

Seychelles

Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles

Chapter 42

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We, the People of Seychelles,

GRATEFUL to Almighty God that we inhabit one of the most beautiful countries in the world;

EVER MINDFUL of the uniqueness and fragility of Seychelles;

CONSCIOUS of our colonial history before becoming an Independent Republic;

AWARE and PROUD that as descendants of different races we have learnt to live together as one Nation under God and can serve as an example for a harmonious multi-racial society;

HAVING attained national stability and political maturity despite the pressures of a sadly divided world;

DESIROUS to build a just, fraternal and humane society in a spirit of friendship and co-operation with all peoples of the world;

RECOGNISING the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation for freedom, justice, welfare, fraternity, peace and unity;

REAFFIRMING that these rights include the rights of the individual to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness free from all types of discrimination;

CONSIDERING that these rights are most effectively maintained and protected in a democratic society where all powers of Government spring from the will of the people

EXERCISING our natural and inalienable right to a framework of Government which shall secure for ourselves and posterity the blessings of truth, liberty, fraternity, equality or opportunity, justice, peace, stability and prosperity;

INVOKING the blessings of Almighty God;

SOLEMNLY DECLARING our unswaying commitment, during this our Third Republic, to

- maintain Seychelles as an independent State both politically and economically;
- safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- uphold the rule of law based on the recognition of the fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in this Constitution and on respect for the equality and dignity of human beings;
- develop a democratic system which will ensure the creation of an adequate and progressive social order guaranteeing food, clothing, shelter, education, health and a steadily rising standard of living for all Seychellois;
- participate actively in the sustainable economic and social development of our society;
- exercise our individual rights and freedoms with due regard to the rights and freedoms of others and the common interest;
- help preserve a safe, healthy and functioning environment for ourselves and for posterity;

HEREBY adopt and confer upon ourselves this Constitution as the fundamental and supreme law of our Sovereign and Democratic Republic.

Chapter I The Republic

1. Declaration of Authority

Seychelles is a sovereign democratic Republic.

2. National territory

- (1) The territory of Seychelles shall consist of—
 - (a) the islands of the Seychelles Archipelago, as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1;
 - (b) the territorial waters and historic waters of Seychelles and the seabed and subsoil underlying those waters;
 - (c) the airspace above those islands and those waters; and
 - (d) such additional areas as may be declared by law to be part of the territory of Seychelles.
- (2) Notwithstanding clause (1), a law may proclaim complete or partial jurisdiction of the Republic over any other area of land, water or airspace.
- (3) An Act shall declare the limit of the territorial waters and historic waters of Seychelles and may prescribe the limit of the airspace referred to in clause (1)(c).

3. National symbols

There shall be a Public Seal, a National Flag, a National Anthem, a National Emblem and a National Motto, each of which shall be as prescribed by an Act.

4. National languages

- (1) The national languages of Seychelles shall be Creole, English and French.

- (2) Notwithstanding clause (1), a person may use any of the national languages for any purpose but a law may provide for the use of any one or more of the national languages for any specific purpose.

5. Constitution is supreme law

This Constitution is the supreme law of Seychelles and any other law found to be inconsistent with this Constitution is, to the extent of the inconsistency, void.

6. Principles of interpretation

Schedule 2 shall apply for and with respect to the interpretation of this Constitution.

Chapter II Citizenship

7. Persons continuing to be citizen

A person who, immediately before the coming into force of this Constitution, was a citizen of Seychelles by birth, descent, naturalisation or registration shall, on and after that date, continue by virtue of this article to be a citizen of Seychelles by birth, descent, naturalisation or registration, as the case may be.

8. Persons born in Seychelles

Subject to article 9, a person born in Seychelles on or after the coming into force of this Constitution, shall become a citizen of Seychelles at the date of birth.

9. Limitation on operation of article 8

- (1) A person shall not become a citizen of Seychelles by virtue of article 8 if, at the date of birth, neither of the person's parents is a citizen of Seychelles.
- (2) A person shall not become a citizen of Seychelles by virtue of article 8 if, at the date of birth,—
- (a) either of the person's parents possesses such immunity from suit and legal process as is accorded to an envoy of a foreign sovereign power accredited to Seychelles; or
 - (b) either of the person's parents is a citizen of a country with which Seychelles is at war and the birth occurs in a place then under occupation by that country,
- and neither of the person's parents is a citizen of Seychelles.

10. Persons born outside Seychelles before Independence Day

- (1) This article shall apply to a person—
- (a) who would not, but for this article be or become a citizen of Seychelles;
 - (b) who was born outside Seychelles before Independence Day; and
 - (c) any one of whose grand parents or parents was born in Seychelles.
- (2) Subject to any Act, a person to whom this article applies shall be eligible to become a citizen of Seychelles by naturalisation or registration.

10A. Persons born outside Seychelles after Independence Day but before 5th June 1979

A person born outside Seychelles on or after the Independence Day but before the 5th June, 1979 whose mother was a Seychellois at the time of the person's birth is eligible to become a citizen of Seychelles by naturalisation or registration.

11. Persons born outside Seychelles after this Constitution

A person born outside Seychelles on or after the coming into force of this Constitution shall become a citizen of Seychelles at the date of birth if at that date the person's father or mother is a citizen of Seychelles.

12. Marriage to citizen of Seychelles

- (1) A person who, on or after the coming into force of this Constitution, marries another person who is or becomes a citizen of Seychelles shall, subject to any Act, be eligible to become a citizen of Seychelles by naturalisation.
- (2) Clause (1) shall apply to a person who is not a citizen of Seychelles or eligible to become a citizen of Seychelles under article 10 and who, on or after Independence Day, and before the coming into force of this Constitution, married another person who was or became, or who becomes, a citizen of Seychelles, as it applies to a person such as is referred to in clause (1).

13. Acquisition of citizenship, etc

- (1) Provision may be made by or under an Act—
 - (a) for the acquisition of citizenship of Seychelles by any person who is not eligible or who is no longer eligible to become a citizen of Seychelles under this Chapter;
 - (b) for depriving any person of citizenship of Seychelles, it was unlawfully acquired;
 - (c) for the renunciation of citizenship of Seychelles by any person; and
 - (d) for the maintenance of a register of citizens of Seychelles who are also citizens of other countries.
- (2) A person who is a citizen of Seychelles may concurrently possess the citizenship of another country and a law made for the purposes of clause (1)(a) shall not require, as a condition for the acquisition of citizenship of Seychelles, that a person renounces any other citizenship that the person may possess at the time.

14. Interpretation of Chapter II

- (1) For the purposes of this Chapter—
 - (a) a person born on a registered ship or aircraft shall be deemed to have been born at the place where the ship or aircraft was registered; and
 - (b) a person born on an unregistered ship or aircraft belonging to the government of a country shall be deemed to have been born in that country.
- (2) Any reference in this Chapter to the national status of the father or mother of a person at the time of the birth of that person shall, in relation to a person born after the death of the father or mother, be construed as a reference to the national status of the father or mother at the time of the father's or mother's death; and accordingly, where that death occurred before the coming into force of this Constitution, the national status that the father or mother would have had if he or she had died on the coming into force of this Constitution shall be deemed to be his or her national status at the time of his or her death.

Chapter III

Part I – Seychellois Charter of fundamental human rights and freedoms

15. Right to life

- (1) Everyone has a right to life and no one shall be deprived of life intentionally.
- (2) A law shall not provide for a sentence of death to be imposed by any court.
- (3) Clause (1) is not infringed if there is a loss of life—
 - (a) by any act or omission which is made not punishable by any law reasonably justifiable in a democratic society; or
 - (b) as a result of a lawful act of war.

16. Right to dignity

Every person has a right to be treated with dignity worthy of a human being and not to be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

17. Freedom from slavery and forced or compulsory labour

- (1) Every person has a right not to be held in slavery or bondage.
- (2) Every person has a right not to be compelled to perform forced or compulsory labour.
- (3) Labour forced or compelled to be performed pursuant to a law necessary in a democratic society does not infringe clause (2).

18. Right to liberty

- (1) Every person has a right to liberty and security of the person.
- (2) The restriction, in accordance with fair procedures established by law, of the right under clause (1) in the following cases shall not be treated as an infringement of clause (1)—
 - (a) the arrest or detention in execution of a sentence or other lawful order of a court;
 - (b) the arrest or detention on reasonable suspicion of having committed or of being about to commit an offence for the purposes of investigation or preventing the commission of the offence and of producing, if necessary, the offender before a competent court;
 - (c) the arrest or detention to prevent the spread of infectious or contagious diseases which constitute a serious threat to public health;
 - (d) the arrest or detention for the treatment and rehabilitation of a person who is, or reasonably suspected to be, of unsound mind or addicted to drugs to prevent harm to that person or to the community;
 - (e) the arrest or detention for the purpose of preventing the unauthorised entry into Seychelles of a person, not being a citizen of Seychelles, or for the purpose of deportation or extradition of that person;
 - (f) the detention for the rehabilitation and welfare of a minor with the consent of the parent or guardian or of the Attorney-General where such detention is ordered by a competent court.
- (3) A person who is arrested or detained has a right to be informed at the time of the arrest or detention or as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter in, as far as is practicable, a language

that the person understands of the reason for the arrest or detention, a right to remain silent, a right to be defended by a legal practitioner of the person's choice and, in the case of a minor, a right to communicate with the parent or guardian.

- (4) A person who is arrested or detained shall be informed at the time of the arrest or detention or as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter of the rights under clause (3).
- (5) A person who is arrested or detained, if not released, shall be produced before a court within twenty-four hours of the arrest or detention or, having regard to the distance from the place of arrest or detention to the nearest court or the non-availability of a judge or magistrate, or *force majeure*, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the arrest or detention.
- (6) A person charged with an offence has a right to be tried within a reasonable time.
- (7) A person who is produced before a court shall be released, either unconditionally or upon reasonable conditions, for appearance at a later date for trial or for proceedings preliminary to a trial except where the court, having regard to the following circumstances, determines otherwise—
 - (a) where the court is a magistrates' court, the offence is one of treason or murder;
 - (b) the seriousness of the offence;
 - (c) there are substantial grounds for believing that the suspect will fail to appear for the trial or will interfere with the witnesses or will otherwise obstruct the course of justice or will commit an offence while on release;
 - (d) there is a necessity to keep the suspect in custody for the suspect's protection or where the suspect is a minor, for the minor's own welfare;
 - (e) the suspect is serving a custodial sentence;
 - (f) the suspect has been arrested pursuant to a previous breach of the conditions of release for the same offence.
- (8) A person who is detained has the right to take proceedings before the Supreme Court in order that the Court may decide on the lawfulness of the detention and order the release of the person if the detention is not lawful.
- (9) Proceedings under clause (8) shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency by the Supreme Court and shall take priority over the proceedings of the Court listed for hearing on that day.
- (10) A person who has been unlawfully arrested or detained has a right to receive compensation from the person who unlawfully arrested or detained that person or from any other person or authority, including the State, on whose behalf or in the course of whose employment the unlawful arrest or detention was made or from both of them.
- (11) A person who has not been convicted of an offence, if kept or confined in a prison or place of detention, shall not be treated as a convicted person and shall be kept away from any convicted person.
- (12) An offender or a suspect who is a minor and who is kept in lawful custody or detention shall be kept separately from any adult offender or suspect.
- (13) A female offender or suspect who is kept in lawful custody or detention shall be kept separately from any male offender or suspect.
- (14) Where a person is convicted of any offence, any period which the person has spent in custody in respect of the offence shall be taken into account by the court in imposing any sentence of imprisonment for the offence.
- (15) A person shall not be imprisoned merely on the ground of the inability to fulfil a contractual obligation.
- (16) Clause (15) shall not limit the powers of a court under any law in enforcing its orders.

19. Right to a fair and public hearing

- (1) Every person charged with an offence has the right, unless the charge is withdrawn, to a fair hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial court established by law.
- (2) Every person who is charged with an offence—
 - (a) is innocent until the person is proved or has pleaded guilty;
 - (b) shall be informed at the time the person is charged or as soon as is reasonably practicable, in, as far as is practicable, a language that the person understands and in detail, of the nature of the offence;
 - (c) shall be given adequate time and facilities to prepare a defence to the charge;
 - (d) has a right to be defended before the court in person, or, at the person's own expense by a legal practitioner of the person's own choice, or, where a law so provides, by a legal practitioner provided at public expense;
 - (e) has a right to examine, in person or by a legal practitioner, the witnesses called by the prosecution before any court, and to obtain the attendance and carry out the examination of witnesses to testify on the person's behalf before the court on the same conditions as those applying to witnesses called by the prosecution;
 - (f) shall, as far as is practicable, have without payment the assistance of an interpreter if the person cannot understand the language used at the trial of the charge;
 - (g) shall not be compelled to testify at the trial or confess guilt;
 - (h) shall not have any adverse inference drawn from the exercise of the right to silence either during the course of the investigation or at the trial; and
 - (i) shall, except with the person's own consent, not be tried in the person's absence unless the person's conduct renders the continuance of the proceedings in the person's presence impracticable and the court has ordered the person to be removed and the trial to proceed in the person's absence.
- (3) When a person is tried for any offence that person or any other person authorised by that person in that behalf shall, if either of them so requires and subject to payment of such reasonable fee as may be specified by or under any law, be given as soon as is practicable after judgment a copy for the use of that person of any record of the proceedings made by or on behalf of the court.
- (4) Except for the offence of genocide or an offence against humanity, a person shall not be held to be guilty of an offence on account of any act or omission that did not, at the time it took place, constitute an offence, and a penalty shall not be imposed for any offence that is more severe in degree or description than the maximum penalty that might have been imposed for the offence at the time when it was committed.
- (5) A person who shows that the person has been tried by a competent court for an offence and either convicted or acquitted shall not be tried again for that offence or for any other offence of which the person could have been convicted at the trial for that offence, save upon the order of a superior court in the course of appeal or review proceedings relating to the conviction or acquittal.
- (6) A person shall not be tried for an offence if the person shows that the person has been pardoned for that offence in accordance with an Act made pursuant to article 60(2).
- (7) Any court or other authority required or empowered by law to determine the existence or extent of any civil right or obligation shall be established by law and shall be independent and impartial, and where proceedings for such a determination are instituted by any person before such a court or other authority the case shall be given a fair hearing within a reasonable time.

- (8) Subject to clause (9), all proceedings of every court and proceedings for the determination of the existence or extent of any civil right or obligation before any court or other authority, including the announcement of the decision of the court or other authority, shall be held in public.
- (9) Anything in clause (8) shall not prevent the court or other authority from excluding from the proceedings, except for the announcement of the decision of the court or other authority, persons other than the parties thereto, their legal representatives and legal practitioners to such extent as the court or other authority—
- (a) may by law be empowered so to do and may consider necessary in the circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice, or in interlocutory proceedings, or in the interests of public morality, the welfare of persons under the age of eighteen years or the protection of the privacy of persons concerned in the proceedings; or
 - (b) may by law be empowered or required to do so in the interests of defence, public safety or public order.
- (10) Anything contained in or done under the authority of any law necessary in a democratic society shall not be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of—
- (a) clause (1), (2)(e) or (8), to the extent that the law in question makes necessary provision relating to the grounds of privilege or public policy on which evidence shall not be disclosed or witnesses are not competent or cannot be compelled to give evidence in any proceedings;
 - (b) clause (2)(a), to the extent that the law in question imposes upon any person charged with an offence the burden of proving particular facts or declares that the proof of certain facts shall be *prima facie* proof of the offence or of any element thereof;
 - (c) clause (2)(e), to the extent that the law in question imposes conditions that must be satisfied if witnesses called to testify on behalf of an accused person are to be paid their expenses out of public funds;
 - (d) clause (5), to the extent that the law in question authorises a court to try a member of a disciplinary force for an offence notwithstanding any trial and conviction or acquittal of that member under the disciplinary law of that force, so, however, that any court so trying such a member and convicting the member shall in sentencing the person to any punishment take into account any punishment awarded the member under that disciplinary law.
- (11) Every person convicted of an offence shall be entitled to appeal in accordance with law against the conviction, sentence and any order made on the conviction.
- (12) For the purposes of clause 2(i), a person who has, in accordance with law, been served with a summons or other process requiring the person to appear at the time and place appointed for the trial and who does not so appear shall be deemed to have consented to the trial taking place in the person's absence.
- (13) Every person convicted of an offence and who has suffered punishment as a result of the conviction shall, if it is subsequently shown that there has been a serious miscarriage of justice, be entitled to be compensated by the State according to law.

20. Right to privacy

- (1) Every person has a right not to be subjected—
- (a) without the consent of that person, to the search of the person or property or premises of that person or to the unlawful entry by others on the premises of that person;
 - (b) without the consent of the person or an order of the Supreme Court, to the interception of the correspondence or other means of communication of that person either written, oral or through any medium.

- (2) Anything contained in or done under the authority of any law shall not be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of clause (1)(a) to the extent that the law in question makes provision—
- (a) that is reasonably required in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality, public health, the administration of Government, town and country planning, nature conservation and the economic development and well-being of the country;
 - (b) that is reasonably required for the purpose of protecting the rights or freedoms of other persons;
 - (c) that authorises an officer or agent of the Government or a local authority, or a body corporate established by law for public purposes, to enter on the premises of any person in order to inspect or value those premises or anything therein for the purpose of any tax, rate, due or duty or in order to carry out work connected with any property that is lawfully on those premises and that belongs to the Government or that authority or body corporate, as the case may be; or
 - (d) that authorises, for the purpose of enforcing of the judgment or order of a court in any civil proceedings, the search of any person or property by order of a court or the entry upon any premises by such order.

except so far as that provision or, as the case may be, the thing done under the authority thereof is shown not to be necessary in a democratic society.

21. Freedom of conscience

- (1) Every person has a right to freedom of conscience and for the purpose of this article this right includes freedom of thought and religion, freedom to change religion or belief and freedom either alone or in community with others and both in public and in private, to manifest and propagate the religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance.
- (2) The freedom to manifest and propagate a religion or belief may be subject to such limitations as may be prescribed by a law and necessary in a democratic society—
 - (a) in the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health; or
 - (b) for the purpose of protecting the rights or freedoms of other persons.
- (3) A person attending any place of education shall not be compelled to impart or receive religious instruction or to take part in or attend any religious ceremony or observance.
- (4) Subject to this Constitution or any other law, a person shall not be compelled to take any oath that is contrary to the religion or belief of that person or to take any oath in a manner that is contrary to that religion or belief.
- (5) A person shall not be required to profess any religion as a qualification for public office.
- (6) A law shall not make provision for the establishment of any religion or the imposition of any religious observance.
- (7) Anything in this article shall not preclude any religious community or denomination from providing religious instruction for persons of that community or denomination in the course of any education provided by that community or denomination.

22. Freedom of expression

- (1) Every person has a right to freedom of expression and for the purpose of this article this right includes the freedom to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart ideas and information without interference.

- (2) The right under clause (1) may be subject to such restrictions as may be prescribed by a law and necessary in a democratic society—
 - (a) in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health;
 - (b) for protecting the reputation, rights and freedoms or private lives of persons;
 - (c) for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence;
 - (d) for maintaining the authority and independence of the courts or the National Assembly;
 - (e) for regulating the technical administration, technical operation, or general efficiency of telephones, telegraphy, posts, wireless broadcasting, television, or other means of communication or regulating public exhibitions or public entertainment; or
 - (f) for the imposition of restrictions upon public officers.

23. Right of assembly and association

- (1) Every person has a right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and for the purpose of this article this right includes the right to assemble freely and associate with other persons and in particular to form or to belong to political parties, trade unions or other associations for the protection of the interests of that person and not to be compelled to belong to any association.
- (2) The right under clause (1) may be subject to such restrictions as may be prescribed by a law and necessary in a democratic society—
 - (a) in the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health;
 - (b) in respect of the registration of associations or political parties;
 - (c) for the protection of the rights and freedoms of other persons,
 - (d) for imposition of restrictions—
 - (i) on persons who are not citizens of Seychelles; or
 - (ii) on public officers or members of the disciplinary forces.

24. Right to participate in Government

- (1) Subject to this Constitution, every citizen of Seychelles who has attained the age of eighteen years has a right—
 - (a) to take part in the conduct of public affairs either directly or through freely chosen representatives;
 - (b) to be registered as a voter for the purpose of and to vote by secret ballot at public elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage;
 - (c) to be elected to public office; and
 - (d) to participate, on general terms of equality, in public service.
- (2) The exercise of the rights under clause (1) may be regulated by a law necessary in a democratic society.

25. Freedom of movement

- (1) Every person lawfully present in Seychelles has a right of freedom of movement and for the purpose of this article this right includes the right to move freely within Seychelles, the right to reside in any part of Seychelles, the right to leave Seychelles and the right not to be expelled from Seychelles.

- (2) Every person who is a citizen of Seychelles has a right to enter Seychelles and, subject to clause (3) (d), not to be expelled from Seychelles.
- (3) The right under clause (1) may be subject to such restrictions as are prescribed by a law necessary in a democratic society—
 - (a) in the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health;
 - (b) for protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons;
 - (c) for the prevention of a crime or compliance with an order of a court;
 - (d) for extradition of persons from Seychelles; or
 - (e) for lawful removal of persons who are not citizens of Seychelles from Seychelles.
- (4) A law providing for the extradition of persons from Seychelles shall not authorise the extradition to a country in respect of an offence punishable with death in that country unless that country undertakes not to carry into effect a sentence of death in respect of the offence.
- (5) A law providing for the lawful removal from Seychelles of persons lawfully present in Seychelles shall provide for the submission, prior to removal, of the reasons for the removal and for review by a competent authority of the order of removal.

26. Right to property

- (1) Every person has a right to property and for the purpose of this article this right includes the right to acquire, own, peacefully enjoy and dispose of property either individually or in association with others.
- (2) The exercise of the right under clause (1) may be subject to such limitations as may be prescribed by law and necessary in a democratic society—
 - (a) in the public interest;
 - (b) for the enforcement of an order or judgment of a court in civil or criminal proceedings;
 - (c) in satisfaction of any penalty, tax, rate, duty or due;
 - (d) in the case of property reasonably suspected of being acquired by the proceeds of drug trafficking or serious crime;
 - (e) in respect of animals found trespassing or straying;
 - (f) in consequence of a law with respect to limitation of actions or acquisitive prescription;
 - (g) with respect to property of citizens of a country at war with Seychelles;
 - (h) with regard to the administration of the property of persons adjudged bankrupt or of persons who have died or of persons under legal incapacity; or
 - (i) for vesting in the Republic of the ownership of underground water or unextracted oil or minerals of any kind or description.
- (3) A law shall not provide for the compulsory acquisition or taking of possession of any property by the State unless—
 - (a) reasonable notice of the intention to compulsorily acquire or take possession of the property and of the purpose of the intended acquisition or taking of possession are given to persons having an interest or right over the property;
 - (b) the compulsory acquisition or taking of possession is necessary in the public interest for the development or utilisation of the property to promote public welfare or benefit or for public defence, safety, order, morality or health or for town and country planning;

- (c) there is reasonable justification for causing any hardship that may result to any person who has an interest in or over the property;
 - (d) the State pays prompt and full compensation for the property;
 - (e) any person who has an interest or right over the property has a right of access to the Supreme Court whether direct or on appeal from any other authority for the determination of the interest or right, the legality of the acquisition or taking of possession of the property, the amount of compensation payable to the person and for the purpose of obtaining prompt payment of compensation.
- (4) Where the property acquired by the State under this article is not used, within a reasonable time, for the purpose for which it was acquired, the State shall give, to the person who owned it immediately before the acquisition of the property, an option to buy the property.
- (5) A law imposing any restriction on the acquisition or disposal of property by a person who is not a citizen of Seychelles shall not be held to be inconsistent with clause (1).

