

Short Remarks for High Commissioner Mr Shane Jones

Presentation of Credentials - Republic of Nauru

Monday 20 October 2014

Your Excellency, it is an honour to be here today to present my credentials to you as the new New Zealand High Commissioner to the Republic of Nauru.

Please also accept the warmest regards of the Governor-General of New Zealand to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of Nauru and my own personal thanks for the kind hospitality I am enjoying in my inaugural visit to Nauru.

New Zealand and the Republic of Nauru share a warm and friendly relationship built through a history of constructive regional and bilateral interactions.

Regionally, our common Pacific Islands Forum memberships and our shared interests in regional issues such as fisheries, development coordination and regional trade make New Zealand and Nauru natural partners.

Bilaterally, New Zealand and Nauru enjoy a small but solid trade relationship with New Zealand imports from Nauru totalling nearly NZ\$17 million in 2013.

New Zealand recognises the development challenges small islands states face and is pleased to be assisting Nauru in their justice and education sectors.

In addition to our political, trade and development links, New Zealand and Nauru also share people to people links with 120 Nauruans living in New Zealand and many New Zealanders and Nauruan's enjoying ties of family and friendship.

These regional and bilateral links are highlights of a relationship which continues to prosper. I am honoured to be New Zealand's new High Commissioner to the Republic of Nauru and I look forward to furthering the existing warm relationship our two countries share.

From: AUCKLAND
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2015 1:36 p.m.
To: MEA; PRETORIA
Cc: ...MEA POSTS; ECO; LGL; UNHC; DS APE; FM.P/S MFA; FM.NAB (Seemail)
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: MAURITIUS: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

[UNCLASSIFIED]

SUMMARY

Mauritius is enthusiastic to partner with New Zealand, particularly on matters relating to blue/ocean economy advancement. Coming shortly after a significant change in government, the visit was a useful chance to burnish New Zealand's credentials as a strong supporter of Small Island Developing States with incoming leadership, and make clear our desire to partner with Mauritius in a way that leverages our own Pacific experiences to grow capacity and economic development in the Indian Ocean.

ACTION

2 For information.

MESSAGE

3 High Commissioner Shane Jones, accompanied by DHOM ~~S9(2)(a)~~ visited Mauritius last week to present his credentials. While in Port Louis, Jones met with the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Minister of Ocean Economy and Fisheries, the Acting Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs Arvin Boolell (who Jones hosted in New Zealand last year). He also met with the British and Australian High Commissioners, heads of the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Indian Ocean Commission, and representatives of the fisheries industry based in Mauritius.

4 The visit gave us an opportunity to express New Zealand's ~~s6(b)~~ and to reinforce our undertaking that we would service to amplify small island developing state issues during our tenure. This message was well-received by the Foreign Minister and his officials.

Presentation of Credentials

5 Jones presented his credentials to President Purryag. In a wide-ranging tete-a-tete following the ceremony, Jones expressed New Zealand's thanks for Mauritius' support for our UN Security Council bid, and answered a number of questions about New Zealand. The President, appointed by the previous government, had a particular interest in agri-business, and pointed out the problems Mauritius had with post-harvest loss on its tropical fruit crop in particular, due to inadequate processing and packaging capacity.

Getting to know the new government

6 This was our first engagement with the new government, who had taken over after a snap election in December last year. Expectations of the new leadership's potential was mixed. ~~s6(b)~~

7 Jugnauth, who started his 6th term as Prime Minister in December last year, is well-known in Mauritius to have been responsible for the "Mauritian Economic Miracle" of the 1980s, which pushed the country's economy from monocrop (sugar) dependence to the more sustainable, diversified model that saw Mauritius become famous as a tourism and financial intermediation destination. During his meeting with Jones, Jugnauth expressed his priorities for this term in terms of creating a "second miracle", by creating new economic pillars, turning the Port Louis harbour into a regional hub, focusing on the ocean economy, and putting significant effort into fostering SMEs to boost job growth. s6(a)

The Prime Minister's message for New Zealand was clear: he wanted his officials to do everything they could to try to increase cooperation. He was particularly interested in blue economy matters, and also asked if New Zealand had considered entering into a Double Tax Agreement with Mauritius.

8 The new Foreign Minister, Hon Sinatambou s6(a) he showed keen interest in cooperation with New Zealand on maritime and fisheries matters, particularly in the area of maritime security. s6(a)

He queried whether we were across the implementation of outcomes from the Apia conference. Sinatambou reiterated that Oceans/Blue Economy policy is a key plank to adjust the direction of Mauritius' economic growth. s6(a)

Blue Economy and fisheries

9 The ocean/blue economy was a central theme of the visit, and it is clear that opportunity exists for New Zealand to help add ballast to the concept. In our conversations, Jones was clear that New Zealand would look to find opportunities to partner with Mauritius in a way that grew New Zealand's presence in the region, shared the lessons we have learnt in the Pacific context, and helped Mauritius grow their own ability to profit sustainably from the country's natural resources. Initial ideas that resonated in particular was sharing of New Zealand's experience with rights-based fisheries management (Mauritius does not have a vessel day scheme to regulate sustainable fishing in its EEZ) and maritime security.

