

# SEYCHELLES DEFENCE FORCES



## ACCESS TO INFORMATION 2018

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023

PUBLISHED AND SUBMITTED 10 JANUARY 2024

INFORMATION COMMISSION

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# INTRODUCTION

- The primary function of the Seychelles Defence Forces, as enshrined in our Constitution, is to defend the Nation and any other area over which the Republic has proclaimed its jurisdiction.
- It is, therefore, axiomatic that the foremost duty of the SDF is to ensure the well-being of the Republic and our people.
- The Defence Forces play a pivotal role in providing defence and security for our people, and in doing so, by maintaining peace and stability in our country, undergird a more prosperous economy thereby enabling our nation to thrive.
- The Seychelles Defence Force is the national military of Seychelles. It consists of a number of distinct branches: the Defence Forces Headquarter, Special Forces, Coast Guard, Air Force, Military Training and Support Centre and the Medical Center.
- The modernization of the Defence Forces is a deliberate and continuous process within the SDF to ensure that we continue to meet current and futuristic challenges that confront our Nation.
- The SDF aims to protect the people of Seychelles, prevent conflict, maintain stability and remain a professional, capable and disciplined Force; a key player in the security architecture of the region at a time when external threats are growing.
- The Information Officer for the Seychelles Defence Forces is Lieutenant Colonel Allain Pierre.
- He has been in the Defence Forces for 19 years and has served as Information Officer since 11 January 2021.

# MISSION AND VISION OR MANDATE OF THE ORGANISATION

## MANDATE

### **a. Primary.**

The primary role of SDF is to defend the Republic of Seychelles from any external threats.

### **b. Secondary.**

- i. Assist in the fulfillment by the Republic of its international obligations
- ii. Assist the Civil Authorities on directions of the President.
- iii. Protect the marine resources of the Republic.
- iv. Ensure maritime security in the EEZ of the Republic.

## VISION

To further the ideals of the democratic political leadership, as a military arm, in achieving the national strategic objectives and maintaining peace and stability in the region.

## MISSION

To achieve professional excellence to guarantee security in a modern, democratic and prosperous Seychelles; to dedicate all personnel to the defence of the country, bearing true allegiance and loyalty to the constitution, and protecting the dignity and integrity of every Seychellois.

## VALUES

The Seychelles Defence Forces will serve the people with integrity, honour and fortitude, recognising the nation's democratic structure and values. SDF is not an offensive force but we will not hesitate to use our full capability at any time to defend our interests.

## MOTTO

“Service Before Self”

## ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS (AS PER SECTION 54 OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT)

SR No	ATI ACT REQUIREMENTS	No
1)	The total number of ATI requests for access received;	43
2)	<u>TYPE OF INFORMATION</u>	
	The number of requests for personal information	5
	The number of request for public domain information	15
	The number of request for third party information	3
	The number of request for commercial and confidential Information	N/A
	The number of request for law enforcement information	5
	The number of request for privileged documents	10
	The number of request for protection of life and safety of an individual information	N/A
	The number of request for National Security and defence	6
	The number of request for International relations	N/A
	The number of request for Economic interest of the state	N/A
	The number of request for Academic or professional examination and recruitment process information	21
	The number of request for proposal submitted to Cabinet	N/A
3)	The number of requests for access granted in full;	40
4)	The number of requests for access refuse in full;	N/A
	The number of requests for access refuse in part;	3
5)	The number of times each provision of Part III ( <b>EXEMPTIONS</b> ) was relied on to refuse access in full;	N/A

	The number of times each provision of Part III (EXEMPTIONS) was relied on to refuse access in part;	
6)	The number of request abandoned after request	1
7)	The number of request but no records exist	2
8)	The number of cases in which the periods stipulated in section 11 were extended in terms of section 12;	N/A
9)	The number of review applications lodged with the head of the information holder;	1
10)	The number of reviews lodged on the ground that a request for access was regarded as having been refused in terms of section 14;	N/A
11)	The number of cases in which, as a result of a review, access was given to information;	1
12)	The number of request transferred to another Public Body	N/A

*\*Where is not applicable insert "0" or "N/A"*

	<p><b>I. A description of the steps or efforts taken by the head of the body to encourage all officers of that body to comply with the provisions of this Act;</b></p> <p>All SDF officers especially commissioned officers and staff have been made aware of the Act and should comply with its provisions. They should ensure that they work closely with the Information Officer to ensure that any request for information are made available in a timely manner in line with the Act. The same is published on our official website.</p>
	<p><b>II. Any facts which indicate an effort by the body to administer and implement the spirit and intention of the Act according to its submitted plan;</b></p> <p>N/A</p>



**III.** Particulars of any penalties imposed against any person under this Act; YES  NO

(If yes, list down)

**IV.** Particulars of any disciplinary action taken against any person under this Act; YES  NO

(If yes, list down)

