



OFFICIAL GAZETTE

REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority of the Government

Vol. XLVI

Tuesday 7th December 2021

No. 92

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GAZETTE SUPPLEMENTS

Gazette Supplements of 2021 are published by Order.

GAZETTE SUPPLEMENTS

Gazette	Description	Price
92	Physical Planning Act, 2021. (Act 55 of 2021)	276.00
	Seychelles Infrastructure Agency Act, 2021. (Act 56 of 2021)	52.00
	Seychelles Qualifications Authority Act, 2021. (Act 57 of 2021)	96.00

PHYSICAL PLANNING ACT, 2021

(Act 55 of 2021)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTIONS

PART I - PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement
2. Interpretation
3. Act to bind Republic

PART II - THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

Sub-Part I - Establishment of Planning Authority

4. Establishment of Planning Authority
5. Objects of Authority
6. Functions of Authority
7. Powers of Authority
8. Power of Minister to issue policy directives

Sub-Part II - Board of Authority

9. Board of Authority
10. Secretary
11. Co-opted person
12. Committees

Sub-Part III - Administration of Authority

13. Chief Executive Officer
14. Deputy Chief Executive Officer
15. Employees of Authority

Sub-Part IV - Funds and accounts of Authority

16. Funds of Authority
17. Financial year, accounts and audit
18. Annual report

Sub-Part V - Disclosure of interest, protection and confidentiality

19. Disclosure of interest
20. Protection of members and other persons
21. Confidentiality

PART III - LAND USE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN***Sub-Part I - Preparation and review of land use plans, development plan, scheme maps and scheme texts***

22. Land use plans for districts, zones and group of islands
23. National Land Use Plan
24. Update of land use plan
25. Review of land use plans and National Land Use Plan
26. Prohibition on development during review of land use plan
27. Development plan

Sub-Part II - Approval, publication and effect of land use plan and development plan

28. Approval and publication of land use plan, national land use plan and development plan
29. Validity of National Land Use Plan and development plan
30. Effect of approval and publication
31. Approval of development not in accordance with land use plan in cases of national security etc.
32. Declaration of no development zone in cases of natural disasters

PART IV - CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT OF LAND***Sub-Part I - Development of land***

33. Definition of development

Sub-Part II - Permission to develop land

34. Permission of Authority required to develop land
35. Application for permission to develop land
36. Verification of the Application
37. Conditions which may be imposed in respect of permission to develop land

38. References of applications to Minister
39. Appeals Board
40. Regularisation of development
41. Delegation of power to grant permission for small, limited and minor developments
42. Register
43. Revocation and modification of permission
44. Purpose for which building may be used
45. Permission not necessary for resumption of use of land

Sub-Part III - Development of Land adjacent to sea

46. Restriction on development of land adjacent to sea

Sub-Part IV - Preservation orders, measures as to waste land and ruinous and dilapidated buildings and control of advertisements

47. Preservation orders
48. Waste land and ruinous and dilapidated buildings
49. Control of advertisements
50. Permission for advertisements deemed to be granted

PART V - COMPENSATION

Sub-Part I - Compensation for refusal or grant of permission

51. Compensation for refusal or grant of permission subject to conditions
52. Compensation not payable in certain cases
53. No compensation if other development permitted

Sub-Part II - Compensation for revocation or modification of permission to develop land

54. Compensation for revocation or modification for reasons other than depreciation in value
55. Compensation for revocation or modification in cases of depreciation in value

PART VI - ENFORCEMENT

Sub-Part I Stop notice

56. Stop notice

Sub-Part II - Enforcement notice

57. Enforcement notice
58. Duty to inform
59. Where person served with enforcement notice ceases to be owner of land

Sub-Part III - Notice of immediate enforcement

60. Notice of Immediate Enforcement

Sub-Part IV - Powers of Authority to take steps required by a notice and appeal thereof.

61. Power of Authority to take steps required to be taken by enforcement notice
62. Power of Authority to take steps required to be taken by notice of immediate enforcement
63. Power of entry
64. Power to require information
65. Liability of person by whom development was carried out
66. Permission not required for lawful use of land
67. Operation of enforcement notice
68. Service of notices
69. Appeal

PART VII - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

70. Offences relating to contravention of stop notice
71. Offences relating to development without permission or in breach of conditions
72. Offence relating to preservation order
73. Offence relating to notice to abate injury
74. Offence relating to display of advertisement
75. Offences relating to stop notice, enforcement notice and notice of immediate enforcement
76. Offence contrary to section 62
77. Offence relating to duty to inform
78. Minister to specify fixed penalty
79. Compounding of offences

PART VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

80. Acquisition and disposal of land for planning purposes
81. Regulations
82. Repeal and savings
83. Transfer of assets and liabilities
84. Consequential amendment to Land Survey Act (Cap 109)

SCHEDULE



PHYSICAL PLANNING ACT, 2021

(Act 55 of 2021)



I assent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wavel".

Wavel Ramkalawan
President

25th November, 2021

AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REPLACE THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (CAP 237), TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLANNING AUTHORITY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND USE PLANS, THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

ENACTED by the President and the National Assembly.

PART I - PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Physical Planning Act, 2021 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“advertisement” means any word, letter, model, sign, placard, banner, board, notice, device or representation, whether illuminated or not, in the nature of and employed wholly or in part for the purpose of advertisement, announcement or direction, and includes any hoarding or similar structure, wall, pole or fence, used or adapted for the display of advertisements, and references to the display of advertisements are construed accordingly;

“agriculture” includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, the breeding and keeping of livestock including any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur, or for the purpose of its use in the farming of land, market gardens and nursery grounds, and the use of land for woodlands where that use is ancillary to the farming of land for other agricultural purposes, and “agricultural” shall be construed accordingly;

“Appeals Board” means the Appeals Board referred to in section 39.

“Authority” means the Planning Authority established under section 4(1);

“beacon” has the meaning assigned to it in the Land Survey Act (Cap. 109);

“Board” means the Board of the Planning Authority referred to in section 9(1);

“building” includes a structure or an erection or the part of such structure or erection but does not include plant or machinery comprised in a building;

“building operations” includes —

(a) construction of new buildings;

- (b) rebuilding operations;
- (c) structural alteration of or addition to buildings;
- (d) erection of retaining walls and boundary walls; and
- (e) any excavations below the ground or any road or other work or activity preliminary or incidental to the erection of buildings;

“Chief Executive Officer” means the Chief Executive Officer appointed under section 13(1);

“committees” means such committees appointed under section 12;

“committee member” means a member of a committee appointed under section 12.

“Deputy Chief Executive Officer” means the Deputy Chief Executive Officer appointed under section 14(1);

“developer” means a person who intends to effect or effects any development and may include a contractor;

“development” has the meaning given to it by section 33 and “develop” is construed accordingly;

“development plan” means the development plan prepared under section 27;

“dilapidated building” means a building fallen into a state of disrepair or deterioration or fallen into ruin, through neglect and aesthetically detrimental to the amenity of an area;

“enforcement notice” means a notice served under section 57;

“engineering operations” includes the formation or laying out of means of access to roads;

“erection” in relation to buildings, includes extension, alteration and re-erection;

“estate” means an aggregation of four or more parcels of land which are, or were prior to any subdivision, part of the same parent parcel whether in co-ownership or otherwise;

“estate developer” means any person who creates an estate by subdivision or undertakes any development on an existing estate;

“highway authority” means an authority responsible for the maintenance of a public road;

“land” includes land covered with water, the sea-bed and any building or other thing attached to land or permanently fastened to anything attached to land;

“land use plan” includes the land use plan, the associated scheme texts and scheme maps for every district, zone, island or group of islands in Seychelles, prepared pursuant to section 22;

“member” means a person appointed as member of the Board under section 9(2);

“mineral” includes all minerals and substances including oil in or under land of a kind ordinarily worked for removal by underground or by surface working;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for land use planning and development and “Ministry” is construed accordingly;

“National Land Use Plan” means the National Land Use Plan prepared pursuant to section 23;

“no development zone” means the land prescribed as such under section 22(2)(c) where no development shall be carried out, and includes the land declared as such under section 32(1);

“notice of immediate enforcement” means a notice served under section 60;

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made under this Act;

“road” means any road whether public or private and includes any street, square, court, alley, lane, bridge, footway, trace, bridle path, passage, or highway, whether a thoroughfare or not;

“statutory undertaker” means a person authorised by a written law to carry on a light railway, tramway, road transport, water transport, canal, inland navigation, dock, harbour, pier, lighthouse and includes a telecommunication undertaking, or any undertaking for the supply of electricity, gas, hydraulic power or water, and “statutory undertaking” is construed accordingly;

“secretary” means the secretary to the Board appointed under section 10(1);

“stop notice” means a notice served under section 56;

“subdivision”, means any sale, partition, lease or dealing in land which has the effect of dividing land under one title whether in co-ownership or otherwise, into two or more parcels of land; and

“use” in relation to land, does not include the use of land by the carrying out of any building or other operation thereon.

Act to bind Republic

3. This Act shall bind the Republic.

PART II - THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

Sub-Part I - Establishment of Planning Authority

Establishment of Planning Authority

4.(1) There is hereby established an Authority to be known as the Planning Authority.

- (2) The Authority shall be a body corporate.

Objects of Authority

5. The objects of the Authority shall be —
- (a) to promote and ensure orderly and sustainable use and development of land in Seychelles;
 - (b) to facilitate inter-agency co-operation in planning and development of land in Seychelles; and
 - (c) to safeguard the immediate and long-term public interest in the processes and effects of planning and development of land in Seychelles.

Functions of the Authority

6. The functions of the Authority shall be to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act, and in particular to —
- (a) prepare land use plans and development plans for, and manage and control the development of, all land in Seychelles;
 - (b) advise and make recommendations to the Minister on matters relating to land use planning and development with a view to promote sustainable land use planning and development of all land to which this Act applies; and
 - (c) perform such other functions, consistent with the objects of the Authority, as may be prescribed.

Powers of Authority

7. The Authority shall have the powers necessary for the performance of its functions or for facilitating the performance of those functions.

Power of Minister to issue policy directives

8. The Minister may issue administrative directives to the Authority on policy matters.

Sub-Part II - Board of Authority

Board of Authority

9.(1) The affairs of the Planning Authority shall be managed by a Board appointed by the President in consultation with the Minister.

(2) The Board shall consist of 9 members and the President shall appoint one of the members as Chairperson of the Board.

(3) The members of the Board shall consist of the following —

- (a) a representative of the Ministry responsible for Land Use Planning and Development;
- (b) a representative of the Ministry responsible for Environment;
- (c) a representative of the Public Health Authority;
- (d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for Transport;
- (e) four members having wide knowledge and experience in the field of land use planning and development; and
- (f) the Chief Executive Officer, *ex-officio*.

(4) The Minister shall select the members specified under subsection 3(e) and furnish a panel of qualified persons to the President.

(5) The Mayor of Victoria shall be co-opted as a member on matters relating to Victoria.

(6) The President shall cause a notice of the appointment of the members and the Chairperson to be published in the *Gazette*.

(7) The Chairperson and the members shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(8) The Chairperson and the members shall be paid such fees or remuneration as may be prescribed.

(9) The Chairperson or a member other than the Chief Executive Officer may resign from his or her office by giving three months' notice in writing to the President, in the case of a member transmitted through the Chairperson, and the resignation shall take effect upon the expiration of the period of notice.

(10) The President may remove the Chairperson or a member from office where the Chairperson or the member —

- (a) is unable to perform the functions of his or her office;
- (b) has been absent for three consecutive meetings of the Board without leave of the Board;
- (c) has neglected the duties of the member;
- (d) is guilty of misconduct; or
- (e) fails to disclose his or her interest in accordance with section 19(1) or (2).

(11) Where the Chairperson or a member resigns or is removed from office, the Board shall appoint a person to hold office for the unexpired term of appointment of the outgoing Chairperson or member until his or her successor in office is appointed under this section.

(12) The Board shall observe such rules of procedure (including quorum) in transaction of business in its meetings as may be prescribed.

Secretary

10.(1) The Board shall appoint, from among the staff of the Authority, a person to be the secretary of the Board.

(2) The secretary shall set the agenda and meetings of the Board, record the minutes of meetings, maintain all records relating to activities conducted by the Board and perform such other functions as may be assigned to him or her by the Board.

(3) The secretary shall be paid such fees or remuneration as the Board may determine.

Co-opted person

11.(1) The Board may co-opt any person with sufficient knowledge and experience to advise the Board on matters of a technical nature.

(2) A person co-opted under subsection (1) —

(a) shall not vote on any matter before the Board; and

(b) may be paid such fees or remuneration as the Board may determine.

Committees

12.(1) The Board may, after consultation with the Minister, appoint such committees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions and exercise of the powers by the Authority.

(2) The members of any committee appointed under subsection (1) shall be paid such fees or remuneration as the Board may determine.

(3) The composition and proceedings of any committee appointed under subsection (1) shall be such as may be prescribed.

Sub-Part III - Administration of Authority

Chief Executive Officer

13.(1) The President shall, upon the recommendation of the Board, and after consultation with the Minister, appoint a suitable person as Chief Executive Officer of the Authority on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) The Board shall, before making a recommendation under subsection (1), advertise the post of Chief Executive Officer specifying the qualifications for the post, and make its recommendation from persons who have so applied.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall, subject to the direction and control of the Board, be responsible for —

- (a) the implementation of the decisions of the Board;
- (b) the administration of the day to day affairs of the Authority and its staff;
- (c) authenticating all documents on behalf of the Authority; and
- (d) such other functions as the Board may assign to him or her.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

14.(1) The President shall, upon the recommendation of the Board, and after consultation with the Minister, appoint a Deputy Chief Executive Officer, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) The Board shall, before making a recommendation under subsection (1), advertise the post of Deputy Chief Executive Officer specifying the qualifications for the post, and make its recommendation from persons who have so applied.