10 While all of our contacts were interested in talking about the opportunities available in the blue economy space, it became clear during the visit that some work was necessary first to put structure around what exactly is meant by the term 'blue economy': it is quickly evolving to be a term that can mean everything from seabed mining and mineral exploitation, regulatory readiness to manage the exploitation of marine resources, to the introduction of cabotage, and promotion of Mauritius as a tourist destination.

11 In order to drive this discussion domestically, the Prime Minister has appointed a Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Economy, Hon Premdutt Koonjoo. s6(a)

Regional organisations

12 Mauritius is host to the secretariats of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), both of which Jones visited. The IOC, headed by Secretary General Jean Claude de L'Estrac (a former Mauritian Foreign Minister) is the clearest analogue for the Pacific Islands Forum that exists in the Indian Ocean region; de L'Estrac recalled fondly his meeting with MFA, and expressed a hope for further and closer cooperation between the IOC and the Forum. He was particularly interested in questions of connectivity between the members of the IOC (Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, and France's La Reunion); renewable energy (the IOC was soon to start an equity-building project supporting small-scale investment in solar); fishing and maritime surveillance. Since de L'Estrac's conversation with Minister McCully, IOC has opened the option to have observer

members; L'Estrac undertook to send further information and asked New Zealand to consider putting in request for observer status ahead of the IOC's May ministerial meeting.

13 IORA, as its name suggests, has a much larger disparate membership than the IOC. Under the guidance of Australia as chair over the past two years, the organisation has also focused on blue economy and maritime resource matters, and will host a Ministerial-level conference on the topic in August or September this year [COMMENT: PRE will attend a precursor IORA meeting on "Promoting Fisheries & Aquaculture & Maritime Safety & Security Cooperation in Indian Ocean Region" in Durban in May.]. The Secretary-General of IORA, Ambassador Bhagirath, also suggested that New Zealand consider dialogue partner (observer) status for the organisation, and undertook to send further information on the matter. s6(b)

Bilateral engagement

14 Beyond the fisheries and blue economy matters canvassed above s6(a)

15 s6(b)

The experience of the Forum Fisheries Agency in marine resource management (and the use of a vessel day scheme) attracted considerable attention; as did New Zealand's recognised seasonal employer scheme s6(a)

On the question of climate change collaboration, we noted that NIWA was considering possible avenues for cooperation.

COMMENT

16 The origins of the "Singapore of Africa" moniker for the country are clear to see driving into the capital from the airport on the world class highways, passing modern housing and commercial developments. With an unemployment rate hovering around 7.5% and a GDP per capita of around US\$10,000 (a quarter of New Zealand's) the country ranks 63rd in the world on last year's Human Development Index. s6(a)

but it is clear that targeted collaboration, especially on marine resource management matters, could make a positive difference to the economic trajectory of the country. We will continue to progress the conversations from this visit at working level to s6(a)

//ENDS//

Mauritius Country Paper

Bilateral Relationship

Relations between Mauritius and New Zealand are warm and growing. Building on shared Commonwealth roots, New Zealand and Mauritius have found common ground over the need for sustainable fisheries management and on Small Island Developing States issues. The visit by former Foreign Minister, Dr Arvin Boolell, around the Small Island Developing States conference in 2014, cemented these links. The current Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade is Mr Etienne Sinatambou.

Official Development Assistance

- Two participants from Mauritius attended a New Zealand/South African agricultural workshop on 'Food Safety Systems for Export' between 2 -3 September 2014 in South Africa.
- A foreign affairs official will participate in the 8 – week English Language Training for Officials course to be held in New Zealand in April – June 2015. Two foreign affairs officials attended this course in 2013 – 2014.

Mauritius citizens are eligible for New Zealand Development and Commonwealth Scholarships for study in the fields of agriculture and renewable energy. We currently have three scholarships awardees studying in New Zealand towards a Master of Energy, Master of Environmental Management and a PhD in Education.

Trade

Despite its small population size, Mauritius is a significant sub-Saharan market for New Zealand goods exports. Fonterra maintains a substantial share of the Mauritian dairy market, including with Anchor branded products. New Zealand fisheries company Sealord is active in Mauritius.

Mauritius specialises in canning tuna and exporting value added product to Europe. New Zealand's fish exports to Mauritius are dominated by this trade.

Mauritius is a vocal proponent of free trade, and, while its exports to New Zealand are small, s6(b)

Goods Exports: NZ\$79.12 million

Main Exports: Dairy (70%), fish (11%)

Goods Imports NZ\$1.45 million

Main Imports: Apparel (50%), sugar (13%)

Visits

Recent high-level visits to Mauritius have included:

Outward

2013

April: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Murray McCully

Inward

2014

August: Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr Arvin Boolell

Representation

New Zealand historically has been represented in Mauritius through a High Commissioner based in Pretoria. In 2014, the decision was taken to accredit HE Shane Jones, Ambassador for Pacific Economic Development, as High Commissioner to Mauritius in order to reinforce the common areas of interest between the Indian Ocean and Pacific Island States. New Zealand's Honorary Consul in Mauritius, Harold Liu Man, was named as an Honorary Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in December 2014 in recognition of his long service to New Zealand-Mauritius relations.

The Mauritian High Commissioner to New Zealand, HE Mirella Chauvin, resident in Canberra, presented credentials in 2014.

Mauritius – Background Brief

Domestic

Since gaining independence from Britain in 1968, Mauritius has maintained one of the developing world's most successful and stable democracies. Mauritius has ranked first in the Ibrahim Index of African Governance since the index began in 2007.

