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A Better Life For All Seychellois

**Manifesto
Presidential Election 2011**



SEYCHELLES NATIONAL PARTY





Foreword

The determination of the SNP to achieve a free, democratic and prosperous Seychelles has never faltered. We continue to strive for a country where your rights are respected and where you and your children will be able to have all the opportunities that the country can offer.

The SNP is ready to form a Government that will manage all sectors of our national affairs competently for the next five years. Our aim is to solve the problems that we face today, so that we can work for solid progress in the interest of all the people of Seychelles. Within this program, I have set four priorities for the next five years:

1. Bringing the people of Seychelles together in unity
2. Raising earnings of workers and families
3. Removing politics from everyday life
4. Making our national institutions effective for modern government

To make real progress as a nation, we need to bring the people of Seychelles together so that everyone can share in a bold vision for the future.

Our Government will aim to build a strong economy under Seychellois ownership. Economic growth must mean improving the earnings of workers, as an essential part of ensuring prosperity for all Seychellois.

We will remove politics from everyday life and from the day to day work of Government. This will allow Government services to be delivered without political considerations and eliminate discrimination.

To modernise Government we need to ensure that all its parts work together effectively. This requires that all our national institutions play their full role in a democratic society. It is strong institutions which will ensure that Seychelles is governed well, that Government works for the people and delivers the services that people need effectively.

This manifesto contains the actions that will enable us to achieve the priorities that I have set out above. They are our plans for Government.

History will be made on May 21, 2011. That day will see the first peaceful change of Government since we became a nation. This is an event that all Seychellois will be able to share in. I invite each and every one of you to be part of it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James', with a horizontal line underneath it.

A Better Life For All Seychellois

The mission of an SNP Government led by Wavel Ramkalawan is to bring a better life for all Seychellois. The mandate we seek from the people of Seychelles is to lead our country during the next five years to an era of unity and stability, when Seychellois can lead a prosperous life assured of freedom and good government under the rule of law.

This manifesto contains our pledges in that mission. The key areas are:

Making Workers and Families Better Off

- Fairer Taxes
- Better Salaries
- Bringing Down the Cost of Living
- Guarantee of a First Job
- Building a Strong, Stable Economy

Owning Seychelles : Safeguarding Nationality and Land

- No Sale of Seychellois Nationality
- Our Right to our Islands and Beaches
- Priority for Seychellois in Land for Business and Homes
- Preserving Land for Future Generations

Your Right To Services

- Government Services Without Politics
- Your Right to a Home
- An Effective Health Service
- Quality Education

A Safe Seychelles

- A Stop To Drugs
- Protecting You from Crime
- Tackling Social Problems
- Strong Communities

An Effective State

- Leadership You Can Believe In
- Government that Delivers
- Public Service for Modern Government
- Effective National Institutions

Making Workers and Families Better off

Seychelles must be a country that assures a good standard of living for its people. Everyone has the right to a job or a business where he or she can work with dignity and earn enough to ensure that the needs of the family are fully met. Everyone must have the possibility to save for the future.

Under James Michel, life has become harder for Seychellois.

Prices have doubled because of the devaluation of the rupee. Seychelles is too expensive for its people

Salaries have remained unchanged for almost all workers

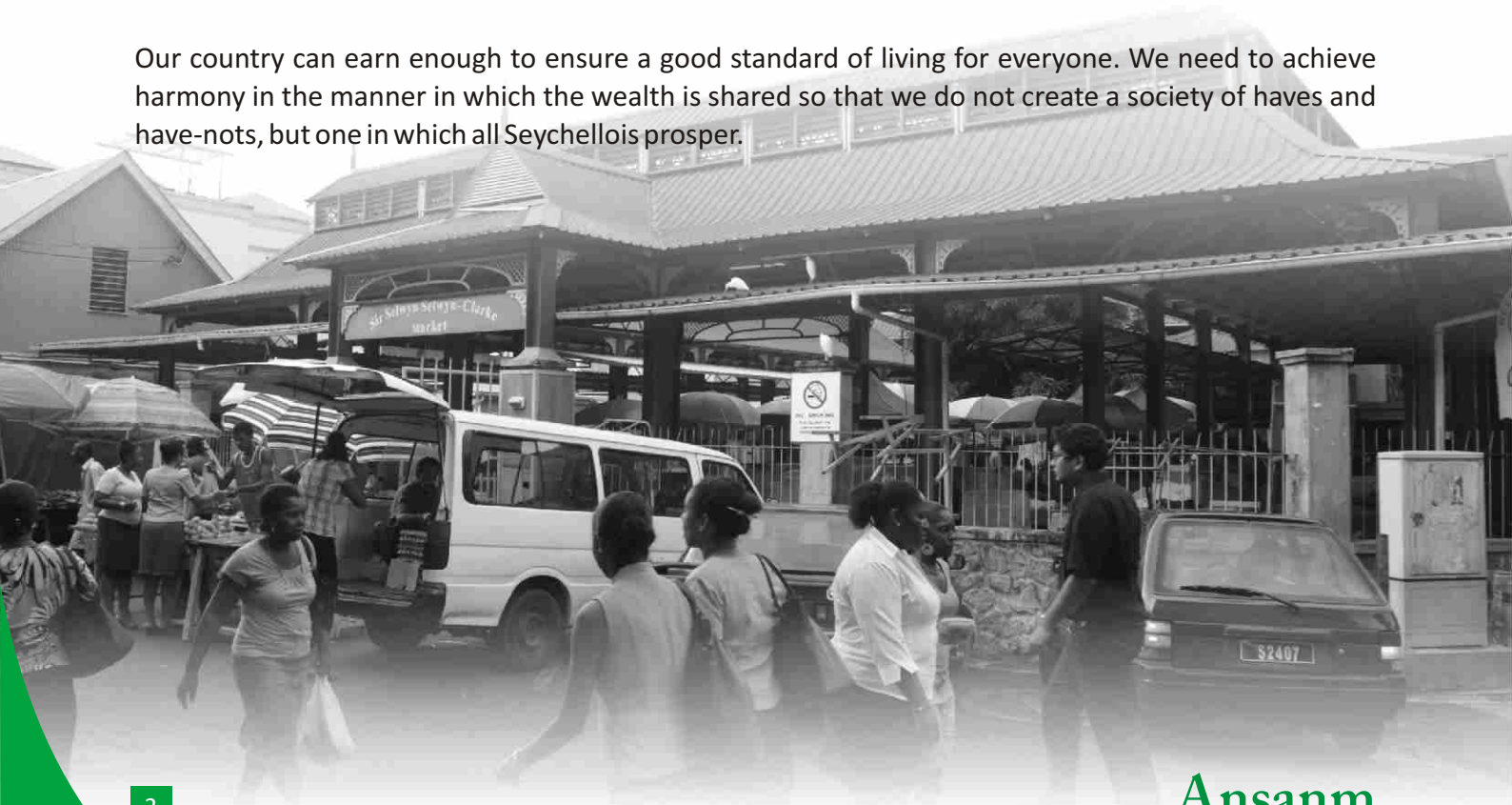
Many people have lost their jobs and have not been able to go back to earning a living