(3) The Deputy Chief Executive Officer shall —

- (a) discharge the functions of the Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent, on leave or has delegated functions to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer; and
- (b) perform such other functions as the Board may assign to him or her.

Employees of Authority

15. The Authority may, on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit —

- (a) employ such officers and other members of staff; and
- (b) engage under contract for services, such other persons to provide professional, technical and other assistance,

as is necessary for the effective performance of the functions, exercise of the powers and attainment of the objects of the Authority.

Sub-Part IV - Funds and accounts of Authority

Funds of Authority

16.(1) The funds of the Authority shall consist of —

- (a) moneys appropriated by the National Assembly for the use of the Authority; and
- (b) moneys lawfully received by the Authority from any other source, including donations, gifts or grants for the purpose of discharging the functions of the Authority.

(2) The funds of the Authority shall be applied in —

- (a) the payment or discharge of expenses, debts and other obligations properly incurred in the performance of the functions of the Authority; and
- (b) the payment of fees and remuneration to the members, officers and other employees, and members of committees, or service contractors of the Authority.

Financial year, accounts and audit

17.(1) The financial year of the Authority shall be the calendar year.

(2) The Authority shall keep proper accounts and other relevant record of accounts, and prepare in respect of each financial year a statement in such form and manner as approved by the Auditor General.

(3) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited in accordance with Article 158 of the Constitution.

Annual Report

18.(1) The Authority shall, at the end of each financial year, prepare an

annual report of the activities and operations of the Authority during that year and submit such report for approval by the Board.

(2) The Authority shall, not later than three months after the end of the financial year to which the report relates, submit the annual report together with a copy of the report by the Auditor General on the statement of accounts or on the accounts of the Authority to the Minister.

(3) The Minister shall, not later than 3 months from the date of receipt, cause a copy of the report under subsection (2) to be submitted to the National Assembly.

(4) The Authority shall, in case of any activities that may have an impact on the Republic, make a special report to the Minister.

Sub-Part V - Disclosure of interest, protection and confidentiality

Disclosure of interest

19.(1) A member or committee member shall, upon his or her appointment, disclose to the Board in writing any direct or indirect interest that he or she has in any corporate or unincorporated body or otherwise which may constitute a conflict of interest with the functions of the member or committee member.

(2) A member or committee member who has a direct or indirect interest in a matter being dealt with by the Board or the committee, as the case may be, shall —

- (a) disclose such interest at the meeting at which the matter is being dealt with; and
- (b) not attend the deliberations or participate in the decision-making process of the Board or the committee in relation to that matter.

(3) A disclosure of interest made under this section shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is made.

(4) A member or a committee member who knowingly contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable to removal from office.

Protection of members and other persons

20.(1) The Authority shall be liable for any decision made by it.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), no civil or criminal liability shall attach to the Authority, a member, a committee member or an officer or employee of the Authority, as the case may be, in respect of any act done or omitted to be done in good faith in the performance of their functions.

(3) All members, committee members, officers and employees of the Authority shall be deemed to be employed in the public service for the purposes of sections 91 to 96 of the Penal Code.

Confidentiality

21. Members, committee members, officers or employees of the Authority shall not divulge or disclose any information acquired by reason of their membership of the Board or a committee, or holding of office or employment, except —

- (a) in the performance of a function or the discharge of a duty under or in connection with this Act; or
- (b) where disclosure is permitted by law or an order of the Court.

PART III - LAND USE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Sub-Part I - Preparation and review of land use plans, development plan, scheme maps and scheme texts

Land use plans for districts, zones and groups of islands

22.(1) The Authority shall, as soon as practicable, but not later than ten years after this Act comes into operation, prepare a land use plan for every district, zone, and island or group of islands in Seychelles.

(2) A land use plan prepared under subsection (1) shall indicate —

- (a) the use, state of development and protection status of land in the district, zone, island or group of islands;

- (b) the classification of land use in the district, zone, island or group of islands in accordance with the classification of land use as may be prescribed;
- (c) such land as may be prescribed on which no development may be carried out;
- (d) the public easement rights towards sea, land or otherwise which shall reflect on the relevant register kept by the Registrar General relating to the respective lands; and
- (e) such other matters as may be prescribed.

(3) The form and the manner for preparation of a land use plan shall be such as may be prescribed.

National land use plan

23.(1) The Authority shall, after completion of the land use plans for all districts, zones, islands and group of islands, prepare a National Land Use Plan.

(2) The National Land Use Plan shall consist of a compilation of all land use plans.

Update of land use plan

24.(1) The Authority shall, once in every five years after the date on which the land use plan for any district, zone, island or group of islands comes into operation, update the land use plan.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Authority shall assess all developments in the district, zone, island or group of islands to which the land use plan relates and shall indicate any new developments on the updated land use plan.

(3) Where a land use plan is updated under subsection (1), the classification of land use shall not be changed except on the grounds of —

- (a) national security, public welfare, health and safety;

(b) natural causes and disasters.

(4) Where, as a result of an update of a land use plan under subsection (1), any change is made to the land use plan, the National Land Use Plan shall be updated so as to reflect such change.

Review of land use plan and National Land Use Plan

25.(1) The Authority shall, once in every ten years after the date on which the National Land Use Plan comes into operation and thereafter once in every ten years or at such period as the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette* allow, review the land use plan for every district, zone, island or group of islands and the National Land Use Plan in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) The manner of preparation of a land use plan, its approval and publication shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) The Authority shall give notice in the *Gazette* and in at least one daily newspaper that the land use plan for any district, zone or group of islands or the National Land Use Plan is under review.

Prohibition on development during review of land use plan

26.(1) The Minister may, at any time during the review of a land use plan for any district, zone, island or group of islands, on the advice of the Authority, by order published in the *Gazette*, prohibit all development in the whole or part of the district, zone, island or group of islands under review.

(2) An order for prohibition of development under subsection (1) shall have effect for a period not exceeding six months or such other period as may be prescribed.

Development plan

27.(1) The Authority may, as soon as practicable, but not later than five years after completion of the National Land Use Plan, prepare a development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles indicating the manner in which the Authority proposes that land is to be developed and the stages in which any such development may be carried out.

(2) A development plan shall include such maps and descriptive matter as may be necessary to illustrate the proposal referred to in subsection (1) with such degree of particularity as may be appropriate for different parts of Seychelles, and may in particular define the sites of proposed roads, public and other buildings, works, airfields, reclamation areas, nature reserves, parks, pleasure grounds and other open spaces.

(3) The form and manner for preparation of a development plan shall be such as may be prescribed.

(4) The Authority shall, once in every ten years after the date on which a development plan comes into operation and thereafter once every five years or at such period as the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, allow the review of the development plan in the same manner as provided in subsections (1), (2) and (3).

(5) The Authority shall give notice in the *Gazette* and at least in one daily newspaper that the development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles, as the case may be, is under review.

Sub-Part II - Approval, publication and effect of land use plans and development plans

Approval and publication of land use plans, national land use plan and development plans

28.(1) A land use plan, National Land Use Plan or development plan and the update or review of such plans shall be approved by the Minister in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The approval of the Minister under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* and in at least one daily newspaper, and the Authority shall make available for inspection by the public copies of the plans as approved by the Minister.

Validity of National Land Use Plan and development plan

29.(1) Subject to subsection (2), a land use plan, National Land Use Plan or development plan made for the whole or part of Seychelles, as the case may

be, shall be valid for a period of ten years from the date on which the approval of the Minister is published under section 28(2).

(2) The Minister may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, extend the period of validity of a plan referred to in subsection (1) for a further period of two years.

Effect of approval and publication

30.(1) A land use plan, National Land Use Plan, the land use plans for the districts, zones, islands and groups of islands and a development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles, as the case may be, shall from the date of their publication under section 28(2), be binding.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the land use plan for any district, zone, island or group of islands and the development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles, as the case may be, prepared by the planning authority established under the Town and Country Planning Act (Cap 237) sections 22 and 27, respectively, shall continue to be in force until the publication of a land use or development plan under this Act.

(3) Subject to section 31, the Authority shall not approve an application for permission to carry out a development which is not in accordance with a National Land Use Plan, the land use plan for the district, zone, island or group of islands to which the application relates or the development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles, as applicable.

Approval of development not in accordance with land use plans in cases of national security, etc.

31.(1) Section 30(3) shall not apply to a development, where the Authority is satisfied that it is —

- (a) in the interest of national security, public welfare, health and safety;
- (b) in accordance with policy and development strategies of the Government; or
- (c) not of a significant scale in relation to the approved

development plan under the National Land Use Plan or the land use plan for the district, zone, island and group of islands.

(2) The Authority shall, prior to approving an application for permission to carry out a development under subsection (1), submit a report to the Minister stating the reasons for allowing the development in the circumstances referred to in subsection (1) (a), (b) or (c), as the case may be.

(3) The Minister may, on receipt of the report under subsection (2), grant approval for such development.

Declaration of no development zones in cases of natural disasters

32.(1) Notwithstanding anything in this Part, the Minister may, if he or she is satisfied, at any time, on the advice of the Authority, that it is necessary for national security, public safety or due to the occurrence of a natural disaster to do so, declare any land as a no development zone.

(2) A declaration under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into effect on the date on which it is published.

PART IV - CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT OF LAND

Sub-Part I - Development of land

Definition of development

33.(1) In this Part, “development” —

(a) means —

(i) the carrying out of any building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, under or over any land; or

(ii) the making of any material change in the use of any building or other land; and

(b) includes —

(i) the subdivision, combination or reparation of land;

- (ii) the carrying out of reclamation works;
- (iii) the carrying out of backfilling, stacking or earth cutting of any land;
- (iv) the re-roofing of any building which involves any change of colour, material or design of the roof;
- (v) the carrying out of works for the construction or modification of roads, pathways or bridges;
- (vi) the demolition of any building;
- (vii) the construction or erection of retaining walls and boundary walls; and
- (viii) the construction of sea walls or groynes, harbours or jetties and the carrying out of rock armouring works.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), “development” shall not include the following operations or uses of land —

- (a) the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of a building if the works —
 - (i) affect only the interior of the building or do not materially affect the external appearance of the building; and
 - (ii) do not result in any structural alterations to the building or alterations which may endanger health or safety;
- (b) the carrying out of works by a highway authority required for the maintenance or improvement of a road, if the works are carried out on land within the boundaries of the road;
- (c) the carrying out of works by statutory undertakers for the purpose of inspecting, repairing or renewing any sewers, mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus, including the breaking open of any street or other land for that purpose, where an emergency renders such breaking open necessary;

- (d) the use of any building or land within the curtilage of a dwelling house for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house;
- (e) the use of any land not involving building operations, for the purpose of agriculture and forestry, including afforestation;
- (f) subdivision of land solely for the partition of title between heirs and co-owners where such subdivision of land is not contrary to the applicable land use plan and development plan in force; and
- (g) any other operation or use of land as may be prescribed.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder relating to the control of advertisements, the use of any external part of a building for the display of advertisements that is not normally used for that purpose, shall be treated as involving a material change in the use of that part of the building for the purposes of this section.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(d), the material change of use of any buildings or other land within the curtilage of a dwelling house, even where such use is incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house, shall be subject to planning permission by the Authority.

Sub-Part II - Permission to develop land

Permission of Authority required to develop land

Physical accessibility for all

34. The Authority shall, in every decision that it makes, take into account all aspects of accessibility to persons living with a disability and, in particular shall —

- (a) develop standards and guidelines for the implementation of minimum standards for the provision of accessibility for everyone;
- (b) ensure that any development it approves provides, as far as g

practicable, access on an equal basis with others for persons living with a disability;

- (c) encourage signage to public and private areas where the public has access to be provided in Braille or in easy-to-read and easy-to-understand formats.

35.(1) A person shall not carry out development of any land without the prior written permission of the Authority.

(2) A person shall, while carrying out development of any land in accordance with this Act, take such precautionary or remedial measures as may be necessary or directed by the Authority, for the purpose of avoiding any damage or threat of damage to the adjoining land.

Application for permission to develop land

36.(1) An application for permission to develop land shall be made to the Authority in the prescribed form and manner.

(2) Where an application is made to the Authority for permission to develop land, the Authority may —

- (a) grant the permission, with or without conditions; or
- (b) refuse the permission for reasons to be recorded in writing and communicated to the applicant.

Verification of the Application

37.(1) The Authority shall, prior to considering an application for planning permission —

- (a) refer the application to the appropriate district or regional authorities for their consideration and comment, to be received within a prescribed period;
- (b) ensure that the application is in the form prescribed so as to provide relevant information, whilst respecting the privacy rights of the developer, and that it is displayed in the offices of

the appropriate district or regional authorities for public viewing and comment;

- (c) shall cause to inform the owners of adjoining properties of any proposed application for planning permission in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) Where, in respect of any application for commercial or industrial development, or for development on an outlying island, it is not possible to display the application with a specific district or regional authority, the application shall be displayed at the offices of the Authority for public viewing and comment.

(3) The Authority shall ensure that, in respect of any commercial or industrial development, information concerning the development, its promoter, contractor and other relevant information is displayed at the site of the development in the manner prescribed.