27. Right to equal protection of the law

- (1) Every person has a right to equal protection of the law including the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set out in this Charter without discrimination on any ground except as is necessary in a democratic society.
- (2) Clause (1) shall not preclude any law, programme or activity which has as its object the amelioration of the conditions of disadvantaged persons or groups.

28. Right of access to official information

- (1) The State recognises the right of access of every person to information relating to that person and held by a public authority which is performing a governmental function and the right to have the information rectified or otherwise amended, if inaccurate.
- (2) The right of access to information contained in clause (1) shall be subject to such limitations and procedures as may be prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society including—
- (a) for the protection of national security;
 - (b) for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of law;
 - (c) for the compliance with an order of a court or in accordance with a legal privilege;
 - (d) for the protection of the privacy or rights or freedoms of others;
- (3) The State undertakes to take appropriate measures to ensure that information collected in respect of any person for a particular purpose is used only for that purpose except where a law necessary in a democratic society or an order of a court authorises otherwise.
- (4) The State recognises the right of access by the public to information held by a public authority performing a governmental function subject to limitations contained in clause (2) and any law necessary in a democratic society.

29. Right to health care

- (1) The State recognises the right of every citizen to protection of health and to the enjoyment of the attainable standard of physical and mental health and with a view to ensuring the effective exercise of this right the State undertakes—
- (a) to take steps to provide for free primary health care in State institutions for all its citizens.
 - (b) to take appropriate measures to prevent, treat and control epidemic, endemic and other diseases;

- (c) to take steps to reduce infant mortality and promote the healthy development of the child;
- (d) to promote individual responsibility in health matters;
- (e) to allow, subject to such supervision and conditions as are necessary in a democratic society, for the establishment of private medical services.

30. Right of working mothers

The State recognises the unique status and natural maternal functions of women in society and undertakes as a result to take appropriate measures to ensure that a working mother is afforded special protection with regard to paid leave and her conditions at work during such reasonable period as provided by law before and after childbirth.

31. Right of minors

The State recognises the right of children and young persons to special protection in view of their immaturity and vulnerability and to ensure effective exercise of this right the State undertakes—

- (a) to provide that the minimum age of admission to employment shall be fifteen years, subject to exceptions for children who are employed part-time in light work prescribed by law without harm to their health, morals or education;
- (b) to provide for a higher minimum age of admission to employment with respect to occupations prescribed by law which the State regards as dangerous, unhealthy or likely to impair the normal development of a child or young person;
- (c) to ensure special protection against social and economic exploitation and physical and moral dangers to which children and young persons are exposed;
- (d) to ensure, save in exceptional and judicially recognised circumstances, that a child of young age is not separated from his parents.

32. Protection of families

- (1) The State recognises that the family is the natural and fundamental element of society and the right of everyone to form a family and undertakes to promote the legal, economic and social protection of the family.
- (2) The right contained in clause (1) may be subject to such restrictions as may be prescribed by law and necessary in a democratic society including the prevention of marriage between persons of the same sex or persons within certain family degrees.

33. Right to Education

The State recognises the right of every citizen to education and with a view to ensuring the effective realisation of this right undertakes—

- (a) to provide compulsory education, which shall be free in State schools, for such minimum period, which shall not be less than ten years, as may be prescribed by law;
- (b) to ensure that the educational programs in all schools are aimed at the complete development of the person;
- (c) to afford, on the basis of intellectual capability, every citizen equal access to educational opportunities and facilities beyond the period of compulsory education;
- (d) to allow, subject to such reasonable restrictions, supervision and conditions as are necessary in a democratic society, any person, organisation or institution to establish and maintain a private school;

- (e) to respect the right of parents to choose whether to send their children to a State or private school.

34. Right to shelter

The State recognises the right of every citizen to adequate and decent shelter conducive to health and well-being and undertakes either directly or through or with the co-operation of public or private organisations to facilitate the effective realisation of this right.

35. Right to work

The State recognises the right of every citizen to work and to just and favourable conditions of work and with a view to ensuring the effective exercise of these rights the State undertakes—

- (a) to take necessary measures to achieve and maintain a high and stable level of employment, as is practicable, with a view to attaining full employment;
- (b) subject to such restrictions as are necessary in a democratic society, to protect effectively the right of a citizen to earn a dignified living in a freely chosen occupation, profession or trade;
- (c) to promote vocational guidance and training;
- (d) to make and enforce statutory provisions for safe, healthy and fair conditions of work, including reasonable rest, leisure, paid holidays, remuneration which guarantees, as a minimum, dignified and decent living conditions for the workers and their families, fair and equal wages for work of equal value without distinction and stability of employment;
- (c) to promote machinery for voluntary negotiations between employers and workers or their organisations with a view to the regulation of conditions of employment by means of collective agreements;

[Please note: numbering as in original.]

- (d) to promote the establishment and use of appropriate machinery for conciliation and voluntary arbitrations for the settlement of labour disputes;
- (e) subject to such restrictions as are necessary in a democratic society, and necessary for safeguarding public order, for the protection of health or morals and the rights and freedoms of others, to ensure the right of workers to organise trade unions and to guarantee the right to strike.

36. Right of the aged and the disabled

The State recognises the right of the aged and the disabled to special protection and with a view to ensuring the effective exercise of this right undertakes—

- (a) to make reasonable provision for improving the quality of life of and for the welfare and maintenance of the aged and disabled;
- (b) to promote programs specifically aimed at achieving the greatest possible development of the disabled.

37. Right to social security

The State recognises the right of every citizen to a decent and dignified existence and with a view to ensuring that its citizens are not left unprovided for by reason of incapacity to work or involuntary unemployment undertakes to maintain a system of social security.

38. Right to safe environment

The State recognises the right of every person to live in and enjoy a clean, healthy and ecologically balanced environment and with a view to ensuring the effective realisation of this right the State undertakes—

- (a) to take measures to promote the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment
- (b) to ensure a sustainable socio-economic development of Seychelles by a judicious use and management of the resources of Seychelles;
- (c) to promote public awareness of the need to protect, preserve and improve the environment.

39. Right to cultural life and values

- (1) The State recognises the right of every person to take part in cultural life and to profess, promote, enjoy and protect the cultural and customary values of the Seychellois people subject to such restrictions as may be provided by law and necessary in a democratic society including—
 - (a) the protection of public order, public morals and public health;
 - (b) the prevention of crime;
 - (c) the protection of the rights and freedoms of other persons.
- (2) The State undertakes to take reasonable steps to ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage and values of the Seychellois people.

Part II – Fundamental duties

40. Fundamental duties

It shall be the duty of every citizen of Seychelles—

- (a) to uphold and defend this Constitution and the law;
- (b) to further the national interest and to foster national unity;
- (c) to work conscientiously in a chosen profession, occupation or trade;
- (d) to contribute towards the well-being of the community;
- (e) to protect, preserve and improve the environment; and
- (f) generally, to strive towards the fulfilment of the aspirations contained in the Preamble of this Constitution.

Part III – State of emergency and savings

41. Declaration of state of emergency

- (1) The President may, where the President has reason to believe that—
 - (a) a grave threat to national security or public order has arisen or is imminent; or
 - (b) a grave civil emergency has arisen or is imminent, in Seychelles or in any part of Seychelles, by a Proclamation

published in the *Gazette*, declare that a state of emergency exists in Seychelles or that part of Seychelles, as the case may be.

- (2) A declaration made under clause (1) shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of seven days beginning with the date of the publication of the declaration unless, before the expiration of the period, it is approved by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the number of members of the National Assembly.
- (3) The President shall, within seventy-two hours after the publication of the Proclamation under clause (1), send to the Speaker of the National Assembly the facts and circumstances leading to the declaration of the state of emergency and the Speaker shall, within seven days after the publication, cause the declaration and the facts and circumstances leading to the declaration to be considered by the Assembly.
- (4) Subject to clause (5), a declaration of emergency approved by the National Assembly under clause (2) shall continue in force until the expiration of a period of three months beginning with the date of its approval or until such earlier date as may be specified in the resolution.
- (5) The National Assembly may, by a resolution passed by the votes of a majority of members of the National Assembly, at any time, revoke a declaration approved by the National Assembly under this article.
- (6) Whenever an election to the office of President results in a change in the holder of that office a declaration under this article which is in force immediately before the day on which the President assumes office shall cease to have effect on the expiration of seven days beginning with that day.
- (7) Notwithstanding clause (1), where the National Assembly resolves under clause (2) that the declaration of a state of emergency should not continue or revokes a declaration of state of emergency under clause (5), the President shall not, within thirty days of the resolution or revocation, declare a state of emergency based wholly or mainly on the same facts unless the National Assembly has, by a resolution passed by the votes of a majority of its members, authorised the making of the declaration.
- (8) Where due to circumstances prevailing at the time of a declaration of a state of emergency under clause (1) it is impracticable to publish in the *Gazette* the Proclamation under that clause, the Proclamation may be published in such manner as the President may determine so as to give it as much publicity as is possible and such publication shall be deemed to be a sufficient compliance with clause (1) for the purposes of this article.
- (9) Clauses (2) to (6) and (8) shall apply in respect of a declaration of emergency made under clause (7).

42. Provisions where National Assembly is not sitting or in session

- (1) Where the National Assembly is in session but not sitting when a declaration is made under article 41(1) or (7), the Speaker shall immediately summon the Assembly to meet on a date that is not more than seven days after the publication of the declaration.
- (2) Where the National Assembly stands dissolved when a declaration is made under article 41(1) or (7), the President shall, in the Proclamation making the declaration, summon the members of the dissolved Assembly to meet on a date that is not more than seven days after the making of the declaration and the members may, until a new National Assembly first meets, meet and continue to meet for the purpose of discharging the functions of the National Assembly for the purposes of article 41.
- (3) For the purposes of clause (2), the Speaker or Deputy Speaker immediately before the dissolution of the National Assembly shall preside over the sittings of the National Assembly.

43. Restrictions of rights and freedoms during a period of public emergency

- (1) This article shall apply during any period of public emergency.

- (2) Notwithstanding this Chapter but subject to clause (3), a law may provide for the taking during a period of public emergency of such measures as are strictly required to meet the exigencies of the situation.
- (3) A law referred to in clause (2) shall not provide for the taking of measures that are inconsistent with articles 15, 16, 17, 18(3), 19(2) to (6) and (11), 21 and 27.
- (4) Where a law referred to in clause (2) provides for the detention of persons provision shall be made in the law—
 - (a) that, as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any case not more than seven days after the commencement of the detention, the person detained shall be furnished with a statement in writing, in, as far as is practicable, a language that the person understands, specifying in detail the grounds upon which the person is detained;
 - (b) that not more than seven days after the commencement of the detention, a notice shall be published in the *Gazette* and a local daily newspaper of wide circulation in Seychelles stating the name of the person detained and the particulars of the law under which the detention was made;
 - (c) that not more than a month after the detention and thereafter at intervals of not more than three months the detention of the person shall be reviewed by an independent and impartial tribunal appointed by the President from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority for this purpose;
 - (d) that the person detained shall be entitled to choose and be afforded reasonable facilities to consult a legal practitioner, to appear, in person or through the legal practitioner, before the tribunal, and that where the law so provides the services of the legal practitioner shall be at public expense;
 - (e) that the person detained shall be released forthwith if the tribunal reviewing the detention is satisfied that it is not reasonably necessary or expedient for the purpose of the emergency to continue with the detention;
 - (f) where the tribunal reviewing the detention of a person does not order the release of the person the tribunal may make recommendation to the authority detaining the person concerning the necessity or expediency of continuing with the detention and a copy of the recommendation shall be served on the person detained.
- (5) A tribunal appointed under clause (4)(c) shall have a Judge as chairman.

44. Savings in relation to disciplinary force

- (1) A law made in relation to a disciplinary force of Seychelles may, in so far as it is necessary in a democratic society, provide for the derogation against the provisions of the Charter, other than articles 15, 16, and 17.
- (2) A law of a country other than Seychelles whose disciplinary force is lawfully in Seychelles in pursuance of arrangements made between the Government of Seychelles and another government or an international organisation shall, in so far as the law applies to that disciplinary force, not be held to be inconsistent or in contravention of the provisions of the Charter.
- (3) A law which authorises the taking of any measure against a member of a disciplinary force of a country with which Seychelles is at war shall not be held to be inconsistent with the Charter.
- (4) A law referred to in clause (3) shall not provide for the doing of anything which constitutes the crime of genocide or a crime against humanity.

Part IV – Remedies

45. Abuse of right or freedom

This Chapter shall not be interpreted so as to confer on any person or group the right to engage in any activity aimed at the suppression of a right or freedom contained in the Charter.

46. Remedies for infringement of the Charter

- (1) A person who claims that a provision of this Charter has been or is likely to be contravened in relation to the person by any law, act or omission may, subject to this article, apply to the Constitutional Court for redress.
- (2) An application under clause (1) may, where the Constitutional Court is satisfied that the person whose right or freedom has been or is likely to be contravened is unable to do so, be made by another person acting on behalf of that person, with or without that person's authority.
- (3) The Constitutional Court may decline to entertain an application under clause (1) where the Court is satisfied that the applicant has obtained redress for the contravention under any law and where the applicant has obtained redress in the Constitutional Court for any matter for which an application may be made under clause (1), a court shall not entertain any application for redress for such matter except on appeal from a decision of such court.
- (4) Where the Constitutional Court on an application under clause(1) is satisfied that adequate means of redress for the contravention alleged are or have been available to the person concerned in any other court under any other law, the Court may hear the application or transfer the application to the appropriate court for grant of redress in accordance with law.
- (5) Upon hearing of an application under clause (1) the Constitutional Court may—
 - (a) declare any act or omission which is the subject of the application to be a contravention of the Charter;
 - (b) declare any law or the provision of any law which contravenes the Charter void;
 - (c) make such declaration or order, issue such writ and give such directions as it may consider appropriate for the purpose of enforcing or securing the enforcement of the Charter and disposing of all the issues relating to the application;
 - (d) award any damages for the purpose of compensating the person concerned for any damages suffered;
 - (e) make such additional order under this Constitution or as may be prescribed by law.
- (6) Where the Constitutional Court makes a declaration under clause (5)(b) the Court shall, subject to any decision in appeal therefrom, send a copy of the declaration to the President and the Speaker.
- (7) Where in the course of any proceedings in any court, other than the Constitutional Court or the Court of Appeal, a question arises with regard to whether there has been or is likely to be a contravention of the Charter, the court shall, if it is satisfied that the question is not frivolous or vexatious or has already been the subject of a decision of the Constitutional Court or the Court of Appeal, immediately adjourn the proceedings and refer the question for determination by the Constitutional Court.
- (8) Where in an application under clause (1) or where a matter is referred to the Constitutional Court under clause (7), the person alleging the contravention or risk of contravention establishes a *prima facie* case, the burden of proving that there has not been a contravention or risk of contravention shall, where the allegation is against the State, be on the State.

- (9) The court in which the question referred to in clause (7) arose shall dispose of the case in accordance with the decision of the Constitutional Court, or if that decision is the subject of an appeal to the Court of Appeal, in accordance with the decision of the Court of Appeal.
- (10) The Chief Justice may make rules for the purpose of this article with respect to the practice and procedure of the Constitutional Court in relation to the jurisdiction and power conferred upon it by or under this article, including rules with respect to the time within which an application or a reference may be made or brought.

Part V – Principles of interpretation

47. Scope of exceptions

Where a right or freedom contained in this Charter is subject to any limitation, restriction or qualification, that limitation, restriction or qualification—

- (a) shall have no wider effect than is strictly necessary in the circumstances; and
- (b) shall not be applied for any purpose other than that for which it has been prescribed.

48. Consistency with international obligations of Seychelles

This Chapter shall be interpreted in such a way so as not to be inconsistent with any international obligations of Seychelles relating to human rights and freedoms and a court shall, when interpreting the provision of this Chapter, take judicial notice of—

- (a) the international instrument containing these obligations;
- (b) the reports and expression of views of bodies administering or enforcing these instruments;
- (c) the reports, decisions or opinions of international and regional institutions administering or enforcing Conventions on human rights and freedoms;
- (d) the Constitutions of other democratic States or nations and decisions of the courts of the States or nations in respect of their Constitutions.

49. Interpretation

In this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires—

"**Charter**" or "Seychelles Charter of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms" means Part 1 of this Chapter;

"**contravene**", in relation to a requirement or condition in this Chapter, includes a failure to comply with the requirement or condition;

"**court**" means any court of law or tribunal having jurisdiction in Seychelles excepting, save as in articles 19 and 46, a court established by or under a disciplinary law;

"**democratic society**" means a pluralistic society in which there is tolerance, proper regard for the fundamental human rights and freedoms and the rule of law and where there is a balance of power among the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary;

"**disciplinary force**" means—

- (a) a naval, military or air force;
- (b) the police force of Seychelles;
- (c) the prison service of Seychelles;
- (d) any other similar force established by law.

"**disciplinary law**" means a law regulating the discipline of a disciplinary force;

"**governmental authority**" includes a department, division, agency or instrumentality of the Government and any statutory body or body set up by administrative action for governmental or official purposes;

"**legal practitioner**" means a person lawfully in or entitled to be in Seychelles and entitled to practice law in Seychelles;

"**member**", in relation to a disciplinary force, includes any person who, under the law regulating the discipline of that force, is subject to that discipline;

"**minor**" means an individual who has not attained the age of eighteen years;

"**period of public emergency**" means any period during which

- (a) Seychelles is at war; or
- (b) a declaration made under article 41 is in force; "person" means an individual or a body corporate;

"**person**" means an individual or a body corporate;

"**public officer**" includes a person employed by a governmental authority.

Chapter IV

The President

50. President of Seychelles

There shall be a President of Seychelles who shall be the Head of State, Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of Seychelles.

51. Qualification for election as President and election

- (1) A person is qualified for election as President if—
 - (a) the person is a citizen of Seychelles;
 - (b) the person is not disqualified from registration as a voter under this Constitution.
- (2) Subject to clause (6), Schedule 3 shall have effect with regard to the election of the President.
- (3) The Constitutional Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine whether a person has been validly elected to the office of President.
- (4) An application under clause (3) may be made by a person entitled to vote at an election of the President, a person who was a candidate at the election or the Attorney-General.
- (5) Where a person other than the Attorney-General makes an application under this article, the Attorney-General may intervene and may appear or be represented in the proceedings.
- (6) A law may provide for—
 - (a) the circumstances and manner in which and the imposition of conditions upon which an application may be made to the Constitutional Court for the determination of a question under clause (3);
 - (b) the powers, practice and procedure of the Constitutional Court in relation to the application; and
 - (c) any matter, not otherwise provided for in Schedule 3, which is necessary or required to ensure a true, fair and effective election of the President.

52. Tenure of office of President

- (1) Subject to this article, a person elected as President shall hold office for a term of five years—
 - (a) beginning with the date next following the date of the declaration of the election of President; or
 - (b) where another person holds office as President on the date next following the date of the declaration of the election of President, beginning on the date next following the date on which the office next becomes vacant.
- (2) A person shall hold office as President under this Constitution for not more than two terms.
[Article 52(2) amended by section 2(a) of Act 4 of 2016 w.e.f. 16 October 2016]
- (3) The office of President becomes vacant—
 - (a) on the expiration of the period specified in clause (1);
 - (b) where an election for the office of President is held before the expiration of five years referred to in clause (1), on the date next following the date of declaration of the election of President; or
 - (c) where the incumbent dies or resigns or is removed from office under this Constitution.
- (4) Where, but for this clause, the office of President would become vacant on a particular date by reason of the operation of clause (3)(a), but on that date an election held under article 51 has not resulted in the election of the President, the incumbent President shall continue to hold office until the end of the day on which the President is elected under article 51.
- (5) The President may, by writing addressed to the Speaker, resign from the office of President.
- (6) Where a period of public emergency subsists at the time when the term of office of President would end, the National Assembly may, by resolution approved by a majority of the members of the Assembly, extend the term of office of President—
 - (a) where there is a declaration of a state of emergency, for not more than six months at a time but up to a maximum aggregate period of twelve months;
 - (b) where Seychelles is at war, for not more than twelve months at a time but up to a maximum aggregate period of forty-eight months,

and a period of extension shall not extend beyond the duration of the current session of the National Assembly or beyond the period by which the session of the National Assembly is extended in the same circumstances under this Constitution.

52A. Appealing for fresh mandate

- (1) The provisions of this article shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the other provisions of this Chapter.
- (2) The President may, at any time after the expiration of one year from the commencement of the President's first term of office, by Proclamation published in the *Gazette*, declare the President's intention of appealing to the People for a mandate to hold office, by election, for a further term.
[Article 52A(2) amended by section 2(b) of Act 4 of 2016 w.e.f. 16 October 2016]
- (3) Upon the making of a Proclamation under clause (2), the Electoral Commission shall, subject to the provisions of this article, hold a Presidential election.
[Article 52A(3) amended by section 2(a) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

- (4) (a) The President may revoke a Proclamation made under this article by notice published in the *Gazette*, at any time before the date appointed as nomination day in relation to the election of the President.
- (b) The President shall not withdraw the President's nomination as candidate at such election.
- (5) If at any time after the date of a Proclamation made under clause (2) and before the close of the poll at the election held in pursuance of the Proclamation, the incumbent President dies, the Proclamation shall be deemed to have been revoked with effect from the date of such death, and the election to be held in pursuance of the Proclamation shall be deemed to be cancelled.
- (6) The person declared elected as President at an election held under this article shall, if such person—
 - (a) is the incumbent President, hold office for a further term of five years beginning with the date next following the date on which the term of office of the incumbent President is deemed to have expired under clause (7);
 - (b) is a person other than the incumbent President, hold office for a term of five years beginning with the date next following the date of declaration of the election of President.
- (7) Where an election is held under this article the term of office of the incumbent President—
 - (a) shall be deemed to have expired on the date next following the date of declaration of election of President in that election; and
 - (b) shall constitute one term for the purpose of article 52(2).

[Article 52A inserted by section 3(a) of Act 7 of 2000 w.e.f. 7 June 2000]

53. Removal of the President for incapacity

- (1) This article shall have effect with regard to the removal of the President from office on the ground of mental or physical incapacity.
- (2) Where the Cabinet resolves, upon a motion supported by the votes of a majority of all the members of the Cabinet, that the question of the mental or physical capacity of the President to discharge the functions of the office of President ought to be investigated, the Cabinet shall so inform the Chief Justice.
- (3) Where notice in writing signed by not less than half the number of members of the National Assembly of a motion requesting that the question of the mental or physical capacity of the President to discharge the functions of the office of President ought to be investigated is given to the Speaker, the Speaker shall—
 - (a) where the National Assembly is sitting or has been summoned to meet within five days, cause the motion to be considered by the Assembly as soon as is practicable within seven days of the notice;
 - (b) where the National Assembly is not then sitting, summon the Assembly to meet on a date within fourteen days of the notice and cause the motion to be considered at that meeting.
- (4) Where a motion under clause (3) is proposed for consideration by the National Assembly, the Assembly shall not debate the motion but the Speaker shall forthwith cause a vote to be taken on the motion and, if the motion is supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the number of its members, shall declare the motion to be passed and shall deliver a copy of the motion to the President and the Chief Justice.
- (5) Where the Chief Justice is informed under clause (2) or receives a copy of a motion under clause (4), the Chief Justice shall appoint a medical board consisting of not less than three persons selected by the Chief Justice from among persons who are qualified as medical practitioners under a law, and the medical board shall inquire into the matter and shall make a report to the Chief Justice stating

the opinion of the board as to whether or not the President is, by reason of any infirmity of body or mind, incapable of discharging the functions of the office of President.

