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>SPPF</b>	<b>DP</b>	<b>UO</b>
<b>Direct election</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Proportional representation</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

**Presidential Elections, March 1998  
Results**

Electoral Areas	Total Votes cast	Total Votes Rejected	Total Valid Votes Cast	Democratic Party Mr J.R.M. Maacham		The United Opposition Mr W.C.J. Ramakalawan		SPPF Mr F.A. Rene	
				No.	Valid Votes	No.	Valid Votes	No.	Valid Votes
Anse Aux Pins	2301	51	2250	332	14.76	431	19.16	1487	66.09
Anse Boileau	2446	30	2416	403	16.68	357	14.78	1656	68.54
Anse Etolle	2221	47	2174	303	13.94	514	23.64	1357	62.42
Anse Royale	2261	60	2201	216	9.81	431	19.58	1554	70.60
An Cap	1701	41	1660	147	8.86	486	29.28	1027	61.87
Bale Lazare	1856	47	1809	428	23.66	225	12.44	1156	63.90
Bale Ste Anne	1944	21	1923	173	9.00	214	11.13	1536	79.88
Beau Vallon	2152	50	2102	358	17.03	583	27.74	1161	55.23
Bel Air	1828	43	1785	263	14.73	409	22.91	1113	62.35
Belombre	1829	31	1798	321	17.85	431	23.97	1046	58.18
Cascade	1921	64	1857	229	12.33	289	15.56	1339	72.11
English River	1841	36	1805	251	13.91	372	20.61	1182	65.48
Glacis	2134	39	2095	366	17.47	436	20.81	1293	61.72
Grand Anse Mahe	1428	27	1401	141	10.06	222	15.85	1038	74.09
Grand Anse Praslin	1747	26	1721	231	13.42	246	14.29	1244	72.28
Inner Islands	1505	17	1488	90	6.05	183	12.30	1215	81.65
Les Mamelles	1826	52	1774	259	14.60	369	20.80	1146	64.60
Mont Buxton	2114	42	2072	321	15.49	496	23.94	1255	60.57
Mont Fleuri	2165	53	2112	316	14.96	453	21.45	1343	63.59
Plaisance	2518	45	2473	242	9.79	481	19.45	1750	70.76
Pointe La Rue	1605	32	1573	157	9.98	230	14.62	1186	75.40
Port Gaud	1278	36	1242	212	17.07	195	15.70	835	67.23
Roche Calman	1082	15	1067	99	9.28	166	15.56	802	75.16
Saint Louis	2154	42	2112	373	17.66	576	27.27	1163	55.07
Takamaka	1693	30	1663	196	11.79	303	18.22	1164	69.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>47550</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>46573</b>	<b>6427</b>	<b>13.80</b>	<b>9098</b>	<b>19.53</b>	<b>31048</b>	<b>66.67</b>