Conditions which may be imposed in respect of grant of permission

38.(1) Where the Authority grants permission to develop land with conditions, the Authority may impose the following additional conditions, as it considers necessary, for —

- (a) regulating the development or use of any adjacent or abutting land under the control of the developer, whether or not it is land in respect of which the application was made, or requiring the carrying out of works on any such land, so far as it appears to the Authority to be expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the development authorised by the permission;
- (b) requiring —
 - (i) the removal of any building or work authorised by the permission; or
 - (ii) the discontinuance of any use of land authorised by the permission,

at the expiration of a specified period and the carrying out of any work required for the reinstatement of land at the expiration of that period;

- (c) requiring that the development to which the permission relates shall commence not later than a specified date or within a specified period;
- (d) requiring that the development to which the permission relates shall be completed not later than a specified date or within a specified period;
- (e) requiring a developer who effects a subdivision or a combination or reparation of land to ensure that any newly created parcel of land arising from the subdivision, combination or reparation, has —
 - (i) clearly established and demarcated by boundary beacons, a right of way, in accordance with the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder, relating to access in cases of a proposed subdivision or combination or reparation of land; and
 - (ii) access to public services appropriate to the use for which the subdivision or a combination or reparation of land is intended;
- (f) requiring an estate developer to undertake or provide for any matter or work relating to new or existing roads or rights of way which may be provided for in a land use plan or development plan for that area; and
- (g) requiring the person to whom permission is granted to provide a monetary deposit as bond or guarantee in a form acceptable to the Authority for due performance of the conditions imposed in respect of the permission, which deposit shall be refunded or any guarantee released upon the fulfillment, to the satisfaction of the Authority within the specified time, of the conditions so imposed;

- (h) providing that the planning permission, once granted, is valid for 5 years or, upon renewal, for a period which shall be determined by the period during which a valid land use plan or development plan is in force.

(2) Where permission to develop land includes a condition referred to in subsection (1)(b) or (c), the permission shall be for the period specified in the condition, and any development carried out after the date specified in the condition for the commencement or completion of the development shall be deemed to be development carried out without permission.

(3) The Authority may, at any time after the grant of permission to develop land, whether granted with or without conditions, impose such additional conditions as it considers necessary.

Reference of applications to Minister

39.(1) For the purpose of this section “national interest” means the public interest in relation to development of land to promote national security, public welfare, health and safety, and to address natural causes and disasters.

(2) The Minister may give directions to the Authority requiring that any application made to the Authority for permission to develop land, which involves or affects the national interest, be referred to the Minister for determination.

(3) Where an application for permission to develop land is referred to the Minister pursuant to subsection (2), the provisions of sections 35(2) and 36 shall apply, subject to any necessary modifications, in relation to the determination of the application by the Minister as they apply in relation to the determination of applications by the Authority.

(4) The Minister may, prior to exercising any of the powers conferred by this section, if he or she considers it necessary to do so, appoint one or more persons to inquire into and make recommendations on such matters as he or she may specify.

(5) Any person appointed under subsection (4), shall —

- (a) keep or cause to be kept a proper record of the evidence taken; and

(b) report the finding and make recommendations to the Minister.

(6) The Minister may, after considering the records, if any, and the report of findings and recommendations under subsection (5), refer back the matter with his or her recommendation to the Authority for its determination on the application.

Appeals Board

40.(1) Where an application for permission to develop land is refused or is granted subject to conditions, an applicant aggrieved by the decision of the Authority may appeal to the Appeals Board in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The Appeals Board shall consist of three members appointed by the President and the President shall appoint one of the members as the Chairperson of the Appeals Board.

(3) The Constitutional Appointments Authority shall advertise the vacancies and select suitable persons and furnish a panel of qualified persons to the President for appointment.

(4) The President shall cause the notice of appointment of the Chairperson and the members of the Appeals Board to be published in the *Gazette*.

(5) Two persons appointed as members of the Appeals Board shall have experience in land use planning and sustainable development and one member shall be a representative of the Ministry responsible for Environment.

(6) The appeals Board may co-opt a legal advisor to consult on legal issues.

(7) A member of the Appeals Board shall be appointed on such terms and conditions as the President may determine.

(8) The members of the Appeals Board shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(9) The President shall at any time terminate the appointment of a member of the Appeals Board who has been found guilty of —

- (a) any misconduct, default or breach of trust in the discharge of that member's duties; or
- (b) an offence of such nature which renders it desirable that the member's appointment be terminated.

(10) The Appeals Board shall observe such rules of procedure as may be prescribed.

(11) The Appeals Board may, after considering the appeal —

- (a) reject the appeal and confirm the Authority's decision;
- (b) allow the appeal in whole or in part and vary the Authority's decision;
- (c) set aside the Authority's decision and make a decision in substitution for it; or
- (d) direct the Authority to reconsider its decision,

and the appellant shall be notified in writing of the Appeals Board's decision on the appeal.

Regularisation of development

41.(1) Subject to section 70, the Authority may, on application made to it, regularise any development carried out or being carried out on land without permission or contrary to the permission granted, and grant permission for the development with or without conditions, on payment of such fee as may be prescribed.

(2) Where the Authority grants permission to develop land under subsection (1), permission may be granted so as to take effect —

- (a) from the date on which the development was carried out; or
- (b) from the expiration of the date on which the development was carried out.

Delegation of power to grant permission for small, limited or minor developments

42.(1) The Authority may delegate its powers to grant or refuse applications for permission to carry out such small, limited or minor developments on land as may be prescribed to a committee appointed under section 12.

(2) The committee appointed under section 12 for the purposes of subsection (1) shall consider applications for permission to carry out small, limited or minor developments on land in accordance with the provisions of this Act, regulations made thereunder for small, limited or minor developments and any directives, guidelines or conditions issued by the Authority.

(3) Where the committee refuses or grants an application for permission to carry out any small, limited or minor development on land subject to conditions, a developer aggrieved by the decision of the committee may appeal to the Authority in such form or manner as may be prescribed.

(4) Section 39 shall apply to a decision of the Authority taken under subsection (3).

Register

43.(1) The Authority shall keep a register of applications for permission to develop land in such form and manner as the Authority may deem fit.

(2) The register specified in subsection (1) shall be open and made available to the public free of cost in such manner, time and place as may be prescribed.

Revocation and modification of permission

44.(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the Authority may revoke or modify any permission granted to develop land where —

- (a) the permission was granted on the basis of information, data or document submitted by the developer which is false, in accurate or misleading;

- (b) the permission was granted on the basis of a circumstance, condition, or factual element that existed at the time of submission of the application and there has been a change in such circumstance, condition, or element which warrants revocation or modification of the permission;
- (c) the development to which the permission relates does not comply or no longer complies with a land use plan or a National Land Use Plan in force; or
- (d) in the opinion of the Authority, it is necessary to do so in the interest of national security, public welfare, health or safety.

(2) The power to revoke or modify any permission granted to develop land under subsection (1) may be exercised, where the permission relates to —

- (a) the carrying out of building or other operations, at any time before the operations have been completed; or
- (b) a change of the use of any land, at any time before the change of use has taken place:

Provided that the revocation or modification of permission for the carrying out of building or other operations shall not affect so much of those operations as have been completed.

(3) Subsection (2) shall not apply to a revocation or modification on grounds specified in —

- (a) subsection (1)(a);
- (b) subsection (1)(b), if the change in circumstance, condition, or factual element in existence at the time, and on the basis of which the application was granted is caused by the applicant; and
- (c) subsection (1)(d).

(4) A person aggrieved by a revocation or modification under subsection (1) may appeal to the Appeals Board in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

Purpose for which building may be used

45.(1) Where permission is granted under this Part for the erection of a building, the permission may specify the purposes for which the building may be used.

(2) Where no purpose is specified under sub-section (1), the permission shall be deemed to include permission to use the building for the purpose for which it is designed.

Permission not necessary for resumption of use of land

46.(1) Where the Authority grants permission to develop land for a specified period, nothing in this Part shall be construed as requiring permission to be obtained under this Part at the expiry of the specified period for the resumption of the use of the land for the purpose for which it was normally used prior to the grant of permission.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), purposes for which land was normally used prior to the grant of permission shall not include any use of the land commenced in contravention of this Part.

Sub-Part III - Development of Land adjacent to sea**Restriction on development of land adjacent to sea**

47.(1) A person shall not carry out development of any land adjacent to the sea without the prior written permission of the Authority.

(2) A person shall, while carrying out development of any land in accordance with this Act, take such precautionary or remedial measures as may be necessary as directed by the Authority for avoiding any damage or threat of damage to the sea shore or beach.

(3) No regularisation of any development carried out on land adjacent to the sea shall be allowed under section 40.

(4) The Authority may, upon application made to it, grant permission to develop land under this part subject to the provisions of subsections (5) to (10).

(2) Where there is no alternative public access to a beach, traditional public use of a private landward access through an existing private development shall be sufficient ground for establishing a public right of way over that access or another access of similar convenience for the purpose of access to the beach by the public.

(3) Where the only landward access to a beach is through an existing private development where traditional public use pursuant to subsection (5) has not been established, the Minister may acquire the right to the public use of that beach access by gift, negotiation, contract, purchase, lease or compulsory acquisition in exchange for other property, interest, or monetary exemption, or by such other means as the Minister may recommend, as a condition of issuance of any permit or licence required under the provisions of this Act or any written law.

(4) Where land is acquired by way of compulsory acquisition for a beach access, the provisions of the Acquisition of Land in the Public Interest Act (Cap 249) shall apply in respect of such acquisition.

(5) Where a proposed development is likely to adversely affect the public's ability to access a beach from the landward side, any development permit shall require, as a condition, a landward public access through the development at all times free of charge and the same shall be caused to be recorded in the relevant register maintained by the Registrar General.

(6) In this section “traditional public use” means peaceful, open, continuous and uninterrupted enjoyment of access by the public for a period in excess of twenty years.

(7) While the Authority grants permission for development under this section, it may impose all or any of the conditions specified in section 37.

(8) A person who fails to comply with the provisions of this section commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction for a fine of SCR1,000,000.

Sub-Part IV - Preservation Orders, measures as to waste land and ruinous and dilapidated buildings and control of advertisements

Preservation Orders

48.(1) The Authority may, where it considers it to be necessary —

- (a) in the interests of amenity or public safety, that any tree or woodland should be preserved, make a tree-preservation order for preservation of such tree or woodland;
- (b) that any natural feature, such as rock boulders, or feature of historic interest should be preserved, make a preservation order for the preservation of such feature; or
- (c) that any building of special architectural or historic interest should be preserved, make a building preservation order restricting the demolition, alteration or extension of that building,

in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) A person who is aggrieved by an order made under subsection (1) may appeal to the Appeals Board in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

Waste land and ruinous and dilapidated buildings

49.(1) If it appears to the Authority that the amenity of an area is seriously damaged by reason of any waste land or ruinous or dilapidated building, or there is a risk to the public health or safety by reason of any ruinous or dilapidated building, the Authority may, in the interest of amenity, by notice, require the owner or occupier of the land or the building, as the case may be, to take steps to —

- (a) abate the damage; or
- (b) in the case of a ruinous or dilapidated building, demolish the building, or any part thereof, and remove any rubbish or other material resulting from or exposed by the demolition.

(2) If it appears to the Authority that the amenity of an area is seriously damaged by any rubbish or other material resulting from or exposed by the demolition or collapse of a building lying on site or on any adjoining land, the Authority may, in the interest of amenity, by notice, require the owner or occupier of the site or land, as the case may be, to take steps for removing the rubbish or material followed immediately by the implementation of a landscaping scheme submitted to and approved by the Authority.

(3) Where the owner or occupier of the land or the building on whom a notice under subsection (1) or (2) has been served does not take action required by the notice, the Authority may take such steps as it may consider necessary in the circumstances and recover the cost of such action from the owner or occupier of the land or the building as a civil debt.

(4) The notice referred to in subsections (1) and (2) shall be in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

Control of advertisements

50.(1) The Authority shall, in the interests of amenity and public safety, regulate the display of advertisements in accordance with regulations made under this Act.

(2) A person shall not display any advertisement contrary to regulations made under this Act.

Permission for advertisements deemed to be granted

51. Where the Authority has granted permission to carry out development and such development involves the display of advertisements, or advertisements relating to the development being carried out are displayed in accordance with regulations made under this Act relating to the display of advertisements, it shall be deemed that the permission for the display of such advertisements has been granted by virtue of this section and no application for the permission to display such advertisements shall be necessary.

PART V - COMPENSATION

Sub-Part I - Compensation for refusal or conditional grant of planning permission

Compensation for refusal or grant of permission subject to conditions

52.(1) In this Part, “planning decision” means a refusal of permission under Part IV, or a grant of permission subject to conditions by the Authority or the Appeals Board.

(2) If on a claim made, it is shown that, as a result of a planning decision, the value of the interest of a person in the land to which the application relates is less than it would have been if the permission had been granted or had been granted without conditions, then, the Government shall, subject to the provisions of this section and the regulations made under this Act relating to compensation, be liable to pay compensation in an amount equal to the difference in the value.

(3) A claim for compensation under subsection (2) shall be made in the prescribed form, within 6 months of the date of the decision referred to in subsection (2), or such longer period as may be prescribed.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (2), in determining whether and to what extent the value of any interest in land is less than it would have been if permission to develop the land had been granted or had been granted without conditions —

- (a) it shall be assumed that any subsequent application for permission in respect of the land would be determined in the same way; and
- (b) any undertaking of the Authority, on the refusal of permission to develop the land or to grant permission for any other development of the land, in the event of an application being made in that behalf, shall be taken into consideration.

(5) The compensation payable under this section shall, in default of determination by agreement, be determined by a Court of competent jurisdiction.