2 A snap-election was called in December 2014 by then-Prime Minister Ramgoolam. Ramgoolam's coalition, consisting of the Labour Party and the Militant Mauritian Movement, entered the election as favourites and was expected by most, including Mauritian media, to win. However, Alliance Lepep, the coalition led by current Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth, won in a landslide victory. His coalition campaigned strongly against the proposal by the opposition to increase the powers of the president, which has historically been a ceremonial position that is elected by the National Assembly. Jugnauth's coalition is comprised of the Mouvement socialiste militant (MSM), the Parti mauricien social démocrate (PMSD) and the Mouvan Libérateur.

3 Mauritius' domestic political environment saw further upheaval when, in February 2014, former-Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam (2005-2014) was arrested on charges of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and money laundering. s6(a)

4 Food security and sustainability is an on-going concern for Mauritius. Its island nature has left it vulnerable to erosion and climate change, while fish stocks have been overfished. Mauritius is a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and Smartfish.

Economy

5 Mauritius has benefitted from wide-ranging structural reforms since 2006 and is one of the most competitive economies in sub-Saharan Africa. The Mauritian economy has diversified into a number of new industries, including manufacturing, financial services and information and communications technology (ICT). These industries have made significant contributions to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Mauritius is forecast to have GDP growth of 4.1% in 2015 (World Bank).

6 s6(b)

as it positions itself as an economic hub in the African region. Mauritius engages with numerous regional organisations, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Mauritius actively takes part in the Tri-partite Free Trade Area negotiations which consists of three of Africa's Regional Economic Communities, the East Africa Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The main focus of deliberations is to promote regional economic integration, s6(a)

7 The Mauritian economy is strongly linked to Europe which accounts for nearly two thirds of Mauritius' exports and a similar proportion of tourist arrivals. As Mauritius' main trading partner, a decline in trade, tourism and investment has had a significant effect on the economy. However, recent growth in the EU will be a boost to Mauritius.

International Relations

8 Mauritius is the hosting member of both the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). You are meeting with both organisations. The IOC's stated aims are security, consolidation of the rule of law, representative democracy and the prevention of piracy. The IOC is a collection of East African island states that have much in common with Pacific Island states, such as sustainable fisheries management, natural disaster mitigation and response, and renewable energy resources. IORA is made up of 20 member states that border the Indian Ocean rim and has six key priority areas that include maritime safety and security, trade and investment facilitation, fisheries management, disaster risk management, academic and science technology cooperation, tourism and cultural exchanges.

9 Mauritius is party to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and hosted the second SIOFA meeting last month. SIOFA covers the high seas area from the east of Africa to the western edge of Australian waters. SIOFA did not establish an 'organisation', but instead it functions as a Meeting of Parties. Until recently SIOFA has not had a Secretariat, however at the March meeting the SIOFA parties agreed to establish a Secretariat in La Réunion, but hold every second meeting in Mauritius. Mauritius was one of a number of states and territories who bid to host the SIOFA Secretariat. At the meeting parties also agreed a recommendation against the use of deep water gillnets and agreed to seek to limit fishing effort to recent historical levels, as well as considering some of the core documents such as the rules of procedure. s6(a)

New Zealand did not attend this year's SIOFA meeting. New Zealand attended the first meeting (in Canberra) as an observer, but was not permitted to attend the full meeting.

10 Sustainable development is a major emphasis for Mauritius. The island hosted the Small Island Developing States Conference in 2005 where the Mauritius Strategy was developed. The Strategy acknowledges the vulnerability of small island states and their economies, recognises the significant impact of natural disasters, and calls for implementation of UNCLOS and the sustainable use of marine, water, land, and energy resources.

11 Mauritius has been an Associate Observer to the Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (Community of Portuguese Language Countries) since 2006.

12 Mauritius is involved in a dispute with the UK involving a marine protected area, established by the UK with respect to the Chagos Archipelago in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The Chagos Archipelago is administered by the UK as the 'British Indian Ocean Territory'. The Chagos Archipelago was a dependency of the colony of Mauritius, but was detached prior to Mauritius' independence in 1968. It was detached and retained by the UK for defence purposes - the island of Diego Garcia hosts a military base, used primarily by the US. In 2010 the UK declared the waters around the Chagos Archipelago a marine protected area (MPA). Mauritius contended that this action violates the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and is incompatible with the fishing rights that Mauritius had been granted as part of the agreement to detach the archipelago. The UK considers the challenging of the MPA to be part of a wider dispute over sovereignty over the archipelago. In March 2015 an Arbitral Tribunal constituted under UNCLOS ruled that the UK's declaration of the MPA was not in accordance with the provisions of UNCLOS.

13 Mauritius maintains close relations with India. In March 2015 Indian Prime Minister Modi visited Mauritius where agreement was reached on five Memoranda of Understanding on areas including the ocean economy and improvement of sea and air transportation facilities in Mauritius.