Many young people have not been able to find their first job to make a start in life.

Seychelles has been developing into a two-class society with those who are able to reap benefits from the resources and opportunities that the country offers and those who have to work for low-level salaries, burdened with high costs and taxes, without hope of progress.

It is now time to redress these trends and allow Seychellois workers to increase their earnings while Government focusses on bringing down the cost of living.

Our country can earn enough to ensure a good standard of living for everyone. We need to achieve harmony in the manner in which the wealth is shared so that we do not create a society of haves and have-nots, but one in which all Seychellois prosper.



OUR PLEDGES

to make workers and families better off

✓ Lower Taxes for Workers

The SNP Government will revise the present personal income tax schedule to reduce taxes for the large majority of workers. This will mean that Seychellois families will have more money in their monthly budget.

- Workers earning below R5000 per month will not pay income tax
Tax rates will be on a scale of 0% to 20% : The top rate of 20% will apply to high income earners of over R20,000 per month
- There will be no tax on the first 20 hours of overtime work and on gratuity payments below R10,000
- Tax refunds will be granted on a scheduled range of essential expenses, for example for education and health care

✓ Better Salaries

- We will be committed to an increase in salaries for the public service. Salary scales will be reviewed regularly in line with the cost of living.
- We will establish a process in consultation with the private sector to ensure comparable earnings for all workers. We will establish clear regulations for the payment of productivity rewards such as service charges in the hotel industry.

✓ Removing GST on Essential Commodities

- SNP will take action to bring down the cost of living.
We will remove GST on a greater range of essential food and household commodities to make for a real reduction in the cost of goods.

✓ Ensuring Jobs

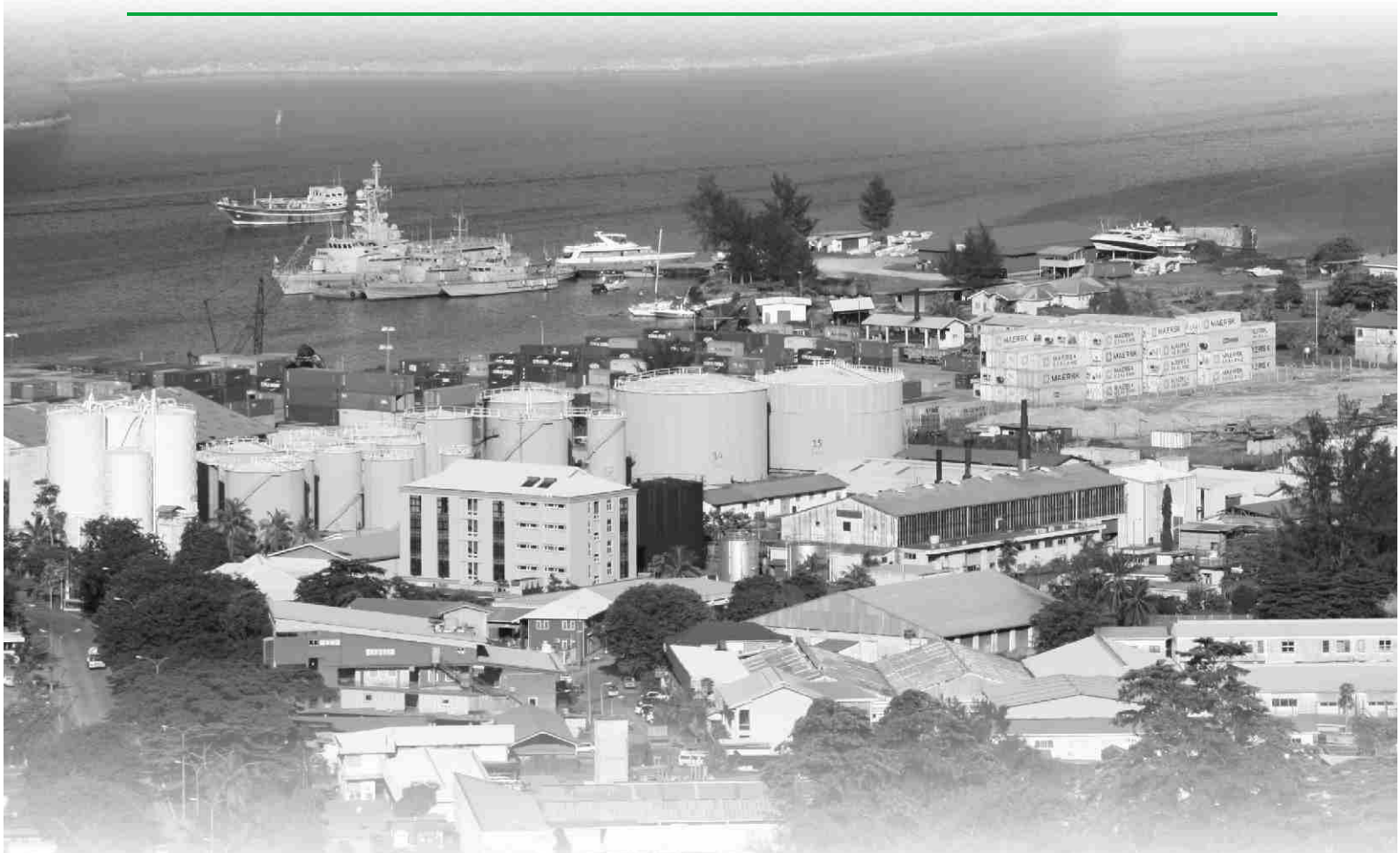
SNP will end the cutbacks in the public service and ensure that people are secure in their employment.