Compensation not payable in certain cases

53.(1) The compensation under section 51 shall not be payable in the following circumstances —

- (a) in respect of the refusal of permission for any development that consists of, or includes, the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or other land;
- (b) in respect of the refusal of permission to develop land, if the reason or one of the reasons stated for the refusal is that the proposed development is not in accordance with the land use plan or development plan in force;
- (c) in respect of the refusal of permission to develop land, where the refusal is —
 - (i) for the lack of environmental authorisation for the proposed development under the Environment Protection Act, 2016 (Act 18 of 2016); or
 - (ii) on the ground of non-compliance by the proposed development with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 2015 (Act 13 of 2015); or
 - (iii) on the ground of non-compliance by the proposed development with the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Seychelles Institute for Culture, Heritage and the Arts Act, 2021.
- (d) in respect of the refusal of permission to develop land, if the reason or one of the reasons stated for the refusal is that development of the kind proposed would be premature by reference to one or more of the following matters, that is —
 - (i) the order of priority for development in the area in which the land is situated, indicated in the development plan for that area;

-
- (ii) any existing deficiency in the provision of water supplies or other utility services;
 - (iii) any existing deficiency in the means of access from the nearest public road;
 - (iv) the suitability of the land for a particular development;
 - (v) the suitability of the land for agriculture or for continued use for agricultural purposes; or
 - (vi) the existence of other land which, in the opinion of the Authority, is more suitable for the proposed development in the land use plan or development plan in force;
 - (e) in respect of the refusal of permission to develop land, if the reason or one of the reasons stated for the refusal is that the land is unsuitable for the proposed development on account of —
 - (i) its excessive steepness; or
 - (ii) its likelihood to flooding;
 - (f) in respect of the imposition, on the grant of permission to develop land, of any condition relating to —
 - (i) the number or disposition of buildings on any land;
 - (ii) the dimensions, design, structure or external appearance of any building, or the materials to be used in its construction;
 - (iii) the manner in which any land is to be laid out for the purposes of the development, including the provision of facilities for the parking, loading or unloading or fuelling of vehicles on the land;

- (iv) the use of any buildings or other land; or
- (v) the location or design of any means of access to a road, or the materials to be used in the construction of such means of access;
- (g) in respect of the imposition, on the grant of permission to develop land, of any condition mentioned in section 37(1)(c) or (d);
- (h) in respect of any condition subject to which permission is granted for the mining and working of minerals; or
- (i) in respect of any planning decision on an application pursuant to regulations made under this Act for the regulation of the display of advertisements.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a planning decision whereby permission to develop land is granted subject to a condition prohibiting development of a specified part of that land shall be treated as a decision refusing permission with respect to that part of the land only.

No compensation if other development permitted

54.(1) Compensation under section 51 shall not be payable in respect of a planning decision whereby permission is refused for development of land if there is available, with respect to that land, permission for development of a residential, commercial or industrial character which consists wholly or mainly of the construction of houses, flats, shops or office premises, hotels, garages and petrol filling stations, cinemas or industrial buildings, including warehouses, or any combination thereof.

(2) Where permission for a development specified in subsection (1) is available with respect to only a part of the land, this section shall have effect insofar as the interest in respect of which a claim for compensation is made subsists in that part.

(3) Where a claim for compensation under section 51 is made in respect of an interest in any land, the permission for development referred to

in subsection (1) shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be available with respect to that land or a part thereof, if, immediately prior to the final determination of the claim for compensation, there is in force with respect to that land or part thereof, a permission or an undertaking by the Authority to grant permission for such development without conditions, other than the conditions mentioned in section 37(1)(c) or (d) or section 52(1)(d).

***Sub-Part II - Compensation for revocation or modification of
permission to develop land***

Compensation for revocation or modification for reasons other than depreciation in value

55.(1) Where a permission to develop land is revoked or modified under section 43, the Government may pay compensation to the person interested in the land, in respect of —

- (a) expenditure incurred by that person in carrying out work that is rendered unsuccessful pursuant to the revocation or modification of the permission; or
- (b) the loss or damage sustained by that person, otherwise than under paragraph (a), that is directly attributable to the revocation or modification of the permission,

but no compensation shall be payable under this section in respect of loss or damage consisting of the depreciation in value of any interest in the land by virtue of the revocation or modification.

(2) A claim for compensation under subsection (1) shall be made in writing to the Authority, in the prescribed form, within 6 months of the date of revocation or modification of the permission or such longer period as may be prescribed.

(3) The compensation under this section shall not be payable for a revocation or modification of permission to develop land on the grounds specified in —

- (a) section 43(1)(a);
- (b) section 43(1)(b) of the Act, if the change in circumstance, condition, or factual element in existence at the time, and on the basis of which, the application was granted is caused by the applicant; and
- (c) section 43(1)(d).

(4) For the purposes of this section, the expenditure incurred in the preparation of plans for the purposes of any work or for similar matters preparatory to the work shall be deemed to be included in the expenditure incurred in carrying out that work but compensation shall not be paid in respect of —

- (a) other work carried out prior to the grant of the permission that is revoked or modified; or
- (b) other loss or damage, not being loss or damage consisting of the depreciation in value of an interest in land, arising out of anything done or omitted to be done prior to the grant of the permission that is revoked or modified.

(5) Where compensation is payable under this section in respect of expenditure incurred in carrying out any work on land, the compensation shall be reduced by an amount equal to the value of the work, if —

- (a) the Government purchases any interest in that land; or
- (b) a claim for compensation is made in respect of an interest in that land under section 50.

Compensation for revocation or modification in cases of depreciation in value

56.(1) Where as a result of —

- (a) the revocation of permission to develop land; or
- (b) the modification of permission to develop land by the imposition of conditions,

the value of the interest of any person in the land is less than it would have been if the permission had not been revoked or had not been modified, the Government shall, subject to the provisions of this section, section 51 and regulations made under this Act relating to compensation, pay to that person compensation of an amount equal to the difference in value.

(2) A claim for compensation under subsection (1) shall be made in writing to the Authority, in the prescribed form, within 6 months of the date of the revocation or modification of permission or such longer period as may be prescribed.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), in determining whether and to what extent the value of any interest in land is less than it would have been if the permission had not been revoked or modified —

- (a) it is assumed that any subsequent application for permission in respect of the land would be determined in the same way; and
- (b) regard shall be had to an undertaking of the Authority, on the revocation of permission to develop land, to grant permission for any other development of the land, in the event of an application being made in that behalf.

(4) The compensation payable under this section shall, in default of determination by agreement, be determined by the Court.

PART VI - ENFORCEMENT

Sub-Part I Stop notice

Stop notice

57.(1) Where the Authority has reasonable grounds to believe that —

- (a) any development is being carried out on land without permission;
- (b) any development is being carried out on land contrary to permission granted; or

- (c) any condition of permission granted for the carrying out of any development on land is not or has not been complied with,

the Authority may, at any time, serve a stop notice in respect of the development in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Where the Authority has initiated any proceedings for the revocation or modification of any permission under section 43, it may serve a stop notice in respect of the development permitted under such permission in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(3) A stop notice may be served on —

- (a) the owner or occupier of the land;
- (b) the person representing the owner or occupier of the land for the purposes of making an application for permission to develop land;
- (c) the developer of the land; or
- (d) the contractor or any other person carrying out, performing or undertaking works involved in the carrying out of the development.

(4) A stop notice shall —

- (a) specify the development that is being carried out without permission or contrary to permission granted or the condition of permission granted that is not being or has not been complied with; and
- (b) require the person on whom the notice is served to discontinue the development in whole or in part.

(5) A stop notice served under subsections (1) or (2), shall come into force immediately upon service of the notice, and notwithstanding an appeal under section 39, shall remain in force until it is withdrawn by the Authority, the Minister or the Court in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Sub-Part II - Enforcement notice**Enforcement notice**

58.(1) The Authority may, —

- (a) at the time of service of a stop notice under section 56 or not later than 5 working days after service of such notice; or
- (b) where the Authority has reasonable grounds to believe that any development is being carried out without permission, contrary to permission granted, or that any condition of permission granted for the development is not being or has not been complied with, as the case may be, at any time, whether or not a stop notice has been served under section 56,

serve on the person referred to in section 56 (3) (a), (b), (c) or (d), a notice to show cause as to why an enforcement notice should not be served on that person, failing which an enforcement notice shall be so served.

(2) The show cause notice served under subsection (1) shall —

- (a) specify the development that is being carried out without permission, contrary to permission or the condition of the permission granted that is not being or has not been complied with, as the case may be, and the details of the non-compliance, as the case may be; and
- (b) require the person on whom it is served, not later than 5 working days after service of the notice, to show cause as to why an enforcement notice should not be served, requiring the steps —
 - (i) specified in the notice to be taken for restoring the land to its condition prior to the development or to comply with such condition as the Authority deems necessary in the circumstances or for securing compliance with the condition that has not been complied with, as the case may be; or

(ii) referred to in subparagraph (i) to be taken within the period specified in the notice.

(3) Where a show cause notice is served on a person under subsection (1), the person, within 5 working days after the service of such notice, —

- (a) satisfies the Authority that an enforcement notice should not be served on him or her, the Authority shall not serve an enforcement notice on that person; or
- (b) fails to satisfy the Authority that an enforcement notice should not be served on him or her, the Authority shall serve an enforcement notice on that person.

(4) The enforcement notice served under subsection (3)(b) shall specify —

- (a) the development that is being carried out without permission, contrary to permission granted or the condition of permission granted which is not being or has not been complied with, as the case may be;
- (b) the steps to be taken for restoring the land to its condition prior to the development or to comply with such condition as the Authority deems necessary in the circumstances or for securing compliance with the condition that is not being or has not been complied with; and
- (c) the period within which the steps referred to in paragraph (b) shall be taken.

(5) The steps for restoring the land to its condition prior to the development or for securing compliance with any condition of the permission granted referred to in subsection (2)(b)(i) or (3)(b) may, in particular, require the demolition or alteration of any buildings or works.

(6) An enforcement notice shall come into effect after 14 working days of the service of that notice or on the final determination of an appeal under section 39, whichever is the later, where the notice requires a person to —

- (a) restore any land to its condition prior to the development or use or comply with such condition as the Authority deems necessary in the circumstances; or
- (b) demolish or alter any building or works undertaken prior to service of the notice.

Duty to inform

58.(1) Where a stop notice or an enforcement notice is served on a person other than the owner or occupier of the land to which the notice relates, the person on whom the notice is served shall, immediately, inform the owner or occupier of the land of such service and the contents and requirements of the notice, as the case may be, and the stop notice or enforcement notice shall contain a direction to that effect.

(2) Where a stop notice or an enforcement notice is served on the owner or occupier of the land to which the notice relates, the owner or occupier shall immediately inform —

- (a) the person representing the owner or occupier of the land for the purposes of an application for permission to develop land;
- (b) the developer of the land; and
- (c) the contractor or any other person carrying out the development,

of such service, and the contents and requirements of the notice and the notice shall contain a direction to that effect.

Where person served with enforcement notice ceases to be owner of land

60.(1) Where an enforcement notice was served on a person who was the owner of the land prior to the expiry of the period specified in the enforcement notice or of such extended period as the Authority may allow for compliance with the notice and who subsequently ceased to be the owner

of the land, then the new owner of the land, on an application made by that person, or the new owner, shall be made a party in any proceedings instituted in relation to the enforcement notice.

(2) If it has been proved that any steps required by the enforcement notice have not been taken and the person against whom proceedings was brought, proves that —

- (a) the failure to take the steps is attributable, in whole or in part, to the default of the new owner of the land at the relevant time, the new owner of the land shall be liable for non-compliance with the enforcement notice; and
- (b) he or she took all reasonable steps to secure compliance with the enforcement notice, he or she shall be discharged from the proceedings and of any liability.

Sub-Part III - Notice of immediate enforcement

Notice of Immediate Enforcement

61.(1) Notwithstanding sections 56 and 57, where the Authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that any development is being carried out without permission or contrary to the permission granted or that any condition of the permission granted is not being complied with or on public land without permission and there exists a threat to national security, public health or safety or the development has an adverse effect on public amenities, the Authority may serve a notice of immediate enforcement in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) A notice of immediate enforcement under subsection (1) may be served on —

- (a) the owner or occupier of the land;
- (b) the person representing the owner or occupier of the land for the purposes of an application for permission to develop land;
- (c) the developer of the land; or

- (d) the contractor or any other person carrying out, performing or undertaking works involved in the carrying out of, the development.
- (3) A notice of immediate enforcement under subsection (1) shall —
- (a) specify the development carried out and the reasons and grounds on which notice is served; and
 - (b) give the person on whom it is served 24 hours or such shorter period as the circumstances may require to demolish or alter any building or work or take such other measures as the Authority deems necessary in the circumstances to eliminate the threat to the national security, public health or safety or adverse effect on public amenities.

Sub-Part IV - Powers of Authority to take steps required by a notice and appeals therefrom

Power of Authority to take steps required to be taken by enforcement notice

62.(1) Subject to subsection (2), if within the period specified in an enforcement notice, or within such extended period as the Authority may allow for compliance with the enforcement notice, any steps required to be taken by the enforcement notice have not been taken, the Authority may authorise a person to enter on the land and take the steps required by such notice.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply where the steps required to be taken by an enforcement notice consist in the discontinuance of any use of the land.

(3) The Authority may recover the expenses reasonably incurred by it in taking the steps under subsection (1) from the owner of the land as an ordinary civil debt by an action before a Court of competent jurisdiction.

Power of Authority to take steps required to be taken by notice of immediate enforcement

63.(1) If, within the period specified in a notice of immediate enforcement, any steps required to be taken by the notice have not been taken,

the Authority shall cause the authorised person to, immediately, enter on the land and take the steps required to be taken by the notice for the protection of national security, public health or safety or the preservation of public amenities, as the case may be.