Mauritius - Key Facts

Official name: Republic of Mauritius

Land area: 2,040 sq km

Population: 1.26 million

Capital city: Port Louis

Religion: Hindu (52%), Christian (30%), Muslim (17%)

Official languages: French, English, Creole, Bhojpuri, Tamil, Hindu, Urdu

Currency: Mauritius Rupee (MRs) = 100 cents

Political

Political system: Republic within the Commonwealth

National government: Council of Ministers appointed and headed by the Prime Minister

National legislature: National Assembly with 62 members elected every five years. Mauritius has 20 three-member constituencies on Mauritius, one two-member constituency on the island of Rodrigues and up to 5(a)

Last elections: 10 December 2014

Next elections due: Late 2019 or early 2020

Head of State: President Rajkeswur Purryag, appointed in July 2012

Head of Government: Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth elected in December 2014

Main political parties: Alliance Lepep (comprises of Mouvement socialiste militant (MSM), Parti mauricien social démocrate (PMSD) and Muvman Libérateur (ML)), Mouvement militant mauricien (MMM) Labour Party, Mouvement rodriguais, Organisation de peuple rodriguais and Rezistans ek Alternativ.

Economic (EIU 2014 estimates)

GDP: US\$ 12,712 million

Real GDP growth: 3.5 %

Exports: US\$3,075 million

Imports: US\$ 5,230 million

Current account balance: US\$ -1,099 million

Inflation: 3.2%

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

President **Rajkeswur (Kailash) Purryag**



Rajkeswur (Kailash) Purryag: President

Purryag was elected as President in 2012 and will serve a five-year term. Purryag has held numerous ministerial positions including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Purryag is a lawyer and was elected to the Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1976. He is recipient of both highest order honours in Mauritius - Grand Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GOSK) and Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GCSK).

Former High Commissioner Mann met Purryag in 2013 to present credentials.



Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Prime Minister

Jugnauth has served as Prime Minister since winning the snap election called in December 2014. He is concurrently Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, National Development Unit and Rodrigues. Jugnauth is leader of Alliance Lepep party which holds the majority with nearly three-quarters of the seats in parliament. Executive power resides with the prime minister.

Jugnauth is a veteran politician and has served five terms as Prime Minister and was President between 2003 and 2012.



Etienne Sinatambou, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

Sinatambou was appointed to the role of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in December 2014. Previously, Sinatambou served as Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications and Deputy-Speaker of the National Assembly.

Sinatambou is a lawyer and has worked on several international legal committees.



Premdut Koonjoo: Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands

Koonjoo has held numerous ministerial positions including Minister of Commerce, Cooperatives & Handicrafts and Minister of Local Government.

Koonjoo holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Economics from Delhi University. Personal hobbies include reading, travelling and swimming. Koonjoo is an avid football and cricket fan.



Mahen Kumar SEERUTTUN: Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security

Seeruttun was appointed to the role of Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security in December 2014. Seeruttun became a member of Parliament in 2010 and worked on several committees, including the Committee of Selection and Public Accounts for several years.

Seeruttun is a chartered accountant and has previously held positions in finance, including as a finance manager, accountant and auditor. Interests include reading, internet surfing, music & sport activities.



Susan Coles: Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius

Coles has previously served overseas as Special Advisor at the APEC Secretariat in Singapore, and as First Secretary at the Australian Embassy and Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Vienna. Until recently, Ms Coles was Director of the Department's WTO and Regional Trade Policy Section.

Coles holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Adelaide, and, as a Rhodes Scholar, completed a post-graduate Bachelor of Civil Laws specialising in International Law at the University of Oxford. She speaks French.



Jonathan Drew MBE: British High Commissioner to Mauritius

Drew presented his credentials as High Commissioner in August 2014. He is also non-resident Ambassador to the Union of the Comoros. Drew has served as Deputy British Representative to East Timor, Deputy High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea and Head of the Political Military Team at the British Embassy in Kabul. In London he has been Deputy Head of the Counter Terrorism Assistance Team, Head of the West Africa Section and most recently Deputy Head of Africa Department, where he worked on a broad range of commercial, security and conflict issues.

Drew was awarded the MBE in HM The Queen's Birthday Honours in 2009.



Ambassador K V Bhagirath: Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association

Ambassador Bhagirath assumed duties as Secretary-General in January 2012 and will serve a three year term. This term is renewable for one additional term. Bhagirath joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1979. His assignments have included postings to the Middle East, Latin America, Europe and Africa.

As part of the Secretary-General's role, he represents IORA Secretariat at the Council of Ministers, Committee of Senior Officials and Working Groups the meetings, reporting the proceedings and decisions of the meetings and to follow-up implementation of the decisions.



Jean Claude de l'Estrac: Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Commission

De L'Estrac is the former Foreign Minister of Mauritius and a 'founding father' of the IOC. He was also the General-Director of la Sentinelle, a press consortium which produces newspapers and magazines in Mauritius.

He was appointed Secretary-General in July 2012 and sees his role as having economic, political and diplomatic mandates. He has pointed to tourism, airline access, food security and international visibility as key areas for the IOC to work on. s6(a)

MFA met with de l'Estrac in April 2013

- Note Mauritius' efforts to support anti-piracy initiatives off the coast of Somalia which presents a threat to maritime trade in the Indian Ocean region. New Zealand is a willing partner in the high seas that understands the importance of protecting our respective maritime regions. New Zealand contributes to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), which undertakes anti-piracy and other maritime law enforcement operations off the coast of Somalia. The most recent visit was by HMNZS Te Mana which visited the region in February 2014, we will provide a defence asset to CMF again this year.
- Prime Minister Key and Minister McCully are currently scheduled to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), to be held in Malta in November. We would be interested to hear whether Mauritius was planning on sending leaders to the meeting (Note: Mauritius' senior leadership boycotted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Colombo in November 2013 and withdrew their offer to host CHOGM 2017, due to issues with Sri Lanka's human rights issue).