National Assembly Elections, March 1998								
Results								
Electoral Area	No of Eligible Voters <sup>1</sup> 5mth	Under 18 years	No of Eligible 18 and over	Total Votes cast	Total Votes Rejected	Total Valid Votes Cast	Democratic Party No.	% of Valid Votes cast
Anse Aux Pins	2717	86	2631	2301	52	2249	Danny F. Rath 215	9.56
Anse Boileau	1865	88	2777	2446	47	2399	Marie L. J. Loizeau 242	10.09
Anse Etoile	2622	76	2546	2223	53	2170	Alderick Benoiton 251	11.57
Anse Royale	2725	70	2655	2260	101	2159	Michel Valentin 256	11.86
Au Cap	1999	65	1894	1701	46	1655	Gina A. E. Michel 74	4.47
Bale Lazare	2119	97	2062	1857	60	1797	Louis C. Chetty 546	30.38
Bale Ste Anne	2274	71	2203	1944	24	1920	Lionel H. Marie 116	6.04
Beau Vallon	2617	63	2554	2152	47	2105	Paul B. Chow 353	16.77
Bel Air	2172	53	2119	1827	41	1786	Bernard R. Elizabeth 263	14.73
Belombrs	2175	55	2120	1830	46	1784	Juliette H. Aznis 279	15.64
Cascade	2230	71	2159	1921	58	1863	Jeffry J. Hermitte 172	9.23
English River	2251	99	2192	1841	42	1799	Hugues C. A. Hourcau 174	9.67
Glacis	2507	63	2444	2133	48	2085	Daniel J. Belle 490	23.50
Grand Anse Mahé	1694	55	1639	1428	38	1390	Hervey A. Anthony 109	7.84
Grand Anse Praliné	2040	58	1982	1745	36	1709	David G. Joubert 210	12.29
Inner Islands	1737	33	1704	1505	31	1474	Brian M. Quilindo 38	2.58
Les Mamelles	2137	60	2077	1827	93	1734	Jeanette M. Elizabeth 193	11.13
Mont Buxton	2624	64	2560	2112	52	2060	Gonzagues A. D'Orfby 410	19.90
Mont Fleuri	2687	99	2628	2181	84	2097	Ayub B. Adam 226	10.78
Plaineau	3052	72	2980	2524	33	2491	Gibert M. Groen 118	4.74
Pointe La Rue	1866	64	1802	1604	44	1560	Julienne F. Veidhuem 141	9.04
Port Glaud	1476	36	1440	1278	35	1243	Noélie F. Isaac 159	12.79
Roche Caiman	1268	53	1215	1082	15	1067	Jemmy A. Adria 66	6.19
Saint Louis	2655	72	2583	2153	41	2112	Georges R. Bibi 252	11.93
Takamaka	1930	49	1881	1693	38	1655	Michel P. Savy 256	15.47
Total	56399	1552	54847	47548	1205	46343	5609	12.10
Proportional Allocation							1.210	

National Assembly Elections, March 1998						Turnout=86.7%
Results						
United Oppositions No.	% of Valid Votes cast	SPPF No.	% of Valid Votes cast	Independent No.	% of Valid Votes cast	Elected
Ralph M G Volcere 669	29.75	Walter J F Confait 1365	60.69			Walter J.F. Confait
Gabriel F Houreau 537	22.38	Andre L B Pool 1620	67.53			Andre L.B. Pool
Ebrons Brochu 604	27.83	Roger J. Toussaint 1315	60.60			Roger J. Toussaint
Hardy D Lucas 530	24.55	Barry J J Fauré 1373	63.59			Barry J.J. Fauré
Anthony G Dery Jacques 737	44.53	Bernard A. Valentin 844	51.00			Bernard A. Valentin
Simon A. Belle 284	15.80	Angé D. Moril 967	53.81			Angé D. Moril
Karl E.R. Souffle 364	18.96	Milicy MT. Larue 1440	75.00			Milicy MT. Larue
Collin J Dyer 659	31.31	Marie-Louise C. Potter 1093	51.92			Marie-Louise C. Potter
Alan M. B. St. Ange 532	29.79	Georgie M. Nicette 991	55.49			Georgie M. Nicette
Nicholas G. Prea 575	32.23	Duany A. Lotarsu 930	52.13			Duany A. Lotarsu
Luc A. Chang-Ko 274	14.71	Charles J. De Commarmond 1417	76.06			Charles J. De Commarmond
Veral V. Dhaese 495	27.52	Patrick M. A. Hermine 1130	62.81			Patrick M. A. Hermine
Regina L. Dine 477	22.88	Gilbert F. Barbier 1118	53.62			Gilbert F. Barbier
Roger A. Mancienne 356	25.61	Waves W. William 925	66.55			Waves W. William
John J. Lablache 285	16.68	Karl R. Tamatave 1214	71.04			Karl R. Tamatave
Anna Rose E. Legge 285	19.34	Monica Jewhary 1091	74.02	Marston St. Ange 60	4.07	Monica Jewhary
Franky W. Simeon 475	27.39	Bramel J. Adeline 1066	61.48			Bramel J. Adeline
Gerald E. Julie 540	26.21	Linda J. William 1110	53.88			Linda J. William
Jean-Francois G. Ferran 604	28.80	Louis P.G. Gopal 1267	60.42			Louis P.G. Gopal
Bernard V.D.E. Georges 650	26.09	Vincent E. A. Meriton 1723	69.17			Vincent E. A. Meriton
Elbert M. Zialor 294	18.85	Dick P. Esparon 1125	72.12			Dick P. Esparon
David C. Pierre 302	24.30	Josette Gamatis 782	62.91			Josette Gamatis
Annette M. S. Georges 211	19.78	Jovana E. Charles 790	74.04			Jovana E. Charles
Wavel C. J. Ramkalawan 952	45.08	Bella T. Henderson 908	42.99			Wavel C. J. Ramkalawan
Patrick P. Larue 393	23.75	Berry Marie 1006	60.79			Berry Marie
12084	26.06	28610	61.71	60	0.13	
2.606		6.171		0.013		