(2) If the Authority is unable to serve a notice of immediate enforcement on any of the persons referred to in section 60(2) within the time specified in the notice for compliance therewith, the Authority shall cause the authorised person to, immediately, enter on the land and take the steps required to be taken by the notice for the protection of national security, public health or safety or the preservation of public amenities, as the case may be.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the Authority is unable to serve a notice of immediate enforcement if the details or whereabouts of the persons referred to under subsection (2) are unknown and cannot be ascertained by the Authority within the time specified for compliance with the notice.

(4) The Authority may recover any expenses reasonably incurred by it in taking the steps required to be taken by the notice of immediate enforcement from the owner of the land as an ordinary civil debt, by an action before a Court of competent jurisdiction.

Power of entry

64.(1) A person authorised, in writing by the Authority, may, at any reasonable time and with such assistance as the person considers necessary, enter upon any land for the purpose of surveying it in connection with —

- (a) the preparation, approval or making of a land use plan or development plan relating to the land, including the carrying out of any update or review of the plan under Part III;
- (b) any application under Part IV for any permission, consent or determination to be given or effected in relation to that or any other land;
- (c) the making or service of any notice, order or penalty;
- (d) determining whether the conditions subject to which

permission to develop land has been granted are being complied with;

- (e) determining whether any notice or order is being complied with;
- (f) determining whether the provisions of this Act are being contravened; or
- (g) any claim for compensation payable by the Government.

(2) A person authorised to enter upon any land under this section shall, if so required, produce evidence of that person's authority prior to so entering and, except in the circumstances specified in subsection (1)(b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g), shall not demand admission as of right to any land that is occupied unless 24 hours' notice of the intended entry has been given to the occupier of the land.

(3) Where any land is damaged —

- (a) in the exercise of the power of entry under this section; or
- (b) in the making of a survey for the purpose of which the power of entry under this section was conferred,

any person interested in the land may claim compensation in respect of that damage from the Government in the form and manner as may be prescribed.

(4) The power to survey any land under this section shall include the power to search, dig, conduct tests or take samples for testing for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the subsoil or the presence of minerals in the subsoil or the condition of a building.

(5) A person shall not carry out any works authorised by subsection (4) unless a notice of his or her intention to do so has been included in the notice required under subsection (2).

Power to require information

65. Where this Act authorises or requires an order to be made or a notice or other document to be given or served, the Authority may, to enable the

making of such order or the giving or service of such notice or document, require the occupier of any premises or any person who, directly or indirectly, receives rent in respect of the premises to state the nature of his or her interest in the premises and the name and address of any other known person having an interest therein, whether as owner, mortgagee, lessee or otherwise.

Liability of person by whom development was carried out

66. Any —

- (a) expenses incurred by the owner or occupier of any land or a contractor or other person carrying out development on the land for the purpose of complying with an enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement; and
- (b) the moneys paid by the owner of any land pursuant to sections 61(3) and 62(3),

shall be deemed to be incurred or paid, for the use and at the request of the person by whom the development was carried out.

Permission not required for lawful use of land

67. Where permission is not required for the use of any land for a particular purpose, but a stop notice or an enforcement notice or a notice of immediate enforcement is served in respect of development on that land, permission shall not be required to be obtained for the use of the land for the purpose for which it could have lawfully been used if the development in respect of which the stop notice or enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement is served had not been carried out.

Operation of enforcement notice

68. The compliance with a stop notice or an enforcement notice shall not preclude the Authority from —

- (a) imposing a penalty in the manner as may be prescribed; or
- (b) taking any proceedings to secure a conviction,

for any offence under this Act, committed prior to, or after, the service of the notice, including non-compliance with such notice.

Service of notices

69.(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a notice or other document required or authorised to be served or given under this Act, may be served or given —

- (a) by delivering it personally to the person on whom it is to be served or to whom it is to be given;
- (b) by leaving it at the usual or last known place of residence of the person referred to in paragraph (a), or at the address which has been furnished by that person for service;
- (c) by sending it by a prepaid recorded or registered letter addressed to the person referred to in paragraph (a) at that person's usual or last known place of residence, or where an address for service has been furnished by that person, at that address;
- (d) by sending it by facsimile transmission or email to the person referred to in paragraph (a), where details for such transmission have been furnished by that person; or
- (e) in the case of an incorporated company or body —
 - (i) by delivering it to the secretary or clerk of the company or body at its registered or principal office;
 - (ii) by sending it by a prepaid, recorded or registered letter addressed to the secretary or clerk of the company or body at their registered or principal office; or
 - (iii) by sending it by facsimile transmission or email at its registered or principal office.

(2) Where a notice or document referred to in subsection (1) is required or authorised to be served on or given to —

- (a) a person as an occupier of premises; or
- (b) a person who has an interest in the premises, and the name of that person cannot be ascertained after reasonable enquiry,

the notice or document shall be deemed to be duly served or given if it is addressed to that person, whether by name or by the description of “the owner” or “the occupier”, as the case may be, of the premises described in the notice or document and —

- (i) it is delivered or sent in the manner specified in subsection (1)(a), (b) or (d);
- (ii) it is marked in such manner that is plainly identifiable as a communication of importance and is sent by a prepaid recorded letter to the premises and it is not returned to the Authority sending it, or is delivered to some person on the premises or is affixed conspicuously to some object on the premises; or
- (iii) it is published in a daily newspaper on three consecutive days.

(3) Where a notice or document referred to in subsection (1) is required or authorised to be served on or given to all persons who have an interest in, or are owners or occupiers of premises comprised in any land, and it appears that any part of that land is unoccupied, the notice or document shall be deemed to be duly served if —

- (a) it is addressed to “the owners and any occupiers” of that part of the land specified in the notice or document;
- (b) it is affixed conspicuously to some object on the land; and
- (c) it is published in a daily newspaper on three consecutive days.

Appeal

70. A person aggrieved by a stop notice or an enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement served on him or her under this Part or by a

decision of the Authority to take steps required to be taken by an enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement, may appeal to the Appeals Board in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

PART VII - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Offences relating to contravention of stop notice

71. A person who continues the use of land or carries out any building or other operations on the land in contravention of a stop notice, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR5,000 or to an imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offences relating to development without permission or in breach of conditions

72.(1) A person who carries out development of any land without the prior written permission of the Authority or continues the development of any land where permission is revoked commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500, 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) A person who fails to comply with any condition imposed by the permission to develop land granted by the Authority commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) A person who continues any use of land or carries out any building or other operations on land in contravention of an enforcement notice or a notice of immediate enforcement or fails to comply with any directive set out in an enforcement notice or a notice of immediate enforcement, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding SCR500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment; and

- (b) where the offence is continued after service of the enforcement notice, to an additional fine not exceeding SCR5,000 for each day during which the offence is continued after the day following the service of the notice.

(4) A contractor or other person carrying out, performing or undertaking works involved in the development of a land commits an offence if he or she contravenes the approved plan for the development and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500,000 or suspension of his or her licence for such period as may be determined by the court for undertaking any new works, or to both such fine and suspension.

(5) The Court may, where a person is convicted of an offence under this section, in addition to any penalty provided for under this section, order —

- (a) the person to reinstate the land to which the development relates to its condition existing prior to the act or omission constituting the offence, including the demolition or alteration of any building or work; or
- (b) where the person is the holder of a permit or licence authorising him or her to carry out certain activities, and the act or omission constituting the offence was committed during the course of carrying out such activities, the revocation or suspension of the permit or licence, as the case may be.

Offence relating to preservation order

73. A person who contravenes the provisions of a preservation order made under section 45 commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR250,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offence relating to notice to abate injury

74. A person who fails to comply with the provisions of a notice to abate damage served on him or her under section 48 commits an offence and

shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500, 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offence relating to the display of advertisements

75.(1) A person who displays an advertisement in contravention of regulations made under this Act, regulating advertisements commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment and, in the case of a continuing offence, to an additional fine not exceeding SCR5,000 for every day after the first day during which the display is continued.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a person shall be deemed to display an advertisement if —

- (a) the advertisement is displayed on the land of which he or she is the owner or occupier; or
- (b) the advertisement gives publicity to his or her goods, trade, business or other concerns.

(3) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under subsection (1) by reason only that an advertisement is displayed on land of which that person is the owner or occupier or that his or her goods, trade, business or other concerns are given publicity by the advertisement, if he or she proves that it was displayed without his or her knowledge or consent.

Offence relating to stop notice, enforcement notice and notice of immediate enforcement

76.(1) A person who is served with stop notice or an enforcement notice and fails to inform another person as required by section 57(1) or (2), commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) The owner or occupier of land or the contractor or other person carrying out, performing or undertaking works involved in the carrying out

of a development on land, to which an enforcement notice relates, commits an offence if he or she fails to take the steps specified in the enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement within the period specified in such notice and he or she shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offences contrary to section 62

77.(1) The owner, occupier or developer of any land who fails without reasonable cause or excuse to render assistance to a person authorised to enter upon such land under section 63, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR5, 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) A person who willfully delays or obstructs a person authorised to enter upon any land under section 62 commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offence relating to duty to inform

78. A person required to give information under section 57 who fails to give that information or knowingly makes any misstatement in respect of that information, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Minister to specify fixed penalty

79.(1) The Minister may make regulations for specifying the offences under this Act, or for creating offences for violation of regulations made thereunder, for which a fixed penalty may be imposed.

(2) The regulations made under subsection (1) may provide for the notices and forms, the officers authorised for imposition of fixed penalty, the manner of payment of fixed penalty and the consequence of non-payment of a fixed penalty imposed.

Compounding of offences

80.(1) Where the Authority is satisfied that an offence under this Act or any regulation made thereunder has been committed by any person, and the person admits to committing the offence, accepts liability for the commission of the offence and agrees in writing to the matter being dealt with under this section, the Authority, in consultation with the Attorney General, may compound the offence by accepting a sum of not less than two thirds of the maximum fine specified for the offence and not more than the maximum fine specified for the offence.

(2) Any sum of money received under this section shall be dealt with as though it were a fine imposed by a Court.

(3) The Minister shall determine the sum of money to be paid by the offender having due regard to the provisions of this Act, the nature, the circumstances, extent and gravity of the offence and the past behaviour of the offender.

(4) An *ad-hoc* compounding committee may be established by the Minister to advise the Minister in the determination of the sum of money to be paid by the offender in accordance with subsection (3).

(5) Upon determination of the sum of money to be paid by the offender by way of fine in accordance with subsection (3), the Minister shall sign the compounding agreement and serve it on the offender who shall pay the sum of money, within 14 days from the date of service or within such longer period that the Minister shall set in the compounding agreement.

(6) Subject to subsections (7) and (8), an acceptance by an offender to compound an offence shall be final and conclusive and shall be a civil debt to the Government.

(7) In the event that the offender fails to pay the sum of money within the period set out in subsection (5), the compounding agreement shall *ipso facto* be null and void and judicial proceedings in relation to the offence shall be instituted or continued as the case may be.

(8) Notwithstanding subsection (7), the Minister may institute a civil suit against a person who has accepted in writing to compound an offence by signing the compounding agreement and who has failed to pay the sum of money within the period set out in subsection (5) for the recovery of the sum of money *in lieu* of instituting criminal proceedings against the person for the commission of the offence.

(9) Where the offence is compounded during the course of judicial proceedings, on payment of the sum of money mentioned in this section, the compounding of any offence under subsection (1) shall be filed in court and thereupon the judicial proceedings in connection with the commission of the offence which is pending shall be noted as compounded and the offender may be absolutely discharged.

(10) In any proceedings brought against any person for an offence against this Act, it shall be a defence if the person proves that the offence has been compounded under this section.

(11) Where an offence is compounded under this section, no court proceedings shall be instituted or continued for that offence as the case may be.

(12) The Minister may make regulations in relation to compounding of offences.

(13) Where an offence is compounded under this section, no court proceedings shall be instituted for that offence.

PART VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

Acquisition and disposal of land for planning purposes

81.(1) Where the Authority is satisfied that it is necessary to acquire any land, immediately, in order to secure, promote or expedite the proper development of the land, or of any area in which the land is situated in accordance with the land use plan or development plan, such land may be acquired compulsorily under the Acquisition of Land in the Public Interest Act (Cap 249).

(2) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent the acquisition by agreement of any land.

(3) The Government may, by way of sale or lease or otherwise, dispose of land acquired by it under this section in accordance with the State Land and River Reserves Act (Cap 228) to any statutory undertaker or other body or person for development in accordance with —

- (a) permission granted under Part IV;
- (b) the land use plan or development plan in force at the time; and
- (c) regulations made under this Act.