- (6) Where under clause (5) the medical board reports that the President is capable of discharging the functions of the office of President, the Chief Justice shall inform accordingly—
- (a) where the investigation was carried out at the instance of the Cabinet, the Cabinet; or
 - (b) where the investigation was carried out at the instance of the National Assembly, the Speaker,
- and, as soon as is practicable, thereafter the Cabinet shall inform the President accordingly or the Speaker shall inform the President and the National Assembly accordingly, as the case may be.
- (7) Where under clause (5) the medical board reports that the President is incapable of discharging the functions of the office of President, the Chief Justice shall certify in writing accordingly and—
- (a) where the investigation was carried out at the instance of the Cabinet, submit the findings to the Cabinet, and the Cabinet shall inform the President of the findings and submit the findings to the Speaker; or
 - (b) where the investigation was carried out at the instance of the National Assembly, submit the findings to the Speaker and the Speaker shall inform the President of the findings.
- (8) Where the Speaker receives a report under clause (7), the Speaker shall,—
- (a) where the National Assembly is sitting or has been summoned to meet within five days, cause the findings of the medical board to be considered by the Assembly as soon as is practicable; or
 - (b) where the National Assembly is not sitting, immediately summon the Assembly to meet and cause the findings of the medical board to be considered at that meeting.
- (9) Where the National Assembly, when it meets pursuant to clause (8), resolves by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the number of its members that the finding of the medical board be adopted, the President shall cease to hold office on the passing of the resolution.

54. Removal of President for violation of Constitution or gross misconduct

- (1) Where notice in writing signed by not less than half the number of the members of the National Assembly of a motion alleging that the President has committed a violation of this Constitution or a gross misconduct and specifying the particulars of the allegation and proposing that the Constitutional Court investigate the allegations is given to the Speaker, the Speaker shall—
- (a) if the National Assembly is then sitting or has been summoned to meet within five days, cause the motion to be considered by the Assembly within seven days of the notice; or
 - (b) if the National Assembly is not sitting, summon the Assembly to meet on a date within fourteen days of the notice and cause the motion to be considered at that meeting.
- (2) Where a motion under clause (1) is proposed for consideration by the National Assembly, the Assembly shall not debate the motion but the Speaker shall forthwith cause a vote to be taken on the motion and, if the motion is supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the number of its members, shall declare the motion to be passed.
- (3) Where a motion is declared to be passed under clause (2)—
- (a) the Speaker shall deliver a copy of the motion to the President and the Chief Justice;
 - (b) the Chief Justice shall place the matter before the Constitutional Court;
 - (c) the Constitutional Court shall investigate the matter and report to the Speaker whether it finds that the particulars of the allegation specified in the motion constitute a *prima facie* case for the removal of the President; and

- (d) the Constitutional Court in investigating the matter under paragraph (c) may summon and examine any witnesses or otherwise exercise all the powers of the Supreme Court.
- (4) The President shall have the right to appear and be represented before the Constitutional Court during its investigation of the allegation.
- (5) Where the Constitutional Court reports to the Speaker that the Court finds that the particulars of an allegation against the President specified in the motion do not constitute a *prima facie* case for the removal of the President, no further proceedings shall be taken under this article in respect of that allegation.
- (6) Where the Constitutional Court reports to the Speaker that the Court finds that the particulars of an allegation against the President specified in the motion constitute a *prima facie* case for the removal of the President, the Speaker shall, within ten days after a report is made to the Speaker pursuant to clause (3)(c)—
 - (a) where the National Assembly is sitting or has been summoned to meet within five days, cause the findings of the Court to be considered, as soon as is practicable, by the Assembly; or
 - (b) where the National Assembly is not sitting, immediately summon the National Assembly and cause the findings of the Court to be considered by the Assembly.
- (7) Where the National Assembly when it meets pursuant to clause (6) resolves by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the number of its members that the finding of the Constitutional Court be adopted, the President shall cease to hold office on the passing of the resolution.

55. Vacancy in the office of President

- (1) Where the office of the President becomes vacant by reason of the death or resignation of the President or by reason of the President ceasing to hold office under article 53 or article 54 or article 110(3), the Vice-President shall discharge the functions of the office of President until a person is elected under article 51 to the office of the President.

[Article 55(1) amended by section 3(b) of Act 7 of 2000 w.e.f. 7 June 2000]

[Article 55(1) repealed and replaced by section 2(a)(i) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

- (2) A person who would, but for that person's death, have been declared elected as President at the Presidential election and the person designated as the Vice-President of the first mentioned person shall be deemed to have been the President and Vice-President respectively, holding office immediately before the death of the first-mentioned person and accordingly, such Vice-President shall discharge the functions of the office of President until a person is elected under article 51 to the office of the President.

[Article 55(2) repealed by section 2(a)(ii) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

- (3) Where the Vice-President discharges the functions of the President under clause (1), clause (2), or article 56, the Vice-President shall not have power to—
 - (a) revoke the appointment of a Minister, or
 - (b) invoke article 110.

[Article 55 repealed and substituted by section 3(a) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996; Article 55(3) amended by section 2(a)(iii) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

56. Discharge of functions of President during temporary absence from office

Where the President is on leave of absence, absent from Seychelles or unable for any other reasons, except for a reason specified in article 55, to discharge the functions of the office of President, the Vice-President shall discharge those functions until the President returns from leave of absence or from outside

Seychelles and resumes the functions of the office of President or is able to discharge the functions of the office of President.

[Article 56 repealed and substituted by section 3(b) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

57. Oath of President

A person assuming the office of President shall, before entering upon the office, take and subscribe before the Chief Justice or another Judge the oath of allegiance and the Presidential oath prescribed in this Constitution.

58. Salary and allowances for President

- (1) The President shall receive such salary, allowances and gratuity as may be prescribed by an Act.
- (2) Where the person holding the office of President ceases to hold office otherwise than by being removed under article 54, the person shall receive such pension, gratuity or allowance as may be prescribed by an Act.
- (3) The salary, allowance, pension or gratuity, as the case may be, payable under this article to the President or a person who has ceased to be President shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund and shall not be altered to the disadvantage of the President or the person who has ceased to be President.
- (4) Clauses (2) and (3) shall apply to a person who held office as President under any previous Constitution of Seychelles.
- (5) Where a person who has previously held office as President under this or a previous Constitution is elected to the office of President, the person shall not, while holding office as President, be entitled to receive the pension, gratuity or allowance payable under clause (2).

59. Protection of President in respect of legal proceedings during office

- (1) Whilst any person holds, or discharges under article 55 or article 56 the functions of, the office of President no criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the person in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by the person in either an official or private capacity and no civil proceedings shall be instituted or continued in respect of which relief is claimed against the person in respect anything done or omitted to be done in such private capacity.
- (2) Notwithstanding article 18(6) or article 19(1) or (7) or any other law, proceedings such as are referred to in clause (1) may be brought within three years of a person ceasing to hold or discharge the functions of the office of President unless the period prescribed by law for bringing the proceedings concerned had expired before the person assumed or commenced to discharge those functions.
- (3) Where provision is made by law limiting the time within which proceedings such as are referred to in clause (1) may be brought against any person, a period of time during which a person holds, or discharges the functions of, the office of President shall not be taken into account in calculating any period of time prescribed by that law which determines whether any such proceedings may be brought against that person.

60. Power of pardon

- (1) The President may, after obtaining the advice of the advisory committee appointed under article 61 —
 - (a) grant to any person convicted of any offence a pardon, either free or subject to lawful conditions;

- (b) grant to any person a respite, either indefinite or for a specified period, of the execution of any punishment imposed on that person for any offence;
 - (c) substitute a less severe form of punishment for any punishment imposed on any person for any offence; or
 - (d) remit the whole or part of any punishment imposed on any person for any offence or of any penalty or forfeiture otherwise due to the Republic on account of any offence.
- (2) Except as otherwise permitted by or under an Act, the exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) shall not be held out, offered or promised in advance of conviction.
 - (3) Nothing in this article shall prevent the establishment by an Act of systems of probation, parole or release on licence, or any similar system.
 - (4) Any reference in this article to a conviction or the imposition of a punishment, penalty, sentence or forfeiture includes a reference to a conviction or the imposition of a punishment, penalty, sentence or forfeiture by a court-martial or other military court.
 - (5) This article shall not apply in relation to any conviction by a court established under the law of a country other than Seychelles that has jurisdiction in Seychelles in pursuance of arrangements made between the Government of Seychelles and another government or an international organisation relating to the presence in Seychelles of members of a disciplinary force of that other country or under the control of the international organisation or in relation to any punishment imposed in respect of any such conviction or any penalty or forfeiture resulting from any such conviction.

61. Advisory committee

There shall be an advisory committee on the power of pardon under article 60 which shall consist of not less than three and not more than five persons as may be appointed for a term of seven years by the President from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority.

62. Establishment and abolition of and appointment to offices

- (1) Subject to this Constitution and to any other law, the powers of establishing and abolishing offices for the Republic shall vest in the President.
- (2) The President may, by order, declare that an office established by the President under clause (1) shall not be an office in the public service.
- (3) Appointment to an office declared by the President not to be an office in the public service shall be made by the President from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority.
- (4) Appointment to an office, established by the President under clause (1), other than an office referred to in clause (2), shall be made by the President or by a person or body authorised by the President.

63. Appointments subject to approval of National Assembly

- (1) Where under this Constitution, an appointment to an office or the designation of a person for any purpose by the President is expressed to be subject to the approval of the National Assembly, particulars of the proposed appointment or designation shall be sent to the Speaker and the Speaker shall cause the National Assembly to vote on the proposed appointment or designation.
- (2) The Speaker shall notify the President of the decision of the National Assembly and only if the decision is in favour of the appointment or designation may the appointment or designation be made.

64. Diplomatic representative and execution of treaties

- (1) The President may, with the approval of a majority of members of the National Assembly, appoint a person as Ambassador, High Commissioner or any other principal representative of Seychelles to represent Seychelles abroad.
- (2) The President may receive envoys accredited to Seychelles.
- (3) The President may execute or cause to be executed treaties, agreements or conventions in the name of the Republic.
- (4) A treaty, agreement or convention in respect of international relations which is to be or is executed by or under the authority of the President shall not bind the Republic unless it is ratified by—
 - (a) an Act; or
 - (b) a resolution passed by the votes of a majority of the members of the National Assembly.
- (5) Clause (4) shall not apply where a written law confers upon the President the authority to execute or authorise the execution of any treaty, agreement or convention.

65. Presidential message

The President shall—

- (a) at the beginning of each year; and
- (b) before a dissolution, pursuant to article 106(2)(a) or (b), of the National Assembly, deliver to the Assembly a message on the state of the nation.

Chapter V The Executive

66. Executive authority of the Republic

- (1) The executive authority of the Republic shall vest in the President and shall be exercised in accordance with this Constitution and the laws of Seychelles.
- (2) The executive authority vested in the President under this article shall extend to the execution and maintenance of this Constitution and the laws of Seychelles and to all matters with respect to which the National Assembly has power to make laws.
- (3) Subject to this Constitution, the functions conferred on the President by clause (1) may be exercised by the President directly or through subordinate officers.
- (3A) The President is politically responsible for a Ministry or department that the President has not specifically assigned to the Vice-President or a Minister.
[Article 66(3A) inserted by section 3(c) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]
- (4) Nothing in this article shall prevent the National Assembly from conferring, by or under an Act, functions on a person other than the President or on an authority.

66A. Vice-President

- (1) There shall be a Vice-President of Seychelles who shall perform the functions assigned to the Vice-President by the Constitution, an Act or the President.
- (2) The President may assign the Vice-President the political responsibility of one or more Ministries.

- (3) The Vice-President shall be a person who is qualified to be elected President under article 51.
- (4) A candidate at an election for President shall designate a person as the candidate's Vice-President and on the election of the candidate as President the person designated as Vice-President by the candidate becomes Vice-President.
- (5) A person who is a member of the National Assembly or the Judiciary shall upon becoming Vice-President cease to be a member of the National Assembly or Judiciary.
- (6) The term of office of the Vice-President shall be the same as that of the President under article 52.
- (7) A person shall not hold office as Vice-President for more than two terms.
[Article 66A(7) amended by section 2(c)(i) of Act [4 of 2016](#) w.e.f. 16 October 2016]
- (8) The Vice-President shall, before starting to perform the functions of Vice-President, take and subscribe the oath of allegiance and the Vice-Presidential oath set out in Schedule 6.
- (9) The Vice-President may resign or be removed from office in the same manner as a Minister and articles 73 and 74 shall apply to the Vice-President.
- (10) Where the person who is Vice-President ceases to hold office as Vice-President, otherwise than under clause (11), the President shall designate another person as Vice-President for approval by the National Assembly.
[Article 66A(11) repealed by section 2(b)(i) of Act [5 of 2017](#) w.e.f. 19 April 2017]
- (12) Where there is a vacancy in the office of the President under article 55(1) the Vice-President shall discharge the functions of the office of President until a person is elected under article 51 to the office of the President.
[Article 66A(12) amended by section 2(c)(ii) of Act [4 of 2016](#) w.e.f. 16 October 2016; Article 66A(12) amended by section 2(b)(ii) of Act [5 of 2017](#) w.e.f. 19 April 2017]
- (13) The Vice-President shall receive such salary, allowance, gratuity and pension as may be prescribed by an Act and the salary, allowance, gratuity or pension shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.
[Article 66A inserted by section 3(d) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996; Article 66A(13) amended by section 2(b)(iii) of Act [5 of 2017](#) w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

67. Cabinet

- (1) There shall be a Cabinet consisting of the Vice-President and Ministers.
[Article 67(1) repealed and substituted by section 3(e)(i) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996]
- (2) The President or, in the absence of the President for any reason, the Vice-President shall preside at meetings of the Cabinet.
[Article 67(2) amended by section 3(e)(ii) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996]
- (3) Subject to clause (2), the Cabinet shall determine its own procedure in connection with its meetings.

68. Functions of the Cabinet

The Cabinet shall be responsible for advising the President with respect to the policy of the Government and with respect to such other matters as may be referred to it by the President.

69. Ministers

- (1) There shall be such number of Ministers, not being less than seven or more than fourteen, as the President may, from time to time, determine.

- (2) The President may, with the approval of a majority of the members of the National Assembly, appoint a person who is a citizen of Seychelles and who has attained the age of eighteen years to the office of Minister.
- (3) Where a person who is a member of the National Assembly is appointed to the office of Minister, the person shall, on assuming the office, cease to be a member of the Assembly.
- (4) A person shall, before assuming office as Minister, subscribe before the President the oath of allegiance and such other oath, as may be prescribed by an Act, for the due execution of the functions of that office.
- (5) A Minister shall receive such salary, allowances, gratuity and pension as may be prescribed by an Act.

[Article 69(5) amended by section 2(c)(i) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

- (6) The salary, allowances, gratuity or pension payable under clause (5) shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.

[Article 69(6) amended by section 2(c)(ii) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

- (7) Where a person is appointed as Minister and in addition to this article is entitled to receive under any other provision of the Constitution a salary, pension, gratuity or allowance, the person shall not, while holding the office of a Minister, be concurrently entitled to receive the salary, pension, gratuity or allowance under this article and under any other provision of the Constitution but may opt to receive the salary, pension, gratuity or allowance under either this article or any other provision of the Constitution.

70. Functions of Ministers

- (1) A Minister has such title, portfolio and responsibility as may be determined from time to time by the President and a Minister may be assigned the responsibility of more than one Ministry at any time.
- (2) Nothing in this article operates to prevent the conferring of functions on a Minister by or under an Act.

[Article 70(2) repealed and article 70(3) renumbered as article 70(2) by section 2(f) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (3) Ministers shall perform their functions under clause (1) under the direction of the President.

[Article 70(4) renumbered as article 70(3) by section 2(f) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

71. Collective responsibility of Cabinet

The Vice-President and the Ministers shall be individually accountable to the President for the administration of their Ministries and departments assigned to them and shall collectively be responsible for a decision of Cabinet.

[Article 71 repealed and substituted by section 3(g) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

72. Term of office of Ministers

A Minister, unless the Minister—

- (a) dies;
- (b) resigns; or

- (c) is removed from office under and in accordance with this Constitution, shall hold office until immediately before the beginning of the term of the person next elected, after the Minister's appointment, to the office of President.

73. Resignation and removal of Ministers

- (1) A Minister may resign from office by delivering to the President a notice of resignation but the resignation shall not have effect until it is received by the President.
- (2) The President may and, where the National Assembly has passed a vote of censure in respect of the Minister under article 74, shall, by instrument in writing, remove a Minister from office.
- (3) The President shall cause to be published in the *Gazette* notice of the fact of the resignation or removal of a Minister from office.

74. Vote of censure

- (1) The National Assembly may, by resolution approved by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the number of its members, pass a vote of censure against a Minister.
- (2) A motion for a resolution under clause (1) shall not be moved in the National Assembly unless—
 - (a) seven days' notice has been given of the motion; and
 - (b) the notice for the motion has been signed by not less than one-third of the number of members of the Assembly.
- (3) The Speaker shall, upon receipt of the notice of the motion under clause (2)—
 - (a) send a copy of the notice to the President; and
 - (b) unless the Minister has ceased to hold office beforehand, cause the motion to be debated in the National Assembly within fourteen days after receiving notice of the motion.
- (4) The Minister in respect of whom a vote of censure is to be debated under clause (3) is entitled to be heard during the debate.
- (5) Where a vote of censure is passed against a Minister under this article, the Speaker shall as soon as is practicable thereafter notify the President and the President shall, unless the Minister otherwise ceases to hold office, remove the Minister from office under article 73(2) not later than seven days after being notified by the Speaker.

75. Designated Minister

- (1) At the time of submitting the names to the National Assembly for its approval of the persons to be appointed as Ministers, the President shall designate one person who shall discharge the functions of designated Minister under the Constitution or an Act.

[Article 75(1) repealed and substituted by section 3(h)(i) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (2) The approval of the National Assembly under clause (1) or article 66A(10) or (11) shall be by a majority of the members of the Assembly.

[Article 75(2) amended by section 3(h)(ii) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (3) Where the National Assembly does not approve the designation of a person under clause (1) or article 66A(10) or (11) or a person whose designation has been approved under that clause ceases to be a Minister, the President shall designate another person for approval by the National Assembly.

[Article 75(3) amended by section 3(h)(iii) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (4) Where under the Constitution a function is required to be performed by the President and both the President and the Vice-President are unable to perform the function, the function may be performed by the designated Minister until the President or Vice-President is able to perform the function.

[Article 75(4) repealed and substituted by section 3(h)(iv) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (5) Where under the Constitution a function, not being a function related to a Ministry or department assigned to the Vice-President by the President under article 66A(2), is required to be performed by the Vice-President and the Vice-President is unable to perform the function, the function may be performed by the designated Minister until the Vice-President is able to perform the function.

[Article 75(5) inserted by section 3(h)(iv) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (6) A restriction or limitation which the Constitution imposes on the President or Vice-President with regard to the exercise of the function of President or Vice-President shall apply to the designated Minister when performing a function under clause (4) or clause (5).

[Article 75(6) inserted by section 3(h)(iv) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

76. Attorney-General

- (1) There shall be an Attorney-General who shall be appointed by the President from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority.
- (2) A person shall hold office as Attorney-General for a term of not more than seven years and is eligible for reappointment at the end of a term of office.
- (3) A person shall not be appointed to the office of Attorney-General unless the person is qualified for appointment to the office of Judge.
- (4) The Attorney-General shall be the principal legal advisor to the Government and, subject to clause (11), shall have power, in any case in which the Attorney-General considers it desirable so to do—
- (a) to institute and undertake criminal proceedings against any person before any court in respect of any offence alleged to have been committed by that person;
 - (b) to take over and continue any such criminal proceedings that have been instituted or undertaken by any other person or authority; and
 - (c) to discontinue at any stage before judgment is delivered any criminal proceedings instituted or undertaken under subclause (a) or by any other person or authority.
- (5) The powers of the Attorney-General under clause (4) may be exercised by the Attorney-General in person or by subordinate officers acting in accordance with the general or special instructions of the Attorney-General.
- (6) Subject to clause (7), the power conferred on the Attorney-General by clause (4)(b) to take over any proceedings or by clause (4)(c) to discontinue any proceedings shall be vested in the Attorney-General to the exclusion of any other person or authority.
- (7) Where a person or authority, other than the Attorney-General, has instituted criminal proceedings, nothing in clause (6) shall prevent the withdrawal of those proceedings by or at the instance of that person or authority and with the leave of the court.
- (8) Subject to clause (9), for the purposes of this article, any appeal from any judgment in any criminal proceedings before any court, or any question of law reserved for the purpose of any such proceedings to any other court, shall be deemed to be part of those proceedings.
- (9) The power conferred on the Attorney-General by clause (4)(c) shall not be exercised in relation to any appeal by a person convicted in any criminal proceedings or to any question of law reserved at the instance of such a person.

- (10) In the exercise of the powers vested in the Attorney-General by clause (4), the Attorney-General shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority.
- (11) An Act may make provision with respect to the institution of proceedings by a person or authority, other than the Attorney-General, before a military court or a tribunal established by or under the Act for the trial of military offences committed by persons subject to military law, and unless the Act otherwise provides, the power under clause (4) shall not be exercisable by the Attorney-General in relation to any such person in respect of any such offence.
- (12) The salary, allowances, pension or gratuity payable to the Attorney-General shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.
- (13) Subject to article 165, the term and conditions on which a person has been appointed to the office of Attorney-General shall not be altered to the disadvantage of the person after the appointment.

Chapter VI Legislature

Part I – National Assembly

77. National Assembly

There shall be a National Assembly of Seychelles.

78. Composition of National Assembly

The National Assembly shall consist of—

- (a) such number of members directly elected in accordance with—
 - (i) this Constitution; and
 - (ii) subject to this Constitution, and Act, as is equal to the number of electoral areas;
- (b) not more than 10 members elected on the basis of the scheme of proportional representation specified in Schedule 4.

[Article 78(b) repealed and substituted by section 3(i) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 21 February 1998]

79. General election and by-election

- (1) A general election shall be held during the period starting at the beginning of the fifty-seventh month and ending at the end of the fifty-ninth month of a session of the National Assembly.
- (2) Where a person ceases to be a directly elected member of the National Assembly under article 81, a by-election shall be held within 30 days of the person ceasing to be a member of the Assembly unless the cessation occurred within three months before the beginning of the period within which a general election is required to be held under clause (1).
- (3) Subject to clause (4), a directly elected member of the National Assembly shall be directly elected by secret ballot by persons entitled to vote under this Constitution.
- (4) Where immediately before the day appointed for the holding of an election there is only one candidate for election for an electoral area and that candidate has, since the day immediately following the day of the closing of the nominations for that area, been the sole candidate for the area, no ballot shall be held and—
 - (a) all the persons who were entitled to vote at the election in the electoral area shall be deemed to have cast their votes in favour of the candidate; and

- (b) the Electoral Commission shall declare the candidate to be the directly elected member for the electoral area.

