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## Newsline

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## Olympic Games

# Official send-off of Seychellois athletes

In a send off ceremony held at State House yesterday, the President of the Republic, Wavel Ramkalawan met with four of the five athletes who will be representing Seychelles in the Tokyo Olympics.

by N. Derjacques

Though the Olympics will be taking place in 2021 due to the postponement, they will continue to be officially branded as the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The Olympics will see the participation of five Seychellois athletes, Rodney Govinden, Natanaina Finesse, Ned Azemia, Felicity Passon and Simon Bachman. Seychellois athletes will take part in sailing, judo, athletics and swimming.

For swimmer Passon, this will be her very first Olympic games. She is honoured to have been selected but the delay in the games seems to have had some impact on her mental state. She disappointingly, stated that “a year ago I could have said that I was excited and determined to win the games. Of course I am still determined, it is one of the biggest events of my career but going through the year with the COVID-19 pandemic, it just feels different. I am tired mentally. This year has been very



Ms Passon and Mr. Govinden are honoured to carry the flag for Seychelles

difficult, with a lot of struggles but we keep pushing”. She continued by saying, “I appreciate the efforts of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), for pulling

through for the athletes, now that Japan has announced a state of emergency. I am looking forward to representing my country and getting some rest after the games”.

“There will definitely be no medals in swimming from Seychelles” she added, stating that she was coming from a realistic point of view, adding that “with swimming

you always know where you stand in the world, even before you compete”. After the games Ms. Passon will hopefully be taking a break, following which she will be training for the Paris 2024.

As an advocate for mental health, Ms. Passon stated that she is very fortunate for her support system but there is not much help in mental health for athletes. “We just take it upon ourselves, to put ourselves in the right state of mind. It is not that the National Sports Council (NSC) doesn't want to have it but it is just that it is not there”. She added that “although I am a great advocate for mental health, I find myself not being very motivated or happy in my sport right now. We are leaving for Japan this weekend, but I do not find myself in a state of mind where I really want to compete but I am doing it because I know I need to go there and not come back with regrets”.

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## National Assembly

# Honourable Mancienne corrects the disarray of last week's sessions

“Unjustifiable absenteeism will result in a sanction of SCR 1000 deduction from the salaries,” stated the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Roger Mancienne.

by A. Uranie

Last Tuesday, 6th July, the National Assembly was in an uproar after Honourable Sandy Arrisol, Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Bel Ombre, stated that Honourable Audrey Vidot has been the member for Roche Caiman for many years and ‘they’ have overlooked the people that sell drugs in their neighbourhood. This statement angered Hon. Vidot, who demanded it be retracted.

The Speaker, said that he had not heard anything that he felt should be retracted. The Leader of the



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Roger Mancienne in yesterday's session.

Opposition was then asked to leave the chamber after attempting to support his colleague, prompting the whole caucus to leave the room. The Opposition party did not return the next day for the sitting of Wednesday 7th July.

Speaker Mancienne gave a ruling in yesterday's session regarding the incident and made the National Assembly aware of the regulations that are in place. Firstly, that the Standing Orders of the National Assembly under Article 9.1 states that a member of the National Assembly should not miss any assembly sitting unless they have permission from the Speaker,

but Article 9.6 also states that a temporary absence does not need permission from the Speaker for protestations.

Secondly, the National Assembly Members Emoluments Act, under section 4, states that for any member who does not attend sittings without the speakers' authorisation, SCR 1000 will be deducted from their salaries for each sitting missed. Any member who does not attend the National Assembly for two or more sittings continuously, may have their pay suspended. Their wages shall only be

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Fête nationale

# 14 juillet: Liberté, égalité, fraternité

Jour férié, le 14 Juillet est une journée de commémoration et de célébration en France. L'Ambassadeur de France aux Seychelles, Mr Dominique Mas nous fait part de ce que représente cette journée.

by Y. Savy

Commémoration de la prise de la Bastille en 1789, fête de la Fédération de 1790, la date d'aujourd'hui est riche en culture, passionnante en histoire. Ce mercredi 14 Juillet, célèbre la fête nationale française. Symbolisé

par les défilés militaires et les feux d'artifices sur l'avenue des Champs-Élysées, la célébration de cette date dépasse les frontières de l'hexagone.

L'Ambassadeur de France aux Seychelles, Mr Dominique Mas, souligne les valeurs que représente la fête nationale française. Néanmoins l'Ambassadeur se dit déçu

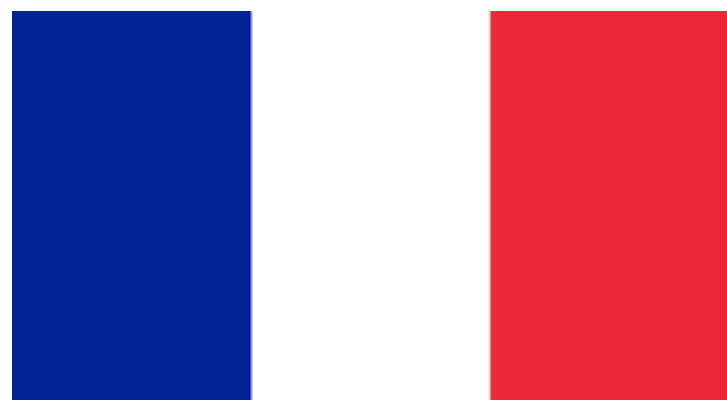
en raison de la situation sanitaire actuelle qui empêche la célébration habituelle de l'évènement.