Regulations

82.(1) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Board, make regulations for carrying out, or giving effect to, the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without limiting the generality of the powers under subsection (1), the regulations may provide for all or one of the following matters —

- (a) meetings and proceedings of the Board;
- (b) composition and proceedings of committees;
- (c) the form and manner of preparation, approval and publication of land use plans, National Land Use Plans or development plans;
- (d) specifying conditions for developments subject to planning approval to cater for people living with special needs or disabilities;
- (e) specifying land on which no development may be carried out as no development zone;
- (f) the form and manner in which an application for permission to develop land, including application for conceptual

approval of a proposed development or for small, limited and minor developments is to be made and the information or documents to be submitted with such applications and the fees to be paid with respect to the applications;

- (g) the procedure to be followed by the Authority in dealing with applications referred to in paragraph (e) and any other matter relating to such applications;
- (h) the procedure for the revocation and modification of planning permission granted;
- (i) the form and manner for appeals to, and the procedure to be followed by, the Appeals Board;
- (j) operations or uses of land for which planning permission is not required;
- (k) small, limited or minor developments;
- (l) the process of public consultation under this Act;
- (m) the circumstances in which compensation is payable for the refusal, or grant of permission with conditions, for development or for modification or revocation of permission, including —
 - (i) the form in which a claim for compensation may be made;
 - (ii) requirements for a claimant to provide evidence in support of the claim, and such information as to the interest of the claimant in the land to which the claim relates, and as to the interest of other persons therein that are known to the claimant; and
 - (iii) the formula for determining the value of interest in any land;

-
- (m) the control of advertisements, as may be expedient in the interest of amenity and public safety, including —
- (i) the nature, dimensions, appearance and position of advertisements that may be displayed, the sites on which such advertisements may be displayed and the manner in which they are to be affixed to land;
 - (ii) the requirement of consent of the Authority to be obtained for the display of advertisements, or of advertisements of any specified class, the manner thereof and application of Part IV to such consent, with such adaptation or modifications as may be specified;
 - (iii) empowering the Authority to require the removal of any advertisement that is being displayed in contravention of regulations made under this Act, or the discontinuance of the use for the display of advertisements of any site that is being used for that purpose in contravention of such regulations, and for that purpose for applying any of the provisions of Part VI with respect to stop notices, enforcement notices and notices of immediate enforcement, subject to such adaptations and modifications as may be specified;
- (n) the form and contents of any notice, order or other document authorised or required by this Act;
- (o) controlling and regulating the subdivision of land into two or more parcels, whether the subdivision is effected for purposes of transfer, partition, sale, gift, lease, mortgage or any other purpose whatsoever;
- (p) the pooling and redistribution of plots of land, or the readjustment of the boundaries, areas, shapes and positions of any plots of land;
- (q) the form and manner in which a preservation order may be made including the provision of —

- (i) notice to be given to the owners or occupiers of land or buildings, as the case may be, affected by such order;
- (ii) objections and representations with respect to the proposed order to be considered before the order is made;
- (iii) copies of the order when it comes into operation to be served on the owners and occupiers of the land or building, as the case may be, to which the order relates and for publication of the order in the *Gazette*;
- (iv) contents and extent of application of a preservation order;
- (s) the form and content of a notice of abatement of injury;
- (t) any matter relating to buildings or any specified class of building;
- (u) any fees and charges to be payable or which may be levied under this Act;
- (v) the imposition of fines and penalties;
- (w) any other matter which is required or permitted to be prescribed under this Act.

(3) If any regulations made under subsection (2) (p) so direct, subject to any additions, omissions or modifications specified in such regulations, the provisions of this Act shall apply to the subdivision, combination or reparation of land as if it were included in the definition of “development” contained in section 33.

(4) The regulations made under this Act may provide that contravention of or failure to comply with any of the provisions of such regulations shall be an offence punishable with a fine not exceeding SCR100,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or with both such fine and imprisonment.

Repeal and savings

83.(1) The Town and Country Planning Act (Cap 237) is hereby repealed.

- (2) Notwithstanding the repeal under subsection (1) —
- (a) any acts done or commenced by the Planning Authority constituted under the repealed Act, where such act is within the powers of the Authority, shall be carried on and completed by or under the authority of the Authority under this Act;
 - (b) all acts done, decisions taken, permissions or authorisations granted by the Authority or the Minister under the repealed Act, which were validly taken or granted under the repealed Act, shall continue to have effect in accordance with their terms or until amended, annulled or withdrawn in accordance with this Act;
 - (c) all agreements, deeds, bonds or arrangements entered into by the Planning Authority under the repealed Act shall continue in force and be enforceable by or against the Authority as if the Authority had been a party to such agreements, deeds, bonds or arrangements;
 - (d) any permission for development of land granted under the repealed Act shall have effect as if granted under this Act;
 - (e) an application for permission to develop land made under the repealed Act, in respect of which no final determination has been made, shall be treated as if the application had been made under this Act;
 - (f) any land use plan or development plan made under the repealed Act shall remain in force as if it was a land use plan or development plan made under this Act until repealed, amended or replaced by a land use plan or development plan made under this Act;

- (g) all statutory instruments made under the repealed Act shall, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this Act, continue in force as statutory instruments made under this Act until amended or repealed by a statutory instrument made under this Act;
- (h) any directions issued and notification made under the repealed Act shall continue to be in effect until they are amended or repealed under the provisions of this Act;
- (i) all suits, prosecutions and other legal proceedings pending or which could have been instituted under the repealed Act shall be continued or instituted under the provisions of the repealed Act as if this Act has not been enacted;
- (j) all officers or other employees of the Planning Authority as constituted under the repealed Act shall be deemed to be the officers and other employees of the Authority under this Act on terms and conditions no less favourable than those subsisting immediately prior to the date of repeal of the said Act.

Transfer of assets and liability

84.(1) All movable property vested in, and used and managed by, and all assets, rights, interests, privileges, liabilities and obligations of, the Planning Authority constituted under the repealed Act, immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall be transferred to and vest in the Authority, immediately, upon the commencement of this Act.

(2) Where a question arises as to whether a particular movable or immovable property, asset, right, interest, privilege, liability or obligation has been transferred to or vested in the Authority under subsection (1), a certificate under the hand of the Minister shall be conclusive evidence that the movable or immovable property, asset, right, interest, privilege, liability or obligation were or were not so transferred or vested.

Consequential amendments

85. The Land Survey Act, Cap 109, is amended to the extent specified in the Schedule to this Act.

SCHEDULE 1

(Section 84)

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Insertion of a new section 30A of the Land Survey Act, Cap 109

1. The Land Survey Act, Cap 109, is amended by inserting a new section 30A immediately after section 30 as follows —

“**30A.**(1) Notwithstanding any law, where an access, road reserve or right of way is created and demarcated on the diagram or plan of a parcel of land approved by the Director of Surveys upon a subdivision, combination or reparation of a parcel of land, the demarcated access, road reserve or right of way shall constitute a right of way or an easement burdening the servient parcel of land for the benefit of the parcel of land for which the right of way or easement is created;

(2) The diagram or plan shall state the parcel of land that shall enjoy the benefit of a right of way or easement on the parcel of land burdened by the right of way or easement.

(3) Where subsections (1) and (2) apply —

- (a) The Land Registrar shall register the right of way or easement as an encumbrance in the register of the parcel of land burdened by the right of way or easement and in the property section of the register of the parcel of land which enjoys the benefit of the right of way or easement, and shall file the diagram or plan of the parcel of land in the relative parcel file of the parcels of lands;
- (b) to land that is not registered under the Land Registration Act, the Registrar of Deeds shall upon application of the owner of the parcel of land burdened by the right of way or easement (*servient tenement*) or the owner of the parcel of land which

enjoys the benefit of the right of way or easement (*dominant tenement*), make an appropriate entry of such right of way or easement in the *repertoire* of the owner of the servient tenement and the dominant tenement.”

I certify that this is a correct copy of the Bill which was passed by the National Assembly on 3rd November, 2021.



Mrs. Tania Isaac
Clerk to the National Assembly

SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY ACT, 2021

(Act 56 of 2021)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title
2. Interpretation

PART 11 - SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY

3. Establishment of the Agency
4. Objects of the Agency
5. Functions of the Agency
6. Powers of the Minister

PART III - INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

7. Establishment and composition of the Committee
8. Functions of the Committee
9. Meetings of the Committee

PART IV - ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGENCY

10. Chief Executive Officer
11. Chief Operations Officers
12. Employment of staff

PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

13. Funds of the Agency
14. Delegated funds
15. Accounts and audit
16. Accountability
17. Annual operational plan
18. Annual report

PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS

19. Transfer of assets and liabilities
20. Transfer of staff and employees
21. Acquisition and disposal of land
22. Application of certain provisions of the Penal Code
23. Protection of acts done in good faith
24. Regulations



SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY ACT, 2021

(Act 56 of 2021)



I assent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wavel".

Wavel Ramkalawan
President

25th November, 2021

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

ENACTED by the President and the National Assembly.

PART I - PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Seychelles Infrastructure Agency Act, 2021.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Agency” means the Seychelles Infrastructure Agency established under section 3;

“Chief Executive Officer” means the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency appointed under section 10;

“Chief Operations Officer” means a Chief Operations Officer provided for under section 11;

“Committee” means the Inter- Ministerial Committee established under section 7;

“member” means a member of the Committee;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for lands and housing.

PART II - SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY**Establishment of the Agency**

3.(1) There is hereby established for the purpose of this Act, an agency known as the Seychelles Infrastructure Agency.

(2) The Agency is a body corporate.

Objects of the Agency

4. The objects of the Agency are —

(a) to provide technical services for civil engineering and construction projects to all government ministries, departments and agencies;

(b) to provide maintenance to government properties,

other than those specified in the Schedule.

Functions of the Agency

5. The functions of the Agency shall be to —
- (a) advise on strategic planning of infrastructure and physical development projects;
 - (b) advise on the financial and cost implications for infrastructure and physical development projects, and on maintenance and property management requirements;
 - (c) provide surveys and assessments of physical conditions for government infrastructure and buildings;
 - (d) provide project designs, procurement of construction services and supervision of project implementation;
 - (e) provide technical support for procurement and supervision of services for maintenance of government infrastructure and buildings;
 - (f) advise on quality standards and policies for government infrastructure and buildings, and for construction services utilised by the government;
 - (g) record and keep registers of ratings of performance by contractors providing construction services for government projects;
 - (h) outsource and manage consultancy contracts for any specialised services in the construction sector on behalf of the government; and
 - (i) perform such other functions as the Minister may deem necessary.

Powers of the Minister

6. The Minister shall exercise supervision over the Agency in the performance of its functions, and may issue policy directives to the Agency relating to planning of infrastructure and physical development in line with National development strategies and land use.

PART III - THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

Establishment and composition of the Committee

7.(1) The Agency shall be governed by an inter-ministerial committee consisting of the following members —

- (a) the Chairperson who shall be the Minister responsible for the parent Ministry of the Agency;
- (b) the Minister responsible for environment and climate change who shall be the Vice-Chairperson;
- (c) a representative of the Department responsible for lands;
- (d) a representative of the department responsible for economic planning;
- (e) a representative of the financial planning and control division of the department of finance;
- (f) a representative of the department of legal affairs;
- (g) a representative of the department of transport;
- (h) a person with extensive experience in auditing, accounting, engineering, or construction appointed by the Minister; and
- (i) the Chief Executive Officer who shall be an ex-officio member and the secretary to the Committee.

(2) A member of the Committee shall hold office for a term of 5 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(3) A member of the Committee shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as the President may determine in line with Government policies.

(4) A member of the Committee may resign from the member's office by letter addressed to the Minister and to the Committee giving not less than one month's notice of the member's resignation.

Functions of the Committee

8. The functions of the Committee shall be to —
- (a) review and approve development and project concept plans prepared by the Agency;
 - (b) review and determine work and project priorities for implementation by the Agency;
 - (c) review and recommend budget priorities for projects to the Government based on integrated national development strategies;
 - (d) mediate any disputes between the Agency and other ministries, departments or agencies;
 - (e) monitor the performance of the Agency on implementation of projects and services;
 - (f) review and approve policies and standards prepared by the Agency;
 - (g) monitor and oversee the management of the Agency by the Chief Executive Officer with the objective of ensuring that —
 - (i) the internal management and financial controls of the Agency are adequate;
 - (ii) the resources of the Agency are utilized economically and efficiently;
 - (iii) the Agency operates in accordance with the principles of good governance;
 - (iv) the Agency fulfils its statutory obligations and properly discharges its functions; and
 - (h) approving the Agency's accounts under section 15.

Meetings of the Committee

9.(1) A meeting of the Committee shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the Chairperson of the Committee.

(2) Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Committee.

(3) The decision of a majority of the Members present at a meeting shall constitute a decision of the Committee, and, in the event of an equality of votes on any matter, the person presiding at such meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her vote.

(4) Subject to the provisions of this Act and regulations made under this Act, the Committee may regulate its own proceedings.

PART IV - ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGENCY

Chief Executive Officer

10.(1) The Minister shall appoint a person whom the Minister considers to be suitably qualified and experienced to be Chief Executive Officer of the Agency, on such terms and conditions of service as the Minister may determine in line with Government policies.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer is an employee of the Agency and shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Agency in accordance with this Act, policy directives by the Minister and directions of the Committee.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall be appointed for a term of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(4) The Chief Executive Officer may delegate any of his or her functions to a Chief Operations Officer or any other employee of the Agency.

Chief Operations Officer

11.(1) The Agency shall have a Chief Operations Officer who shall be appointed by the Committee.

(2) The Chief Operations Officer shall be in charge of a division of the Agency assigned to him or her and shall report to the Chief Executive Officer.

Employment of staff

12.(1) The Agency may employ officers and other members of staff necessary for the effective performance of its functions under this Act.

(2) Every employee of the Agency shall be under the administrative control of the Chief Executive Officer.

PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Funds of the Agency

13.(1) The funds of the Agency shall consist of moneys appropriated by the National Assembly under the Appropriation Act for the use of the Agency.

(2) The funds of the Agency shall be applied for —

- (a) the discharge of the expenses properly incurred by the Agency in the performance of its functions; and
- (b) the payment of remuneration of allowances to the members of the Committee and employees of the Agency.

Delegated funds

14.(1) Funds appropriated for projects involving the implementation and maintenance of Government properties shall be delegated to the Agency.

(2) The funds delegated under subsection (1) shall be under the control of the Agency and shall be solely utilised for purposes related to the projects for which they were appropriated.

Accounts and audit

15.(1) The financial year of the agency shall be the calendar year.

(2) The Agency shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare a statement of accounts in the form and manner approved by the Auditor General.