[Article 79(4)(b) amended by section 2(b)(i) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

- (5) Where on the day immediately following the day of closing of nominations for an electoral area more than one candidate stand nominated for that area and on the day immediately before the day of election only one candidate stands nominated by reason of the withdrawal of nomination of other candidates or no candidate stands nominated by reason of the withdrawal of nomination of all the candidates the election shall be postponed and a further period of not less than seven days shall be allowed for nomination of other candidates for that area.
- (6) Where on the day immediately following the day of closing of nominations for an electoral area one or more candidates stand nominated for that area and one or more of them die before the day of election, the election shall be postponed and a further period of not less than seven days from the date of death of the candidate shall be allowed for nomination of other candidates for that area.
- (7) The election postponed pursuant to clause (5) or (6) shall be held on such date as the Electoral Commission may decide but, in any case, not later than thirty days of the occurrence of the event specified in those clauses which occurred last and the candidates nominated pursuant to those clauses shall, notwithstanding their withdrawal, be deemed to be the candidates for that election.

[Article 79(7) amended by section 2(b)(ii) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

- (8) A law may provide for any matter, not otherwise provided for in this Constitution, which is necessary or required to ensure a true, fair and effective election of members of the National Assembly.

80. Qualification for membership to the National Assembly

A person is qualified to be elected as a member of the National Assembly if—

- (a) the person is qualified to vote at a Presidential or National Assembly election under this Constitution; and
- (b) the person does not hold or act in any office the functions of which involve—
 - (i) any responsibility for, or in connection with, the conduct of the National Assembly election for which the person wishes to stand; or
 - (ii) any responsibility for the compilation or revision of an electoral register for that National Assembly election.

81. Vacation of seats

- (1) A person ceases to be a member of the National Assembly and the seat occupied by that person in the Assembly shall become vacant—
 - (a) on the dissolution of the Assembly;
 - (b) if the person by notice in writing to the Speaker resigns;
 - (c) if the person ceases to be a citizen of Seychelles;
 - (d) if the person is absent without the permission, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, in writing of the Speaker—
 - (i) from Seychelles for a continuous period in excess of thirty days; or
 - (ii) during a session of the Assembly, for a continuous period in excess of ninety days during which time the Assembly has been summoned to meet and continues to meet;

- (e) if any circumstances arise which, if the person were not a member, would, pursuant to article 80, cause that person to be disqualified for election as a member;
 - (f) subject to clause (2), if the person becomes party to a contract with the Government for or on account of any public service or if any firm in which the person is a partner or any company of which the person is a director or manager or in which the person has a controlling interest becomes a party to any such contract or if the person becomes a partner in a firm or a director or manager or the holder of a controlling interest in a company which is a party to such contract;
 - (g) if the person is elected President or becomes the Vice-President or is appointed a Minister;
[Article 81(1)(g) repealed and substituted by section 3(j)(i)(A) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]
 - (h) if, in the case of a proportionately elected member—
 - (i) the political party which nominated the person as a member nominates another person as member in place of the first-mentioned person and notifies the Speaker in writing of the new nomination;
 - (ii) the person ceases to be a member of the political party of which that person was a member at the time of the election; or
 - (iii) the political party which nominated the person as a member is dissolved or otherwise ceases to exist;
[Article 81(1)(h) repealed and substituted by section 3(j)(i)(B) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]
 - (i) if, in the case of a directly elected member who was nominated for election by a political party—
 - (i) the person notifies the Speaker in writing that the person has ceased to be a member of that political party; or
 - (ii) the political party which nominated the person for election notifies the Speaker in writing that the person has ceased to be a member of the political party and the Electoral Commission confirms in writing to the Speaker that the Commission has received a written petition requesting the holding of fresh election for the purpose of electing a new member to represent the electoral area which the member represents signed or marked to the satisfaction of the Commission by at least one third of the number of registered voters who are entitled to vote in the electoral area;
[Article 81(1)(i) repealed and substituted by section 3(j)(i)(C) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996; Article 81(1)(i)(ii) amended by section 2(c)(i) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]
 - (j) if, in the case of a person who was directly elected as an independent member, the person notifies the Speaker in writing that he is a member of a political party; or
 - (k) on the death of the person.
- (2) Where clause (1)(f) applies, if in the circumstances it appears to the National Assembly to be just to do so, the Assembly may except the member from vacating the seat, if the member, before becoming a party to the contract or before or as soon as is practicable after becoming interested in the contract as provided in clause (1)(f), has disclosed in writing to the Speaker the nature of the contract and the interest, or the interest in the firm or company referred to in clause (1)(f), of the member.
- (2A) *[Article 81(2A) repealed by section 3(j)(ii) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]*
- (3) A political party of which a proportionately elected member was a member at the time of election shall notify the Speaker in writing on the person ceasing to be a member of the party.

- (4) Subject to this article and article 82, where a person who is a proportionately elected member of the National Assembly ceases to be so, the political party of which the person was a member of the time of election and which nominated the person as a member may, by notice in writing to the Speaker, replace the person who has ceased to be a member by another person including the person who has immediately before ceased to be a member.
- (5) Where the seat of a directly elected member of the National Assembly becomes vacant under this article, the Speaker shall, as soon as is practicable within seven days after the vacancy occurs, notify the Electoral Commission of this fact.

[Article 81(5) amended by section 2(c)(ii) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

- (6) A certificate under the hand of the Speaker certifying that a person has ceased to be a member of the National Assembly shall be conclusive evidence of this fact and of the fact that the seat held by that person is vacant unless—
 - (a) the person makes an application under article 82 to the Constitutional Court within thirty days of the date of the certificate; and
 - (b) the Constitutional Court determines that the person is still a member of the National Assembly and that person still occupies that seat.
- (7) Until the final determination of an application referred to in clause (6)(a) the person who made the application shall continue to be a member of the National Assembly in respect of the seat for which the person was elected.

82. Determination of question as to membership

- (1) The Constitutional Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine whether—
 - (a) a person has been validly elected as a member of the National Assembly; or
 - (b) the seat of a member of a National Assembly has become vacant.
- (2) An application under clause (1)(a) may, in the case of—
 - (a) a directly elected member, be made by any person entitled to vote at an election in the electoral area for which the member was returned, any person who was a candidate at the election in the electoral area or the Attorney-General; or
 - (b) a proportionately elected member, be made by any member or the Attorney-General.
- (3) An application under clause (1)(b) may, in the case of—
 - (a) a directly elected member, be made by any member, any person entitled to vote at an election in the electoral area for which the member was returned or the Attorney-General;
 - (b) a proportionately elected member, be made by any member, or the political party of which the proportionately elected member was a member at the time of election and which nominated the person as a member or the Attorney-General.
- (4) Where a person, other than the Attorney-General, makes an application under this article, the Attorney-General may intervene and may appear or be represented in the proceedings.
- (5) An Act may provide for—
 - (a) the circumstances and manner in which and the imposition of conditions upon which an application may be made to the Constitutional Court for the determination of a question under clause (1); and
 - (b) the powers, practice and procedure of the Constitutional Court in relation to the application.

- (6) A proportionately elected member who ceases to be a member of the National Assembly by virtue of Article 81(1)(h)(i), shall not have the right to make an application under clause 1(b).

[Article 82(6) inserted by section 2(d) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

83. Speaker and Deputy Speaker

- (1) There shall be a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, each of whom shall be elected by the National Assembly, in accordance with the Standing Orders, or, in the absence of Standing Orders, in accordance with the procedures approved by the Assembly, from among the members of the Assembly.
- (2) The National Assembly shall not transact any business, other than the election of the Speaker, at any time when the office of Speaker is vacant.
- (3) A person holding the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall vacate that office—
- when the National Assembly first meets after the holding of a general election;
 - where the person ceases to be a member of the National Assembly;
 - where the National Assembly passes a resolution supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the number of members of the Assembly requiring the person to vacate the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as the case may be.
- (4) A person holding the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker may, by notice in writing addressed to the National Assembly, resign from office and the office shall become vacant when the Clerk to the Assembly receives the notice.
- (5) Where the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant, the National Assembly shall, unless it is sooner dissolved, elect another member of the Assembly to fill the vacancy at its next sitting after the occurrence of the vacancy or as soon as is practicable thereafter.
- (6) An Act may provide for the salary, allowances, gratuity and pension of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- [Article 83(6) amended by section 2(e)(i) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]*
- (7) The salary, allowances, gratuity or pension payable to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.
- [Article 83(7) amended by section 2(e)(ii) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]*
- (8) The Speaker and Deputy Speaker shall, before assuming the functions of their office, take and subscribe the oath of allegiance and such other oath as may be prescribed by law.

84. Leader of the Opposition

- (1) There shall be a Leader of the Opposition who shall be elected by the National Assembly from among its members in accordance with this article and the Standing Orders.
- (2) A person is not eligible to be elected to the office of Leader of the Opposition if the person is a member of the political party which nominated the incumbent President for election, and only members of the National Assembly who are not members of that party may vote in the election.
- (3) A person elected to the office of Leader of the Opposition shall vacate the office—
- if the person ceases to be a member of the National Assembly;
 - if the person is elected to the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker;
 - if the person resigns by notice in writing addressed to the Speaker; or

- (d) where the members of the National Assembly entitled to vote at an election to the office pass a resolution requiring the person to vacate the office.
- (4) An Act may provide for the salary, allowances, gratuity and pension of the Leader of the Opposition.
[Article 84(4) amended by section 2(f)(i) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]
- (5) The salary, allowances, gratuity or pension payable to the Leader of the Opposition shall be not less than those payable to a Minister and shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.
[Article 84(5) amended by section 2(f)(ii) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]
- (6) Subject to article 105(3), where a person is elected Leader of the Opposition and in addition to this article is entitled to receive under any other provision of the Constitution a salary, pension, gratuity or allowance, the person shall not, while holding the office of Leader of Opposition, be concurrently entitled to receive the salary, pension, gratuity or allowance under this article and under any other provision of the Constitution but may opt to receive the salary, pension, gratuity or allowance under either this article or any other provision of the Constitution.

84A.

- (1) There shall be a Leader of Government Business who shall be elected by the National Assembly from among its members in accordance with this article and the Standing Orders.
- (2) A person is eligible to be elected to the Office of Leader of Government Business if the person is a member of the political party which nominated the incumbent President for election, and only members of the National Assembly who are members of that party may vote in the election.
- (3) A person elected to the office of Leader of Government Business shall vacate the office—
- (a) if the person ceases to be a member of the National Assembly;
 - (b) if the person is elected to the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker;
 - (c) if the person resigns by notice in writing addressed to the Speaker; or
 - (d) where the members of the National Assembly entitled to vote at an election to the office pass a resolution requiring the person to vacate the office.
- (4) An Act may provide for the salary, allowances, gratuity and pension of the Leader of Government Business.
- (5) The salary, allowances, gratuity or pension payable to the Leader of Government Business shall not be less than those payable to a Minister and shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.
- (6) Subject to Article 105(3), where a person is elected Leader of Government Business and in addition to this article is entitled to receive under any other provision of the Constitution a salary, allowance, gratuity or pension, the person shall not, while holding the office of Leader of Government Business be concurrently entitled to receive the salary, allowance, gratuity or pension under this article or any other provision of the Constitution but may opt to receive the salary, allowance, gratuity or pension under either this article or any other provision of the Constitution.

[Article 84A inserted by section 2(g) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

Part II – Legislative power and its exercise

85. Vesting of legislative power

The legislative power of Seychelles is vested in the National Assembly and shall be exercised subject to and in accordance with this Constitution.

86. Exercise of legislative power

- (1) The legislative power vested in the National Assembly shall be exercised by Bills passed by the Assembly and assented to or deemed to have been assented to by the President.
- (1)(A) Unless it is otherwise provided in this Constitution, a Bill is passed by the Assembly if it is supported at all the stages at which it is as a whole put to the vote of the Assembly by a majority of the members present and voting.
- (1)(B) *[Article 86(1)(B) repealed by section 3(c) of Act 7 of 2000 w.e.f. 7 June 2000]*
- (1)(C) *[Article 86(1)(C) repealed by section 3(k) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]*
- (2) Subject to article 87, where a Bill is presented to the President for assent, the President shall, within fourteen days of the presentation of the Bill, assent, or, in accordance with this Part, withhold assent, to the Bill.
- (3) The President shall, as soon as practicable, cause a Bill which has been passed and assented or deemed to have been assented to in accordance with this Constitution to be published in the *Gazette* whereupon it shall become law.
- (4) A Bill passed by the National Assembly and assented to or deemed to have been assented to by the President shall be styled an "Act" and the words of enactment shall be "Enacted by the President and the National Assembly".

87. Referral of Bills to Constitutional Court by President

- (1) Where the President is of the opinion that a Bill presented for assent infringes or may infringe this Constitution, the President shall not assent to the Bill and, as soon as is practicable within fourteen days of the presentation of the Bill—
 - (a) advise the Speaker accordingly; and
 - (b) refer the Bill to the Constitutional Court for a decision in this respect.
- (2) Where the President refers a Bill to the Constitutional Court under clause (1), the President shall not, until the Court has made its decision on the Bill, be treated, for the purposes of article 88, as having withheld assent to the Bill.
- (3) Where a Bill has been referred to the Constitutional Court under clause (1), the President shall not assent to it and the National Assembly shall not proceed under article 88(2) until the Court has pronounced its decision thereon.
- (4) Where the Constitutional Court decides that a Bill referred to it under clause (1) does not infringe this Constitution, the Court shall forthwith inform the President and the Speaker in writing accordingly and the period under article 86(2) within which the President is required to assent to a Bill shall start to run from the date of the decision of the Court.
- (5) Where the Constitutional Court decides that a Bill referred to it under clause (1) infringes this Constitution, the Court shall forthwith inform the President and the Speaker in writing accordingly and the President shall return the Bill to the Speaker.

88. Withholding of assent by President

- (1) Where the President withholds, within the period provided in article 86(2), assent to a Bill, not being a Bill referred to in article 87(5), the President shall, in the case of a refusal, forthwith or, in any event, forthwith after the period of fourteen days referred to in article 86(2)—
 - (a) return the Bill to the Speaker; and
 - (b) inform the Speaker in writing of the reasons why the Bill has not been assented to.

- (2) Where the President has returned the Bill to the Speaker under clause (1)(a), the National Assembly may, at any time after a period of three months from the date by which the President should have assented to the Bill under article 86(2), by a notice approved by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the number of members of the Assembly resolve that the Bill should again be presented for the President's assent.
- (3) Where a Bill is presented for the President's assent under clause (2), notwithstanding that the President withholds assent to the Bill, the President shall be deemed to have assented to the Bill at the expiration of the period of fourteen days referred to in article 86(2).

89. Subsidiary legislation

Articles 85 and 86 shall not operate to prevent an Act from conferring on a person or authority power to make subsidiary legislation.

90. Restriction on certain measures

Except on the recommendation of the President, signified by the Minister for the time being responsible for finance, the National Assembly shall not—

- (a) proceed on a Bill, including an amendment to a Bill, which, in the opinion of the person presiding or the Attorney-General provides—
 - (i) for the imposition of taxation or the alteration of taxation otherwise than by reduction;
 - (ii) for the imposition of any charge on the Consolidated Fund or any other public fund of Seychelles or the alteration of any such charge otherwise than by reduction;
 - (iii) for the payment, issue or withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund or any other fund of the Government of Seychelles of any moneys not charged thereon or any increase in the amount of such payment, issue or withdrawal; or
 - (iv) for the composition or remission of any debt due to the Government of Seychelles; or
- (b) proceed upon any motion, including an amendment to a motion, the effect of which in the opinion of the person presiding or the Attorney-General is that provision would be made for any matter in paragraph (a)(i) to (iv); or
- (c) receive any petition, that, in the opinion of the person presiding, requests that that provision be made for any matter in paragraph (a)(i) to (iv).

Part III – Alteration of the Constitution

91. Alteration of the Constitution

- (1) The National Assembly shall not proceed on a Bill to alter Chapter I, Chapter III, this article, article 110 or article 111 unless—
 - (a) the proposed alteration contained in the Bill has been approved on a referendum by not less than sixty percent of the votes cast in the referendum; and
 - (b) the Speaker signifies that such approval has been so given.
- (2) A Bill to alter this Constitution shall, in the long title state that it is a Bill to alter the Constitution, and shall not be passed by the National Assembly unless it is supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the number of members of the Assembly at any stage at which, pursuant to the Standing Orders, the Bill as a whole is put to the vote in the Assembly.

- (3) In this article—
- (a) a reference to this Constitution includes a reference to a law that amends or replaces any provision of this Constitution; and
 - (b) a reference to the alteration of this Constitution includes a reference to the amendment, modification or re-enactment, with or without amendment or modification, of any provision of this Constitution, the suspension or repeal of any such provision and the making of different provision in lieu of such provisions, and the addition of a new provision to this Constitution.

Part IV – Procedures in the National Assembly

92. President may address National Assembly

- (1) The President may, at any time, attend and address the National Assembly.
- (2) The President may send a message to the National Assembly and the message shall be read, at the first convenient sitting of the Assembly after it is received by the Speaker, by the Vice-President or the designated Minister.

[Article 92(2) amended by section 3(l) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

93. Attendance of Ministers at meetings of the National Assembly

- (1) The Vice-President or a Minister may attend meetings of the National Assembly—

[Article 93(1) amended by section 3(m)(i)(A) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (a) for the purpose of presenting a Bill and in connection with proceedings in the Assembly relating to the passing of a Bill.
- (b) for the purpose of dealing with any matters arising in the Assembly, or explaining to the Assembly any matter, which falls within the Vice-President's or Minister's responsibility, or

[Article 93(1)(b) amended by section 3(m)(i)(B) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (c) for the purpose of answering a written question from a member.
- (2) The Vice-President, a Minister or, where a matter falls within the responsibility of the President, the Vice-President or a Minister designated by the President shall attend a meeting of the National Assembly when it is necessary for a purpose referred to in clause (1)(b) or (c).

[Article 93(2) repealed and substituted by section 3(m)(ii) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

94. Right to introduce Bills

- (1) The right to introduce a Bill in the National Assembly may be exercised by the Vice-President or a Minister or, subject to clause (2), a member.

[Article 94(1) amended by section 3(n) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (2) A member may not, pursuant to clause (1), introduce a Bill which provides for any of the matters specified in article 90.
- (3) The Speaker shall, after consultation with the President and the Leader of the Opposition, determine the order of priority for the presentation of bills to the National Assembly.

95. Quorum of the National Assembly

- (1) Where at a meeting of the National Assembly a quorum is not present and a member who is present objects on that account to the transaction of business and after such interval as may be prescribed in the Standing Orders, the person presiding at the sitting ascertains that a quorum is still not present, the person presiding shall adjourn the meeting of the Assembly.
- (2) For the purpose of this article, a quorum shall consist of one half of the number of members at the time.

96. Voting

- (1) Subject to this Constitution, questions before a meeting of the National Assembly shall be decided in accordance with the majority of members present and voting.
- (2) The person presiding at a meeting of the National Assembly shall not vote on any question to be decided by the Assembly but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, shall have a casting vote.

97. Meeting of the Assembly open to the public

Subject to the Standing Orders meetings of the National Assembly shall be open to the public and may be broadcast.

98. President of meetings of the National Assembly

- (1) Subject to clause (2), the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker or, in their absence, a member elected by the National Assembly, shall preside over the deliberations of the Assembly.
- (2) The first meeting of a session of the Assembly shall, until the Speaker is elected, be presided over by the person who was the Speaker or, in his absence, the Deputy Speaker immediately before that meeting.

99. Oath to be taken by members

A member shall not take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly, other than the proceedings for the purposes of this article, until the member has taken and subscribed before the Assembly the oath of allegiance.

100. Validity of proceedings

The National Assembly may act, notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership, including any vacancy not filled when the Assembly first meets after an election, and the presence or participation of a person not entitled to be present at, or to participate in, the proceedings of the Assembly shall not invalidate the proceedings.

101. Standing Orders

Subject to this Constitution, the National Assembly may make Standing Orders for the regulation and orderly conduct of its proceedings and the discharge of business at sittings of the Assembly and for related purposes.

102. Privileges and immunities

- (1) There shall be freedom of speech and debate in the National Assembly and a member shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of any court or to any proceedings whatsoever, other than in proceedings

in the Assembly, when exercising those freedoms or performing the functions of a member in the Assembly.

- (2) Where the National Assembly is in session an arrest shall not be effected against a member in a way which will interfere with the performance by the member of the functions of the member in the Assembly and, where proceedings are instituted against a member, the court or authority before which the proceedings are being conducted shall so conduct the proceedings as to allow the member to continue to perform the functions of the member in the Assembly.
- (3) Where an arrest has been effected against a member, or any proceedings against a member begun, before the beginning of the session of the Assembly, the arrest or proceedings shall not be allowed to interfere with the performance by the member of the functions of the member in the Assembly.
- (4) The protection afforded under clauses (2) and (3) shall, in the case of a criminal proceedings, end upon the court or authority before which the proceedings are being conducted passing a sentence on the member on the conviction of the member.
- (5) A member or other person or authority is not liable to civil or criminal proceedings, arrest, imprisonment, fine, damages or compensation by reason of—
 - (a) an Act done under the authority or an order of the Assembly; or
 - (b) words spoken or used, or a document or writing made or produced under an order made under the authority of the Assembly.
- (6) Where a person, other than a member of the National Assembly, is aggrieved by the exercise of the right under clause (1), that person may, in writing addressed to the Speaker, submit a reply to the Speaker and the Speaker shall circulate a copy of the reply to every member of the Assembly, and at the commencement of the proceedings of the immediately following sittings of the Assembly, read the reply in the Assembly.

103. Service of process

A process issued by a court shall not be served or executed within the precincts of the National Assembly, as defined by or under an Act.

104. Committees

- (1) The National Assembly shall, as soon as is practicable after the beginning of each session of the Assembly, appoint from among its members standing committees and other committees necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions and, without prejudice to the foregoing, the National Assembly shall appoint the following standing committees—
 - (a) a Finance and Public Accounts Committee; and
 - (b) a Standing Order Committee.
- (2) The composition of a standing or other committee shall, as far as is practicable, reflect the strength of the political parties and independent members in the Assembly but shall otherwise be regulated by the Standing Orders.
- (3) For the purposes of effectively performing its functions a standing or other committee may summon any person the committee believes may assist the committee in the performance of its functions and the committee shall have the powers, rights and privileges of the Supreme Court for—
 - (a) enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath, affirmation or otherwise;
 - (b) compelling the production of documents; and
 - (c) issuing a commission or request to examine a witness abroad.

- (4) A debate in the National Assembly may only be initiated in respect of a report or other matter which falls within the competence of a standing or other committee by a member of the standing or other committee.