Presidential Elections, July 1993 Results												
Electoral Areas	Total Votes Cast	Total Votes Rejected	Total Valid Votes Cast	Mr. F. A. Rene S P P F		Mr. P. J. R. Boule The United Opposition		Mr. J. R. M. Mancham Democratic Party				
				No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage			
				Tot. Vot	Valid V.	Tot. Vot	Valid V.	Tot. Vot	Valid V.			
Anse Aux Pins	2886	57	2829	1759	60.95%	62.18%	89	3.08%	3.15%	985	34.13%	34.82%
Anse Boileau	2478	24	2454	1540	62.15%	62.75%	36	1.45%	1.47%	878	35.43%	35.78%
Anse Etoile	2196	33	2163	1220	55.56%	56.40%	95	4.33%	4.39%	848	38.62%	39.20%
Anse Royale	2922	54	2868	1877	64.24%	65.45%	114	3.90%	3.97%	877	30.01%	30.58%
Belombre	1226	15	1211	536	43.72%	44.26%	56	4.57%	4.62%	619	50.49%	51.11%
Bel Air	1433	8	1425	738	51.50%	51.79%	69	4.82%	4.84%	618	43.13%	43.37%
Beau Vallon	2327	20	2307	1204	51.74%	52.19%	114	4.90%	4.94%	987	42.42%	42.78%
Baie Ste Anne	1639	13	1626	1167	71.20%	71.77%	58	3.54%	3.57%	401	24.47%	24.66%
Baie Lazare	1579	27	1552	928	58.77%	59.79%	44	2.79%	2.84%	580	36.73%	37.37%
Cascade	1702	17	1685	1117	65.63%	66.29%	26	1.53%	1.54%	542	31.84%	32.17%
English River	1830	26	1804	1025	56.01%	56.82%	77	4.21%	4.27%	702	38.36%	38.91%
Grand Anse Mahe	1318	11	1307	919	69.73%	70.31%	44	3.34%	3.37%	344	26.10%	26.32%
Grand Anse Praslin	1610	16	1594	1006	62.48%	63.11%	75	4.66%	4.71%	513	31.86%	32.18%
Glacis	1529	13	1516	780	51.01%	51.45%	46	3.01%	3.03%	690	45.13%	45.51%
Inner Islands	1463	15	1448	1132	77.38%	78.18%	62	4.24%	4.28%	254	17.36%	17.54%
Mont Buxton	2248	28	2220	1093	48.62%	49.23%	82	3.65%	3.69%	1045	46.49%	47.07%
Mont Fleuri	2963	23	2940	1682	56.77%	57.21%	129	4.35%	4.39%	1129	38.10%	38.40%
Plaisance	3805	41	3764	2160	56.77%	57.39%	169	4.44%	4.49%	1435	37.71%	38.12%
Pointe La Rue	1543	19	1524	1086	70.38%	71.26%	26	1.69%	1.71%	412	26.70%	27.03%
Port Gland	1003	17	986	632	63.01%	64.10%	38	3.79%	3.85%	316	31.51%	32.05%
Saint Louis	2545	26	2519	1135	44.60%	45.06%	137	5.38%	5.44%	1247	49.00%	49.50%
Takamaka	1339	10	1329	891	66.54%	67.04%	45	3.36%	3.39%	393	29.35%	29.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43584</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>43071</b>	<b>25627</b>	<b>58.80%</b>	<b>59.50%</b>	<b>1631</b>	<b>3.74%</b>	<b>3.79%</b>	<b>15815</b>	<b>36.29%</b>	<b>36.72%</b>