(3) The account of the Agency shall be audited by the Auditor General in accordance with Article 158 of the Constitution.

(4) Where the accounts and the statement of accounts of the Agency in respect of a financial year have been audited by the Auditor General, the Agency shall, not later than 3 months after the end of the financial year, submit to the Minister responsible for finance, a copy of the audited statement of the Agency.

Accountability

16.(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall be the accounting officer of the Agency.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall be charged with the responsibility of —

- (a) accounting for all moneys received and the utilisation thereof; and
- (b) the use and care of the assets of the Agency.

Annual operational plan

17.(1) The Agency shall prepare a draft annual operational plan at least 60 days before the commencement of each financial year and submit it to the Committee for approval and shall submit a final annual operational plan not later than 30 days after the commencement of the financial year.

(2) The operational plan shall —

- (a) include a statement of the short and medium term operational objectives;
- (b) outline the strategies that the Agency intends to employ in order to achieve its objectives; and

- (c) include, *inter alia*, a financial plan, a human resources plan and performance indicators.

(3) The financial plan referred to under subsection (2) (c) shall include estimates of expenditure and revenue for the financial year next following.

(4) The Agency may amend the operational plan with the approval of the Committee.

Annual report

18.(1) The Agency shall, after the expiration of each financial year and in any event not later than the 31st day of March in any year, submit to the Minister, and the Minister responsible for finance, an annual performance report, outlining the performance of the Agency and generally addressing the administration and activities of the Agency during the preceding financial year.

(2) The Minister shall, within 30 days of receiving the Agency's audited accounts and report, cause them to be laid before the National Assembly.

PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS

Transfer of assets and liabilities

19.(1) The Government may vest in or transfer to the Agency such —

- (a) movable and immovable properties vested in the Government immediately before the coming into force of this Act and used or managed by any Government Ministry, Department or Agency whose functions are being transferred to the Agency; and
- (b) assets, rights, interests, privileges, liabilities of the Government relating to any Ministry, Department or Agency for functions being transferred to the Agency.

(2) Where a question arises as to whether a particular movable or immovable property, asset, right, interest, privilege, liability or obligation

has been transferred to or vested in the Agency under subsection (1), a certificate under the hand of the Minister shall be conclusive evidence that the property, asset, right, interest, privilege liability or obligation was or was not transferred or vested.

(3) All agreements, deeds, bonds, agreements relating to matters which fall within the scope of the objects and functions of the Agency, to which the Government is a party, subsisting immediately before the coming into force of this Act, shall continue and shall be enforceable by or against the Agency as if the Agency had been a party to the deed, bond, agreement or arrangement.

Transfer of staff and employees

20.(1) All the persons employed in any Government Ministry, Department or Agency prior to the commencement of this Act, whose functions are being merged and transferred to the Agency, shall in accordance with their respective qualifications and competencies be transferred to the services of the Agency on terms and conditions not less favourable than those enjoyed by them before the transfer.

(2) Until such time as new terms and conditions of service are adopted, the terms and conditions of service as they exist presently shall continue to apply to every person transferred to the service of the Agency under subsection (1) as if the persons were still in the service of the Government.

Acquisition and disposal of land

21.(1) Where land is required by the Agency in connection with the performance of its functions, upon approval of the Committee, the Agency shall request the Minister responsible for lands to acquire such land for that purpose and thereafter transfer or allocate use of the land to the Agency.

(2) The Agency shall not sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of land or interest in land vested in the Agency without the consent of the Minister responsible for lands.

Application of certain provisions of the Penal Code

22. The members and employees of the Agency shall be deemed to be

employed in the public service and sections 91 to 96 of the Penal Code shall apply to them.

Protection of acts done in good faith

23. No civil or criminal liability shall attach to the Agency, an officer or employee of the Agency or a member of the Committee in respect of an act done or omission made in good faith in the performance of the functions of the Agency.

Regulations

24. The Minister may make regulations for the carrying into effect the principles and provisions of this Act.

SCHEDULE

(Section 4)

ORGANISATIONS EXCLUDED FROM APPLICATION OF THIS ACT

1. Department of Transport
2. Seychelles Land Transport Agency
3. Non- Budget-Dependent Commercial Public Entreprises
4. Public Utilities Corporation
5. Public Enterprises with specialist technical mandates which include provision of technical services offered by the Agency.
6. Any other Department or Agency as the President may determine.

I certify that this is a correct copy of the Bill which was passed by the National Assembly on 9th November, 2021.



Mrs. Tania Isaac
Clerk to the National Assembly

SEYCHELLES QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY ACT, 2021

(Act 57 of 2021)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Part 1 - Preliminary

1. Short title and commencement
2. Interpretation

Part 2 - Seychelles Qualifications Authority

3. Establishment of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority
4. Object and functions of the Authority
5. Powers of the Authority
6. Power to require information
7. Protection of terms

Part 3 - The Board of the Authority

8. Constitution of the Board
9. Tenure of office
10. Resignation
11. Vacation of office
12. Filling of vacancies
13. Meeting and proceedings of the Board
14. Establishment of Committees
15. Allowances of committee members
16. Secretary of the Board
17. Disclosure of interest
18. Confidentiality

Part 4 - Administration of the Authority

19. Chief Executive Officer
20. Responsibilities of Chief Executive Officer
21. Staff of the Authority
22. Reports by the Authority
23. Directions issued by the Minister

Part 5 - Financial Provision

24. Funds of the Authority
25. Accounts and audit
26. Annual Report
27. Application of certain Penal Code provisions
28. Protection of acts done in good faith

Part 6 - Miscellaneous Provisions

29. Regulations
30. Appeals
31. Compliance
32. Repeal and savings
33. Transfer of assets



SEYCHELLES QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY ACT, 2021

(Act 57 of 2021)



I assent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wavel".

Wavel Ramkalawan
President

25th November, 2021

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK AND THE QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

ENACTED by the President and the National Assembly.

Part I - Preliminary

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Seychelles Qualifications Authority Act, 2021 and shall come into operation on such date as the President may, by notice in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act —

“accreditation” means a process of assessment and review which enables a person, a tertiary education and training provider, or a programme of education and training to be recognised and certified for a specified period of time by the Authority as meeting and conforming to appropriate standards of quality set by the Authority;

“Authority” means the Seychelles Qualifications Authority established under section 3;

“Board” means the Board of the Authority constituted under section 8;

“certification” means the formal recognition of a learner's achievement of the required number and range of credits or other requirements at a specified level of the National Qualifications Framework;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Board appointed under section 8;

“Chief Executive Officer” means the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority appointed under section 20;

“committee” means a committee established under section 14;

“competence” means the knowledge, skills, attitudes and personal attributes combined with the underlying understanding to perform all or some of the functions of an occupation or a profession;

“course” means a self-contained teaching or learning component of a programme that is integral to that programme, representing a discrete part of the learning to be achieved and is based on an overall clear aim, specific learning outcomes, content and assessment procedures;

“credit accumulation” means the totalling of relevant credits required to complete a qualification or a part-qualification;

“credit transfer” means the vertical, horizontal or diagonal relocation of credits towards a qualification or part-qualification on the same or different level, usually between different programmes, departments or institutions;

“enrolled learner” means a learner who has enrolled in a programme or a course of education and training and registered as such by a provider;

“entity” means a person or a partnership, organisation, or business that has a legal and separately identifiable existence;

“equivalence of qualifications” means a process of formally establishing that two qualifications are of comparable standard or level;

“evaluation of foreign qualifications” means the process followed by the Authority to verify the authenticity of foreign qualifications and to compare foreign qualifications with national and international qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework;

“institutional accreditation” means recognition status granted to a provider by the Authority for a stipulated period of time after an evaluation through self-assessment and external review indicates that it meets or exceeds established standards for educational quality set by the Authority;

“international learner” means a learner with a foreign nationality who, on the basis of appropriate permission granted for the purpose by the Department of Immigration, desires to continue, continues or has continued his or her education at a tertiary education institution in Seychelles;

“learner” means a person who is acquiring or has acquired knowledge, skills, attitudes, personal attributes or competencies;

“member” means a member of the Board appointed under section 8;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for education;

“National Qualifications Framework” means a comprehensive system approved by the Minister for the development, classification, registration, publication, evaluation and articulation of quality-assured qualifications;

“part qualification” means an assessed unit of learning that is registered by the Authority as part of a qualification, including a course and a unit standard;

“post compulsory education and training” means education and training after compulsory education;

“programme” means a planned combination of a coherent set of courses designed to meet the requirements of a qualification;

“programme accreditation” means recognition status granted to a programme by the Authority for a stipulated period of time after an evaluation by the Authority indicates that it meets standards of quality;

“programme of education and training” means a process by which learners acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes, personal attributes and competence;

“provider” means an entity that intends to offer or is offering education and training in Seychelles, whether public or private, and registered as such by the ministry responsible for education or the Seychelles Qualifications Authority;

“qualification” means a registered national qualification;

“quality assurance” means an ongoing process of evaluating and enhancing the quality of the education system, providers or programme, for ensuring that the required standards as determined by the Authority are maintained and enhanced;

“recognition of foreign qualifications” means the formal acceptance of the appropriateness of a foreign qualification for a specific purpose;

“Recognition of Prior Learning” means principles and processes through which the prior knowledge and skills of a person are made visible, mediated and assessed for the purposes of alternative access and admission, recognition and certification, or further learning and development;

“school” means a provider of general education established by its owner, whether public or private, and in the case of a private provider, also registered by the ministry responsible for education;

“school inspection” means the formal exercise of critically examining and evaluating a provider of general education as a place for teaching and learning in order to ensure that high standards are maintained through improving the quality of the schools' self-evaluation processes and setting up of standards to enhance the quality of education;

“standard scale” means the standard scale of fines for offences established under the Criminal Offences (Standard Scale of Fines) Act, 2021;

“tertiary education” means learning programmes or courses provided by tertiary education and training providers leading to qualifications or part qualifications from level 3 to level 10 of the National Qualifications Framework;

“tertiary education and training provider” means an entity that provides or organises a programme or course of tertiary education and training including the provision of professional development services;

“unit standard” means a statement of the outcome of any learning assessed, the type and quality of evidence that represents performance worthy of an award of credits and the context in which that evidence should be demonstrated;

“Vice Chairperson” means the person appointed as Vice Chairperson of the Board under section 8.

Part 2 - Seychelles Qualifications Authority

Establishment of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority

3. There is hereby established the Seychelles Qualifications Authority which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, capable of suing and being sued in its corporate name.

Object and functions of the Authority

4.(1) The object of the Authority shall be to develop, implement and maintain a national qualifications framework and to provide for quality assurance of the education and training system nationally.

(2) In pursuing the object, the Authority shall have the following functions —

- (a) recognise, evaluate and register national qualifications and part qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework;
- (b) generate and register national unit standards and qualifications for occupations and professions and ensure their relevance to social and economic needs;
- (c) maintain a national database of registered and accredited providers, programmes, qualifications and part qualifications, as prescribed;
- (d) design, develop and implement a common quality assurance system, and regulate compliance therewith;
- (e) develop and review quality standards and ensure compliance by providers through a monitoring system;
- (f) accredit tertiary education and training providers and other providers of post compulsory education and training and

- monitor that such providers continue to comply with prescribed standards and criteria;
- (g) accredit programmes and courses of education and training and monitor that such programmes and courses continue to comply with prescribed standards and criteria;
 - (h) conduct inspection of established and registered schools to ensure national education quality and standards are maintained;
 - (i) review the policies and criteria on which the National Qualifications Framework is based;
 - (j) establish policy, criteria and procedures for, and monitor the process of evaluation and recognition of, competencies acquired formally, informally and non-formally through Recognition of Prior Learning;
 - (k) establish policy and criteria for credit accumulation and credit transfer;
 - (l) recognise, evaluate and establish equivalence of foreign qualifications to the levels of the National Qualifications Framework and record the decisions made;
 - (m) develop a policy and criteria for the recognition of foreign programmes leading to the award of qualifications and part qualifications delivered by or through local tertiary education and training providers;
 - (n) develop a policy for recognition by the Authority of any foreign qualification before the qualification bearer may be entitled to enter into an occupation or a profession;
 - (o) promote international recognition of the national qualifications and the international comparability of national qualifications;

-
- (p) register tertiary education and training providers and other providers of post compulsory education and training and maintain a register to this effect;
 - (q) establish criteria for classification of providers and for the transitioning from one category of provider to another in accordance with this Act and made hereunder;
 - (r) establish criteria and procedures for the protection of the interests of enrolled learners, which include arrangements for the protection of learners where learners have begun but not completed a programme of education and training where a provider ceases to provide the programme before completion, or ceases to operate;
 - (s) establish standards and criteria for teachers and lecturers of providers to deliver programmes and courses to ensure learners are protected;
 - (t) provide a national advisory service on foreign qualifications and foreign providers of education and training;
 - (u) collaborate with international counterparts on all matters of mutual interest concerning national qualifications frameworks;
 - (v) advise the Minister on matters relating to the functions of the Authority and perform any function consistent with this Act that the Minister may, by regulations, determine;
 - (w) do all such things and perform all such functions as may be necessary or conducive for the achievement of the purposes of this Act.
- (3) The Authority, in the performance of its functions shall —
- (a) inform itself of the needs of commerce, industry, the professions and the public service pertaining to education,

- training, skills and qualifications and promote practices in education and training to meet those needs;
- (b) inform itself of practices outside the Republic in respect of matters relevant to its object and functions;
 - (c) consult, as it considers appropriate, with providers, professional bodies, and any other entities the Authority considers appropriate in making decisions;
 - (d) give effect to such policies of the Government relating to education and training as are notified in writing to the Authority by the Minister; and
 - (e) collect any information it considers appropriate relating to the performance of its functions.