- We will establish a scheme to place young people in their first job, providing incentives for employers to participate in the scheme.

✓ A Strong Role for the STC

The STC will be made to play a more effective role in bringing down prices by consolidating its activities as a wholesale importer under a mandate to import commodities at lowest possible cost. The SNP will promote more competition by encouraging and assisting new entrepreneurs in commerce.

Building A Strong, Stable Economy Owned by Seychellois



Our country has been through a period of economic crisis brought on by years of wrong policies and mismanagement which had to be corrected with painful reforms. These reforms have brought some necessary structural changes but the results have not reached a majority of the population. Ordinary people continue to feel the hardships of high taxes and high prices.

The new economic directions set by the reforms have long been promoted by the SNP and we will maintain the positive changes. But there is a need to redirect economic activities in favour of Seychellois. We must secure a better place for Seychellois in building the country's economic future and earning a better share of the benefits

At the same time, we will redirect foreign investments to advance large-scale enterprises that open up new areas of economic activity. We will pursue the potential for oil exploration and will be ready to ensure that any development is in the interests of Seychelles and its people.

Waste and corruption remain endemic evils which will be eradicated by allowing our national institutions to play their rightful role in government.

OUR PLEDGES

for a strong economy owned by Seychellois

✓ **Seychellois must own our economy**

The SNP Government will build the economy on Seychellois ownership.

In order to ensure a stake for Seychellois entrepreneurs, economic activities requiring low and medium level of capital investment will be reserved for Seychellois. These will include small hotels, taxi and transport services, car and boat hirers, small to medium scale manufacturing. We will promote and encourage Seychellois share ownership and joint ventures in larger businesses.

✓ **New Investments in key industries**

We will make new investments in our key industries - tourism and fisheries - so that they remain viable for the future. We will open the way for new investments in fisheries with joint venture projects in aquaculture and fish processing so that we earn more from our natural resources. The SNP Government will create the framework for Seychelles to build its own commercial fishing fleet.

✓ **Produce more for the tourism industry**

Seychellois must produce more for the tourism industry. The SNP Government will create the framework and conditions to enable Seychellois producers to establish viable enterprises in food production, so that we meet more of the needs of the tourism industry and earn more from it.

✓ **Land for farming and business**

Land allocation is the key to developing economic activities. The SNP will complete a Land Use Plan which includes the reclaimed islands to make land available for new activities in agriculture, food production, tourism and manufacturing.

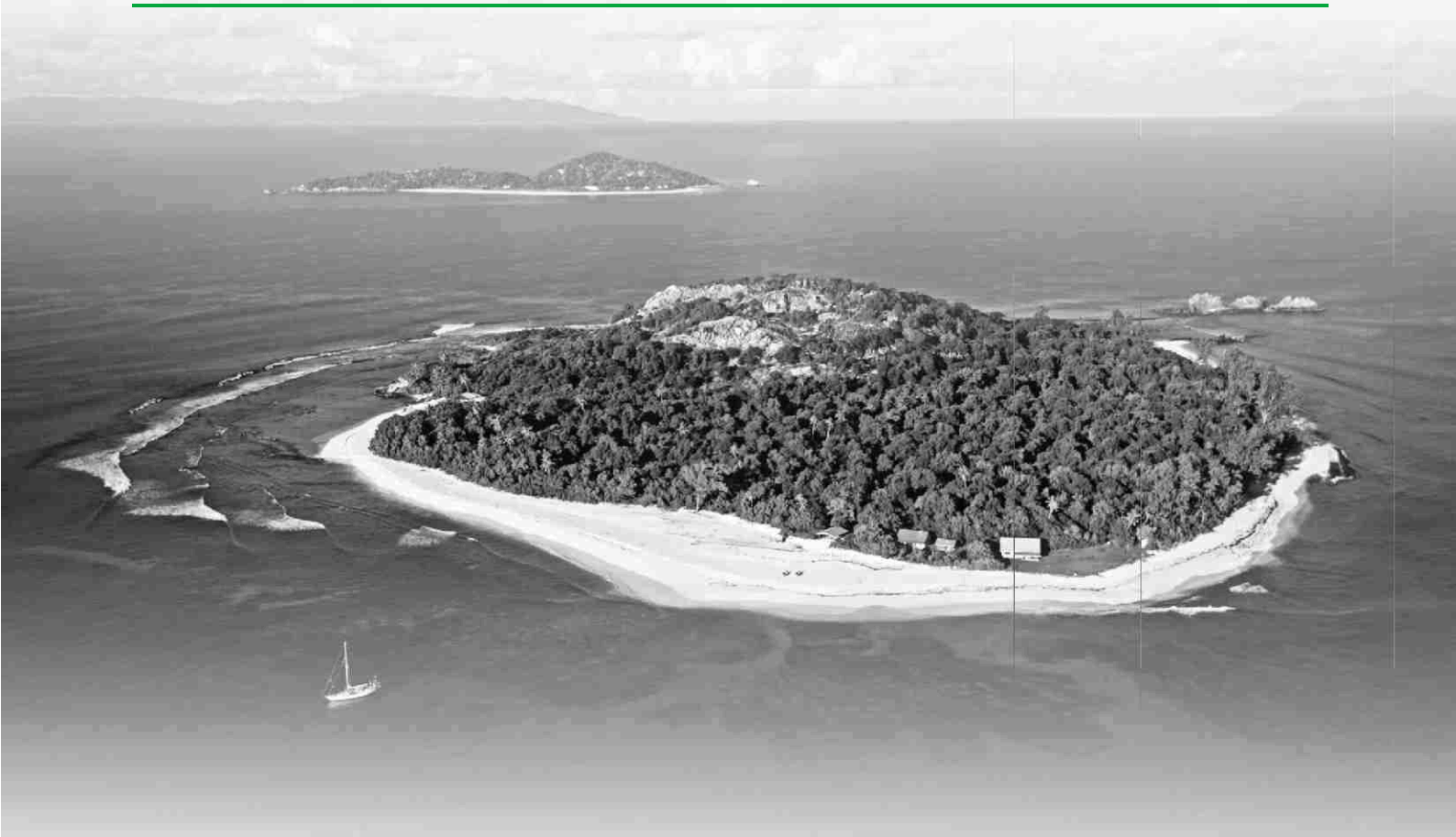
Our secondary islands represent a large part of our territory which remains undeveloped and under-utilised. The SNP Government will initiate a new development plan for Praslin and La Digue based on efficient use of available land and restore the food production potential of these islands. We will promote the integrated development of our islands with the participation of Seychellois in tourism, agriculture and fisheries.