- s6(a)

- s6(a)

Blue Economy/Indian Ocean

- New Zealand is a willing friend and committed long term partner open to deepening cooperation with Indian Ocean Countries. New Zealand is open to sharing technical expertise on relevant blue economy and maritime resource issues including fisheries management, maritime policing, and government-commercial partnerships.
- New Zealand recognises the importance of blue economy issues and the value in sharing expertise and lessons at related conferences and summits on common issues and concerns.
- New Zealand remains a strong advocate for SIDS, recognising the unique challenges faced by small oceanic nations, be they in the Pacific, the Caribbean or the Indian Ocean.

SIOFA

POLI-199-110

- New Zealand flagged vessels have a significant orange roughy catch history in the area. This prompted New Zealand, together with Australia and South Africa, to cosponsor the negotiations on the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). SIOFA was opened for signature in 2006 and came into force in 2012.
- New Zealand has signed but not ratified SIOFA since we do not currently have vessels fishing in the SIOFA area (and have not since 2011).
- *[If asked if/when we will ratify SIOFA]* We will need to assess carefully and make a judgement based on the operation of New Zealand flagged vessels. As a general rule New Zealand will only be involved in organisations and agreements of this kind where New Zealand flagged vessels are actively engaged in the relevant fishery.
- Although New Zealand did not attend this year's meeting, we continue to believe that meetings of parties should be open to non-contracting parties with an interest in SIOFA (including signatories, non-signatories, NGOs and private sector representatives).

IORA

- New Zealand would be interested in how the entry into force of SIOFA has impacted on the work of IORA. New Zealand would also be interested more generally in IORA's view on developments in the Indian Ocean region and how their work will overlap or involve the cooperation of other regional organisations.
- *[If NZ joining IORA is proposed]* New Zealand understands that as a state that does not border the Indian Ocean it is ineligible for IORA membership.

General

- New Zealand welcomes Mauritius' perspective on the work of regional organisations including the IOC and IORA. We anticipate the High Commissioner's visit will be an opportunity to discuss their activities.

NIWA Cooperation

- s6(b)
- NIWA's vessel Kaharoa has visited Mauritius a number of times since 2006, most recently in August 2014, as part of its ongoing involvement in deploying Argo floats which monitor temperature and salinity changes in the world's oceans.
- NIWA is looking at how it can assist. One option would be to send a NIWA expert to Mauritius to provide advice on Climate Services development and implant a Climate Early Warning system. These discussions would lay the base for any

future engagement with Mauritius, which may require follow-up by NZ technical agencies

Official Development Assistance

- We encourage Mauritius citizens to apply for the New Zealand Development and Commonwealth Scholarships on offer. We are pleased to have three scholarship awardees currently in New Zealand working towards a Master of Energy, Master of Environmental Management and a PhD in Education.
- In September 2014 two participants from Mauritius attended a New Zealand/South African agricultural workshop on 'Food Safety Systems for Export' in South Africa.
- A Mauritian foreign affairs official will participate in the 8-week English Language Training for Officials (ELTO) course to be held in New Zealand between April - June 2015. We have noted previously that the standard of English of Mauritian officials was generally high compared with participants from other countries, which might limit the value of future participation for Mauritius.

Other points

- s6(a)
- *[If raised:]* Note Mauritius' close involvement in the development of a roadmap for Madagascar. s6(a)
- *[If raised:]* Acknowledge Mauritius' Ambassador to the EU's request for Maritime New Zealand to consider providing operational staff from Maritime New Zealand to deliver training and advice to the Joint Management Authority made of Mauritius and Seychelles to manage oil spills.
- s6(a)

CHESHIRE, Finnian (MEA)

From: AUCKLAND
Sent: Friday, 27 February 2015 4:18 p.m.
To: MEA
Cc: IDG GLO; ...MEA POSTS; FM SLT; PACDEV; PAC; FM.P/S MFA; AUCKLAND
Subject: RE: Accreditation of High Commissioner Shane Jones to Seychelles
Attachments: Partnership between Seychelles and New Zealand to take new heights with new High Commissioner.docx; Additional requests for cooperation - Seychelles.docx

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Re-sent with attachments.

From: AUCKLAND
Sent: Friday, 27 February 2015 12:46 p.m.
To: AUCKLAND; MEA
Cc: IDG GLO; ...MEA POSTS; FM SLT; AUCKLAND; PACDEV; PAC; FM.P/S MFA
Subject: Accreditation of High Commissioner Shane Jones to Seychelles

Not for cable exchange

Summary

High Commissioner Shane Jones presented his credentials in Seychelles on 10 February. The President and Ministers spoke about the warmth of our bilateral relationship and the potential areas of future cooperation in areas such as the blue economy, piracy and renewable energy. [s6(b)]

Conversations with other stakeholders highlighted threats related to piracy, drugs and terrorism in the region.

Action

MEA/IDG GLO – see paragraphs 6, 7, 8, 12, 17, 19 and 20.