National Assembly Elections, July 1993 Results										
Electoral Area	Total Votes cast	Total Votes Rejected	Total Valid Votes Cast	S P P F No.	% of Cast	United Opposition No.	%	Democratic Party No.	%	Elected
Anse Aux Pins	2886	51	2835	Walter J. F. Confait 1707	59.15%	Archange Michel 157	5.44%	Georges R. Bibi 975	33.76%	Walter J. F. Confait
Anse Boileau	2479	45	2434	Andre L. B. Pool 1557	62.81%	Philippe M. Arisoi 83	3.35%	Phillip H. Jumeau 794	32.03%	Andre L. B. Pool
Anse Etiole	2196	31	2165	Roger J. Toussaint 1227	55.87%	Gabriel F. Hoareau 135	6.15%	Pat R. Barralon 803	36.57%	Roger J. Toussaint
Anse Royale	2922	66	2856	Barry J. J. Faure 1884	64.49%	Kathleen J. J. Pillay 239	8.16%	Simon J. Mondon 733	25.09%	Barry J. J. Faure
Bale Lazare	1579	33	1546	Ange D. Morel 858	54.34%	Lewis B. X. Alexis 50	3.17%	Louis C. Chelby 638	40.41%	Ange D. Morel
Bale Ste. Anne	1637	20	1617	Mitcy M. T. Lanue 1095	66.89%	Karl E. R. Souffe 207	12.65%	Darrel D. C. Green 315	19.24%	Mitcy M. T. Lanue
Beau Vallon	2327	25	2302	Marie-Louise Potter 1178	50.62%	Colin J. Dyer 138	5.93%	Paul B. J. Chow 984	42.29%	Marie-Louise Potter
Bel Air	1433	10	1423	Michael A. R. Rene 708	49.27%	Alain St Ange 101	7.05%	Bernard R. Elizabeth 618	42.99%	Michael A. R. Rene
Bel Ombre	1226	17	1209	Francis Macgregor 502	40.92%	Serge J.L. Rouillon 78	6.36%	Christopher C. Gill 529	51.31%	Christopher C. Gill
Cascade	1702	27	1675	C. De Commarmond 1163	68.33%	Ronnie M. M. Delcy 37	2.17%	M. Y. Diana Barra 475	27.91%	C. De Commarmond
English River	1830	33	1797	Patrick Hermihle 1016	55.52%	Anthony Juliette 148	8.09%	Rose Marie Hoareau 833	34.59%	Patrick Hermihle
Glacis	1527	12	1515	Gilbert F. Barbier 762	49.90%	Kevin Jean-Louis 36	2.36%	George K. Michel 717	46.95%	Gilbert F. Barbier
Grand Anse Mahe	1317	23	1294	Waven W. William 908	68.94%	Roger A. Mancieme 112	8.50%	Antoine Mathurin 274	20.80%	Waven W. William
Grand Anse Praslin	1610	23	1587	Michel G. Gardette 878	54.53%	Luc J.C. Grandcourt 232	14.41%	Daniel J. Belle 477	29.63%	Michel G. Gardette
Inner Islands	1462	39	1423	Monica Figaro 1080	73.87%	Anna-Rose Legge 169	11.56%	Rex S. Choppy 174	11.90%	Monica Figaro
Mont Buxton	2247	48	2199	Simon J. Gill 1070	47.62%	Anthony Derjacques 192	8.54%	Gonzague A. D'Offly 937	41.70%	Simon J. Gill
Mont Fleuri	2963	37	2926	Florence Benstrong 1585	53.49%	Jean-Francois Ferari 353	11.91%	Eddie J. Nicock 988	33.34%	Florence Benstrong
Plaisance	3805	54	3751	Jeovana E. Charles 1959	51.46%	Bernard Georges 907	23.64%	Jean Khambatta 885	23.26%	Jeovana E. Charles
Pointe La Rue	1543	20	1523	Dick P. Esparon 972	62.99%	Ralph M. G. Volcere 57	3.69%	Nichol J. R. Gabriel 494	32.02%	Dick P. Esparon
Port Glaud	1003	29	974	Jinette Gamatis 640	63.81%	J.M. Ian Deroie 54	5.38%	Mary S. Jumaye 280	27.92%	Jinette Gamatis
Saint Louis	2545	39	2506	Bella T. Henderson 1034	40.63%	Wavel Ramkalawam 546	21.45%	Josen M.V. Stravens 925	36.35%	Bella T. Henderson
Takamaka	1340	31	1309	Jeanne T. Marie 861	64.25%	Patrick P. Lanue 132	9.85%	Judy A.B. Esparon 316	23.58%	Jeanne T. Marie
<b>Total</b>	<b>43578</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>42866</b>	<b>24642</b>	<b>56.55%</b>	<b>4163</b>	<b>9.71%</b>	<b>14062</b>	<b>32.27%</b>	
Proportional Allocation				<b>6.32</b>		<b>1.07</b>		<b>3.61</b>		

