

JUDICIARY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

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UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW WITH INTEGRITY

The Judiciary of Seychelles officially marked the beginning of the 2026 judicial year on Monday 12 January with the Reopening of the Supreme Court Ceremony, a long-standing national tradition that reflects the country's commitment to justice, democracy and the rule of law.

The day began with a solemn church service at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, open to members of the public.

Following the service, judicial officers and Judiciary staff participated in the traditional ceremonial procession through the heart of Victoria, passing the Clocktower and along Independence Avenue. The procession served as a visible reminder of the Judiciary's central role within Seychelles' constitutional framework and democratic life.

The official ceremony continued at the Supreme Court, where a guard of honour welcomed the Chief Justice and distinguished guests. The highlight of the event was the address by the Honorable Chief Justice, delivered under the 2026 judicial theme, **“Upholding the Rule of Law with Integrity.”**

He reflected on key developments in Seychelles' democratic process over the past year, including the peaceful conduct of the 2025 elections and the constitutional transition that followed. Iso spoke candidly about judicial credibility and public trust, particularly in a small society where court decisions have an immediate and personal impact. While reaffirming the Judiciary's respect for freedom of expression and open debate, he called for greater public understanding of judicial reasoning and cautioned against personal attacks that undermine confidence in the institution.





JUDICIARY APPOINTS NEW MAGISTRATE AND PROMOTES SENIOR MAGISTRATE

The Judiciary of Seychelles has marked an important milestone in the strengthening of the justice system with the appointment of Olivia Vel as Magistrate and the promotion of Ananth Subramaniam to the rank of Senior Magistrate.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Supreme Court this Monday 2 March in the presence of the Chief Justice, members of the Judiciary, representatives of the legal profession, and family members of the appointees.

Magistrate Olivia Vel brings with her a strong academic and professional background. She completed her Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws in England and also qualified as a civil-commercial mediator. After joining Victoria Law Firm in 2018, she successfully completed her pupillage under the supervision of senior counsel and was called to the Bar as an Attorney-at-Law in December 2022. Her appointment to the Magistrates Court marks the next step in her legal career and her service to the administration of justice in Seychelles.



The ceremony also recognised the promotion of Senior Magistrate Ananth Subramaniam, whose elevation reflects years of dedicated service within the legal system. He began his career as an Assistant Principal State Counsel in the Attorney General's Office in 2011, where he provided legal advisory services to various government ministries. He was appointed Magistrate in August 2021 and has since served with distinction. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law and a Master's degree in Philosophy.



WOMEN'S DAY

The Judiciary marked International Women's Day on Friday 6 March with a heartfelt celebration dedicated to the many women who form the backbone of our institution.

The day began with the distribution of small tokens of appreciation to our women staff. We were then honoured to welcome Marie May Jeremie, who delivered an inspiring talk reflecting on her journey as a woman in leadership and encouraging our team to remain confident, resilient, and purposeful in their paths.

The celebration was made even more special with a surprise visit from the First Lady, Véronique Herminie, who shared heartfelt reflections on womanhood, leadership, and the importance of supporting one another.

It was truly meaningful to hear both women speak candidly about their experiences and offer valuable advice to our team, a community made up predominantly of women committed to serving the public with integrity.



Observed each year on 10 March, Women Judges Day highlights the growing contribution of women in the judiciary. This year's theme, "Women Judges on the Bench and Beyond," reflects both the responsibilities and the wider influence of women judges in upholding the rule of law and engaging with the communities they serve.



MESSAGE FROM JUDGE BURIAN

"Happy International Women Judges Day! Justice is only truly accessible when the people delivering it reflect the diversity of those seeking it. As a young woman currently sitting on the Supreme Court bench, I am acutely aware that my presence alone, not only for a young girl watching court proceedings but also for a woman navigating a system that has historically not been built for her, demonstrates that this space belongs to her too. Beyond the courtroom, we carry that responsibility into every room we enter. Protecting access to justice is not simply procedural but personal too and for those of us who are also mothers, it is the world we are actively building for our daughters."

WOMEN JUDGES DAY MESSAGE FROM JUSTICE ANDRE

"This year's theme — 'Women Judges on the Bench and Beyond' — captures both our responsibility and our opportunity. On the bench, we interpret the law with fairness and precision. But protecting access to justice demands we step beyond it: into our communities, where we demystify legal processes and build public trust; into collegial spaces, where we learn from fellow judges across borders; and into our own chambers, where ethics must guide every decision.

To every woman judge reading this: your presence on the bench transforms what justice looks like to those who seek it. Your voice, your perspective, your leadership — they matter immensely. Continue to model integrity, extend empathy, and remember that in protecting access to justice, you are not only upholding the law but shaping a more inclusive vision of what justice can be. The bench is stronger because you are on it."



POLICE ACADEMY VISIT

Up to 40 Seychelles Police Academy-S.P.A recruits, aged 17-20 years, visited the Judiciary at the end of January for a tour of the Courts and a Q&A with the Chief Justice. These future officers showed genuine curiosity about how the law works and the justice system they will soon be working alongside. An important step in building understanding, collaboration, and preparedness for the responsibilities ahead



DONATION TO AUTISM SEYCHELLES ASSOCIATION

We donated a total of SCR 8,629.60, and 50 cents in Euros to the Autism Seychelles Association in February 2026, our chosen cause for this year's donation. The funds were collected at our church service held as part of the annual Reopening of the Supreme Court ceremony. Members of the association attended the official handing over ceremony at the Palais de Justice, accepting the funds from the Chief Justice, and expressed their appreciation for the support.