105. Salary of members

- (1) An Act may provide for the salary, allowances, gratuity and pension of members of the National Assembly.
[Article 105(1) amended by section 2(h)(i) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]
- (2) The salary, allowances, gratuity or pension payable to members of the National Assembly shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.
[Article 105(2) amended by section 2(h)(ii) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]
- (3) A member of the National Assembly elected to the office of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Leader of the Opposition, Leader of Government Business, shall not, while holding that office, be paid the salary, allowances, gratuity or pension payable under clause (1).
[Article 105(3) amended by section 2(h)(iii) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

Part V – Sessions and dissolution of the National Assembly

106. Session and dissolution of Assembly

- (1) A session of the National Assembly shall begin on the first meeting of the Assembly summoned under article 107 and, unless sooner dissolved under clause (2)(b), article 110 or article 111, continue for a period of five years thereafter.
- (2) The National Assembly shall stand dissolved—
 - (a) subject to clause (3), on the day next following the end of the period of five years referred to in clause (1);
 - (b) where a general election is held before the period of five years referred to in clause (1), on the day next following the declaration of the results of the election; or
 - (c) in accordance with article 110 or article 111.
- (3) Where a period of public emergency subsists at the time when the National Assembly would stand dissolved under clause (2)(a), National Assembly may, by resolution approved by a majority of the members of the Assembly, extend the sessions of the Assembly—
 - (a) where there is a declaration of emergency, for not more than six months at a time but up to a maximum aggregate period of twelve months;
 - (b) where Seychelles is at war, for not more than twelve months at a time but up to a maximum aggregate period of forty-eight months,and a period of extension shall not extend beyond the duration of the term of office of the President extended in the same circumstances under this Constitution.

107. First meeting of National Assembly

The President shall, by Proclamation published in the *Gazette*, summon the first meeting of the National Assembly in a session not later than four months after the end of the immediately preceding session of the Assembly.

108. Place and time of meetings

Subject to article 109, each succeeding meeting of the National Assembly after the first meeting of the Assembly shall be held at such place and commence at such time as the Speaker may determine or as may be prescribed by the Standing Orders.

109. President may summon meetings

The President may, at any time by Proclamation published in the *Gazette*, summon a meeting of the National Assembly.

110. Dissolution of Assembly by President

- (1) The President may dissolve the National Assembly in accordance with this article.
- (2) Subject to clause (5), the President may, not more than once during a term of office of the President, for any reason which the President considers it to be in the national interest so to do, after giving seven days notice to the Speaker, by Proclamation published in the *Gazette*, dissolve the National Assembly and the Assembly shall stand dissolved on the day next following the publication of the Proclamation.
- (3) Subject to clause (5), where during a term of office of the President the President has once dissolved the National Assembly under clause (2) and the President is of the opinion that it is in the national interest to dissolve the Assembly once again, the President may, after giving to the Speaker—
 - (a) seven days' notice of the intention to dissolve the Assembly; and
 - (b) written notice of the President's intention to resign from office under article 52(5) on the publication of the Proclamation under this article,by Proclamation, published in the *Gazette*, dissolve the National Assembly and the Assembly shall stand dissolved and the President shall cease to hold office on the day next following the publication of the Proclamation.
- (4) Where—
 - (a) the National Assembly votes against any measure or proposal of the Government and on a referendum a majority of the votes cast in the referendum supports the measure or proposal and the Assembly, after the referendum, again votes against the measure or proposal,
 - (b) a proposal to alter Chapter I, III, article 91, this article or article 111 has been approved on a referendum held pursuant to article 91 and a Bill to give effect to the proposal is not supported as required by article 91(2) in the National Assembly,the President may, after giving seven days' notice to the Speaker, by Proclamation published in the *Gazette*, dissolve the National Assembly within thirty days of the Assembly voting against the measure or proposal under paragraph (a) or the Assembly not supporting the Bill under paragraph (b), as the case may be and the Assembly shall stand dissolved on the day next following the publication of the Proclamation.
- (5) The President shall not dissolve the National Assembly under clause (2) or clause (3) during any period of public emergency in terms of article 49 or, where proceedings for the removal of the President under article 53 or article 54 have commenced, during the pendency of the proceedings.

111. Dissolution of Assembly by Assembly

Where the National Assembly at a meeting summoned for this purpose resolves by the affirmative votes of not less than two-thirds of the number of members of the Assembly that the Assembly be dissolved, the National Assembly shall stand dissolved on the day next following the passing of the resolution.

Chapter VII

Electoral areas, franchise and electoral commission

[amended by section 2(d) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

112. Electoral areas

- (1) Subject to this article, Seychelles shall be divided into as many electoral areas, as may be prescribed, for the purposes of election of members to the National Assembly and each electoral area shall be represented by one member of the National Assembly.
- (2) There shall be not less than nineteen electoral areas on Mahe and two electoral areas on Praslin, and the Inner Islands shall constitute one electoral area.
- (3) In determining the number and boundaries of the electoral areas on Mahé and Praslin the Electoral Commission—

[Article 112(3) amended by section 2(e) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

- (a) shall have regard to—
 - (i) the boundaries of electoral areas which exist at the time of the determination by the Commission; and
 - (ii) the natural geographical features of Seychelles;
- (b) shall ensure that, each electoral area on Mahé shall have, as nearly as is practicable, an equal number of inhabitants and each electoral area on Praslin shall have, as nearly as is practicable, an equal number of inhabitants.

[Article 112(3)(b) amended by section 3(o)(i) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (c) *[Article 112(3)(c) repealed by section 3(o)(ii) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]*

113. Right to vote

A citizen of Seychelles who is registered as a voter in an electoral area shall be entitled to vote, in accordance with law, in the electoral area—

- (a) at an election for the office of President;
- (b) at an election of the members of the National Assembly; or
- (c) in a referendum held under this Constitution,

unless any circumstances have arisen which, if the citizen were not so registered, would cause the citizen to be disqualified under an Act made under article 114(1) on ground (a) or ground (b) of article 114(1).

114. Qualification for registration as a voter

- (1) A person who is a citizen of Seychelles and has attained the age of eighteen years is entitled to be registered as a voter unless the person is disqualified from registration under an Act on the ground of—
 - (a) infirmity of mind;
 - (b) criminality; or
 - (c) residence outside Seychelles.

- (2) An Act referred to in clause (1) may provide for different grounds of disqualification with regard to—
 - (a) an election for the office of President;
 - (b) an election of the members of the National Assembly; and
 - (c) a referendum held under this Constitution.
- (3) A person is not entitled to be registered as a voter in more than one electoral area.

115. Electoral Commission

- (1) There shall be an Electoral Commission which shall perform the functions conferred upon it by this Constitution and any other law.
- (2) Subject to this Constitution, the Electoral Commission shall not, in the performance of its functions, be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.

[Article 115 repealed and substituted by section 2(f) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

115A. Members of the Commission

- (1) The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson and six members all of whom shall be appointed by the President selected from nine candidates of proven integrity and high repute, proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority constituted under Article 139 of the Constitution.

[Article 115A inserted by section 2(f) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011; Article 115A(1) amended by section 2(i) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

[note: section 115A is reproduced as it appeared in the Gazette.]

115B. Qualification of Member

A person is qualified to be a Chairperson and Members of the Commission if the person is a citizen of Seychelles who—

- (a) is qualified to be registered as a voter; and
- (b) the person is not a candidate of an election under the Constitution or is not the President, Vice-President, Minister or a Member of the National Assembly and not an executive office bearer of a political party.

[Article 115B inserted by section 2(f) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

115C. Tenure of Office

- (1) The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of seven years, and may, at the end of a term, be eligible for re-appointment.
- (2) The Chairperson may by writing addressed to the President and a Member who is not the Chairperson, to the Chairperson, resign.
- (3) A resignation under clause (2) shall have effect on the date it is last received by any person specified in that clause.
- (4) The salary, allowances and gratuity payable to the Chairperson and Members of the Commission shall be prescribed by or under an Act and the salary, allowances or gratuity shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.

[Article 115C(4A) inserted by section 2(j) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017; Article 115C(4A) repealed by section 2 of Act 8 of 2018 w.e.f. 23 August 2018]

- (5) Subject to article 166, the salary, allowances and gratuity payable to and the term and other conditions of appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission shall not be altered to the disadvantage after the appointments.
- (6) The Commission may regulate its own proceedings and may act notwithstanding one vacancy in its membership.

[Article 115C inserted by section 2(f) of Act [7 of 2011](#) w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

116. Functions of Electoral Commission

- (1) The Electoral Commission—
 - (a) shall be responsible for the conduct and supervision of the registration of voters and of elections and referenda under this Constitution;
 - (b) shall keep under continuous review the number and boundaries of the electoral areas into which Mahe and Praslin are divided having regard to article 112(3);
 - (c) shall keep under continuous review the practices and working, including such matters as finance, broadcast and advertising, of political campaigns in respect of elections and referenda under this Constitution;
 - (d) shall have such other functions as may be prescribed by or under this Constitution or an Act.
 - (e) shall review existing legislation governing electoral matters and make recommendations to the Government.

[Article 116(1)(e) inserted by section 2(g)(ii) of Act [7 of 2011](#) w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

- (2) The Electoral Commission shall, within ninety days after each election or referendum under this Constitution, submit to the National Assembly and the President a report on the conduct of—
 - (a) the political campaign leading up to the election or referendum; and
 - (b) the election or referendum,together with such recommendations as the Commission may consider necessary for the purposes of ensuring true, fair and effective elections and referenda.
- (3) The Electoral Commission shall, not later than three years after the coming into force of this Constitution and thereafter three years after the Commission last submitted a report in terms of clause (1)(b), submit to the National Assembly and the President a report in terms of clause (1)(b) together with such recommendations regarding changes in the number or boundaries of the electoral areas on Mahe and Praslin which the Commission considers necessary in the circumstances.
- (4) As soon as is practicable within thirty days after the submission of the report under clause (3) the President shall cause to be laid before the National Assembly the draft of an order by the President for giving effect to the recommendations contained in the report relating to changes in the number or boundaries of the electoral areas referred to in the report and the draft may make provision for any matter which appears to the President to be incidental to or consequential upon the other provisions of the draft.
- (5) When the draft order laid before the National Assembly under clause (4) is approved by resolution of the National Assembly, the President shall make an order, which shall be published in the *Gazette*, in terms of the draft and the order shall come into force on the next dissolution of the National Assembly after the order is so published.

- (6) Where the draft order laid before the National Assembly under clause (4) is not approved by resolution of the National Assembly, the President shall refer the matter to the Electoral Commission for its reconsideration.

[Article 116 amended by section 2(g)(i) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

117. Control of funds in relation to election and referendum

An Act shall provide for the regulation and control by the Electoral Commission of—

- (a) election or referendum expenditures by a political party or person taking part in an election or referendum;
- (b) contributions to or in favour of a political party or person taking part in an election or referendum or a cause in relation to an election or referendum;
- (c) political broadcasts.

[Article 117 amended by section 2(h) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

118. Registration of political parties and control of funds

An Act shall provide for the registration of political parties, qualifications for entitlement to be registered as a political party, conferment of corporate status on political parties, the maintenance of a register of political parties by the Electoral Commission, the submission of accounts and other prescribed particulars and information to the Commission by a registered political party, the provision of financial support from public funds to political parties, the control of financial and other contributions to political parties, the disposal of the assets of political parties on dissolution and the submission to the National Assembly by the Electoral Commission of an annual report in respect of the functions of the Commission under the Act.

[Article 118 amended by section 2(i) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

Chapter VIII Judiciary

Part I – General

119. Judicial power of Seychelles

- (1) The judicial power of Seychelles shall be vested in the Judiciary which shall consist of—
 - (a) the Court of Appeal of Seychelles;
 - (b) the Supreme Court of Seychelles; and
 - (c) such other subordinate courts or tribunals established pursuant to article 137.
- (2) The Judiciary shall be independent and be subject only to this Constitution and the other laws of Seychelles.
- (3) Subject to this Constitution, Justice of Appeal, Judges and Masters of the Supreme Court shall not be liable to any proceedings or suit for anything done or omitted to be done by them in the performance of their functions.
- (4) An Act establishing a subordinate court or tribunal referred to in clause (1)(c) may grant to the person exercising judicial functions in the court or tribunal immunity from proceedings or suit to the extent provided in clause (3).

Part II – Court of Appeal

120. Establishment and jurisdiction of Court of Appeal

- (1) There shall be a Court of Appeal which shall, subject to this Constitution, have jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from a judgement, direction, decision, declaration, decree, writ or order of the Supreme Court and such other appellate jurisdiction as may be conferred upon the Court of Appeal by this Constitution and by or under an Act.
- (2) Except as this Constitution or an Act otherwise provides, there shall be a right of appeal to the Court of Appeal from a judgment, direction, decision, declaration, decree, writ or order of the Supreme Court.
- (3) The Court of Appeal shall, when exercising its appellate jurisdiction, have all the authority, jurisdiction and power of the court from which the appeal is brought and such other authority, jurisdiction and power as may be conferred upon it by or under an Act.
- (4) Subject to this Constitution and any other law, the authority, jurisdiction and power of the Court of Appeal may be exercised as provided in the Rules of the Court of Appeal.
- (5) Proceedings in respect of a matter relating to the application, contravention, enforcement or interpretation of this Constitution shall take precedence over other matters before the Court of Appeal.
- (6) Where in respect of any matter before it, the Court of Appeal finds that any law or provision of any law contravenes this Constitution, the Justice of Appeal presiding at the sitting of the Court shall send a copy of the finding to the President and the Speaker.
- (7) The Court of Appeal shall sit, as occasion requires, to deal with matters before it as expeditiously as is practicable.

121. Composition of Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal shall consist of—

- (a) a President of the Court of Appeal and two or more other Justices of Appeal; and
- (b) the Judges who shall be *ex-officio* members of the Court.

122. Qualification of Justices of Appeal

A person is qualified for appointment as, or to discharge the functions of, the President of the Court of Appeal or a Justice of Appeal if, in the opinion of the Constitutional Appointments Authority, the person is suitably qualified in law and can effectively, competently and impartially discharge the functions of the office of Justice of Appeal under this Constitution.

123. Appointment of Justices of Appeal

The President shall, by instrument under the Public Seal, appoint the President of the Court of Appeal and other Justices of Appeal from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority.

124. Acting appointment of Justices of Appeal

- (1) Where the office of President of the Court of Appeal is vacant or the President of the Court of Appeal is for any reason unable to perform the functions of the office of President of the Court of Appeal—
 - (a) until a person has been appointed to and has assumed the functions of that office; or

- (b) until the person holding the office of President of the Court of Appeal has resumed the functions of that office,

as the case may be, the functions of the office of President of the Court of Appeal shall be performed by a Justice of Appeal appointed for the purpose by the President from Justices of Appeal proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority.

- (2) Where—

- (a) the office of a Justice of Appeal is vacant;
- (b) a Justice of Appeal is for any reason unable to perform the functions of that office;
- (c) a Justice of Appeal is performing the functions of the President of the Court of Appeal under clause (1).

the President may appoint a person from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority to act as Justice of Appeal—

- (d) until a person has been appointed to and has assumed the functions of the office of Justice of Appeal;
- (e) until the person holding the office of Justice of Appeal has resumed the functions of that office; or
- (f) until the Justice of Appeal referred to in paragraph (c) ceases to perform the functions of the office of President of the Court of Appeal,

as the case may be.

Part III – Supreme Court

125. Establishment and jurisdiction of Supreme Court

- (1) There shall be a Supreme Court which shall, in addition to the jurisdiction and powers conferred by this Constitution, have—
 - (a) original jurisdiction in matters relating to the application, contravention, enforcement or interpretation of this Constitution;
 - (b) original jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters;
 - (c) supervisory jurisdiction over subordinate courts, tribunals and adjudicating authority and, in this connection, shall have power to issue injunctions, directions, orders or writs including writs or orders in the nature of *habeas corpus*, *certiorari*, *mandamus*, prohibition and *quo warranto* as may be appropriate for the purpose of enforcing or securing the enforcement of its supervisory jurisdiction; and
 - (d) such other original, appellate and other jurisdiction as may be conferred on it by or under an Act.
- (2) Proceedings in respect of matters relating to the application, contravention, enforcement or interpretation of this Constitution shall take precedence over other matters before the Supreme Court.
- (3) The Supreme Court shall consist of the Chief Justice, the Puisne Judges and, subject to clause (5), the Masters of the Supreme Court.
- (4) Subject to article 129, any other law and the Rules of the Supreme Court, a single Judge or a number of Judges sitting together may exercise the jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court.

- (5) A Master of the Supreme Court may exercise such limited jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court as may be prescribed by or under an Act or by the rules of the Supreme Court in respect of interlocutory proceedings.
- (6) The number of Puisne Judges and Masters of the Supreme Court who may be appointed shall be prescribed by an Act.
- (7) For the purposes of clause (1)(c) "adjudicating authority" includes a body or authority established by law which performs a judicial or quasi-judicial function.

126. Qualification of Judges and Masters

- (1) A person is qualified for appointment as a Judge if—
 - (a) the person has been entitled to practice before a court of unlimited original jurisdiction for not less than seven years; and
 - (b) in the opinion of the Constitutional Appointments Authority the person has shown outstanding distinction in the practice of law and can effectively, competently and impartially discharge the functions of the office of a Judge under this Constitution.
- (2) A person is qualified for appointment as a Master of the Supreme Court if—
 - (a) the person has been entitled to practise before a court of unlimited jurisdiction for not less than five years; and
 - (b) in the opinion of the Constitutional Appointments Authority the person has shown outstanding distinction in the practice of law and can effectively, competently and impartially discharge the functions of the office of a Master of the Supreme Court under this Constitution.
- (3) For the purposes of clauses (1)(b) and (2)(b), any period during which a person has functioned as a public officer holding an office for which qualification as a barrister or attorney is required may be treated as a period of practice under the clauses.

127. Appointment of Judges and Masters

The President shall, by instrument under the Public Seal, appoint the Judges and Masters of the Supreme Court from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority.

128. Acting appointment of Judges

- (1) Where the office of Chief Justice is vacant or the Chief Justice is for any reason unable to perform the functions of the office of Chief Justice—
 - (a) until a person has been appointed to and has assumed the functions of that office; or
 - (b) until the person holding that office has resumed the functions of that office,as the case may be, the functions of the office shall be performed by a Judge appointed by the President from Judges proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority.
- (2) Where—
 - (a) the office of Judge is vacant;
 - (b) a Judge is for any reason unable to perform the functions of the office of a Judge; or
 - (c) the Chief Justice advises the President that the state of business in the Supreme Court so requires,

the President may appoint a person from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority to act as a Judge—

- (d) until a person has been appointed and has assumed the functions of that office;
 - (e) until the person holding that office has assumed the functions of that office; or
 - (f) until the President, on the advice of the Chief Justice, revokes the appointment, as the case may be.
- (3) An appointment under clause (2)(c) may be made without reference to any numerical limit imposed under article 125(6).

Part IV – Constitutional questions

129. Supreme Court as Constitutional Court

- (1) The jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court in respect of matters relating to the application, contravention, enforcement or interpretation of the Constitution shall be exercised by not less than two Judges sitting together.
- (2) Where two or more Judges sit together for the purposes of clause (1), the most senior of the Judges shall preside.
- (3) Any reference to the Constitutional Court in this Constitution shall be a reference to the Court sitting under clause(1).

130. Constitutional questions before Constitutional Court

- (1) A person who alleges that any provisions of this Constitution, other than a provision of Chapter III, has been contravened and that the person's interest is being or is likely to be affected by the contravention may, subject to this article, apply to the Constitutional Court for redress.
- (2) The Constitutional Court may decline to entertain an application under clause (1) where the Court is satisfied that the applicant has obtained redress for the contravention under any law and where the applicant has obtained redress in the Constitutional Court for any matter for which an application may be made under clause (1), a court shall not entertain any application for redress for such matter except on appeal from a decision of such court.
- (3) Where the Constitutional Court on an application under clause (1) is satisfied that adequate means of redress for the contravention alleged are or have been available to the person concerned in any other court under any other law, the Court may hear the application or transfer the application to the appropriate court for grant of redress in accordance with law.
- (4) Upon hearing an application under clause (1), the Constitutional Court may—
 - (a) declare any act or omission which is the subject of the application to be a contravention of this Constitution;
 - (b) declare any law or the provision of any law which contravenes this Constitution to be void;
 - (c) grant any remedy available to the Supreme Court against any person or authority which is the subject of the application or which is a party to any proceedings before the Constitutional Court, as the Court considers appropriate.
- (5) Where the Constitutional Court makes a declaration under clause 4(b), the Court shall, subject to any decision in appeal therefrom, send a copy of the declaration to the President and the Speaker.
- (6) Where in the course of any proceedings in any court, other than the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court sitting as the Constitutional Court, or tribunal, a question arises with regard to whether there has been or is likely to be a contravention of this Constitution, other than Chapter III, the court or

tribunal shall, if it is satisfied that the question is not frivolous or vexatious or has not already been the subject of a decision of the Constitutional Court or the Court of Appeal, immediately adjourn the proceedings and refer the question for determination by the Constitutional Court.

- (7) Where in an application under clause (1) or where a matter is referred to the Constitutional Court under clause (6), the person alleging the contravention or risk of contravention establishes a *prima facie* case, the burden of proving that there has not been a contravention or risk of contravention shall, where the allegation is against the State, be on the State.
- (8) The Court in which the question referred to in clause (6) arose shall dispose of the case in accordance with the decision of the Constitutional Court, or if that decision is the subject of an appeal, in accordance with the decision of the Court of Appeal.
- (9) Nothing in this article confers jurisdiction on the Constitutional Court to hear or determine a matter referred to it under article 51(3) or article 82(1) otherwise than upon an application made in accordance with article 51 or article 82.

Part V – Terms of appointment of Justices of Appeal and Judges

131. Tenure of office of Justices of Appeal and Judges

- (1) Subject to article 134, a person holding office of Justice of Appeal or Judge shall vacate that office—
 - (a) on death;
 - (b) if the person is removed from office under article 134;
 - (c) subject to clause (2), if the person resigns in writing addressed to the President and to the Constitutional Appointments Authority;
 - (d) in the case of a person who is a citizen of Seychelles, on attaining the age of seventy years;
 - (e) in the case of a person who is not a citizen of Seychelles, at the end of the term for which the person was appointed;
 - (f) if the office is abolished with the consent of the person.
- (2) A resignation under clause (1)(c) shall have effect on the date on which it is received by the President.
- (3) Subject to clause (4), a person who is not a citizen of Seychelles may be appointed to the office of Justice of Appeal or Judge for only one term of office of not more than seven years.
- (4) The President may, on the recommendation of the Constitutional Appointments Authority in exceptional circumstances, appoint a person who is not a citizen of Seychelles and who has already completed one term of office as a Justice of Appeal or Judge for a second term of office, whether consecutive or not, of not more than seven years.

132. Miscellaneous provisions with respect to tenure

- (1) The office of Justice of Appeal or Judge shall not, without the consent of the Justice of Appeal or Judge, be abolished during the Justice's of Appeal or Judge's continuance in office.
- (2) A person who has been appointed to the office of Justice of Appeal or Judge may continue in office notwithstanding any change, during the Justice's of Appeal or Judge's term of office, of the qualification for appointment to the office.
- (3) A Justice of Appeal or Judge or a person acting as such pursuant to article 124 or article 128, whose appointment has terminated otherwise than by reason of being removed from office under article 134, may continue to sit as a Justice of Appeal or Judge, or to act as such, for the purpose of giving judgment or otherwise in relation to any proceedings commenced before the Justice of Appeal or Judge before the termination of the appointment.

133. Salary etc. of Justices of Appeal and Judges

- (1) The salary, allowances, gratuity and pension payable to a Justice of Appeal or Judge shall be prescribed by or under an Act and shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.

[Article 133(1) amended by section 2(k) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

- (2) Subject to article 134, the salary, allowances or gratuity payable to and the term and other conditions of service of a Justice of Appeal or Judge shall not be altered to the disadvantage of the Justice of Appeal or Judge after appointment.