Report

- [s9(2)(a)]
- 2 High Commissioner Shane Jones, accompanied by [redacted], visited Seychelles on 9-12 February to present credentials as the second New Zealand High Commissioner to the Republic of Seychelles. The announcement from State House is attached, for your information.
 - 3 While in Seychelles, Jones met with President Michel; Vice-President Faure; Foreign Minister Morgan; Finance and Blue Economy Minister Adam; Fisheries and Agriculture Minister Cosgrow; and Environment, Energy and Climate Change Minister Dogley. Jones also met with the Chief of Defence, Brigadier Payet; Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Karunakaran; Director of REFLCS3, Mr Bibi; and the British High Commissioner, Mrs Skoll.
 - 4 President Michel and his Ministers highlighted the “excellent” bilateral relationship between New Zealand and Seychelles. The visit to New Zealand by President Michel in 2014 was a “great success” and emphasised the many areas of commonality between the two countries. Seychelles wishes to increase cooperation with New Zealand and learn from our experiences. A summary of the key themes and cooperation requests during the visit are outlined below.

Blue economy/fisheries

5 The 'blue economy' is a priority area for the Seychelles government and new Finance and Blue Economy Minister, Jean-Paul Adam. Fisheries and tourism account for the majority of Seychelles revenue, with both industries relying on environmental protection and sustainable management of resources.

6 Sustainable fisheries is at the heart of the blue economy and Minister Adam's portfolio. Seychelles has established fishing monitoring and EEZ surveillance mechanisms, but lacks the technical expertise and capacity to create a quota management regulatory system. Minister Adam requested assistance from New Zealand to create such a system in Seychelles. The suggestion by Jones to provide information on the New Zealand system and possibly send a New Zealand fisheries expert to Seychelles to assess the situation was warmly welcomed and encouraged. Seychelles will send a written request to New Zealand in the coming weeks for consideration.

7 Seychelles will host the second Blue Economy Conference in late November 2015. President Michel and Ministers Adam, Morgan and Cosgrow asked New Zealand to attend and make a presentation on New Zealand's quota management system and the blue economy' in the Pacific context. Invitations to Minister McCully and Jones will be sent in the coming weeks. Jones offered to speak with fisheries experts from New Zealand and the Pacific about presenting at the conference.

8 The government is interested to establish fish farming in Seychelles. Assistance with policy and regulations in this area would be useful.

Piracy

9 Piracy has reduced in the region, but the problem has not gone away. Somali pirates have temporarily moved into other forms of illegal activity on the sea including drug, people and arms trafficking, illegal fishing and robbery. s6(a)

10 Seychelles is playing a critical role in the regional fight against piracy at sea and on land. It has enacted legislation providing universal jurisdiction for crimes of piracy. To date, Seychelles has prosecuted 129 Somali pirates. Seychelles has a prisoner transfer agreement with Somalia, which is overseen and supported by UNODC. Convicted pirates spend a portion of their sentence in Seychelles before being transferred to a prison in Somaliland or Puntland.

11 Seychelles is in the process of constructing a new court dedicated to the prosecution of piracy crimes. The court will be annexed the Supreme Court. UNODC, the EU and UK are assisting to fund the project and build capacity in this area.

12 The "excellent" contribution of NZDF to the CMF operation last year (through Te Mana and the Orion) was highlighted by Brigadier Payet, Minister Morgan and the team at REFLECS3. All stakeholders encouraged New Zealand to continue to contribute to the anti-piracy efforts in the region.

s6(a), s6(b)

Drug trafficking and consumption

13 An overwhelming theme of all conversations was the drug problem in Seychelles. High quality heroin from Afghanistan is now transported via routes proximate to Seychelles. Consequently it has entered the community over the past couple of years

s6(a), s6(b)

14 International drug trafficking is a big problem for Seychelles as earlier routes are no longer used due to military conflict. The Seychelles Coast Guard and international forces in the region are intercepting an increasing number of vessels transporting drugs from Afghanistan and Pakistan down the coast to Zanzibar. Traffickers are generally heavily armed and are creating an additional security threat for Seychelles and the region.

UNSC

15 s6(a), s6(b)

16 s6(a)

17 On the issue of New Zealand's election to the UNSC, Jones s6(b) our wish to engage with Seychelles on issues of importance to the country and be the voice of small states. Neither the President nor Ministers took the opportunity to discuss any UNSC issue, preferring to focus on bilateral issues. Despite this, we suggest engaging with Seychelles on Somalia, terrorism (particularly Al Shabab) and piracy, because of the potential impact to the country and region.

s6(b)

Trade and investment

19 The Seychelles government is keen to encourage New Zealand businesses to enter the Seychelles market.
s6(b)

Additional requests

20 A list of additional requests is attached, for consideration.

Comment

s6(a)

s6(b)

23 s6(b) which heavily relies on the tourism and fisheries sectors to survive. Piracy has had an impact on both sectors, reducing the number of cruise ships, fishing areas, and cargo ships in the area. s6(b)

24 s6(b)
However the message from the President and his Ministers was clear; the blue economy, including sustainable fisheries, is a priority for the government and New Zealand assistance would be appreciated. New Zealand attendance and participation in the Blue Economy Conference in November is encouraged. So too is assistance in the area of sustainable fisheries.