Land allocation has been done without transparency and fairness. It has depended on political connections and corruption. The SNP Government will make public a register of state owned land available for various uses and establish an independent process for processing applications for land. Our national institutions must play their role in safeguarding against corruption in land allocation.

✓ **Building a dam and improving infrastructure**

There cannot be sustainable economic growth without infrastructure improvement. The SNP will be committed to expanding essential infrastructure. We will build a new dam to ensure our water supply for economic growth and to avoid the hardship that we have experienced because of lack of water storage.

Owning Seychelles : Safeguarding Nationality and Land



It is the Seychellois who own Seychelles. We are determined to safeguard sovereignty over all of our territory, and to preserve our cultural identity and natural environment so that future generations can enjoy the same country that we cherish today.

The SNP will have firm and fair policies on nationality and citizenship. Nationality will not be for sale. It will be granted only in specific circumstances to spouses of Seychellois who also have long standing ties to Seychelles.

Seychelles is a small country with very limited land resources. We have to allocate land for development carefully so that Seychellois have priority and so as to protect the right of future generations to land for homes and businesses.

Foreign investment will be welcome, but carefully assessed to serve the development priorities and interests of the people of Seychelles. Seychellois must have a greater share in building the country's economic prospects and in the wealth it creates.

The SNP will be fully committed to safeguarding our territory, exclusive economic zone and all national interests from piracy or any external threats, as well as to the protection of life and all lawful interests within our region.

OUR PLEDGES

to safeguard Seychellois nationality and land

Nationality will not be sold.

Citizenship will not be sold but can only be earned with long term association with Seychelles. However we will make it easier for foreign investors to manage their investment and for foreign spouses to work in Seychelles.

Foreign investors will be granted long term residency permits to allow them to manage and enjoy their investments but they will not be allowed to vote or be granted nationality.

Foreign spouses of Seychellois citizens will be granted permanent residency and work permits at no charge. They will be eligible for citizenship after a specified period of continuous residency and proof of family ties.

No island will be sold or leased as a whole to any investor.

Development on all our islands must respect the right of access by Seychellois. Islands will not be given over exclusively for one project. Development will incorporate diverse activities, especially those such as agriculture, fishing and crafts in which Seychellois can participate.

Land sales to meet needs of projects

The SNP Government will respect the right of private Seychellois owners to sell or lease their property as they wish. Foreign residents will be granted sanction to buy land only for specific projects including home-building, and not for speculation. Foreign investors will be required to develop their properties for the projects approved when purchasing land.

Access to all beaches will be guaranteed by law.

The SNP will enact a law to establish public access to all beaches while respecting the right of owners to privacy and enjoyment of their own property. The state will seek to preserve available beachfront areas for common use.

Caring for our environment

Preserving Seychelles for future generations also means safeguarding our natural environment. We will reinforce our national environmental management plan in collaboration with non-governmental organisations and international groups so that Seychelles remains what it is today and is able to face challenges that arise from natural causes or from development pressures.

A Strong Coastguard Force

The SNP has always been committed to strengthening our coastguards to be an effective force in defending our territory and national interests. We will provide resources and leadership for the force to meet the challenges of piracy and to make our contribution to security in our region.

Serving People Without Politics



Politics must have its right place in our country but not be allowed to intrude in all areas of personal life and government services.

In Government, the SNP will put an end to all forms of political discrimination in jobs, licencing, housing and other government services. People will know that whatever political party they support, they have an equal right to the services provided by the state.

The SNP stands for fairness and transparency in the decisions and actions of local government. People must know where they stand. The SNP will introduce a system of local government which will include representation of all relevant political views. Everyone must have a voice in deciding what is necessary for the community and how money allocated to the district should be spent. The District Administration must serve all the people free of political considerations.

OUR PLEDGES

To serve people without politics

An End to Political Discrimination

The SNP Government will establish, and make clear publicly, a policy of non-discrimination which will ensure that access to all jobs and services must be without political consideration and delivered according to the needs and merits of persons. The President will deal immediately with complaints that may arise.

