THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SEYCHELLES

MEDIA YOUTH SPORTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

REPORT ON THE

VISIT TO ROCHE CAIMAN SPORT COMPLEX AND BEACH SOCCER ARENA, April 2025

Seventh Assembly

The Chairperson of the Media, Youth, Sports and Culture Committee submits, on behalf of the Committee its Report on its visit to the Roche Caiman Sports Complex and Beach soccer Arena, April 2025:

Hon. Wavel Woodcock
Chairperson

Other Members:

Hon. Philip Arissol
Vice-Chairperson

Hon. Gerard Bijoux
Member

Hon. Valdana Sultan
Member

Hon. Louisette Tamboo
Member

Hon. Georges Romain
Member

Hon. Conrad Gabriel
Member

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CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

On Thursday 10th April 2025, the Media, Youth, Sports, and Culture Committee (MYSCC) conducted a site visit to the Beach Soccer Arena, Roche Caiman, which is currently undergoing the final phases of preparation for the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Beach Soccer World Cup.

The visit was co-led by the President of the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mr Wavel Ramkalawan (also Patron for Football), and the Chairperson of the MYSCC, Hon. Wavel Woodcock. The delegation included the Minister for Youth, Sports, and Family Mrs. Marie-Celine Zialor, the Minister for Lands and Housing Mr. Billy Rangasamy, the Principal Secretary for Youth and Sports Mr. Ralph Jean-Louis as well as CEO of the Seychelles Infrastructure Agency (SIA) Mr. Jitesh Shah and other partners. Other MYSCC Members present included:

- Hon. Wavel Woodcock, MNA Chairperson
- Hon. Phillip Arissol, MNA Vice-Chairperson
- Hon. Georges Romain, MNA
- Hon. Gerard Bijoux, MNA

They were also joined by other Members of the National Assembly:

- Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Gervais Henrie,
- Hon. Sathya Naidu,
- Hon. Anne Bistoquet,
- Hon. John Hoareau,
- Hon. Norbert Loizeau,
- Hon. Francois Adelaide
- Hon. Andy Labonte.

The MYSCC conducted a follow-up site visit to the Roche Caiman Sports Complex to assess the progress of ongoing renovation works. This visit provided an opportunity for the committee to evaluate both the quality and extent of the renovations completed to date.

Mr. Jitesh Shah provided detailed information about the scope of work and highlighted the budget for the overall sports facilities being renovated.

This report aims to detail the observations and findings from the site visit, highlighting both the positive aspects of the renovation efforts and the areas where further improvement is necessary.

CHAPTER TWO

VISIT TO THE ROCHE CAIMAN SPORTS COMPLEX

2.1.The Palais Des Sports

The Palais Des Sports, a crucial venue for various sports activities such as volleyball, basketball, handball, and netball, has a seating capacity of 1,000 people. Since the MYSCC's last visit in June 2024, significant progress has been made. Renovations, which began two years ago, have advanced into their final stages.

This visit aimed to evaluate the advancements made in the ongoing renovation project, which commenced two years ago. Phase 1 of the renovation project has been successfully completed last year. Phase 2 is nearly completed and will be hand over end of next week, marking significant improvements to the facility. Key accomplishments under the final phase include:

- **Ceiling Renovation:** The new roofing has completed. Additional to that there has been new grid installation, this will help with the infestation of Pigeon entering the Palais Des Sport.
- **Changing Rooms and Shower Facilities:** Four modern and comfortable changing rooms have been completed, providing athletes with upgraded amenities.
- **Flooring:** The flooring has been replaced and it is now on international standard. The new flooring is standard for Volleyball, basketball and Handball matches.
- **Scoreboard Replacement:** A new scoreboard has been install, enhancing the overall functionality and experience for both players and spectators.
- **Ticket Station:** The ticketing booth is in its final stage. This is to streamline operations and improve service to attendees.
- **Lighting:** The installation of a new light has already completed.

Other key completed works includes:

- VIP Section: Renovation completed.
- Grid Installation: Helps prevent pigeon infestation.

Pending work;

- PA System and new rings for basketball has already been ordered and will arrive in Seychelles later in April.
- **Ventilation:** Enhancements to the ventilation system are planned to improve air quality and comfort within the venue.

2.2.Tennis Court

The new Tennis Court has been completed since last year and meets international standards.

Completed Work:

Key upgrades:

- **New Fencing:** The tennis court has been equipped with new fencing, enhancing security.
- **Electrical System Replacement:** The entire electrical system of the facility has been replaced.
- **New Lighting Installation:** New lights have already been installed.

2.3.DOJO Omni Sport

The renovation project has already started, aiming to improve the facility's functionality and comfort.

The planned renovations are primarily focus on two key areas:

- **Re-roofing:** This will improve the overall structural integrity of the facility and address any issues related to leakage.
- **Enhancing Ventilation:** The ventilation system will be upgraded to ensure better air circulation and temperature control within the facility. This enhancement will provide a more comfortable environment for users.

The renovation work is expected to be completed by the end of next week.

2.4.Stad Linite

Stade Linite, a key venue for athletics and football, had been in a state of disrepair. A range of major interventions has been undertaken.