Upholding the Rule of Law with Integrity





JOB FAIR

Members of the Judiciary were happy to meet so many members of the public at the Job Fair in February organized by the Ministry of Employment and Human Resource Planning. We collected CVs, spoke about our various schemes in the positions we're hiring, and talked about what it's really like working in the justice system.

Thank you to all who stopped by, showed interest, and even those we could interview on site. It was truly a productive day for prospective employees to meet various businesses, hotels, and institutions like ours.

COURTESY CALL

THE Mr Stefano Toscano, Ambassador Designate of the Swiss Confederation to the Republic of Seychelles, paid a courtesy call to the Chief Justice this Wednesday 25 February at the Palais de Justice.

The aim of the meeting was to introduce himself and his mandate, get better acquainted with the functionings of the Courts, and to briefly discuss how Seychelles' laws are set up. The Chief Justice welcomed him, and gave him a run down of the basics of the legal systems and mechanisms currently in place.

His Excellency was accompanied by Ms. Ilaria Isola, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Seychelles.



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UNODC VISIT

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) visited Seychelles for the Prosecutors Network Forum (PNF) last week with a total of 16 participants in attendance. In connection with the Forum, the Prosecutors met the Honourable Chief Justice, Rony Govinden, to discuss how the Seychelles Courts function and to compare jurisdictions' justice systems. The exchange focused on areas of maritime crime, the need to charter a new path for the legal system as there was little caselaw to refer to historically, and the assistance Seychelles receives with interpreters and extraditing accused persons. The Judiciary always welcomes fruitful exchanges and collaborations with the legal world beyond Seychelles' borders.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE

A group of teachers currently undergoing training at SITE on various topics related to citizenship and understanding the State visited the Supreme Court last week to know more about the Judiciary. Our Public Relations Officer, Sasha Marivel, gave a short talk on the concepts of separation of powers, rule of law, supremacy of the Constitution, and functions of the various Courts. They also had the opportunity to meet the Chief Justice and visit some courtrooms. The Judiciary supports the notion that educators of future generations need to be fully equipped to teach vital aspects on one's country, government functions, and the justice system which all contribute to society running smoothly.



STANDING TOGETHER FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

Our Judiciary team proudly wore blue in support of Autism Awareness Day on 2 April. The Autism Seychelles Association was our chosen cause for this year's special collect of funds at the Reopening of Courts church ceremony in January, so it was only fitting that we show solidarity on this important day that highlights the inclusion, understanding and support for individuals on the autism spectrum.



SCHOOL TOUR

A group of students from the Perseverance Secondary School visited the Palais de Justice on Thursday 2 April to learn more about the Courts and justice system. Our Head of Public Relations Ms. Sasha Marivel gave them a talk about the three branches of government and how the Judiciary functions, before taking them on a tour of the premises. The highlight of their visit was sitting in court to follow a few minutes of a criminal case ongoing in the Supreme Court, where they were able to see court proceedings live and in action. We were pleased to have this group and their teachers visit us and are always open to raising awareness and inspiring youths to learn more about their country.



STAFF CELEBRATE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH COMPLETED COURSES

Four members of staff recently completed professional studies at the Guy Morel Institute. On Friday 27 February, Ingrid Dodin, Joshuanna Sandapin, Marcia Shirine Govinden, and Shabella Simeon graduated after successfully completing their respective programmes. Ingrid obtained a Diploma in Office and Records Management, Joshuanna completed a Diploma in General Management, Marcia earned a Diploma in Human Resource Management, while Shabella graduated with a Certificate in Human Resource Management.

Reflecting on her experience, Ingrid described the programme as challenging but rewarding. She shared that while balancing studies and work required determination, she now looks forward to applying her newly acquired skills to enhance her work within the Judiciary.

For Shabella, the journey was particularly long and demanding. Having taken six years to complete her certificate due to various challenges along the way, she expressed pride in reaching the finish line and encouraged others not to give up on their goals. She advises colleagues to remain persistent and committed to what they truly want to achieve.

Marcia also spoke about the valuable lessons from her studies in human resource management. She explained that one of the most challenging aspects was learning how to translate theory into practice. "Human resource management is about people, and people are complex," she noted, adding that this very challenge is what continues to inspire and motivate her in the field.



OATHS AND CALLS TO THE BAR

The legal profession welcomed a new member on Friday 6 February, as Mrs. Kimberly D'Offay was formally called to the Bar during a ceremony held at the Palais de Justice, before the Chief Justice and Judge David Esparon of the Supreme Court.

Mrs. D'Offay joins the Attorney General's Office, where she completed her two-year pupillage.



Tahyra Morin and Neesha Monthy both took their oaths on Thursday 26 February before the Chief Justice at the Palais de Justice. The purpose of the oath was so they can operate under their new roles as Notaries.



Ms. Kim Hoareau took her oaths on Monday 30 March before the Chief Justice for her new role as Pupil State Counsel in the Attorney General Office Seychelles. Family, friends, and colleagues from the AG's Office attended the short ceremony at the Palais de Justice to witness this event.



THANK YOU!

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