District Administration Without Politics

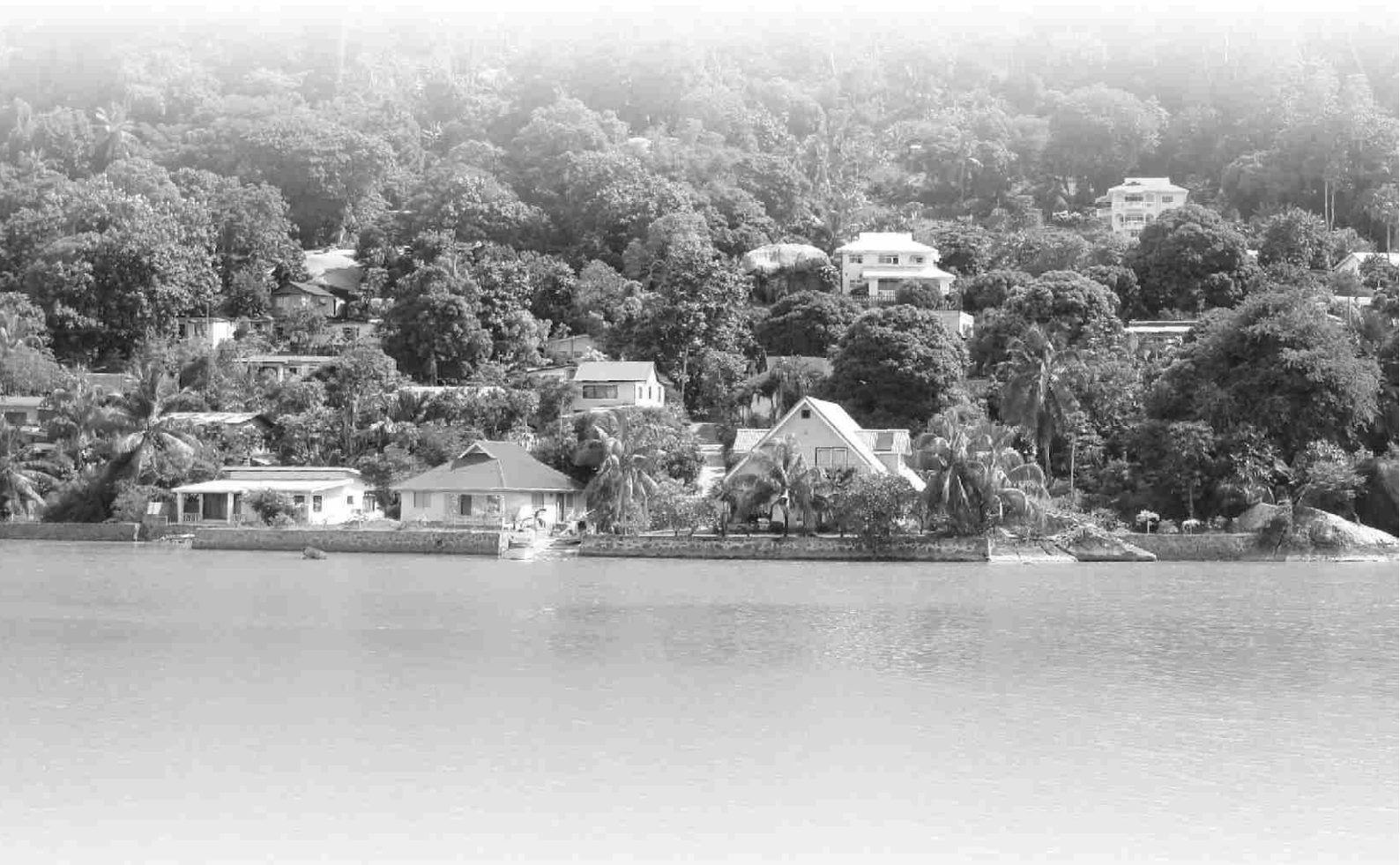
The functions of the District Administration will be performed without political preference or consideration.

- There will be an elected District Council chaired by the elected MNA to decide the affairs and development of each district,
- Elected MNAs will have an office in the District Administration and will be accessible to all their constituents
- The District Administrator will be a Public Servant charged with implementing the decisions of the Council

Mayor of Victoria

To ensure efficient planning and development of the capital, there will be a Mayor of Victoria, elected by residents of the area designated as comprising Victoria. The Mayor will coordinate policies, actions and programmes for the capital.

Your Right to A Home



SNP will deliver on a housing programme that ensures every family's right to a home. This will address the aspirations of people who wish to build a house of their own as well as satisfy the needs of people who need affordable rental housing.

At the same time, the SNP's Government's housing policy must encourage people to meet their own responsibility in planning and saving for a house in the future. It is time for Seychelles to establish modern schemes for housing finance that will meet the needs of future home builders.

Land is the most critical factor in housing development. A Land Use Plan has been under preparation for several years and needs to be completed. The SNP will ensure that housing needs for land are fairly balanced against demand for other uses. At the same time, land set aside for housing must be allocated fairly to those who need it the most and not be subject to speculation.

Construction in the public housing programme must be of a satisfactory standard. The SNP Government will take responsibility for the houses that have been constructed in the past and undertake to set right the defects that have become evident in state owned houses.

OUR PLEDGES

to ensure your right to a home

✓ **More Land for Housing**

- SNP will open up more land for housing in the land bank scheme.
- The register of land leases and applications for state land will be made public so that there is transparency in the way land is allocated for housing and business.
- Clear rules will be set for allocation of state land and regulations to prevent speculation will be strengthened.
- The list of applications for housing will be maintained in a transparent manner so that all applicants know where they stand.

✓ **A Modern Housing Finance Scheme**

The SNP Government will create a modern system of home finance on the model of building societies. It will bring private savings and bank capital together to give future home builders a clear road map towards owning their own home. Investment in housing finance will be encouraged with appropriate tax concessions.

The SNP Government will establish a scheme for easy access to finance for home expansion and improvement. It will encourage the participation of private banks in this objective.

✓ **One Stop Shop For Housing**

In order to deal effectively with housing needs, the SNP Government will establish a one-stop-shop where citizens will get appropriate information, advice and assistance in pursuing their housing goals. They will have help with assessing the best options for their situation and undertaking the procedures that are necessary to move ahead with their plans speedily.