## ANNEX XI

### Code of Conduct for Political Parties

#### Referendum and Elections

#### Code of Conduct

The Office of the Electoral Commissioner and registered political parties have agreed on a Code of Conduct to be adhered to by political parties, their members and supporters in an election or referendum.

This Code of Conduct is aimed at maintaining a peaceful atmosphere during an election or referendum campaign and on polling day.

- (i) Existing election laws and rules must be adhered to.
- (ii) All political parties and contestants will have to extend all necessary help and co-operation to the law-enforcing authorities.
- (iii) Everyone should be aware not only of his own rights, but should also respect the rights of others.
- (iv) All political parties and candidates participating in the polls will extend full co-operation to election officials and ensure their safety until the polls are over.
- (v) Election campaigns should be so organised that a congenial and peaceful atmosphere prevails during polling.
- (vi) Nothing should be done that will create tension and disrupt the congenial atmosphere of the election. All parties shall exercise restraint in speech, manner and conduct, and show respect for the opinion of others so that electioneering does not turn into a war of words and confrontation.
- (vii) It is expected that criticism of opponents will occur during electioneering. However, indecorous and provocative speeches, statements, posters, taunting, ridiculing and innuendoes shall be avoided. Parties shall be careful so that behaviour, statements or comments do not cause unnecessary tension.
- (viii) All political parties shall be vocal against violence. No party shall give indulgence to any kind of violent activity to demonstrate party strength or to prove supremacy. All political parties will extend co-operation to the law-enforcing agencies for recovery of illegal arms. No party will take any initiative for the release of any person arrested by the police, forcibly or with arms, during an election or referendum campaign or in the polling station during voting or in the vicinity of the polling station during polls.
- (ix) All parties and candidates will have equal opportunity for publicity. Meetings, processions and other campaign activities of opponents cannot be interfered with. Posters and banners shall be displayed only in accordance with the Code of Conduct set out in the Schedule hereto.

- (x) Assistance of the nearest law-enforcing agencies will have to be sought to resist and check any sort of election offence.
- (xi) Any attempts to influence voting through money or allurements are election offences. Everyone should be aware of these offences.
- (xii) No Government transport shall be used to carry voters to polling stations other than persons working for Government departments who are on duty or persons living in Government institutions. This rule does not apply to a person who has the use of a Government vehicle and the vehicle is used for self and family.
- (xiii) No Defence Force vehicles shall be used to carry voters, including Defence Force personnel, to polling stations.
- (xiv) Defence Force personnel shall not go to vote in their uniform.
- (xv) Political parties will not procure voters by forcible occupation of polling stations or through illegal activities in the polling stations.
- (xvi) No candidate or party can commit or give covertly or overtly any contribution, grant or favour to any individual, institution, body or organisation until election or referendum day for the purpose of election campaigning and obtaining votes.
- (xvii) The congenial and peaceful atmosphere for an election or a referendum cannot be disturbed by spreading untrue and motivated rumour or by having recourse to conspiracy.
- (xviii) No election camps, check-points and refreshment stalls shall be set up by political parties, their members and supporters. There shall be no campaigning of any sorts either individually or collectively on polling day. District Council offices shall be closed on the day of the election or referendum. Voters must be left alone when queuing up so that they are not influenced in any way.
- (xix) Where a voter is incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause or otherwise, he may ask the Electoral Officer to record his vote in the presence of a person selected by him.