134. Removal of Justice of Appeal or Judge from office

- (1) A Justice of Appeal or Judge may be removed from office only—
 - (a) for inability to perform the functions of the office, whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or from any other cause, or for misbehaviour; and
 - (b) in accordance with clauses (2) and (3).
- (2) Where the Constitutional Appointments Authority considers that the question of removing a Justice of Appeal or Judge from office under clause (1) ought to be investigated—
 - (a) the Authority shall appoint a tribunal consisting of a President and at least two other members, all selected from among persons who hold or have held office as a Judge of a court having unlimited original jurisdiction or a court having jurisdiction in appeals from such a court or from among persons who are eminent jurists of proven integrity; and
 - (b) the tribunal shall inquire into the matter, report on the facts thereof to the Authority and recommend to the President whether or not the Justice of Appeal or Judge ought to be removed from office.
- (3) Where, under clause (2), the tribunal recommends that a Justice of Appeal or Judge ought to be removed from office, the President shall remove the Justice of Appeal or Judge from office.
- (4) Where under this article the question of removing a Justice of Appeal or Judges has been referred to a tribunal, the President may suspend the Justice of Appeal or Judge from performing the functions of a Justice of Appeal or Judge, but the suspension—
 - (a) may, on the advice of the Constitutional Appointments Authority, be revoked at any time by the President;
 - (b) shall cease to have effect if the tribunal recommends to the President that the Justice of Appeal or Judge ought not to be removed from office.

Part VI – Miscellaneous

135. Oaths to be taken by Justices of Appeal, Judges and Masters of Supreme Court

A Justice of Appeal, Judge or Master of the Supreme Court, shall, before entering office, take and subscribe the oath of allegiance and such oath for the due performance of the functions of the office as may be prescribed by or under an Act.

136. Rules of Court

- (1) The President of the Court of Appeal may make Rules of the Court of Appeal.
- (2) The Chief Justice may make Rules of Court of the Supreme Court.

137. Other courts

Acts may—

- (a) provide for the establishment of courts or tribunals which are subordinate to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, in this article referred to as "subordinate courts and tribunals";
- (b) provide for the appointment to and removal from office of members of the subordinate courts and tribunals;
- (c) define or provide for the definition of the jurisdiction and powers of the subordinate courts and tribunals;
- (d) define or provide for the definition of the relationship among the subordinate courts or tribunals and the relationship between the subordinate courts or tribunals and the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal;
- (e) provide for the making of rules in respect of the subordinate courts and tribunals.

138. Seal of Court

The Supreme Court shall have, and use as occasion requires, a seal bearing on it the device of the Public Seal of Seychelles surrounded by the words "Seal of the Supreme Court of Seychelles".

Chapter IX

Constitutional Appointments Authority

139. Establishment of Constitutional Appointments Authority

- (1) There shall be a Constitutional Appointments Authority which shall perform the functions conferred upon it by this Constitution and any other law.
- (2) Subject to this Constitution, the Constitutional Appointments Authority shall not, in the performance of its functions, be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.

140. Composition of Constitutional Appointments Authority

- (1) The Constitutional Appointments Authority shall consist of five members appointed as follows—
 - (a) the President and the Leader of the Opposition shall each appoint two members;
 - (b) subject to clause (3), the four members appointed under paragraph (a) shall, within twenty-one days of their appointment, by agreement, appoint the fifth member who shall also be the Chairman of the Authority.

[Article 140(1) amended by section 2(l) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

- (2) The President or the Leader of the Opposition shall within seven days after the person whom the President or Leader of the Opposition has appointed under clause (1)(a) ceased to be a member of the Constitutional Appointments Authority, appoint another person as member of the Authority.
- (3) Where the four members of the Constitutional Appointments Authority appointed under clause (1)(a) or clause 4(a) or (b) fail to appoint or are unable to agree on the appointment of the fifth member and Chairman of the Authority, the four members shall, within fourteen days after the end of the period specified in clause (1)(b), propose a list of not less than four and not more than five candidates for the office of member and Chairman of the Authority to the President and the President, in consultation with the Speaker and the Chief Justice, shall within seven days after

receiving the list of candidates, appoint one of the candidates proposed as member and Chairman of the Authority.

[Article 140(3) amended by section 3(q)(i) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

[Article 140(3) amended by section 2(l)(ii) of Act [5 of 2017](#) w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

(4) Where—

- (a) the President or the Leader of the Opposition fails to appoint the members of the Constitutional Appointments Authority within the prescribed time, the Speaker shall appoint the members;
- (b) the President and the Leader of the Opposition fail to appoint the members of the Constitutional Appointments Authority within the prescribed time, the appointment shall be made by the National Assembly;

[Article 140(4)(b) amended by section 3(q)(ii)(A) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (c) the four members of the Constitutional Appointments Authority appointed under clause 1(a) or subclause (a) or (b) of this clause fail to propose a list of candidates for the office of member and Chairman of the Authority to the President within the time prescribed in clause (3), the National Assembly shall propose the list of candidates to the President who shall within seven days after receiving the list appoint one of the candidates as member and Chairman of the Authority;

[Article 140(4)(c) inserted by section 3(q)(ii)(B) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (d) the President fails to appoint the fifth member and Chairman of the Authority within the time prescribed in clause (3) or subclause (c) of this clause, the National Assembly shall appoint the third member and Chairman;

[Article 140(4)(d) inserted by section 3(q)(ii)(B) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (e) the fifth member and Chairman of the Constitutional Appointments Authority ceases to hold office other than by expiration of the period of office, clauses (1)(b) and (3) and this clause shall apply to the appointment of the fifth member and Chairman as if the period specified in clause (1)(b) begins on the date the member and Chairman ceases to hold office.

[Article 140(4)(e) inserted by section 3(q)(ii)(B) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996; Article 140(4) amended by section 2(l)(iii) of Act [5 of 2017](#) w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

141. Qualification for membership

A person is qualified to be a member of the Constitutional Appointments Authority if the person is a citizen of Seychelles who—

- (a) has held judicial office in a court of unlimited original jurisdiction; or
- (b) is of proven integrity and impartiality who has served with distinction in a high office in the Government of Seychelles or under this Constitution or in a profession or vocation.

142. Tenure of office etc.

- (1) A person shall be appointed a member of the Constitutional Appointments Authority for a term of seven years and subject to any law, may, at the end of a term, be reappointed for further terms of office.
- (2) A person holding office as member of the Constitutional Appointments Authority may, by writing addressed to the President and Leader of Opposition, and, in the case of a member who is not the Chairman, to the Chairman, resign.

- (3) A resignation under clause (2) shall have effect on the date it is last received by any person specified in that clause.
- (4) The salary, allowances and gratuity payable to a member of the Constitutional Appointments Authority shall be prescribed by or under an Act and the salary, allowances or gratuity shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.
- (5) Subject to article 166, the salary, allowances and gratuity payable to and the term and other conditions of appointment of a member of the Constitutional Appointments Authority shall not be altered to the disadvantage of the member after the appointment.
- (6) The Constitutional Appointments Authority may regulate its own proceedings and may act notwithstanding one vacancy in its membership.

Chapter X Ombudsman

143. Ombudsman

- (1) There shall be an Ombudsman who shall be appointed by the President from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority.
- (2) A person is qualified for appointment as Ombudsman if—
 - (a) the person is a citizen of Seychelles;
 - (b) the person is of proven integrity and impartiality;
 - (c) the Constitutional Appointments Authority is of the opinion that the person possesses demonstrated competence and experience and can effectively discharge the functions of the office of Ombudsman; and
 - (d) the person is not a member of the National Assembly or Judiciary or a Minister or the Vice-President or the President or a candidate in an election under this Constitution or has been designated as a candidate's Vice-President at an election for President.

[Article 143(2)(d) amended by section 3(r) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (3) Subject to this Constitution, the Ombudsman shall not, in the performance of the office of Ombudsman, be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.
- (4) The person holding office as Ombudsman shall not hold any other public office of emolument or engage in any occupation for reward outside the functions of the office of Ombudsman which might compromise the integrity, impartiality and independence of that office.
- (5) Schedule 5 shall have effect with regard to the Ombudsman.
- (6) An Act may provide for any matter, not otherwise provided for under this article, necessary or expedient for the purpose of ensuring the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the office of Ombudsman.

144. Tenure of office of Ombudsman

- (1) A person shall be appointed to the office of Ombudsman for a term of seven years, and is eligible for reappointment at the end of the term.
- (2) A person holding the office of Ombudsman shall vacate the office on death, if the person, by writing addressed to the President, resigns or if the person is removed from office or at the end of a term of office.

- (3) Where a person holding office as Ombudsman resigns, the resignation has effect on the date it is received by the President.
- (4) The salary, allowances, gratuity and pension payable to the Ombudsman shall be prescribed by or under an Act and the salary, allowances, gratuity or pension so payable shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.

[Article 144(4) amended by section 2(m) of Act 5 of 2017 w.e.f. 19 April 2017]

- (5) Subject to article 165, the salary, allowances or gratuity payable to and the term of office and other conditions of service of the Ombudsman shall not be altered to the disadvantage of the Ombudsman after appointment.

Chapter XI

Public Service Appeal Board

145. Establishment of the Public Service Appeal Board

- (1) There shall be a Public Service Appeal Board which shall perform the functions conferred upon it by this Constitution and any other law.
- (2) Subject to this Constitution, the Public Service Appeal Board shall not, in the performance of its functions, be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.

146. Functions of the Public Service Appeal Board

- (1) The Public Service Appeal Board shall hear complaints by persons aggrieved by—
 - (a) an appointment made to an office;
 - (b) a promotion to an office;
 - (c) disciplinary proceedings taken in respect of an officer;
 - (d) the termination of appointment of a person who was holding an office;
 - (e) any decision relating to the qualification of a person who has applied for an office or is serving in an office,in the public service.
- (2) Clause (1) shall not apply to an office the appointment to which falls within the competence of the Constitutional Appointments Authority or an office referred to in article 62(3) or any other law.
- (3) The Public Service Appeal Board may refuse to consider a complaint where it is of the opinion that—
 - (a) it is frivolous, vexatious or trivial or made in bad faith; or
 - (b) the making of the complaint has, without reasonable cause, been delayed for more than six months, or the complaint is the subject of proceedings before the court.
- (4) Where after considering a complaint the Public Service Appeal Board is of the opinion that the complainant has been aggrieved as alleged in the complaint, the Board shall order the public authority concerned to take such appropriate action as is specified in the order within the time specified in the order and where the public authority fails to comply with the order the Board shall make a report to the National Assembly.
- (5) The Public Service Appeal Board shall, in addition to any report it may make under clause (4), make, before the 31st January of each year, a report to the National Assembly in respect of the performance of its functions during the immediately preceding year.

- (6) A complaint made under this article shall not affect the right of the complainant or other person to take legal or other proceedings under any other law.
- (7) For the purposes of this article—
 - "body" means a body of persons whether corporate or incorporate;
 - "public service" means service under a public authority;
 - "public authority" means a Ministry, department, or division of the Government.

147. Investigative power

- (1) The Public Service Appeal Board shall, for the purposes of performing its functions under this Chapter, have the power to compel the attendance of witnesses, examine witnesses on oath or otherwise, call for and examine any relevant record and inspect any premises.
- (2) Paragraph 4 of Schedule 5 shall apply to an investigation by the Public Service Appeal Board as it applies to an investigation by the Ombudsman.
- (3) The Public Service Appeal Board may regulate its own proceedings and may act notwithstanding one vacancy in its membership.
- (4) An Act may provide for any matter, not other provided for in this Chapter, in relation to the Public Service Appeal Board.

148. Composition of Public Service Appeal Board

- (1) The Public Service Appeal Board shall consist of three members appointed as follows—
 - (a) the President and the Leader of the Opposition shall each appoint one member;
 - (b) subject to clause (3), the two members appointed under paragraph (a) shall, within twenty-one days of their appointment, by agreement, appoint the third member who shall also be the Chairman of the Board.
- (2) The President or the Leader of the Opposition shall within seven days after the person whom the President or Leader of Opposition has appointed under clause (1)(a) ceased to be a member of the Public Service Appeal Board, appoint another person as member of the Board.
- (3) Where the two members of the Public Service Appeal Board appointed under clause (1)(a) or clause 4(a) or (b) fail to appoint or are unable to agree on the appointment of the third member and Chairman of the Board, the two members shall, within fourteen days after the end of the period specified in clause (1)(b), propose a list of not less than two and not more than three candidates for the office of member and Chairman of the Board to the President and the President shall within seven days after receiving the list of candidates, appoint one of the candidates proposed as member and Chairman of the Board.

[Article 148(3) amended by section 3(s)(i) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (4) Where—
 - (a) the President or the Leader of the Opposition fails to appoint a member of the Public Service Appeal Board within the prescribed time, the Speaker shall appoint the member;
 - (b) the President and the Leader of the Opposition fail to appoint a member of the Public Service Appeal Board within the prescribed time, the appointment shall be made by the National Assembly;
[Article 148(4)(b) amended by section 3(s)(ii)(A) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]
 - (c) the two members of the Public Service Board appointed under clause (1)(a) or subclause (a) or (b) of this clause fail to propose a list of candidates for the office of member and

Chairman of the Board to the President within the time prescribed in clause (3), the National Assembly shall propose the list of candidates to the President who shall within seven days after receiving the list appoint one of the candidates as member and chairman of the Board;

[Article 148(4)(c) inserted by section 3(s)(ii)(B) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (d) the President fail to appoint the third member and Chairman of the Public Service Appeal Board within the time prescribed in clause (3), the National Assembly shall appoint the third member and Chairman;

[Article 148(4)(d) inserted by section 3(s)(ii)(B) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (e) the third member and Chairman of the Public Service Appeal Board ceases to hold office other than by expiration of the period of office, clauses (1)(b) and (3) and this clause shall apply to the appointment of the third member and Chairman as if the period specified in clause (1)(b) begins on the date the member and Chairman ceases to hold office.

[Article 148(4)(e) inserted by section 3(s)(ii)(B) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

149. Qualification for membership

A person is qualified to be a member of the Public Service Appeal Board if the person is a citizen of Seychelles who—

- (a) is of proven integrity and impartiality who has served with distinction in a high office in the Government of Seychelles or under this Constitution or in a profession or vocation; and
- (b) is not a member of the National Assembly or a Minister or the President or a candidate to an election under this Constitution.

150. Tenure of office etc.

- (1) A person shall be appointed a member of the Public Service Appeal Board for a term of seven years and subject to any law, may, at the end of a term, be reappointed for further terms of office.
- (2) A person holding office as a member of the Public Service Appeal Board may, by writing addressed to the President and Leader of Opposition, and, in the case of a member who is not the Chairman, to the Chairman, resign.
- (3) A resignation under clause (2) shall have effect on the date it is last received by any person specified in that clause.
- (4) The salary, allowance and gratuity payable to a member of the Public Service Appeal Board shall be prescribed by or under an Act and the salary, allowances or gratuity so payable shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.
- (5) Subject to article 166, the salary, allowances and gratuity payable to and the term and other conditions of appointment of a member of the Public Service Appeal Board shall not be altered to the disadvantage of the member after the appointment.
- (6) The Public Service Appeal Board may regulate its own proceedings and may act notwithstanding one vacancy in its membership.

Chapter XII Finance

151. Consolidated Fund

There shall be a Consolidated Fund into which shall be paid all revenues or other moneys raised or received for the purposes or on behalf of the Republic, not being revenues or other moneys that are

payable by or under an Act for some specific purpose or into some other fund established under an Act for a specific purpose.

152. Withdrawal from Consolidated Fund

- (1) No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund except—
 - (a) to meet expenditure that is charged on the Fund by this Constitution or by an Act; or
 - (b) where the issue of those moneys has been authorised—
 - (i) by an Appropriation Act;
 - (ii) by a supplementary estimate approved pursuant to article 154(7) by resolution of the National Assembly passed in that behalf of; or
 - (iii) under article 155.
- (2) No moneys shall be withdrawn from any public fund, other than the Consolidated Fund, unless the issue of those moneys has been authorised by or under an Act.

153. Public debt

The public debt of Seychelles shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund and other public funds established by or under this Constitution.

154. Appropriation Act and statement of account

- (1) The Minister shall, not later than the thirtieth day after the beginning of each financial year, lay before the National Assembly the estimates of revenue and expenditure of the Government for the financial year.
- (2) The Minister shall, before presenting the estimates under clause (1), obtain the approval of the Cabinet in respect of the estimates.
- (3) The estimates referred to in clause (1) shall include—
 - (a) a statement of the public debt at the beginning of the financial year showing—
 - (i) bilateral, multilateral, institutional and commercial debts;
 - (ii) whether the debt in each case referred to in subparagraph (i) is foreign or domestic;
 - (iii) in the case of a domestic debt, the type and aggregate amount of the debt instrument issued;
 - (b) a statement of the expected debt at the end of the financial year;
 - (c) a profile of the debt repayment and servicing requirement for the next ten subsequent financial years;
 - (d) a statement of the outstanding guarantees given by the Government and the Central Bank of Seychelles;
 - (e) a statement of official reserves, clearly identifying the reserves held at the beginning of the financial year by the Central Bank, the Government and the banking sector in aggregate, the expected holdings by the Central Bank, Government and banking sector at the end of the financial year and the extent to which the official year and the extent to which the official reserves are expected to be drawn down or increased during the financial year;
 - (f) a statement of the fiscal outcome and effect showing a full abstract of the Consolidated Fund for the immediately preceding financial year.

- (4) The estimates of expenditure referred to in clause (1) shall show separately—
 - (a) the estimates of expenditure required to meet expenditures charged on the Consolidated Fund; and
 - (b) the sums required to meet other expenditures, during the financial year.
- (5) The heads of expenditures referred to in clause (4)(b) shall be included in a Bill, to be known as the Appropriation Bill, which shall be introduced in the National Assembly to provide for appropriation from the Consolidated Fund of the sums of money necessary to meet the expenditures.
- (6) Where, in respect of any financial year, it is found—
 - (a) that the amount appropriated by the Appropriation Act for any purpose is insufficient or that a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose for which no amount has been appropriated by that Act; or
 - (b) that any moneys have been expended for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated for that purpose by that Act or for a purpose for which no amount has been appropriated by that Act,a supplementary estimate, showing the sum of money required or spent, shall be laid before the National Assembly.
- (7) Where, in respect of any financial year, a supplementary estimate laid before the National Assembly in accordance with clause (6) has been approved by resolution by the National Assembly, a supplementary Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly in the financial year next following the year to which the estimate relates, providing for the appropriation of the sums so approved for the purposes specified in that estimate.
- (8) The Minister shall, after approval by the Cabinet and within ninety-one days after the end of each financial year, provide to the National Assembly in respect of that year—
 - (a) full details of all accounts maintained in respect of the Consolidated Fund showing amount actually received and spent in that year;
 - (b) statements of fiscal outcome and effect showing separately actual components of fiscal outcome, position and effect, and, in the case of fiscal effect, separate disclosure shall be made of actual additional borrowings, movements in cash balances, of the Central Bank of Seychelles, and other bank and non-bank borrowings;
 - (c) a statement of actual outstanding debt at the end of the financial year showing separately bilateral, multilateral, institutional, foreign and domestic debt, type and aggregate amounts of debt instruments outstanding and in the case of new or restructured debt or debt in default, a separate disclosure giving full details thereof;
 - (d) statements of outstanding guarantees given by Government and the Central Bank of Seychelles showing separately guarantees that have been renewed, new guarantees given and guarantees that have been called up and, in the case of new guarantees given or that have been called up, details of such guarantees together with a statement of guarantees that have expired during the financial year;
 - (e) a statement of actual official reserves identifying those held by the Central Bank of Seychelles, and there shall be shown separately the extent to which those reserves are borrowed or encumbered in any way;
 - (f) as far as is practicable, a statement of assets and liabilities of the Government at the end of the financial year; and
 - (g) such other statements as the Minister may think fit.
- (9) For the purposes of this Chapter,

"financial year" means any period of twelve months beginning on 1st January in any year or any other date as may be prescribed by or under an Act;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for finance and includes the Vice-President where the Vice-President is responsible for the Ministry or department of finance.

[Article 154(9) amended by section 3(t) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

155. Authorisation of expenditure in advance of appropriation

Where the Appropriation Act in respect of any financial year has not come into operation by the beginning of the financial year, the National Assembly by resolution may authorise the withdrawal of moneys from the Consolidated Fund for the purpose of meeting expenditure necessary to carry on the service of the Government until the expiration of four months from the beginning of the financial year or the coming into operation of that Appropriation Act, whichever is the earlier.

156. Contingencies Fund and other funds

- (1) Provision may be made in an Act for the establishment of a Contingencies Fund and for authorising the Minister, if the Minister is satisfied that there is an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no other provision exists, to make advances from that Fund to meet that need.
- (2) Where any advance is made from the Contingencies Fund, a supplementary estimate shall, as soon as is practicable, be laid before the National Assembly for the purpose of authorising the replacement of the amount so advanced.
- (3) An Act may provide for the establishment of other funds for any purpose specified in the Act.

157. Imposition of taxation

- (1) Subject to this article, no taxation shall be imposed or altered except by or under an Act.
- (2) An Act may make provision under which the President or a Minister may by order provide that on or after the publication of a Bill, being a Bill approved by the President, that it is proposed to introduce in the National Assembly providing for the imposition or alteration of taxation, such provisions of the Bill as may be specified in the order shall, until the Bill becomes law, have the force of law for such period and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act.
- (3) An order made under clause (2) shall, unless sooner revoked, cease to have effect—
 - (a) if the Bill to which it relates is not passed within such period from the date of its first reading in the National Assembly as may be prescribed by an Act;
 - (b) if, after the introduction of the Bill to which it relates, the National Assembly is dissolved; or
 - (c) at the expiration of a period of four months from the date the order came into operation, or such longer period from that date as may be specified in any resolution passed by the National Assembly, after the Bill to which it relates has been introduced.

158. Auditor-General

- (1) There shall be an Auditor-General who shall be appointed by the President from candidates proposed by the Constitutional Appointments Authority.
- (2) A person shall not be appointed Auditor-General unless that person has not less than seven years experience as a qualified accountant.
- (3) The accounts of the Cabinet office, the National Assembly, all government departments and offices, all courts and those related to moneys withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund, all accounts of any statutory corporation or such other body as may be specified by or under an Act shall be audited

and reported on by the Auditor-General to the National Assembly and for that purpose the Auditor-General or any person authorised or appointed in that behalf by the Auditor-General shall have access to all books, records, returns, information and other documents relating or relevant to those accounts.

- (4) The public accounts of Seychelles and of all other persons bodies referred to in clause (3) shall be kept in such form as the Auditor-General shall approve.
- (5) The Auditor-General shall, within twelve months of the end of the immediately preceding financial year, submit the record referred to in clause (3) to the National Assembly and shall in the report draw attention to irregularities in the accounts audited to any other matter which in the opinion of the Auditor-General ought to be brought to the notice of the Assembly.
- (6) The Finance and Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly shall consider the report of the Auditor General and, for that purpose, may summon before the Committee any person who, in the opinion of the Committee, may assist the Committee in consideration of the report.
- (7) The Auditor-General shall, in the performance of the functions of the office of Auditor-General, not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority, but the President or the National Assembly may request the Auditor General in the public interest, to audit at any particular time, the accounts of any person or bodies referred to in clause (3).
- (8) The Auditor-General shall be appointed for a term of seven years but is eligible for reappointment at the end of a term of office.
- (9) The salary, allowances, gratuity or pension payable to the Auditor-General shall be provided for by or under an Act and shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.
- (10) The Act referred to in clause (9) may provide for other conditions of service of the Auditor-General.
- (11) Subject to article 165, the term and other conditions of service of the Auditor-General shall not be altered to the disadvantage of the Auditor-General after appointment.