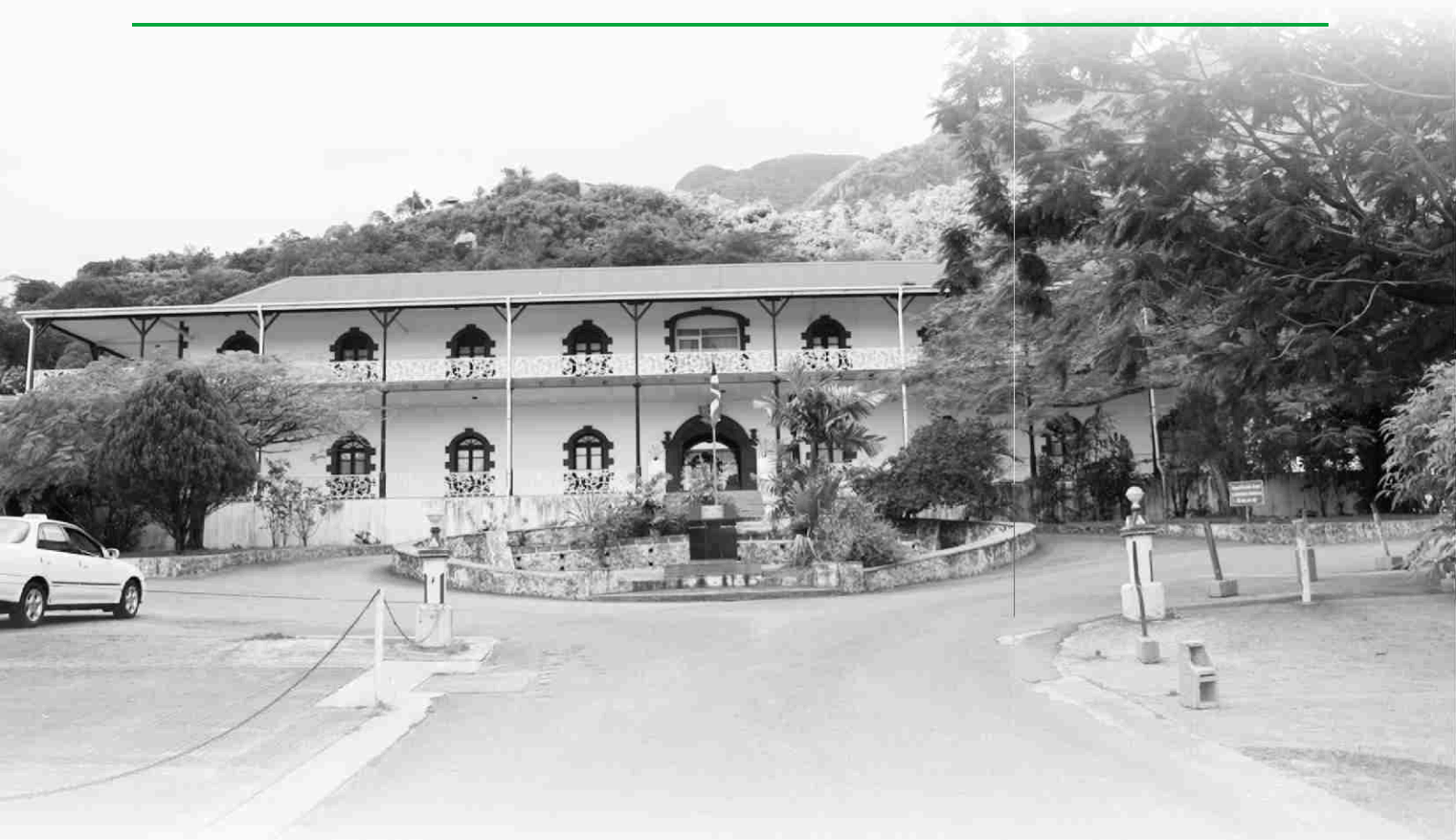
✓ **Building Homes Regularly**

The SNP will proceed with the completion of the Perseverance housing development. We will have a consistent home construction programme that will deliver a regular number of houses each year.

✓ **Repairing defective construction**

A programme to replace sub-standard housing and repair structural defects in state-owned houses that have been built over the past years will be undertaken.

Health Care You Can Depend On



It is the SNP's goal to give our people a health care system that they have confidence in - one in which our health professionals can give of their best. Seychelles has the resources to provide for a good standard of health care for its citizens. Health care must be a professional service that responds to people's needs efficiently.

We can only build a good health care system with qualified Seychellois who will feel at home and respected in their jobs. Retaining our trained professionals is the utmost priority. Conditions of service must be appropriate to encourage professionals to devote themselves to the service.

The professional management of health care must be seen to be free of politics. Professionals must have a say in setting the policies but the responsibility of the Minister must be seen to be separate from the on-going management and provision of services.

The SNP will be committed to free health care for its citizens. At the same time, we will devote and seek new investments to enlarge the range and quality of services that we provide. We will establish a new partnership with the local and regional private medical sectors so as to extend the services that are available in Seychelles in order that all health care needs are met.

OUR PLEDGES

for health care you can depend on

✓ **A New, Efficient Model for Health Care**

The SNP Government will, in collaboration with our own health practitioners and with international expertise, conduct a thorough review of the health care system so as to establish a model that will be efficient and convenient.

It will establish administrative standards, including the use of information technology such as computerised record keeping, to permit our professionals to deliver the best according to their knowledge and ability.

✓ **A Modern National Hospital**

It is clear that the Victoria Hospital is at its limits in terms of space and convenience. The SNP will commit resources and bring funding for a new national hospital which will be conveniently located to serve the Seychellois public. It will provide modern facilities for health care with an efficient administration.