In those circumstances the Electoral Officer shall satisfy himself that:

- (a) the voter is truly incapacitated as he claims to be;
  - (b) that the person who is to witness the vote has been freely and genuinely chosen by the voter; and
  - (c) that the vote expressed by the voter is free. In this respect the political parties shall not abuse this procedure to pressure incapacitated persons to vote in their favour.
- (xx) In addition to election officials, only the voters are entitled to enter the polling stations. The political parties shall make sure that their workers do not enter the polling stations and loiter therein. Only the polling and counting agents will remain seated at their designated seats in the polling station and discharge their responsibility from there. No disruption shall be caused by the moving or changing of accredited agents.
  - (xxi) No person shall, in a polling station or within a radius of 200 metres from a polling station, be allowed to wear or display any cloth, banner, insignia, logo, bill or board indicating affiliation to or support for a registered political party. This does not extend to the wearing of any dress or clothes of a particular colour.

- 1.0 Use of bulletin boards.
  - 1.1 Any election or referendum notice, political advertisement or announcement shall be displayed only on bulletin boards.
  - 1.2 These bulletin boards or hoardings will be erected only at certain specific places agreed upon by the Land Transport Division, Police (Traffic Section) and Planning Authority.
  - 1.3 The Planning Authority, Police (Traffic Section) and Land Transport Division shall agree on the size, height and number of the boards to be displayed in a particular area.
  - 1.4 The Department of Tourism and Transport (Tourism Division) has already erected some permanent bill boards in Victoria. Only advertisements announcing local events such as educational, cultural, social or recreational and tourism promoting activities should be displayed on these boards.
  - 1.5 Extra bulletin boards (temporary) may be erected and allocated to the different political parties.
  - 1.6 Boards will be erected only fourteen days prior to the day of the election or referendum.
  - 1.7 All boards and political displays must be removed by the political parties as soon as possible, in any case within fourteen days of the close of the poll in the election or referendum in accordance with regulation 13(2)(b) of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations, Cap 160.
- 2.0 Use of cloth banners.
  - 2.1 Easily removable cloth banners should be utilised as much as possible instead of pasted posters.
  - 2.2 Cloth banners shall be displayed only after the necessary permission has been obtained from the Land Transport Division and Police (Traffic Section).
  - 2.3 All banners shall be removed as soon as possible, in any case, within fourteen days after the election or referendum.
- 3.0 Use of paint.
  - 3.1 There shall be a total ban on the use of paint (liquid and sprays) to write upon, mark or paint any slogan on any road, pavement, telephone or electric post, wall, fence, etc, whether on public or private property.

This is an offence punishable under Section 183(j) of the Penal Code, Cap 73.
- 4.0 Electoral or referendum posters.
  - 4.1 Electoral or Referendum posters shall be affixed only on special boards erected for this purpose as set out in paragraph 1.

- 4.2 No poster or any other paper shall be pasted on any wall, building, road, pavement, telephone or electric poles, fence whether public or private property.  
This is an offence punishable under Section 183(j) of the Penal Code, Cap 73.
- 5.0 Respect of others and their property.
- 5.1 Political party members and supporters shall respect others and their property and shall refrain from causing damage to any property whether public or private.

ANNEX XII

Correspondence Between Electoral Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Ministry of  
Employment and Social Affairs

**Republic of Seychelles**  
**Electoral Commissioner**  
P.O. Box 741, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles  
Telephone: (248) 225147 Fax: (248) 225474



***Very Very Very Urgent***

March 17, 1998.

The Principal Secretary  
Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs  
Unity House  
Victoria

**SOCIAL SECURITY EMERGENCY PAYMENTS**

Please refer to our various telephone conversation of 16.3.98.

In order that I may be able to give a satisfactory reply to the numerous queries I have been getting on the above matter, I shall be grateful, if you would let me have a written explanation of the payments taking into consideration the following points.