Completed Work:

- **New Drainage Facilities:** New drainage facilities have been installed around the playing field to improve water flow and prevent waterlogging. These facilities are expected to ensure the playing field remains in optimal condition during heavy rains, providing a better playing surface for athletes.
- **Football Playing Field:** The football playing field has been fully completed, including the installation of new turf. The field meets the required standards for professional football matches, ensuring a high- quality playing surface for athletes.

Pending work:

- Installation of new tartan track where the water pipe had burst. It has been estimated to completed by 12th April 2025.
- Renovation work on changing room in the right wing at Stad Linite.
- Major renovation on changing room.
- The spectator and VIP seats are expected to arrive in Seychelles end of June. The color of the seats is blue, to match the tartan track.
- Arrival of VIP and spectator seating expected by end of June (seats to be in blue).

Concerns:

• Numerous structural cracks throughout the stadium

• Absence of a proper layout plan, raising concerns about underground infrastructure

• The SIA confirmed uncertainty regarding additional pipelines

• The Seychelles Football Federation (SFF) had initially taken responsibility specifically for the refurbishment of the changing rooms but failed to deliver. As a result, the Government assumed full financial responsibility for these upgrades.

CHAPTER THREE

VISIT TO BEACH SOCCER ARENA

3.1. Paradise Beach Soccer Arena

The stadium was initially scheduled for completion in November 2024, but faced major delays due to the Seychelles Football Federation's (SFF) failure to secure funding.

Government Intervention:

Under the leadership of President Ramkalawan, the Government assumed full responsibility for the project's funding, construction, and coordination. Without this action, FIFA would have relocated the event.

Key facts:

• Construction began after the stadium's arrival on 14 March 2025

• 87% of works completed in just 24 days

• Stadium capacity: 4,000 seats

• Facilities include VIP stands, toilets, and supporting infrastructure

• Estimated Cost: SCR 150 million

• FIFA Contribution: USD 1.7 million

The Committee expressed disappointment in the SFF's failure to meet its responsibilities, risking the country's international reputation.

Construction of the Paradise Beach Soccer stadium started on the 14th of March, and it took the contractors 24 days to assemble the stadium that has a capacity of 4,000 seats.

The stadium is now undergoing some finishing works, including toilettes, VIP sitting area. The stadium will be handed over to the FIFA on 27th April 2025 just in time for the games.

All preparation, buying of stadium, shipping has been done by the Government and the President of the Republic H.E Mr Wavel Ramkalawan. Due to the Football Federation not achieving the minimum financial requirement, the Government of Seychelles intervened to ensure the continuation of the organization and construction.

3.2. NSC Hall

The visit concluded at the NSC Hall where part of the hall has been transferred to FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Games Headquarters. It is an open plan, air-conditioned room. The office consisting of 2 meeting rooms, 1 IT Office and other offices for the office officials.

CONCLUSION

The Palais Des Sports has undergone a transformation including new flooring, Changing Rooms and facilities, a new roof, and other safety measures.

The MYSCC commends the Government for its decisive intervention and rapid progress on key sports infrastructure projects. Despite the challenges faced, the pace and quality of work have been commendable.

The Tennis Court and facilities, which are now up to standard. The Judo Dojo also saw renovation, with the installation of a new roof and ventilation.

The visit at Stad Linite gave the Committee the opportunity to view the progress of several key infrastructural developments.

The Committee, expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the development, with the estimated completion date of all repairs set for mid-April 2025

However, the Committee raises the following recommendations:

A full audit and review of national sports federation governance, especially regarding accountability and financial responsibility

• Stronger coordination between the Seychelles Infrastructure Agency and sports federations

• Creation of permanent layout plans and asset registries for major national venues

• Clear assignment of responsibilities to avoid repetition of administrative failures such as those experienced with the SFF

The estimated cost for the on-going contract is approximately R58 million, and it is expected to rise because the state of the facilities was in a very bad state. The Government today is investing a lot of money to ensure all the sport facilities meet international standards.

ANNEXURE

Annex 1: Sports Projects at Roche Caiman from 2023 to 2025

Sports Projects at Roche Caiman - 2023 to 2025

Ref	Project	Status	Amount
1	Tennis Courts	Complete	3,479,694.71
2	Swimming Pool Ph 1	Complete	3,214,374.44
3	Swimming Pool Ph 2	Ongoing	1,222,521.35
4	Changing Rooms Palais Des Sports	Complete	2,294,572.66
5	Re-roofing Palais Des Sports	Complete	3,373,470.93
6	Renovation Palais Des Sports	Ongoing	18,177,615.00
7	Upgrading of Fitness Trail	Complete	414,490.00
8	Changing Rooms Stad Linite	Ongoing	6,146,682.73
9	Civil Works for Tartan Track	Complete	2,631,683.65
10	Replacement of Tartan Track	Complete	7,615,800.80
11	Waterproofing South Stand	Ongoing	6,630,900.12
12	Structural Repairs to Stad Linite	Complete	453,072.40
13	Re-roofing Dojo Hall	Ongoing	2,238,501.00
14	Emergency Electrical Works at Dojo	Complete	644,684.02
	Total		**58,538,063.81**