✓ **A Programme of Early Detection of Serious Diseases**

It is well recognised that the health problems which are our most serious challenges can be best tackled with prevention and early detection. While we emphasise preventive strategies, we will build in a specific programme of early detection as part of the primary health care system so as to make treatment more effective and less costly.

✓ **Keeping Our Health Professionals**

We can only build a health care system that you can depend on with Seychellois professionals. We will improve the scheme of service for health professionals so that we can keep qualified Seychellois working in their own country. This will include:

- Competitive salaries
- A programme of regular bonus payments
- Option to retire at 55 years for professionals with long service

✓ **Refund for private medication expenses**

Patients in public health care will be able to obtain a refund for prescribed medication purchased privately which the public health service cannot provide.

✓ **Addressing present weaknesses**

The following existing weaknesses will be addressed immediately by an SNP government.

- The standard of maintenance and hygiene in all health care establishments
- The availability of ambulances
- The availability of drugs
- Corruption in the procurement processes

Security in Your Home and Community



For a small country, Seychelles has a high crime rate and a deplorable level of social ills. Seychellois feel there is a degradation in their standard of life as problems such as crime, drug use, prostitution, and domestic violence worsen. They do not always feel safe and at ease in their homes and their communities.

Increasing poverty and the weakening of positive social forces (family cohesion, shared moral values, community ownership) are the root causes which we need to address.

A solution to these problems requires an approach that tackles the root causes. It calls for strong programmes to eliminate poverty and improve standards of living as well as a more professional approach to policing.

OUR PLEDGES

for security in your home and community

A Professional Police Force

Seychelles needs to build a professional, respected police force under Seychellois leadership with the resources to prevent crime and respond to the needs for protection of our citizens. The police force needs to establish a better relationship with communities it serves. The SNP will recognise the need for independence of the police and allow it to build itself as a respected institution, with a clear career structure that rewards and promotes competency.

Combating poverty

The SNP will maintain a programme for Government that keeps the need to eradicate poverty in focus. It will prioritise its actions to ensure employment, especially for women, improve earnings and family income, and maintain an adequate welfare programme.

Tackling the drugs problem

Since drug use and trafficking are at the root of crime and social problems, the SNP Government will tackle these vigorously and comprehensively.

While reinforcing policing in the communities to prevent drug use and local trafficking, we will emphasise the effort to eliminate importation of drugs and trafficking. An SNP Government will do away with corruption and political influence which underpin drug trafficking.

Making Healthy Communities

Safe and healthy communities are an insurance against crime as well as the fruit of success in combating it. We will invest in our communities to ensure good roads, adequate lighting, proper standards of housing and community facilities which will encourage the young into healthy pursuits and away from crime.

Partnership with Civil Society

An SNP Government will actively support civil society organisations which promote family values, youth education, and a stronger society. We will assist all properly constituted and active organisations with funding for their operations and projects.

A Secure Prison with Better Rehabilitation

Ensuring a secure prison system with a high-security facility is an essential requirement for maintaining public safety. The SNP will move ahead with establishing a secure prison located on one of our secondary islands and review the rehabilitation programme for inmates so as to ensure that they can re-integrate into society after their sentences.

Quality Education For A Better Future



The SNP is fully committed to providing educational opportunities that will match the potential and talents of individual children and young people, allowing the highest achievement in all fields.

Education must prepare Seychellois youth for a modern economy and allow them to take advantage of opportunities in Seychelles and outside.

The SNP Government will be committed to providing the necessary resources for good education. Ensuring a good standard of facilities, adequate materials and qualified teachers will be a financial priority.

The education system has been through numerous reforms which have not substantially advanced the quality of education. The SNP will be cautious about reforms and changes must be planned with the full cooperation of teachers and parents.

At the same time, the problem of classroom discipline has become entrenched and is already accepted as a characteristic of our schools. But it is a problem that we must deal with if education is to progress.

OUR PLEDGES

for quality education

✓ Raising Standards

To provide the manpower for a modern economy, we must achieve better standards in our schools. At the moment, secondary and advanced training institutions are hampered by low levels of literacy and numeracy after primary school. It will be a priority of the SNP to redress this. The SNP will focus efforts on improving the quality of education and raising standards in our schools. We will ensure that all our school children can read and write before going to secondary education and raise the standard of achievement throughout the educational system .

✓ Reviewing educational structures and strategies

The SNP will seek to deal with the current weaknesses and problems in education through close consultation with teachers and education professionals. We will re-examine issue such as automatic promotion which are of concern to teachers and parents today and aim for a national consensus on educational strategy so as to ensure a unity of purpose and effort.

The SNP Government will, in collaboration with education professionals, re-assess the structuring of the education system at secondary level with the aim of better providing appropriate courses for all students, catering for academic and technical strands.

The curriculum for schools must provide the skills that are necessary for work, especially in the sectors of economy and business that provide good career opportunities for young people. Information Technology (IT) will be a central strand of the curriculum in all schools.

✓ Achieving a healthy school environment

Our Government will tackle the problem of indiscipline in the classroom and in the school environment. This is a major obstacle to a better standard of educational achievement and can no longer be ignored or set aside.

✓ University Independent of politics.

The University of Seychelles will be given its place as a national educational institution and not a political project. Its Board and Leaders will be independent of partisan politics.

PUTTING WOMEN AHEAD



Much of our society rests on the contribution of women. Yet, it is evident that women still face many obstacles in assuming leadership roles and in meeting their economic and social responsibilities.

The SNP believes that women can and should play a greater role in national affairs and will therefore act to overcome the barriers and obstacles that exist at present and which prevent the full enjoyment of their rights and the effect of their contributions

It will give attention to number of issues that are relevant, such as :

- Discrimination in salary levels and promotion
- Sexual harassment in the workplace
- Threats to personal security from crime
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Political pressure

OUR PLEDGES

to put women in the lead



A Commission for Women and Family Affairs

A Commission for Women and Family Affairs will be created to lead and coordinate action on all issues affecting women and the family. This Commission will have the necessary powers to work across all Ministries and Government departments, and to liaise with civil society institutions in order to seek concrete and timely solutions for relevant problems.