Chapter XIII

The Police Force

159. Establishment of Police Force

- (1) There shall be a Police Force of Seychelles.
- (2) Subject to this Constitution and any other law, the Police Force shall be organised and administered in such manner as may be provided for by or under an Act.

160. Commissioner of Police

- (1) The Police Force shall be commanded by the Commissioner of Police who shall be appointed by the President subject to approval by the National Assembly.
- (2) Nothing in this article shall be construed as precluding the assignment to a Ministry or Department of Government of responsibility for the organisation, maintenance and administration of the Police Force, but the Commissioner of Police shall be responsible for determining the use, and controlling the operations, of the Force in accordance with law.

161. Functions of Police Force

The functions of the Police are—

- (a) to maintain law and order in and preserve the internal security of Seychelles and any other area over which the Republic has proclaimed its jurisdiction;

- (b) to prevent and detect crime in Seychelles and over any other area over which the Republic has proclaimed its jurisdiction; and
- (c) to perform such other functions as may be prescribed by an Act.

Chapter XIV

Defence Forces

162. Establishment of Defence Forces

- (1) There shall be the Defence Forces of Seychelles.
- (2) The President shall be the Commander-in Chief of Defence Forces.
- (3) Subject to this Constitution, the Defence Forces shall be organised and administered in such manner as may be provided for by or under an Act and the Act may, in particular, provide for charges of indiscipline and other offences among members of Defence Forces to be investigated, prosecuted and punished.

163. Functions of Defence Forces

- (1) The functions of the Defence Forces are—
 - (a) to defend Seychelles and any other area over which the Republic has proclaimed its jurisdiction;
 - (b) to assist in the fulfilment by the Republic of its international obligations;
 - (c) during a period of emergency, to provide assistance to civil authorities—
 - (i) in a civil disaster; or
 - (ii) in the restoration and maintenance of public order and security on being called out by the President,in Seychelles or in any other area over which the Republic has proclaimed its jurisdiction; and
 - (d) to perform as directed by the President functions and services of a civil nature so as to participate to the maximum extent in the task of national development and improvement, in accordance with or under an Act.
- (2) In this article "period of emergency" means a period of public emergency in terms of article 49.

Chapter XV

Miscellaneous

164. Referendum

- (1) An Act shall provide for the holding of a referendum for the purposes of this Constitution or any other purposes or any circumstance prescribed by the Act.
- (2) An Act referred to in clause (1) may provide for all matters necessary for the purpose of ensuring an effective and fair referendum.

165. Removal of certain officers

- (1) This article applies to the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Electoral members of the Commission and the Ombudsman.
[Article 165(1) amended by section 2(j) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]
- (2) Any officer to whom this article applies may be removed from office only—
 - (a) for inability to perform the functions of the office, whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or from any other cause, or for misbehaviour; and
 - (b) in accordance with clauses (3) and (4).
- (3) Where the Constitutional Appointments Authority considers that the question of removing any officer to whom this article applies ought to be investigated—
 - (a) the Authority shall appoint a tribunal consisting of a President and not less than two other members all selected from among persons who hold or have held office as a Judge of a court having unlimited original jurisdiction or a court having jurisdiction in appeals from such a court or are eminent jurists of proven integrity; and
 - (b) the tribunal shall inquire into the matter, report on the facts thereof and recommend to the President whether or not the officer ought to be removed from office.
- (4) Where under clause (3), a tribunal recommends that an officer to whom this article applies ought to be removed from office, the President shall remove the officer from office.
- (5) Where under this article the question of removing an officer to whom the article applies has been referred to a tribunal, the President may suspend the officer from performing the functions of the office but the suspension shall cease to have effect if the tribunal recommends to the President that the officer ought not to be removed from office.

166. Removal of Commissioners

- (1) A member of the Constitutional Appointments Authority or a member of the Public Service Appeal Board, in this article referred to as a "Commissioner", may be removed from office only—
 - (a) for inability to perform the functions of the office, whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or from any other cause or for misbehaviour; and
 - (b) in accordance with clauses (2) and (3).
- (2) A Commissioner shall be removed from office by the President where the question of the removal of the Commissioner from office has been referred to a tribunal appointed under clause (3) and the tribunal has recommended to the President that the Commissioner ought to be removed from office.
- (3) Where a resolution passed by the votes of the majority of the members of the National Assembly that the question of removing a Commissioner ought to be investigated—
 - (a) the Speaker shall appoint a tribunal consisting of a President and not less than two other members all selected from persons who have held office as a Judge of a court having unlimited original jurisdiction or a court having jurisdiction in appeals from such a court or are eminent jurists of proven integrity; and
 - (b) the tribunal shall inquire into the matter and report on the facts thereof and recommend to the President whether the Commissioner ought to be removed from office.
- (4) Where under this article the question of removing a Commissioner has been referred to a tribunal, the President may suspend the Commissioner from performing the functions of the office but

the suspension shall cease to have effect if the tribunal recommends to the President that the Commissioner ought not to be removed from office.

167. Local Administration

- (1) A law may, for the purpose of facilitating the administrative functions of the State in respect of its social and economic undertakings contained in Chapter III, provide for the division of Seychelles into such number of units which shall bear such name as the law may specify.
- (2) A law referred to in clause (1) may provide for the composition and the functions of the units and for all other matters necessary to give effect to the provisions of that clause.

168. Independent State-owned broadcasting media

- (1) The State shall ensure that all broadcasting media which it owns or controls or which receive a contribution from the public fund are so constituted and managed that they may operate independently of the State and of the political or other influence of other bodies, persons or political parties.
- (2) For the purposes of clause (1), the broadcasting media referred to in that clause shall, subject to this Constitution and any other law, afford opportunities and facilities for the presentation of divergent views.

169. Oath of allegiance

Schedule 6 shall have effect with regard to the oath of allegiance and the Presidential oath under this Constitution and a law may provide for any other oath required under this Constitution.

Chapter XVI Transitional provisions

170. Schedule 7

The transitional provisions specified in Schedule 7 shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Constitution or in the Constitution of Seychelles (Preparation and Promulgation) Act, 1992.

Schedule 1 (Article 2(1)(a) and Schedule 2)

Part I – Islands of the Seychelles Archipelago

Granitic Islands	
Mahé	Cousin
Praslin	Cousine
La Digue	Curieuse
St. Anne	Ile Ronde (Praslin)
Ile au Cerf	Chauve-Souris (Praslin)
Ile Longue	Ile aux Fous
Ile Moyenne	St. Pierre (Praslin)
Ile Ronde	Ile Aride
Grand Rocher	Zave
Ile Cachée	Félicité
Ile Sèche	Marianne
Ile Anonyme	Grande Soeur
Ile Hodoul	Petite Soeur
Ile aux Rats	Ile aux Cocos
Ile aux Souris	Ile La Fouche
Ile Thérèse	Silhouette
Conception	Ile du Nord

L'Islette	Mamelles
Chauve Souris (Mahé)	Ile aux Récifs
Ile aux Vaches Marines	Frégate
L'Ilot	L'Ilot (Frégate)
Coralline Islands	
Ile aux Vaches (Bird Island)	D'Arros
Ile Denis	Desroches
Ile Plate	Etoile
Coetivy	Boudeuse
Amirantes Group:	Marie-Louise
Rémire	Desnoeufs
African Banks:	Aldabra Atoll:
Bancs Africains	Grande Terre
Ile du Sud	Picard
St. Joseph's Atoll:	Polymnie
St. Joseph	Malabar
Ile aux Fouquets	Ile Michel
Ressource	Ile Esprit
Petit Carcassaye	Ile aux Moustiques
Grand Carcassaye	Ilot Parc
Bancs Ferrari	Ilot Emile

Chiens	Ilot Yangue
Pélicans	Ilot Magnan
Vars	Ile Lanier
Ile Paul	Champignon des Os
Banc de Sable	Euphrate
Banc aux Cocos	Grand Mentor
Ile aux Poules	Grand Ilot
Poivre Atoll:	Gros Ilot Gionnet
Poivre	Gros Ilot Sésame
Florentin	Heron Rock
Ile du Sud	Hide Island
Alphonse and St. François Atolls:	Ile aux Aigrettes
Alphonse	Ile aux Cèdres
Bijoutier	Iles Chalands
St. François	Ile Fangame
Farquhar Group:	Ile Héron
Farquhar Atoll:	Ile Michel
Ile du Nord	Ile Suacco
Ile du Sud	Ile Sylvestre
Manahas Nord	Ile Verte
Manahas Milieu	Ilot Déder

Manahas Sud	Ilot du Sud
Ile aux Goëlettes	Ilot du Milieu
Lapins	Ilot du Nord
Ile du Milieu	Ilot Dubois
Déposés	Ilot Macoa
Bancs de Sable	Ilot Marquoix
Providence Atoll:	Ilots Niçois
Providence	Ilot Salade
Bancs Providence	Middle Row Island
St. Pierre	Noddy Rock
Aldabra Group:	North Row Island
Petit Mentor	Pagode
Petit Mentor Endans	Ile du Sud-Ouest
Petits Ilots	Ile aux Moustiques
Pink Rock	Ile Baleine
Table Ronde	Ile aux Chauve-Souds
Cosmoledo Atoll:	Ile aux Macaques
Menai	Ile aux Rats
Ile du Nord	Ile du Nord-ouest
Ile Nord-Est	Ile Observation
Ile du Trou	Ile Sud-Est

Goëlettes	Ilot la Croix
Grand Polyte	Astove
Petit Polyte	Assomption
Grand Ile (Wizard)	

Part II – Inner and Outer Islands

Inner Islands	
La Digue	Ile du Nord
Félicité	Mamelles
Marianne	Ile aux Récifs
Grande Soeur	Frégate
Petite Soeur	L'Îlot (Frégate)
Ile aux Cocos	Ile aux Vaches (Bird Island)
Ile la Fouche	Ile Denis
Silhouette	
Outer Islands	
Ile Plate	Ile aux Fouquets
Coetivy	Ressource
Amirantes Group:	Petit Carcassaye
Rémire	Grand Carcassaye
D'Arros	Bancs Ferrari
Desroches	Chiens
Etoile	Pélicans
Boudeuse	Vars
Marie-Louise	Ile Paul

Desnoeufs	Banc de Sable
African Banks:	Bancs aux Cocos
Bancs Africains	Ile aux Poules
Ile du Sud	Poivre Atoll:
St. Joseph's Atoll:	Poivre
St. Joseph	Florentin
Ile du Sud	Ile Fangame
Alphonse and St. François Atolls:	Ile Héron
Alphonse	Ile Michel
Bijoutier	Ile Suacco
St François	Ile Sylvestre
Farquhar Group:	Ile Verte
Farquhar Atoll:	Ilot Dèder
Ile du Nord	Ilot du Sud
Ile du Sud	Ilot du Milieu
Manahas Nord	Ilot du Nord
Manahas Milieu	Ilot Dubois
Manahas Sud	Ilot Macoa
Ile aux Goëlettes	Ilot Marquiox
Lapins	Ilots Nicois
Ile du Milieu	Ilot Salade

Déposés	Middle Row Island
Bancs de Sable	Noddy Rock
Providence Atoll:	North Row Island
Providence	Petit Mentor
Bancs Providence	Petit Mentor Endans
St. Pierre	Petits Illots
Aldabra Group:	Pink Rock
Aldabra Atoll:	Table Ronde
Grande Terre	Cosmoledo Atoll:
Picard	Menai
Polymnie	Ile du Nord
Malabar	Ile Nord-Est
Ile Michel	Ile du Trou
Ile Esprit	Goelettes
Ile aux Moustiques	Grand Polyte
Ilot Parc	Petit Polyte
Illot Emile	Grand Ile (Wizard)
Ilot Yangué	Pagode
Ilot Magnan	Ile du Sud-Ouest
Ile Lanier	Ile aux Moustiques
Champignon des Os	Ile Baleine

Euphrate	Ile aux Chauve-Souds
Grand Mentor	Ile aux Macaques
Grand Ilot	Ile aux Rats
Gros Ilot Gionnet	Ile du Nord-Ouest
Gros Ilot Sésame	Ile Observation
Heron Rock	Ile Sud-Est
Hide Island	Ilot la Croix
Ile aux Aigrettes	Astove
Ile aux Cèdres	Assomption
Iles Chalands	

Schedule 2 (Article 6)

Principles of Interpretation

1. Interpretation

(1) In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires—

"**Act**" means a law made pursuant to article 86;

"**Consolidated Fund**" means the fund by that name established by article 151;

"**court**" means a court of competent jurisdiction established by or under the authority of this Constitution;

"**designated Minister**" means the Minister designated under article 75;

[inserted by section 3(u) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

"**directly elected member**" means a member of the National Assembly such as is referred to in article 78(a);

"**Electoral Commission**" or "Commission" means the Electoral Commission established under article 115;

"**Electoral Commissioner**" *[repealed and substituted as "Electoral Commission" or "Commission" by s 2(k) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]*

"**financial year**" means the period of twelve months beginning on the first day of January in any year, or on such other day as may be prescribed by an Act;

"**functions**" includes powers and duties;

"**the Gazette**" means such publication as may for the time being be appointed by the President to be the publication in which Government notices are published by authority, and includes any statements thereto in which Government notices are published;

"**Independence Day**" means the 29th day of June, 1976;

"**the Inner and Outer Islands**" means the islands described as such in Part II of Schedule 1;

"**Judge**" means the Chief Justice or a Puisne Judge;

"**Justice of Appeal**" means a Justice of the Court of Appeal established by article 120;

"**law**" includes any instrument that has the force of law and any unwritten rule of law;

"**member**" means a member of the National Assembly;

"**National Assembly**", "Assembly" means the National Assembly established by this Constitution;

"**oath**" includes an affirmation;

"**oath of allegiance**" means the oath of allegiance prescribed in this Constitution;

"**person**" includes any company or association or body of persons whether corporate or unincorporate;

"**political party**" means a party registered as such in the manner prescribed by or under an Act;

"**prescribed**" means prescribed by law;

"**proportionately elected member**" means a member such as is referred to in article 78(b);

"**public authority**" means a Ministry, department, division or agency of the Government or a statutory corporation or a limited liability company which is directly or ultimately under the

control of the Government or any other body which is carrying out a governmental function or service or a body or person specified by an Act;

"**public office**" means an office of emolument in the public service;

"**public officer**" means, subject to paragraph 4, a person holding or acting in a public office;

"**the public service**" means, subject to paragraph 4, the service of the Government of Seychelles in a civil capacity;

"**Speaker**" means the Speaker of the National Assembly;

"**Standing Orders**" means the rules of practice and procedure of the National Assembly made under article 101;

"**subordinate court**" means any court other than—

- (a) the Court of Appeal; or
- (b) the Supreme Court.

- (2) Unless the context otherwise requires, where an expression is defined in this Schedule or otherwise in this Constitution then, for that purpose, all grammatical variations and cognate and related expressions shall be understood in the same sense.

2. **Number**

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, words in the singular shall include the plural and words in the plural shall include the singular.

3. **Functions of President, etc.**

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires—

- (a) references to the functions of the office of the President shall be construed as references to the powers and duties of the President in the exercise of the executive power of the Republic and to any other powers or duties conferred or imposed on the President by or under this Constitution or any other law; and
- (b) a reference to the holder of an office by the term designating the office shall be construed as including a reference to any person acting in that office or, to the extent of the authority of the holder of the office, otherwise performing the functions of that office.

4. **Persons in receipt of pension**

- (1) For the purposes of this Constitution, a person shall not be considered as holding office in the public service by reason only of the fact that the person is in receipt of a pension or other like allowance in respect of service under the Republic or any former Government of Seychelles.
- (2) If it is provided in any law that an office is not to be regarded as a public office for the purposes of this Constitution, a person cannot be regarded as holding, or acting in, a public office for those purposes by reason only that the person holds, or is acting in, that office.

5. **Provision where no time is prescribed**

Where no time is prescribed or allowed within which an act is required or permitted by this Constitution to be done, the act shall or may be done, as the case may be, with all convenient speed and as often as the occasion requires.

6. **Attainment of age**

For the purpose of this Constitution, a person attains a certain age at the first moment of the relevant anniversary of the birth of that person.

7. Exercise and performance of powers and duties

- (1) Where this Constitution confers a power or imposes a duty, the power may be exercised, or the duty shall be performed, as the case may be, from time to time as occasion requires.
- (2) Where this Constitution confers a power or imposes a duty on the holder of an office as such, the power may be exercised, or the duty shall be performed, as the case may be, by the holder (whether substantive or other) for the time being of the office.
- (3) Subject to subparagraph (5), where this Constitution confers a power to make an appointment, the power includes power to remove or suspend a person so appointed and to appoint another person temporarily in the place of a person so removed or suspended or, where the appointee is for any reason unable or unavailable to perform the duties for which the person was appointed, to appoint another person temporarily in the place of the appointee.
- (4) Where this Constitution confers a power to make any statutory instrument, pass any resolution or give any direction, the power includes powers exercisable in the same manner and subject to the same conditions (if any) to amend or revoke the instrument, resolution or direction.
- (5) The power provided for in subparagraph (3)—
 - (a) shall be subject to this Constitution; and
 - (b) shall be exercisable subject to any conditions to which the exercise of the original power or appointment was subjected.

8. General principles of interpretation

For the purposes of interpretation—

- (a) the provisions of this Constitution shall be given their fair and liberal meaning;
- (b) this Constitution shall be read as a whole; and
- (c) this Constitution shall be treated as speaking from time to time.

9. Repeal, etc.

- (1) The alteration of any provision of this Constitution shall not—
 - (a) revive anything that was not in force or existing immediately before the alteration took effect;
 - (b) affect the previous operation of the altered provision or anything duly done or suffered under it;
 - (c) affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the altered provision;
 - (d) affect any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against the altered provision; or
 - (e) affect any investigation, legal proceedings or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment, and any such investigation, legal proceedings or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and the penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed, as if the altered provision had continued in force.
- (2) In subparagraph (1), the reference to the "alteration of any provision of this Constitution" shall be deemed to include a reference to any alteration of the Constitution such as is referred to in article 91(3)(b).

Schedule 3 (Article 51)

Election of President

1. Method of election

Subject to paragraph 6, the President shall be directly elected by secret ballot by persons entitled to vote under and in accordance with this Constitution.

2. Nomination

(1) A person shall not be a candidate in an election for President unless—

- (a) the person submits to the Electoral Commission on or before the day appointed as nomination day in relation to the election the name of the other person the candidate designates as the candidate's Vice-President together with a written consent accepting to be so designated signed by the other person and attested to the satisfaction of the Electoral Commission by a notary in Seychelles and the form provided for this purpose by the Electoral Commission completed and signed by that person and endorsed to the satisfaction of the Electoral Commission by such number, as may be prescribed under an Act, of other persons who are entitled to vote at the election under and in accordance with this Constitution; and

[Schedule 3 paragraph 2(1)(a) amended by section 3(v) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996; section 2(l)(i) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

- (b) the person deposits with the Electoral Commission, or gives security to the satisfaction of the Electoral Commission for the payment of such sum as may be prescribed under an Act as the amount to be deposited by a person who is a candidate to the election for the office of President.

[Schedule 3 paragraph 2(1)(b) amended by section 2(l)(i) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

(2) Where a person receives less than 5% of the votes cast at the election for the office of President in respect of which the person is standing as a candidate, the person shall forfeit to the Republic the sum deposited or in respect of which security was given under subparagraph (1)(b).

3. Withdrawal of candidature

(1) Subject to article 52A(4)(b), a person nominated as candidate for election to the office of President may withdraw the nomination at any time before the day appointed for the election by notice in writing to the Electoral Commission.

[Schedule 3 paragraph 3(1) amended by section 3(d)(i) of Act 7 of 2000 w.e.f. 7 June 2000; section 2(l)(ii) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

(2) A person who, within such period as may be provided by law, withdraws as candidate under subparagraph (1) shall be refunded the deposit or returned the security for the deposit referred to in paragraph 2(1)(b).

4. Time of Presidential election

An election to the office of President shall be held so as to begin—

- (a) where the President is in office after the beginning of the period of four months ending on the date when the President's term of office expires by the effluxion of time, during the first three months of that period; and
- (b) in any other case, during the period of three months beginning with the date when the office became vacant or a Proclamation under article 52A was made.

[Schedule 3 paragraph 4(b) amended by section 3(d)(ii) of Act 7 of 2000 w.e.f. 7 June 2000]

5. Minimum percentage of votes for election of President

Subject to paragraphs 6 and 7, a person shall not be elected to the office of President unless he has received more than fifty percent of the votes in the election and the necessary number of ballots may, subject to the election being discontinued and recommenced in accordance with an Act, be held in accordance with the direction of the Electoral Commission to achieve that result.

[Schedule 3 paragraph 5 amended by section 2(l)(iii) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

6. Sole Presidential candidate

Where immediately prior to the day appointed for holding an election to the office of President, there is only one candidate for election and that candidate has, since the day immediately following the day of the closing of nominations, been the sole candidate, no ballot shall be held and that candidate shall be declared by the Electoral Commission to be elected to the office of President.

[Schedule 3 paragraph 6 amended by section 2(l)(iv) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

7. Withdrawal or death of candidates

(1) Where on the day immediately following the day of closing of nominations for the election of President more than one candidate stand nominated for election and on the day of election only one candidate stands nominated by reason of the withdrawal of nominations of other candidates or no candidates stands nominated by reason of the withdrawal of nomination of all the candidates, the election shall be postponed and a further period of not less than seven days shall be allowed for nomination of other candidates.

(2) Where on the day immediately following the day of closing of nominations for the election of President one or more candidates stand nominated for election and one or more of them die at any time before the close of the poll, the election shall be postponed and a further period of not less than seven days from the date of death of the candidate shall be allowed for nomination of other candidates.

[Schedule 3 paragraph 7(2) amended by section 3(d)(iii) of Act 7 of 2000 w.e.f. 7 June 2000]

(3) The election postponed pursuant to subparagraph (1) or (2) shall be held on such date as the Electoral Commission may decide but, in any case, not later than thirty days of the event specified in those subparagraphs which occurred last and the candidates nominated pursuant to those subparagraphs shall, notwithstanding their withdrawal, be deemed to be the candidates for that election.

[Schedule 3 paragraph 7(3) amended by section 2(l)(v) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

(4) Where at any time between the close of the poll at an election and the declaration of the result of the election a candidate at the election dies the Electoral Commission shall proceed with the count and declare the result of the election notwithstanding the death of the candidate.

[Schedule 3 paragraph 7(4) inserted by section 3(d)(iv) of Act 7 of 2000 w.e.f. 7 June 2000; amended by section 2(l)(v) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

8. Second or subsequent ballot

(1) Where in an election to the office of President three or more candidates take part in any ballot and no candidate receives more than fifty percent of the votes cast, then, if the result of the ballot is that—

- (a) all the candidates receive the same number of votes;
- (b) two or more candidates receive, equally, the highest number of votes;
- (c) one candidate receives the highest number of votes and another candidate receives the second highest number of votes; or

- (d) one candidate receives the highest number of votes and two or more candidates receive, equally, the second highest number of votes,

only the candidates referred to in subparagraph (a), subparagraph (b), subparagraph (c) or subparagraph (d), as the case may be, shall take part in the subsequent ballot and the other candidates, if any, shall be eliminated.