25 s6(a)

26. Seychelles, although small, is a dynamic country that uses its relationships, resources and geographical location to its advantage. We will continue to have much to discuss and cooperate on.

ENDS

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REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

President

James Michel



James Michel: President

Colonel James Alix Michel has been President of the Seychelles since 2004. He previously served as Vice-President under predecessor France-Albert Rene, who came to power in a coup in 1977. President Michel presently has portfolio responsibilities for Entrepreneurship Development and Business Innovation, Defence, Legal Affairs, and Information. He co-chairs the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) which brings together world leaders to promote action on conservation and sustainability of islands.



Joël Morgan: Foreign Minister

Morgan was appointed as Minister in late January 2015. Prior to his appointment, he served as Minister for Home Affairs, Environment, Transport and Energy. Morgan retains the portfolio of Transport and his position as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Air Seychelles. Morgan has a Masters of Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Heriot-Watt University.



Jean-Paul Adam, Minister for Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy

Mr Jean- Paul Adam was appointed to the post of Minister for Finance, Trade and The Blue Economy in late January 2015. Previously, Adam served as Minister for Foreign Affairs between 2010 and January 2015. Before becoming Minister he had served in the Office of the President since 2006. Minister Adam started his diplomatic career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Trainee Protocol Officer (1996-1997) and later as

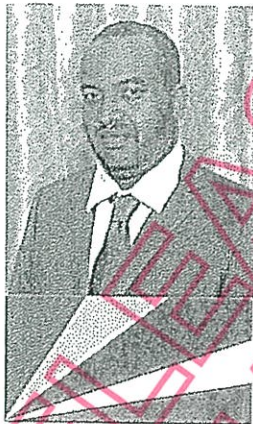
Second Secretary (2001-2004).

Mr Adam has a degree in English Literature and French, which he obtained at the University of Sheffield. He also has a Masters in International Political Economy from the University of Manchester. He has also represented Seychelles internationally as a swimmer, including at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. You met Minister Adam at last year's SIDS conference when he was part of a panel you chaired on Fisheries. MFA recently met with Adam at the AU Summit, his last official engagement as Foreign Minister.



Didier Dogley: Minister of Environment, Energy & Climate Change

Didier Dogley, has held the portfolio of Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change since January 2015. Previously, Dogley served as a Special Adviser to the Minister of Environment and Energy.



Wallace Cosgrow: Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture

Mr Wallace Cosgrow has held the portfolio of Fisheries and Agriculture since January 2015. Mr Cosgrow has spent time working in the Department of Natural Resources, acted as Director General for Civil Service Affairs in the office of the Secretary of State for Cabinet Affairs and worked as chief executive of the Social Protection Agency. Mr Cosgrow holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of East London.



Lindsay Skoll: British High Commissioner to Seychelles

Lindsay joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1996, on return from working for the Japanese Ministry of Education, and with a background in international public and cultural relations and foreign languages. Her numerous policy roles within the FCO have encompassed both the Far East and Middle East, and she was seconded to the Cabinet Office 2003-4 to lead on East Asia regional security policy analysis.

Her last previous posting was as Deputy Head of Mission in Pyongyang, DPRK, 2004-7. After recently heading up the climate strand of Climate Change and Energy Department in London, she was appointed as British High Commissioner to the Republic of Seychelles, accredited on 2 August 2012.

She has a First Class Honours Degree in History with Russian, and is married with one son and two step-children. Her interests include Scottish hill-walking, equestrianism, singing, scuba diving and music.

RELEASABLE INFORMATION

Objectives

1. Present credentials as High Commissioner of Seychelles to President Michel.
2. s6(b)
3. Welcome Seychelles' perspective on issues facing the Security Council, in particular anti-piracy initiatives off the coast of Somalia where the ongoing instability presents a threat to maritime trade
4. Note that New Zealand is a willing partner in the high seas that understands fully the importance of protecting our respective maritime regions. New Zealand contributes to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), which undertakes anti-piracy and other maritime law enforcement operations off the coast of Somalia. We will provide a defence asset to CMF again this year.
5. Highlight the many areas New Zealand has in common with Seychelles and interest in sharing experience, particularly on blue economy issues (fisheries, renewable energy, tourism development and disaster management.)
6. Highlight the increase in scholarships that are available to Seychelles students.

Key Issues

Multilateral

- New Zealand is committed to the maintenance of international peace and security. We are committed to working with and listening to the perspectives of African regional organisations, including the Southern Africa Development Community and the Indian Ocean Commission.
- s6(b)
- s6(a)
- New Zealand is supportive of small island developing states and recognises the value of sharing expertise and lessons at related conferences and summits.

Blue Economy

- New Zealand recognises the importance of blue economy issues. We are a willing friend and a committed long term partner open to sharing technical expertise on relevant maritime resource issues including fisheries management, maritime policing, and government-commercial partnerships.
- We are interested in finding out more about Seychelles plans for hosting a Second Blue Economy Conference in November 2015 and their strong leadership and direction.
- Seychelles' large EEZ has caused difficulties in marine resource management for the Seychelles government. They have faced particular difficulty with illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- During a visit to New Zealand by former-Foreign Minister Jean-Paul Adam and Environment Minister Rolf Payet ahead of SIDS in August 2014, s6(b)
- In the first instance, this could involve a visit by a New Zealand fisheries expert to the Seychelles to engage with relevant Seychelles principals on the challenges and benefits of our reform experience. These discussions would lay the base for any future engagement with the Seychelles, which would probably require follow-up by NZ technical agencies
- Your visit also affords an opportunity to meet with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and an opportunity to discuss its approach to the sustainable management of tuna fisheries resources. It would be useful to compare the challenges faced by developing countries in this fishery with those of Pacific Island developing countries, and the different responses to these challenges.