Appropriate legislation

Legislation which have a bearing on equal rights for women and protection for families will be reviewed and strengthened where necessary to eliminate all gender bias. Public service and labour procedures will be required to take into account any legal changes that are brought into effect.

Tax benefits for family welfare

The tax schedule will be reviewed taking into account essential expenses going directly to family welfare such as health and education.

Partnership with civil society

Government will support civil society organisations and allow them to act more effectively in defending women and families, promoting gender equality and encouraging leadership roles for women.

Public Service For Modern Government

The Public Service has a central and cardinal role in the SNP vision of Government. It is the backbone of the state. We view it as the fundamental institution implementing government programmes efficiently and fairly, free of politics.

The essential difference with the existing system will be to establish the right relationship between Government policy, represented by the Minister, and the professional cadre of the Public Service. The responsibilities of the two must be clear and distinct so that Public Servants will know that they are part of an institution with clear rules and guidelines and that they can operate professionally without the interference of partisan politics.

The present habit of politicising the public service is detrimental to good government. There is pressure for officials to identify with the ruling party and public officials are often recruited to become political figures.

The Public Service must be relied upon as the permanent strand of Government that will continue through changes of political leadership.



OUR PLEDGES

for a public service for modern government

Freedom from politics

Immediately on assuming Office, the President in an SNP Government will make a clear declaration that political discrimination or bias will not be accepted in any aspect of the Public Service. The Office of the President will ensure compliance with this policy.

A lifetime career

The Public Service will be a lifetime career for committed personnel. Public officers will have security of tenure except for disciplinary action in the case of offences defined under the Public Service Orders or the Code of Ethics.

The Public Service must offer a clear career structure that encourages professionalism. Salaries will be kept under regular review and adjusted for increases in the cost of living. Public officers will be paid a gratuity every 5 years.

A Public Service Commission

A Public Service Commission will be established as the body to oversee the Public Service. This body will set conditions, ensure professional conduct, monitor recruitment, promotions and disciplinary actions. It will incorporate the PSAB in its present functions. In that structure, the Public Service will regulate itself and will not be subject to political ends.

Permanent Secretary

Government ministries will be headed by a Permanent Secretary who will not be affiliated to a political party. He or she will not be appointed as a Minister and will not be permitted to play a public political role.

Effective National Institutions

Making Seychelles an Effective State is central to the vision of the SNP. The Executive must provide strong leadership but respect the separation of powers and recognise that the different branches of Government must be allowed to play their full roles, so as to ensure the checks and balances necessary for good government.

The stability and progress of our country depends on effective national institutions independent of political interference. The SNP looks on viable institutions as the principal means to empower citizens and encourage everyone to play a part in national affairs. This will be a guarantee of national unity because everyone will know that their lives and concerns are not directed by politics.



OUR PLEDGES

for effective national institutions

Strong Leadership From the Executive

The SNP Government will bring a new mission for State House. The President and Vice-President will form a team that provides leadership on Government policies and programmes while remaining in close contact with the people of Seychelles to ensure that their concerns are heard and reflected in Government decisions. They will not be Ministers in charge of specific portfolios but will monitor and supervise the work of all Government organisations to ensure that they are effective, engage all Seychellois in working together for progress and not lose sight of the priorities set out in this manifesto.

Respecting the Separation of Powers

The SNP Executive will respect the independence of the National Assembly and the Judiciary as separate branches of Government. It will work with these institutions to ensure better government with the principle of checks and balances to ensure accountability and transparency. Both the Judiciary and the National Assembly will have their own budgets to enable them to operate independently.

Independence of the State Media

The SNP will fulfil the constitutional provision to ensure that the SBC and all media funded by the state are objective and impartial in serving the people with information and conveying opinions on national affairs.

Empowering National Institutions

The mandates of our national institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, the Ombudsman, the Public Officers' Ethics Commission and the Constitutional Appointments Authority will be reviewed to make these bodies proactive and effective. They will be required to initiate actions which will advance the purposes for which they were created. The legislative amendments to empower them to pursue a more effective role in governance and to operate independently of politics will be enacted swiftly after the formation of an SNP government.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The pledges in this manifesto are the main commitments for our programme of Government over the next five years. They do not cover all the areas of Government work which need to be sustained or undertaken. The SNP will be a government that treats all national needs and concerns seriously and ensures the necessary attention to them.

Besides the pledges in this manifesto, the SNP will undertake a number of specific projects to meet goals which are vital for the country.

Building a dam

The SNP Government will be committed to building a new dam and undertaking appropriate infrastructure development to resolve the water shortage problems we have been experiencing. We will begin immediately to resolve the technical and financial challenges to realise this project which is vital for the well-being of our people and for economic growth.

Launching Renewable Energy

Energy from natural sources, and especially solar energy, is a part of our future. Our Government will begin immediately to establish and implement a plan for developing renewable energy even while we pursue closely the potential for oil extraction.

A National Arts Museum

As part of our plan to develop more activities for tourism and to enrich the cultural experience that Seychelles offers, we will build a National Arts Museum which will preserve works of arts of significant value. This will also provide encouragement for artistic development in the country.

Developing the Victoria Waterfront

The SNP has, since the last presidential election in 2006, proposed the development of the Victoria Waterfront for artistic, cultural and entertainment activities with appropriate commercial projects by Seychellois entrepreneurs. The value of this proposal has now been recognised. We will proceed speedily with the implementation of this development, which will make a significant contribution to tourism and to national cultural life.

The determination of the SNP to achieve a free, democratic and prosperous Seychelles has never faltered. We continue to strive for a country where your rights are respected and where you and your children will be able to have all the opportunities that the country can offer.

Our aim over the next five years is to solve the problems that we face today, and to work for solid progress in the interest of all the people of Seychelles.

James