- (a) the purpose of the payment
- (b) the procedure for qualifying for the benefit
- (c) the amount paid per person
- (d) which category of persons are qualified to receive the benefits?
- (e) why the payment were effected during the election campaign period?
- (f) the total amount of such payments during the campaign period (23 - 17.3.98).
- (g) the total number of persons who have benefited from the emergency payments during the campaign period.

I would also advise that your Ministry issues a press statement on the matter .

Thanking you for your kind cooperation.

  
**G P Ah-Shung**  
**Electoral Commissioner**

c.c. Rev. W Ramkalawan - re your complaint.  
Chairman - Com. Sec./La Francophonie  
Observer Group- re your query.

**MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

P.O. Box 190, Unity House, Victoria, Republic of Seychelles  
National Telegrams: EMPSA, Seychelles Telephone: (248) 323911/322321  
Telefax: (248) 321880, E-Mail Address: psmesa@seychelles.net



**Our Ref : MESA/3/21**

**Date : 18<sup>th</sup> March 1998**

**Mr G.P. Ah-Shung  
Electoral Commissioner  
AARTI Chambers  
Mont Fleuri**

**Dear Mr Ah-Shung**

Thank you for your letter of March 17<sup>th</sup> 1998.

I am pleased to forward information as follows :

- a) One-off payments under the current welfare system are given to individuals or families in distress : i.e. in order to deal with the aftermath of natural disasters or fires, as assistance to household expenses where unemployment or illness (not covered by other benefits) has affected the family income or when a death has caused additional and unforeseen expenses.
- b) Anyone in distress and/or in need of financial assistance on a one-off payment basis may approach the Ministry in correspondence or by seeking an appointment with officers concerned. An interview is normally held to assess the situation of an applicant. If it is evaluated to merit help, assistance is provided within days. If not, no financial assistance is given.
- c) The amount paid per person varies according to the need assessed. Payments have ranged from SR300 to SR1500. However in a few cases amounts exceeding SR1500 have been given.
- d) Anyone in distress whose case has been assessed to be genuine may be assisted.

.../2

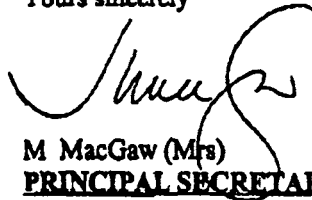
-2-

- e) One-off payments are made throughout the year. It is evident that periodically, some members of the public turn up to 'try their luck'. There was no reason to halt the procedure for one-off payments even during the period 2.3-17.3.98 as every case has been dealt with.
- f) In accordance with the social security legislation, I wish to advise that amounts of payments or the number of persons assisted cannot be made available.

The Ministry has not considered it necessary to issue a press statement on the matter.

I hope I have been able to clarify your query, but should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned again.

Yours sincerely




M MacGaw (Mrs)  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**










ANNEX XIII

Sample Ballot Papers

*SPÉCIMEN*

**BALLOT PAPER**  
**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**  
**MARCH 1998**



<b>MARIE, RICHARD, JAMES MANCHAM</b> <i>DEMOCRATIC PARTY</i>			
<b>WAVEL, CHARLES, JOHN RAMKALAWAN</b> <i>THE UNITED OPPOSITION</i>			
<b>FRANCE, ALBERT RENE</b> <i>SEYCHELLES PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE FRONT</i>			





**BALLOT PAPER  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

**MARCH 1998**

**POINTE LARUE**

*SPECIMEN*

<p><b>JULIENNE, FANETTE <u>VELDHUSEN</u></b> DEMOCRATIC PARTY</p>			
<p><b>ELBERT, MATHIEW <u>ZIALOR</u></b> THE UNITED OPPOSITION</p>			
<p><b>DICK, PATRICK <u>ESPARON</u></b> SEYCHELLES PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE FRONT</p>			

ANNEX XIV

Office of the Electoral Commissioner's Instructions on How to Vote

**HOW TO VOTE**

1. Go to the Polling Station where you have been registered as early as possible. The Station opens at 7 a.m and closes at 6 p.m. Bring your National Identity Card or any form of identification such as your passport to identify yourself. Avoid wearing anything which may identify you as a member of any Political party and which may excite supporters of other parties.
2. Queue in the line outside the Polling Station and obey the instructions of Polling Officers to maintain order.
3. Upon entering the Station, go to **TABLE 1** where the **Check Officer** will check your left hand to ascertain that you have not yet voted. He will then put your left hand under the UV light in a second test. If no ink shows on your thumb and index finger you will move to **TABLE 2** where the Documents Check Officer sits.