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## THE CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION (AS PER SECTION 55 OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT)

LIST OF CATEGORIES	LOCATION OF THE INFORMATION
1. manuals, policies, procedures or rules or similar instruments which have been prepared for, or are used by, officers of the body in discharging that body's functions, exercising powers and handling complaints, making decisions or recommendations or providing advice to persons outside the body with respect to rights, privileges or benefits, or to obligations, penalties or other consequences, to or for which persons may be entitled or liable;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website <a href="http://www.sdf.sc">www.sdf.sc</a></li> </ul>
2. the name, designations and other particulars of the Information Officer of the public body, including his or her contact details and electronic addresses where persons may submit requests for information;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Government Directory</b></li> <li>• <b>Organisation Manual</b></li> <li>• Website <a href="http://www.sdf.sc">www.sdf.sc</a></li> </ul>
3. any prescribed forms, procedures, processes and rules for engagement by members of the public with the public body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website <a href="http://www.sdf.sc">www.sdf.sc</a></li> <li>• SDF Reception</li> </ul>
4. the particulars of any arrangement, statutory or otherwise, that exists for consultation with, or representation by, members of the public in relation to the formulation or implementation of its policies, or similar documents;	<b>Not made public</b>
5. where meetings of the public body, including its boards, councils, committees or similar other bodies are open to members of the public, the process for direct or indirect engagement and where a meeting is not open to the public, the contents of submissions received, the process for decision making and decisions reached	<b>Not made public</b>
6. detailed information on the design and execution of any subsidy programmes implemented with public funds, including the amounts allocated and expended, the criteria for accessing the subsidy, and the beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>annual report</b></li> </ul>

7. all contracts, licences, permits, authorisations and public-private partnerships granted by the public body;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>filed</b></li> </ul>
8. reports containing the results of surveys, studies or tests, including scientific or technical reports and environmental impact assessment reports, prepared by the public body;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>filed</b></li> </ul>
9. The particulars of its organisations, functions and duties;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website <a href="http://www.sdf.sc">www.sdf.sc</a></li> <li>• Organization manual</li> <li>• File</li> </ul>
10. Information containing interpretations or particulars of acts or policies administered by the body;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• n/a</li> </ul>
11. Details of its processes and procedures for creating, keeping, organizing and maintaining information;	Website <a href="http://www.sdf.sc">www.sdf.sc</a>
12. A list of all the categories of information held by it or under its control;	Website <a href="http://www.sdf.sc">www.sdf.sc</a>
13. A directory of its employees including their powers, duties and titles, indicating the permanent staff, the temporary staff and the outsourced staff, recruitment procedures and vacancies;	Organization Manual (not for public)
14. The salary band for each public employee and officer, including the system of compensation as provided in its laws, and the procedures followed in its decision-making process, including channels of supervision and accountability;	Scheme of service
15. A description of the composition, functions, and appointment procedures of the boards, councils, committees, and other bodies consisting of two or more persons, constituted for the purpose of advice to or managing the public body;	Organization Manual (not for public)
16. Detailed travel and hospitality expenses for each employee and officer, and gifts, hospitality, sponsorships or any other benefits received by each employee and officer;	Filed in J8
17. The detailed actual budget, revenue, expenditure and indebtedness for the current	Filed in J8

financial year, including all related estimates, plans, projections and reports, including audit reports;	
18. The annual report submitted to the information commission under section 54 of this act;	Filed
19. Any other relevant information	

INFORMATION COMMISSION

## CHALLENGES

- *No major challenge was encountered in the course of the reporting year.*
- *Several requests came from certain media houses for information which was being requested for publishing an article or through certain investigation. All request was handled by myself and the Public Relation Officer.*
- *I acknowledge the excellent relations with the SDF J1 (Archive) department that provided on time information when requested.*
- *Implementation of the HRIS System make the process of search for personnel data move at faster pace.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Recommendations for reform, or amendment of this Act, other legislation, or practice relevant to the optimal realisation of the objectives of this Act.*
- *Refresher training of information officers.*
- *Update directory of information officers and circulate.*
- *If possible a operational help-desk at the Information Commission that can respond to our inquiry within (24 hours) a short delay.*

# 1) DECLARATION

I declare that in accordance to Section 54 of the Access to Information, Act 2018, the Annual Report are to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate and complete as per the requirements.

Lt Col Allain Pierre

Name of Information Officer

  
.....

Signature

15/01/24  
.....

Date

I confirm that this Annual Report is verified and true, accurate and complete to my knowledge as the Head of Information Holder of Seychelles Defence Forces on the date stated below.

Brigadier Michael Rosette

Name of Head of Information Holder

  
.....

Signature

Dated this ..... 15 Day ..... of JANUARY ..... 2024 .....

\_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICIAL STAMP