Marine Policing and Combined Marine Forces Initiatives

- Piracy is a serious concern for the Seychelles, given its close proximity to the Somali coast. New Zealand has contributed to anti-piracy initiatives in the Indian Ocean by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). HMNZS Te Mana visited Seychelles in February 2014 on its return from CMF anti-piracy controls. In August 2014, NZDF based an Orion out of Seychelles for four months.
- New Zealand and Seychelles are working on a Detainee Transfer Agreement (DTA). This would allow New Zealand ships working in the Indian Ocean under

CMF to transfer pirates to Seychelles for prosecution. Officials are working through a draft agreement now, and we hope to have it finalised soon.

- s6(a)

Development Programmes

- Seychelles is not a focus country for support under the New Zealand development programme reflecting its relative wealth in comparison to much of the Continent.
- We encourage Seychelles students to apply for the New Zealand Development and Commonwealth Scholarships on offer.
- A student from Seychelles is studying a Master of Arts at the University of Auckland, focusing on the blue economy. One student from Seychelles will commence a Master of Educational Leadership at the University of Waikato in July 2015.
- In September 2014 two participants from Seychelles attended a New Zealand/South African agricultural workshop on 'Food Safety Systems for Export' held in South Africa.

Other points to include

s6(a)

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s6(a), s6(b)

Seychelles requests for cooperation:

s6(a), s6(b), s9(2)(b)(ii)

For more detail: <http://teaka/IDG/CPS/Pages/Contracting-Manual.aspx>

Blue Economy Summit - Seychelles will host the second Blue Economy Conference in late November 2015. President Michel and Ministers Adam, Morgan and Cosgrove asked New Zealand to attend and make a presentation on New Zealand's quota management system and the blue economy in the Pacific context. Invitations to Minister McCully and Jones will be sent in the coming weeks. Jones offered to speak with fisheries experts from New Zealand and the Pacific about presenting at the conference.

Recommendation: To follow up on invitations from Seychelles to New Zealand to attend and present at the Blue Economy Summit to take place in late 2015/early 2016.

s6(a)

Education – Vice-President Faura would like to see improved educational links between the University of Seychelles and universities in New Zealand. He noted that the President was impressed by New Zealand education facilities during his visit and would like to see stronger university links with Seychelles.

Recommendation: Education NZ to prepare a report on how to build education links with Seychelles by mid-June, outlining what their interest and resources are.

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(b)

s6(a)

s6(a)

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Republic of Seychelles Country Paper

Bilateral Relationship

The Seychelles-New Zealand relationship is growing in importance and is consistently warm following an increase in engagement. The relationship is particularly focussed on strengthening cooperation in multilateral fora on issues of importance for SIDS. Minister McCully visited Seychelles with High Commissioner Kember in July 2013, and held bilateral meetings with their former Foreign Minister Adam in Abu Dhabi at the Blue Economy Summit. The latter meeting was of particular importance as a key focus for Seychelles is to tackle Blue Economy issues and share lessons with New Zealand on fisheries/marine resource management.

Since 2013, defence co-operation between New Zealand and the Seychelles has deepened via New Zealand's contribution to anti-piracy initiatives in the Indian Ocean. Engagement includes a visit by HMNZS Te Mana to Seychelles in February 2014 on its return from anti-piracy patrols off the coast of Somalia. In August 2014 NZDF sent based a P3-K2 Orion Maritime Patrol Aircraft out of Seychelles for four months. Additionally, Victoria serves as a supply port for New Zealand operations under the Coalition Maritime Forces (CMF) for the NZ Navy.

Trade

Due to a small population and internal dependency on services in Seychelles, levels of bilateral trade with New Zealand are relatively low. Goods trade is heavily weighted in favour of New Zealand with nominal Seychellois imports. Our goods exports are dominated by wood products of NZD 2.4 million (2014). Between 2013 and 2014 exports to Seychelles increased by 88%.

Seychelles is focused on developing its "blue economy", through sustainable development of maritime resources, and there may be opportunities to share New Zealand commercial and regulatory experiences. The economy is largely dependent on tourism for employment, tax revenues, and foreign exchange.

NZ companies in Seychelles: IT Company Data Torque

Exports (FOB): NZ\$4.66 million

Main Exports: Wood (52%), Dairy products (17%), Prefabricated buildings (9%), Apples, Pears and Quinces, Fresh (8%)

Imports (CIF): NZ\$45,236

Main Imports: Ethyl Alcohol (96%), Wool and animal hair (4%)

Multilateral Linkages

New Zealand and Seychelles have a close working relationship on topics where our interests converge in multilateral organisations. New Zealand continues to advocate for the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to be met in the post-2015 development agenda and the set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) on which the agenda will be based. Areas of interest raised by Seychelles at the 2014 SIDS Conference included the sustainable management of debt and

Additional requests for cooperation:

NEXT TWO PAGES WITHHELD UNDER s6(a), s6(b)

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