**1**

UV LAMP



4. **The Documents Check Officer** looks for your name on the Register of Voters for your Electoral Area and then calls out your name, National Identity Number (NIN) and your Date of Birth for the benefit of the polling agents who are also checking their copy of the voter's register. He then puts a ✓ against your name in the register to denote that you have made an application to vote.

**2**

ID CARD  
CHECK REGISTER



5. Answer any questions put to you by the Officer. You will then move on to **TABLE 3** to the Ink Marking Officer.
6. The **Ink marking Officer** marks your left thumb with indelible ink and sprays the index finger of your left hand with invisible ink. The officer then checks your left hand under the UV light to ensure that your thumb and index finger are well stained.

**3**

INK MARKINGS



**4**

UV LAMP



You then move on to **TABLE 4** to the **Ballot Paper Officers** to collect your ballot papers.

**5**

**BALLOT PAPERS**



7. There are two (2) Ballot Paper Officers. The first Officer tears two (2) ballot papers from the appropriate ballot paper books and passes them to the second officer who puts the official mark. He folds the papers to show you how to fold them after you have marked them.
8. **Look carefully at your two (2) Ballot Papers**
  - (i) The larger one, off-white in colour with black and gold border, is the ballot paper on which you shall indicate your choice of Presidential Candidate.
  - (ii) The smaller ballot paper, white in colour and without border is the one on which you shall enter your choice of candidate whom you wish to represent your district in the National Assembly. Both ballot papers will include the name of the candidates, their political parties, their party symbol and their photos.
9. Within the Polling Station you should not talk to anyone other than the Electoral Officer. If you are an incapacitated or illiterate voter, the person you select to act as your witness should not in any way attempt to or influence your vote. He/She should refrain from talking to you. He/She is there only to verify that the Electoral Officer or his Deputy has correctly recorded your vote.
10. Upon receipt of your ballot papers, go straight to a vacant polling booth and there you will mark your papers with the felt-marker which is provided. If you have any difficulty with the marker, please seek the assistance of an Officer.

**6**

**VOTING BOOTH**

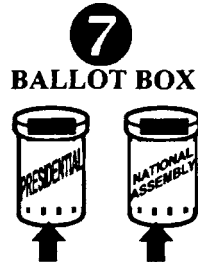


11.
  - (i) On the larger paper, off-white in colour with a black and gold border, insert a mark in the empty box against the photograph of the candidate whom you want elected President;
  - (ii) Then on the smaller paper, white in colour with no border, insert a mark in the empty box against the photograph of the candidate whom you want to represent your district in the National Assembly.

It is important that you only insert one (1) mark on each of the ballot papers. The mark can be a tick ✓, a cross + or a X. **DO NOT** write or insert any other marks on either of the ballot papers.

12. After marking your ballot papers, fold them on the right hand side first, then fold the left side on to the right side and then fold them in two.

13. After you have marked your papers, move out of the polling booth and go straight to the ballot boxes and put the Presidential ballot paper in the slot on top of the Presidential ballot box then put the National Assembly ballot paper in the slot on top of the National Assembly ballot box.



14. Leave the Polling Station promptly. Please vacate the Electoral Area immediately upon the casting of your vote.



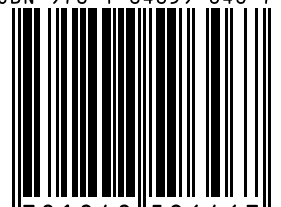
15. The Polling Station situated at the National Library will open at 7 a.m and will close at 12 noon. Voters from Praslin and Inner Islands who have not yet voted and who are on Mahe on the 22nd March 1998 may vote at this Station. They are requested to cast their votes as early as possible.
16. Voters from other districts on Mahe will not be allowed to use this Station.

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COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

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