« C'est un 14 Juillet particulier, pour les Seychelles je ne peux pas organiser de célébration comme je le voudrais. C'est toujours un immense plaisir pour un ambassadeur que de recevoir ces compatriotes et tous les parte-

naires Seychellois avec lequel on travail. Mais cela ne va pas nous empêcher avec les membres du gouvernement et les membres de l'assemblée nationale de célébrer cette fête, » partage Mr Dominique Mas. L'ambassadeur poursuit, « On célèbre surtout les valeurs que l'on a en commun. C'est ce qui est important en ce jour de rappeler nos trois valeurs républicaine, liberté, égalité, fraternité. »

En ce jour de célébration et de commémoration, l'ambassadeur rend hommage aux gens décédés du COVID-19. Aux personnes qui ont souffert psychologiquement et financièrement par ce virus. Semblable à l'année dernière, ce mercredi 14 juillet est dédié aux personnels de santé qui sont en première ligne dans cette crise sanitaire et économique. « On est très reconnaissant, ils font ce métier en payant parfois de leur personne. On pense à eux parce que ce sont ces personnes qu'on aurait souhaitées inviter pour montrer notre gratitude. Cette année on ne pourra pas le faire mais il y'aura d'autre 14 juillet, » affirme Mr Mas.

L'ambassadeur décrit les Seychelles comme un exemple de démocratie dans l'Océan Indien et dans l'Afrique. Mr Dominique



Mas loue la passation de pouvoir pacifique du pouvoir, « peu importe l'opinion politique de chacun, cette démocratie à réussir très pacifiquement la passation du pouvoir. Dans une démocra-

tie il y'a un débat politique. C'est nécessaire à la vigueur des idées. A la vigueur des combats politiques. Mais il faut que ce combat respecte les individus, respecte les libertés. »



Monsieur Dominique MAS, Ambassadeur de France aux Seychelles



France celebrates independence day

## Today in History...

### 14 July, 1789: French revolutionaries storm the Bastille

Parisian revolutionaries and mutinous troops storm and dismantle the Bastille, a royal fortress and prison that had come to symbolize the tyranny of the Bourbon monarchs.

This dramatic action signaled the beginning of the French Revolution, a decade of political turmoil and terror in which King Louis XVI was overthrown and tens of thousands of people, including the king and his wife Marie Antoinette, were executed.

Source: history.com

By the summer of 1789, France was moving quickly toward revolution. Bernard-René Jordan de Launay, the military governor of the Bastille, feared that his fortress would be a target for the revolutionaries and so requested reinforcements. On July 12, royal authorities transferred 250 barrels of gunpowder to the Bastille, and Launay brought his men into the massive fortress and raised its

two drawbridges.

At dawn on July 14, a great crowd armed with muskets, swords, and various makeshift weapons began to gather around the Bastille. Launay's men were able to hold the mob back, but as more and more Parisians were converging on the Bastille, Launay raised a white flag of surrender over the fortress. Launay and his men were taken into custody, the Bastille's gunpowder and cannons were seized, and the seven prisoners were freed.

Upon arriving at the Hotel de Ville, where Launay was to be arrested and tried by a revolutionary council, he was instead pulled away by a mob and murdered.

The capture of the Bastille symbolized the end of the ancien regime and provided the French revolutionary cause with an irresistible momentum. In 1792, the monarchy was abolished and Louis and his wife Marie-Antoinette were sent to the guillotine for treason in 1793.



Bastille

## Survey

### “ETH Zurich and University of Seychelles Student Survey Results”

The ETH Zurich and the University of Seychelles students embarked upon the study of the transportation system in Seychelles last Monday, 5 July. The results so far are astonishing despite COVID-19 transmission.

by S. Bistolet

The 25 Masters students from ETH Zurich, Switzerland and 20 Bachelor students from UniSey started the first phase of the three-week field work from 5th July. The students conducted interviews with employees of the Seychelles Planning Authority (SPA), Ministry of Transport (MOT) and the Seychelles Public Transport Corporation (SPTC). Individuals from private sector and civil societies, 250 households, pedestrians, car drivers and users of the public transportation system were also interviewed to be represented in the survey.

Each group had a specific theme to study focusing either on the freight system or cable car oppor-



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tunities. The field work allowed the students to fill important data gaps and supplement their work which started back in February.

An impressive 600 interviews and surveys were completed.

The ETH Zurich students have all been vaccinated, but still have to follow strict safety protocols and are required to conduct daily self-testing and adhering to public health measures. All surveys take place strictly outdoors, in order to minimize contact and possible risks of infection. These measures ensure the safety of all participants and also to showcase that the team takes the situation of COVID-19 in Seychelles seriously.

The study will continue until the 24th of July and the ETH Zurich students will return to home. The team hopes to present the finalised and validated Report to the relevant authorities such as MoT, SPA and SPTC by the end of 2021.



Students hard at work