- (2) Any subsequent ballots referred to in subparagraph (1) shall be held not less than seven days and not more than fourteen days after the immediately preceding ballot.

9. **Certificate of election**

An instrument which—

- (a) is executed under the hand of the Electoral Commissioner; and
- (b) states that the person named in the instrument was duly elected to the office of President, shall be evidence that the person was so elected.

Schedule 4 (Article 78(b))

Legislature - Proportionately elected members

1. **Interpretation**

In this Schedule—

"**general election**" means a general election under article 79(1);

"**political party**" means a political party which has nominated a candidate in a general election.

2. **Nomination by political parties**

A political party which has nominated one or more candidates in a general election and has polled in respect of the candidates in aggregate 10% or more of the votes cast at the election may nominate a proportionately elected members for each 10% of the votes polled.

[Schedule 4 paragraph 2 repealed and substituted by section 3(w)(i) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 21 February 1998]

3. **Electoral Commission to determine entitlement to nominate members**

For the purposes of this Schedule, the Electoral Commission shall determine—

- (a) whether a political party may nominate any proportionately elected member of the National Assembly; and
- (b) if so, the number of proportionately elected members.

[Schedule 4 paragraph 3 repealed by section 3(w)(ii) and paragraph 4 renumbered as paragraph 3 by section 3(w)(iii) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 21 February 1998; amended by section 2(m)(i) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

4. **Procedure for nomination**

A political party which may nominate a proportionately elected member of the National Assembly shall, within seven days after the general election, signify in writing to the Electoral Commission the name of the member and the Electoral Commission shall as soon as is practicable after receiving all the names of the proportionately elected members under this Schedule publish the names in the *Gazette*.

[Schedule 4 paragraph 5 renumbered as paragraph 4 by section 3(w)(iii) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 21 February 1998; amended by section 2(m)(ii) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

Schedule 5 (Article 143)

Ombudsman

1. Functions of Ombudsman

- (1) Subject to this Schedule, the Ombudsman may—
- (a) investigate an action taken by a public authority or the President, Vice-President, Minister, officer or member of the public authority, being action taken in the exercise of the administrative functions of the public authority in the circumstances specified in subparagraph (2);
[Schedule 5 paragraph 1(a) amended by section 3(x)(i)(A) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]
 - (b) investigate an allegation of fraud or corruption in connection with the exercise by a person of a function of a public authority.
 - (c) assist an individual complainant in respect of legal proceedings in relation to a contravention of the provisions of the Charter;
 - (d) with leave of the Court hearing proceedings relating to a contravention of the provisions of the Charter, become a party to the proceedings;
 - (e) initiate proceedings relating to the constitutionality of a law or of the provisions of a law.
- (2) The Ombudsman shall investigate an action under subparagraph (1)(a)—
- (a) where the Ombudsman receives a complaint from a person or body alleging that the complainant has suffered a violation of the complainant's fundamental rights or freedoms under the Charter, or an injustice, in consequence of a fault in the administration of a public authority or has been treated harshly or oppressively by the authority or the President or Vice-President or a Minister, officer or member of the authority in the exercise of the administrative functions of the authority;
 - (b) where the President or Vice-President or a Minister or member of the National Assembly requests the Ombudsman to investigate the action on the ground that the person or body specified in the request—
 - (i) has or may have suffered a violation of the person's or body's fundamental rights or freedoms under the Charter, or an injustice, in consequence of a fault in the administration of a public authority or of a fault of the President or Vice-President or a Minister, officer or member of the authority in the exercise of the administrative functions of the authority;
 - (ii) has been treated harshly or oppressively by the authority or the President or Vice-President or a Minister, officer or member of the authority in the exercise of the administrative functions of the authority,

or on the ground that the practices or patterns of conduct of a public authority or the President or Vice-President or a Minister, officer or member of the authority in the exercise of the administrative functions of the authority appear to result in injustices or harsh, oppressive or unfair administration; or

- (c) where the Ombudsman considers that it is necessary to investigate the action on the grounds specified in sub subparagraph (b), and an allegation under subparagraph (1)(b).

[Schedule 5 paragraph 1(2) amend by section 3(x)(i)(B) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (3) The Ombudsman shall not investigate or may discontinue an investigation of a complaint relating to an action referred to in subparagraph (1)(a) or an allegation under subparagraph (1)(b) where it appears to the Ombudsman that—
- (a) the complaint or allegation is frivolous, vexatious or trivial or not made in good faith;
 - (b) the making of the complaint or allegation has, without reasonable cause, been delayed for more than twelve months;
 - (c) in the case of a complaint relating to subparagraph (1)(a), the complainant does not have sufficient interest in the subject matter of the complaint;
 - (d) in the case of a complaint relating to subparagraph (1)(a), the complaint has or had, by way of remedy under this Constitution or any other law, a right of appeal, objection or review on merits and the complainant has not exhausted the remedy, unless the Ombudsman believes that in the particular circumstances it is or was not reasonable to expect the complainant to exhaust or to have exhausted the remedy.
- (4) In this Schedule—
- "action" includes a failure to act, an advice or a recommendation;
- "body" means a body of persons whether corporate or incorporate;
- "investigation" means an investigation in terms of this Schedule;
- "public authority" means a Ministry, a department division or agency of the Government or a statutory corporation or a limited liability company which is directly or ultimately under the control of Government or any other body which is carrying out a governmental function or service or a person or body specified by an Act.
- (5) A limited liability company of which the Government holds not more than forty-nine *per centum* of its issued share capital shall not, for the purposes of subparagraph (4), be treated to be a limited liability company which is under the direct or ultimate control of the Government.

2. Excluded matters

The Ombudsman shall not investigate an action referred to in paragraph 1(1)(a) -

- (a) in respect of a subject matter which the President or Vice-President or the relevant Minister certifies may affect the relation or dealing between the Government of Seychelles and any other Government or international organisation, the security of the Republic or the investigation of crime;
[Schedule 5 paragraph 2(a) amended by section 3(x)(ii) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]
- (b) concerning the performance of a judicial function or a Justice of Appeal, Judge or person performing a judicial function;
- (c) taken with respect to orders or directions to a disciplinary force or a member of the force; or
- (d) unless the person aggrieved is resident in Seychelles or the action was taken in respect of the person aggrieved while the person was present in Seychelles or in respect of rights or obligations that arose or accrued in Seychelles.

3. Investigative power of Ombudsman

Subject to this Schedule, the Ombudsman has the same power as a Judge of the Supreme Court in respect of the attendance of a person before the Ombudsman, the examination of any person in relation to an investigation, the production of a document or record relevant to an investigation and the inspection of premises relevant to an investigation.

4. Privileged information

- (1) Subject to this paragraph, a person shall not refuse to answer any question or withhold any document, information, record or thing or refuse to make available to the Ombudsman any document, information, record or thing or refuse access to the Ombudsman to any premises relating to an investigation on the ground that the answering of the question or disclosure of the document, information, record or thing or making available of any document, information, record or thing or the granting of access to any premises would be injurious to the public interest, contrary to a law or in breach of a privilege or an obligation, whether contractual or otherwise.
- (2) Where a certificate certifying that the answering of a question, the disclosure of document, information, record or thing or the granting of access to any premises would be contrary to public interest is issued by—
 - (a) the President—
 - (i) because it might prejudice the security of the Republic or international relations between the Government of Seychelles and any other Government or international organisation; or
 - (ii) because it involves the disclosure of the proceedings of the Cabinet;
 - (b) the Attorney-General because it might prejudice the investigation or detection of crime, the Ombudsman shall not require a person to answer the question, disclose the document, information, record or thing, make available the document, information, record or thing or grant access to premises, as the case may be.

5. Investigation

- (1) The Ombudsman shall, when carrying out an investigation, act fairly and judicially and shall in particular, afford any public authority or person alleged to have taken or authorised an action or responsible for the administration of the public authority which is the subject of an investigation an opportunity to be heard.
- (2) Subject to subparagraph (1), the Ombudsman shall determine the procedures to be followed when conducting an investigation.

6. Report

- (1) Subject to subparagraph (7), where after an investigation the Ombudsman is of the opinion that -
 - (a) the action which was the subject of the investigation -
 - (i) was contrary to law;
 - (ii) was unreasonable, unjust, oppressive or discriminatory;
 - (iii) was based on a mistake of facts or a wrongful assessment of facts;
 - (iv) was based partly on a mistake of law and facts;
 - (v) was based on an improper exercise of a discretionary power or an exercise of a discretionary power based on irrelevant considerations;
 - (vi) was an improper refusal to exercise a discretionary power;
 - (vii) was based on an exercise or improper use of authority or power;
 - (viii) was in accordance with law but the law is unreasonable, unjust, oppressive or discriminatory;
 - (ix) was otherwise, in all circumstances, wrong;
 - (x) should be cancelled, varied or given further consideration; or

- (b) reasons for the action which was the subject of the investigation should have been given;
- (c) there was unreasonable delay before the decision or action which was the subject of the investigation was taken;
- (d) there was an omission which needs to be rectified;
- (e) the law or practice on which the action which is the subject of the investigation is based should be reconsidered;
- (f) the practice or pattern of conduct of a public authority or the President, Vice-President a Minister, officer or member of the public authority which is the subject of the investigation is contrary to law or unreasonable, unjust, harsh, oppressive or discriminatory; or
- (g) the allegation of fraud or corruption is well founded, the Ombudsman shall report the opinion and reasons together with any recommendation or remedy the Ombudsman considers fit to make to the President, Vice-President, Minister, officer, member or chief executive officer of the public authority, as the case may be.

[Schedule 5 paragraph 6(1) amended by section 3(x)(iii)(A) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (2) The Ombudsman shall, where the report is not required to be sent to the President, Vice-President or Minister, send a copy of the report to the President and where relevant to the Vice-President and any relevant Minister.

[Schedule 5 paragraph 6(2) repealed and substituted by section 3(x)(iii)(B) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (3) The Ombudsman may specify in the report referred to in subparagraph (1) a time limit within which it is reasonable for the report to be acted upon.
- (4) Where a report submitted under subparagraph (1) is not, in the opinion of the Ombudsman, adequately acted upon -
 - (a) within the time specified in the report; or
 - (b) if no time has been specified, within such reasonable time as the Ombudsman is of the opinion is reasonable,

the Ombudsman may submit the report and recommendation together with such further observations the Ombudsman thinks fit to make to the President and the National Assembly.

- (5) The Ombudsman shall attach to every report submitted to the President, Vice-President and the National Assembly under subparagraph (4) a copy of any comments made thereon by or on behalf of the chief executive officer of the public authority concerned or the President, Vice-President, Minister, officer or member of the public authority, as the case may be.

[Schedule 5 paragraph 6(5) amended by section 3(x)(iii)(C) of Act 14 of 1996 w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

- (6) The Ombudsman shall not later than the thirty-first January in each year make a general report to the National Assembly with a copy to the President on the exercise of the functions of the Ombudsman under this Constitution during the previous year.
- (7) The Ombudsman shall, in every case where a complaint is received by the Ombudsman, inform the complainant of the result of the complaint.

7. Miscellaneous provisions relating to Ombudsman

- (1) For the purposes of the law of defamation, absolute privilege is attached to the publication of any matter by the Ombudsman or any other person acting under the authority of the Ombudsman.
- (2) The Ombudsman or any other person acting under the authority of the Ombudsman shall not be liable for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith in the performance or purported performance of the functions of the Ombudsman.

Schedule 6 (Article 169)

Oaths

Oath of allegiance

I _____ do swear/solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm/that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Constitution of Seychelles and that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of Seychelles.

SO HELP ME GOD

Presidential Oath

I _____ do swear/solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm/that I will faithfully and diligently perform my duties and discharge my functions in the office of President of Seychelles, that I will be faithful to the Republic of Seychelles, that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws of Seychelles and that I will dedicate my abilities to the service and welfare of the people of Seychelles without fear or favour, affection or ill will.

SO HELP ME GOD

Vice Presidential Oath

I _____ do swear/solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm/that I will faithfully and diligently perform my duties and discharge my functions in the office of Vice-President, that I will be faithful to the Republic of Seychelles, that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws of Seychelles and that I will dedicate my abilities to the service and welfare of the people of Seychelles without fear or favour, affection or ill will.

SO HELP ME GOD

[Schedule 6 amended by section 3(y) of Act [14 of 1996](#) w.e.f. 14 August 1996]

Schedule 7 (Article 170)

Transitional

Part I – Existing officers and offices

1. Interpretation

In this Schedule, unless the context otherwise requires—

"**Constitution Act**" means the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles (Preparation and Promulgation) Act, 1992;

"**Director of Elections**" means the person holding office as Chairman of the Constitutional Commission immediately before the date of coming into force of this Constitution;

"**existing Constitution**" means the Constitution contained in the Schedule to the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles Decree, 1979;

"**existing law**" means a law having effect as part of the laws of Seychelles immediately before the date of coming into force of this Constitution;

"first Assembly election" means the first general election to elect members of the National Assembly under this Constitution;

"first Presidential election" means the election of the first President of Seychelles under this Constitution;

"the Regulations" means regulations made under paragraph 9(2).

2. Existing laws

- (1) Except where it is otherwise inconsistent with this Constitution and subject to subparagraph (2), an existing law shall continue in force on and after the date of coming into force of this Constitution.
- (2) The Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1981 shall, unless sooner repealed, cease to have effect twelve months after the date of coming into force of this Constitution.
- (3) Where any matter that falls to be prescribed or otherwise provided for under or for the purposes of this Constitution by or under a written law is prescribed or provided for by or under an existing law, the prescription or provision has, as from the date of coming into force of this Constitution, effect as if it has been prescribed or provided for under or for the purposes of this Constitution by or under a written law enacted pursuant to this Constitution.
- (4) The President may, by order made at any time before 31st December, 1995, make such amendments to any existing law as may appear to the President to be necessary or expedient for bringing that law into conformity with this Constitution or otherwise for giving effect or enabling effect to be given to this Constitution.
- (5) The State shall, within twelve months of the coming to force of this Constitution, bring the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation Act, 1992 into conformity with article 168.
- (6) An existing law which prescribes any matter required to be prescribed under article 3 or any law enacted for this purpose shall reflect national unity and the spirit of the Preamble of this Constitution.

3. Legal proceedings

- (1) Any court or tribunal existing immediately before the date of coming into force of this Constitution shall be deemed to be the corresponding court or tribunal established under this Constitution.
- (2) Proceedings that, immediately before the date of coming into force of this Constitution, are pending before any court or tribunal, may be continued and concluded on and after the date of coming into force of this Constitution before the corresponding court or tribunal established by or under this Constitution or any written law made thereunder.
- (3) A decision given before the date of coming into force of this Constitution shall, for the purpose of an appeal from the decision or of its execution, have effect on and after the date of coming into force of this Constitution as if it were a decision of the corresponding court or tribunal established by or under this Constitution.

4. Executive Authority

- (1) With effect from the date of coming into force of this Constitution up to immediately before the assumption of office of President under this Constitution the person who performed the functions of the office of President under the existing Constitution shall, so far as is consistent with this Constitution perform the functions of the office of President under this Constitution as if the person had been elected under or in accordance with this Constitution and had taken the oath of allegiance and any other necessary oath under this Constitution.
- (2) With effect from the date of the coming into force of this Constitution up to immediately before the assumption of office of a Minister under this Constitution the person who performed the functions corresponding to that of the Minister under the existing Constitution shall, so far as is consistent with this Constitution, perform the functions of that office as if the person had been appointed

under or in accordance with this Constitution and had taken the oath of allegiance and any other necessary oath under this Constitution.

5. **Legislature**

With effect from the date of the coming into force of this Constitution up to immediately before the election under or in accordance with this Constitution of the members of the National Assembly, the persons elected or nominated as members of the People's Assembly under the existing Constitution shall, so far as is consistent with this Constitution, continue to perform the functions of their office as if they had been elected under or in accordance with this Constitution and had taken the oath of allegiance and any other necessary oath under this Constitution.

6. **Existing officers**

- (1) Subject to this paragraph and so far as it is not inconsistent with this Constitution, a person who immediately before the date of the coming into force of this Constitution was performing the functions of—
 - (a) an office established by or under the existing Constitution, not being an office referred to in paragraph 4 or paragraph 5, and this Constitution establishes a similar or equivalent office;
 - (b) any other office, not being an office referred to in paragraph 4 or paragraph 5, established by or under any written law or in the services of the Government,

shall continue to perform the functions of the office, after the date of coming into force of this Constitution, under this Constitution, existing law continued under paragraph 2 or the Government, as the case may be, and shall be deemed to have taken the oath of allegiance or any other necessary oath under this Constitution or existing law continued under paragraph 2.

- (2) A person who, under the existing Constitution or an existing law, would have been required to vacate the person's office at the expiration of a specified period or on the attainment of a special age shall vacate the office at the expiration of the specified period or upon attainment of the specified age.

7. **Authorisation of expenditure in advance of appropriation**

Where the Appropriation Act in respect of the financial year commencing on the first day of January immediately following the date of coming into force of this Constitution has not come into operation, the President may authorise the withdrawal of moneys from the Consolidated Fund for the purposes of meeting expenditure necessary to carry on the services of the Government until the expiration of four months from the beginning of the financial year or the coming into operation of the Appropriation Act for that financial year, whichever is the earlier.

Part II – First elections and first sitting of the National Assembly

8. **Date for holding Presidential and Assembly elections**

- (1) The Director of Elections shall, by notice in the *Gazette*, appoint the date or dates which shall be or, as the case may be, the first of which shall be, not later than five weeks after the date of coming into force of this Constitution, on which the first Presidential election and the first Assembly election shall be held.
- (2) Subject to subparagraph (3), the Director of Elections may appoint different dates for the holding of the first Presidential election and the first Assembly election, and for the holding of the first Presidential election and the first Assembly election in different electoral areas.
- (3) The first Presidential election and the first Assembly election shall be held simultaneously and, to this end, the two elections shall begin on the same day.

9. Matters to be prescribed

- (1) For the purposes of the first Presidential election and first Assembly election, any matter, other than a matter provided for in this Schedule, which may be prescribed or provided for by or under an Act may be prescribed or provided for by the Regulations.
- (2) Subject to this Schedule, the Director of Elections may make regulations with respect to the holding and conduct of the first Presidential election and the first Assembly election.

10. First Presidential and first Assembly election

- (1) For the purposes of the first Presidential election and the first Assembly election—
 - (a) paragraphs 6 and 7 of Schedule 1 of the Constitution Act shall apply with respect to the qualification for registration as a voter, and the qualification to vote, at the elections;
 - (b) Seychelles shall consist of twenty-two electoral areas made up of nineteen electoral areas on Mahe, two electoral areas on Praslin and the islands of La Digue, Félicité, Marianne, Grande Soeur, Petite Soeur, Ile aux Cocos, Ile la Fouche, Silhouette, Mamelles, Ile du Nord, Frégate, Denis, Ile aux Vaches (Bird Island) and L'Ilot (Frégate) shall constitute one electoral area;
 - (c) the boundaries of the electoral areas on Mahé and Praslin shall be those of the electoral areas which existed on Mahé and Praslin immediately prior to the coming into force of this Constitution;
 - (d) a person who at the time of the amendment of the registers of voters under sub subparagraph (f) is residing on an Outer Island, as listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of this Constitution, shall be treated as residing in the electoral area in which the person resided prior to residing on the Outer Island;
 - (e) a person who at the time of the election is residing on an Outer Island, as listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of this Constitution, shall vote in the electoral area in which the person is registered;
 - (f) each register of voters prepared under Schedule 4 of the Constitution Act shall, subject to any amendment for the purposes sub subparagraph (a) or sub subparagraph (b) or for any other purpose made thereto pursuant to this Part and the Regulations, be the register of voters.
- (2) Schedule 3 of this Constitution shall, subject to such modifications, adaptations, qualifications and exceptions as may be necessary, apply for the purposes of the first Presidential election.
- (3) There shall be twenty-two directly elected members, being one elected member for each electoral area, and eleven proportionately elected members of the first National Assembly.
- (4) Schedule 4 of this Constitution shall, subject to such modifications, adaptations, qualifications and exceptions as may be necessary apply for the purpose of nominating the eleven proportionately elected members of the first National Assembly.

11. Director of Elections

- (1) The Director of Elections shall supervise and shall have general responsibility for the conduct of the first Presidential election and the first Assembly election.
- (2) The Director of Elections shall, for the purpose of conducting the first Presidential election and the first Assembly election, appoint a Chief Registration Officer and Chief Electoral Officer and such number of Registration Officers, Electoral Officers, Assistant Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Officers as the Director thinks fit.
- (3) A person appointed pursuant to subparagraph (2) shall have such powers, and shall comply with such requirements, as may be prescribed in the Regulations.

- (4) In the exercise of the functions of the Director of Elections under this paragraph or the Regulations, the Director of Elections shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.
- (5) The Director of Elections shall discharge the functions of the Electoral Commission in respect of the matters which may be prescribed by an Act made under article 118 and may, for this purpose make regulations in respect thereof for the purposes of the first Presidential election and first Assembly election.

[Schedule 7 paragraph 11(5) amended by section 2(n) of Act 7 of 2011 w.e.f. 12 July 2011]

12. **First meeting of the first National Assembly**

The first meeting of the first session of the National Assembly after the first National Assembly election shall, until the Speaker is elected, be presided over by the eldest member of the Assembly present at the meeting.

13. **Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders of the People's Assembly established by the existing Constitution shall, until it is otherwise provided pursuant to article 101 of this Constitution, be the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, but shall be construed with such modifications, adaptations, qualifications and exceptions as may be necessary to bring those Standing Orders into conformity with this Constitution.

Part III – Compensation for past land acquisitions

14. **Past Land Acquisition**

- (1) The State undertakes to continue to consider all applications made during the period of twelve months from the date of coming into force of this Constitution by a person whose land was compulsorily acquired under the Lands Acquisition Act, 1977 during the period starting June, 1977 and ending on the date of coming into force of this Constitution and to negotiate in good faith with the person with a view to—
 - (a) where on the date of the receipt of the application the land has not been developed or there is no Government plan to develop it, transferring back the land to the person;
 - (b) where there is a Government plan to develop the land and the person from whom the land was acquired satisfies the Government that the person will implement the plan or a similar plan, transferring the land back to the person;
 - (c) where the land cannot be transferred back under sub subparagraph (a) or sub subparagraph (b)—
 - (i) as full compensation for the land acquired, transferring to the person another parcel of land of corresponding value to the land acquired;
 - (ii) paying the person full monetary compensation for the land acquired; or
 - (iii) as full compensation for the land acquired, devising a scheme of compensation combining items (i) and (ii) up to the value of the land acquired.
- (2) For the purposes of subparagraph (1), the value of the land acquired shall be the market value of the land at the time of coming into force of this Constitution or such other value as may be agreed to between the Government and the person whose land has been acquired.
- (3) No interest on compensation paid under this paragraph shall be due in respect of the land acquired but Government may, in special circumstances, pay such interest as it thinks just in the circumstances.

- (4) Where the person eligible to make an application or to receive compensation under this paragraph is dead, the application may be made or the compensation may be paid to the legal representative of that person.