Powers of the Authority

5.(1) The Authority shall have all powers necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions including the power to —

- (a) liaise or enter into agreements with any entity within or outside Seychelles;
- (b) enforce compliance with the provisions of this Act and the elements of the National Qualifications Framework; and
- (c) charge such fees as may be prescribed in respect of any service provided by the Authority.

Power to require information

6.(1) The Authority may, by notice in writing require, from any person, provider, or any other entity such information as the Authority deems necessary, for the purposes of the performance of its functions under this Act.

(2) Where any person or other entity is required to furnish any information to the Authority under subsection (1), it shall be the duty of such person or entity to comply with the request.

(3) A person or other entity who or which contravenes subsection (2) commits an offence and shall on conviction to a fine of level 2 of the standard scale.

(4) A person who obtains any information for the Authority under this provision shall take every reasonable step to ensure that such information is kept in such manner as to ensure that the contents of the information are kept confidential and used only for the purposes of performing the functions of the Authority.

Protection of terms

7.(1) The term “National” when used in conjunction with a qualification type on the National Qualifications Framework shall apply to a local qualification recognised by the Authority.

(2) The generic terms “Certificate”, “Diploma” and “Degree” shall refer to qualifications accredited or recognised by the Authority.

Part 3 - The Board of the Authority

Constitution of the Board

8.(1) There shall be a Board of the Authority, which shall be the governing body of the Authority.

(2) The Board shall consist of 7 members appointed by the President by notice in the *Gazette* on such terms and conditions as the President may determine.

(3) There shall be paid to the members of the Board such remuneration or allowances as the Government may from time to time determine.

(4) Appointments shall be made on the recommendation of the Minister.

(5) In recommending members to the Board for appointment, the Minister shall give due consideration for representation from ministries, agencies, civil society and the private sector whose operations have implications for, or may be affected by, the National Qualifications Framework.

(6) The Minister shall have regard to the need for its members to collectively have a breadth of experience and expertise, and depth of knowledge, to be able to effectively contribute to the development of the National Qualifications Framework and quality assurance in education and training in Seychelles.

(7) Staff of providers shall not be eligible to be appointed as members of the Board.

(8) The President shall appoint a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from among the members of the Board.

(9) The Chief Executive Officer of the Authority shall be an *ex officio* member of the Board and shall not have right to vote.

Tenure of office

9. A member of the Board shall hold office for a period of 3 years and shall be eligible for reappointment on completion of the term of appointment.

Resignation

10. A member may resign from his or her office by giving one month's notice in writing, to the President and to the Board.

Vacation of office

11. The office of a member shall become vacant —

- (a) if the member has been absent without leave of the Board from three consecutive meetings of the Board;
- (b) on the member ceasing to hold the office by virtue of which the member was appointed;
- (c) if the member is convicted of an offence under any written law and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 3 months or more without the option of fine;

- (d) upon expiry of one month's notice under section 10;
- (e) if the member is mentally or physically incapable of carrying out his or her functions under this act.

Filling of vacancies

12.(1) Where the office of a member becomes vacant before the expiry of the member's term of office, the President shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term for which that member was appointed.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply where the remaining period of the term of office of the member whose office has become vacant is less than six months.

(3) Where the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson vacates office, a new Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, as the case may be, shall be appointed by the President.

(4) The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may vacate his or her office whilst remaining a member of the Board.

(5) The Vice-Chairperson shall exercise the functions of the Chairperson during any period the Chairperson is absent or unable to act as Chairperson.

Meetings and proceedings of the Board

13.(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board shall regulate its own proceedings.

(2) The Board shall meet at such times and places as the Chairperson may determine provided that at least four meetings shall be held in a year.

(3) The Chairperson may convene a meeting of the Board after giving notice, in writing, of not less than 14 working days, but if the urgency of the matter does not permit the giving of such notice, a special meeting may be convened after giving of a shorter notice.

(4) Where 4 members request the Chairperson, by notice in writing to convene a meeting of the Board for any purpose specified in the notice, the Chairperson shall, within 10 working days from the receipt of the notice, convene a meeting for that purpose.

(5) The Board may invite any person whose presence it deems necessary to attend and participate in the deliberations of a meeting of the Board, but such person shall have no right to vote.

(6) The Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Board and if, for any reason, he or she is unable to attend any meeting, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside and in the absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson any other member elected by the members present at such meeting shall preside over the meeting of the Board.

(7) The Board shall cause to be kept minutes of the proceedings of every meeting of the Board and every meeting of any committee established by the Board.

(8) Five members shall constitute a quorum for a meeting.

Establishment of Committees

14.(1) The Board may, for the purpose of discharging any of its functions under this Act, constitute committees as it considers appropriate.

(2) A committee constituted under subsection (1) may consist of one or more members of the Board and one or more other persons with specialised skills as the Board may consider necessary.

(3) The persons with specialised skills shall be appointed as members of the committee for a term as the Board may determine.

(4) The Board shall appoint one of the members of the committee who is a member of the Board as Chairperson of the committee.

(5) An officer of the Authority appointed in writing by the Chief Executive Officer shall be the secretary to the committee and shall, on the instruction of the Chairperson of the committee, convene meetings of the committee.

(6) The meetings of a committee shall be held at such times and place as the committee may determine, or as the Board may direct.

(7) Subject to any specific or general directions of the Board, a committee established under subsection (1) may regulate its own procedure.

Allowances of committee members

15. A member of a committee of the Board shall be paid such allowances as the Authority may, with the approval of the Board, determine.

Secretary of the Board

16.(1) An officer of the Authority appointed in writing by the Chief Executive Officer shall be secretary to the Board, or the Board shall appoint a secretary from among the Board members.

(2) The secretary of the Board, if not a member of the Board, shall attend meetings of the Board but shall have no right to vote.

(3) The secretary shall be responsible for recording the Board's proceedings and decisions.

(4) There shall be paid to the secretary of the Board, if not a member of the Board, such remuneration or allowances as the Government may from time to time determine.

Disclosure of interest

17.(1) A member of the Board who has a direct or indirect interest in any of the matters to be decided by the Board shall disclose the nature of his or her interest at the meeting of the Board and shall not vote on the matter nor take part in any discussion in respect of that matter.

(2) A disclosure of interest made under subsection (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is made.

Confidentiality

18.(1) A member or any other person assisting the Board shall observe and preserve the confidentiality of all matters coming before the Board, and

such confidentiality shall subsist even after the termination of their terms of office or their mandates.

(2) Any member or any person to whom confidential information is revealed through working with the Board or committee of the Board shall not disclose that information to any other person unless he or she is required to do so in terms of any written law or for purposes of any judicial proceedings.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (2) commits an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale.

Part 4 - Administration of the Authority

Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer

19.(1) The President may, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint a Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.

(2) The Minister shall invite applications for the post of Chief Executive Officer and constitute an interview panel to consider the applications.

(3) The interview panel shall prepare and submit a list of qualified candidates to the Minister and as far as practicable the Minister shall make a recommendation of not less than 3 candidates to the President for consideration and appointment.

Responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer

20. The Chief Executive Officer shall —

- (a) be responsible for the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Authority subject to such directions on matters of policy as may be given by the Board;
- (b) be accountable to the Board for the discharge of the functions delegated by the Board;
- (c) be the chief accounting officer of the Authority;
- (d) be responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of the National Qualifications Framework;

- (e) be responsible for the organisation, control and management of all staff of the Authority.

Staff of the Authority

21.(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall appoint staff of the Authority as the Chief Executive Officer deems necessary for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Authority.

(2) Where a person is transferred to the Authority from the public service, the terms and conditions applicable to that person shall not be less favourable than those enjoyed by that person immediately before the transfer.

Reports by the Authority

22. The Authority shall furnish the Minister with such information on its activities as the Minister may from time to time require.

Directions issued by the Minister

23. The Minister may issue directions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, to the Authority as to the exercise of its powers or performance of its duties and the Authority shall give effect to such directions.

Part 5 - Financial Provision

Funds of the Authority

24.(1) The funds of the Authority shall consist of —

- (a) such monies appropriated by the National Assembly under the Appropriation Act for purposes of the Authority;
- (b) such grants and donations as the Authority may receive.

(2) The Authority shall use the funds acquired under subsection (1) to meet the costs incurred for its operations and the discharge of its functions.

Accounts and audit

25.(1) The financial year of the Authority shall be the period of 12 months ending on 31st December of each year.

(2) The Authority shall keep proper books of account of its income, receipts and expenditure.

(3) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited by the Auditor General in accordance with Article 158 of the Constitution.

(4) Where the accounts and the statement of accounts of the Authority in respect of a financial year have been audited by the Auditor General, the Authority shall, not later than 3 months after the end of the financial year, submit to the Minister responsible for finance, a copy of the audited statement of the Authority.

Annual Report

26.(1) The Authority shall within three months of completion of the audit of its accounts in respect of any financial year, submit to the Minister —

- (a) a copy of its audited accounts; and
- (b) a written report of its operations and activities for that financial year.

(2) The Minister shall, within 30 days of receiving the Authority's audited accounts, and report, cause them to be laid before the National Assembly.

Application of certain Penal Code provisions

27. All employees of the Authority shall be deemed to be employed in the public service for the purpose of sections 91 to 96 of the Penal Code.

Protection of acts done in good faith

28. No liability, civil or criminal, shall lie against the Authority, the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or a member of the Board or committee of

the Board, employee of the Authority or any person acting under any authority conferred by the Authority, in respect of an act done or omitted to be done in good faith in the exercise or performance or purported exercise or performance of any of the powers, functions or duties conferred by or under this Act or any regulations made thereunder.

Part 6 - Miscellaneous Provisions

Regulations

29.(1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Authority, make regulations for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the regulations may provide for —

- (a) the establishment of the National Qualifications Framework;
- (b) the structure of the National Qualifications Framework;
- (c) the qualification types;
- (d) unit standard types;
- (e) the structure of qualifications;
- (f) standards setting;
- (g) quality assurance, including —
 - (i) institutional accreditation and monitoring of tertiary education and training providers and other providers of post compulsory education and training;
 - (ii) school inspection;
 - (iii) accrediting and monitoring of programmes and courses;
- (h) the form and manner of the Statement of Attainment, Academic Transcript and Award;
- (i) fees and charges payable under this Act;

- (j) information management system;
- (k) recognition and evaluation, and determination of equivalences of qualifications and part qualifications within the National Qualifications Framework;
- (l) protection of learners, including international learners;
- (m) appeals;
- (n) withdrawal of recognition or accreditation of a provider or a programme accredited or recognised under this Act; and
- (o) registration and revocation of registration of providers.

Appeals

30.(1) There shall be established an Appeals Committee appointed by the Minister to hear appeals from providers, persons including learners, and any other entity in relation to the decisions of the Authority.

(2) Decisions of the Authority shall comprise any decision of the Authority in relation to the functions of the Authority as set in section 4 (2) that may affect providers, persons and any other entity.

(3) The Appeals Committee shall consist of a maximum of 5 members, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairperson by the Minister, with expertise in, or knowledge of, education and training or the functions of the Authority, other than members of the Board or staff of the Authority.

(4) The Chairperson and two other members of the Appeals Committee shall form a quorum for a meeting of the Appeals Committee.

(5) A member of the Appeals Committee shall hold office for a period of 3 years and shall be eligible for reappointment on completion of the term of appointment.

(6) A member of the Appeals Committee may at any time resign from his or her office by giving a notice in writing to the Chairperson of the Board.

(7) A member of the Appeals Committee shall be paid such allowances as the Authority may, with the approval of the Board, determine.

(8) Subject to this Act, the Appeals Committee shall regulate its proceedings.

Compliance

31.(1) Providers, employers, and other entities shall comply with the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Authority shall hold providers to account for breach of their responsibilities under this law.

(3) It shall be incumbent upon any tertiary education and training provider once registered to apply to the Authority for institutional accreditation and accreditation or recognition of programmes and courses that it intends to offer.

(4) It shall be incumbent upon any school once established or registered to submit an annual self-evaluation report to the Authority as evidence of adherence to prescribed quality standards and in preparation for inspection by the Authority.

(5) The Authority shall issue a compliance notice to a provider where the Authority is satisfied that the provider is not complying with any prescribed requirements for maintaining its accreditation or recognition status, and accreditation or recognition of its programmes and courses.

(6) Subject to subsection (5), the Authority shall cancel or suspend the accreditation or recognition of a programme or course, or the accreditation or recognition of a provider where that provider does not comply with a compliance notice.

(7) Nothing in subsection (6) prohibits the right of a provider to re-apply for institutional accreditation or recognition, or re-accreditation or recognition of its programmes and courses, once accreditation or recognition requirements have been complied with.

(8) The Authority shall issue a compliance notice to a provider of education and training where the Authority is satisfied that the provider is offering a programme or course that is not accredited or recognised, or its accreditation or recognition status is not recognised by the Authority.

(9) Subject to subsection (8), the Authority shall cause to discontinue or suspend the offering of a non-accredited or non-recognised programme or course where that provider does not comply with a compliance notice.

(10) Nothing in subsection (9) prohibits the right of a provider to offer the programme or course once accreditation or recognition requirements have been complied with.

(11) A provider that fails to comply with the provisions of this Act for which a specific penalty has not been provided commits an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of level 3 on the standard scale.

Repeal and savings

32.(1) The Seychelles Qualifications Authority Act (Cap 323) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority Act —

- (a) any act done or commenced under the repealed Act, where such act is within the powers of the Authority, shall be carried on and completed by or under the authority of the Authority under this Act;
- (b) any statutory instrument or regulations made under the repealed Act shall to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this Act, continue in force as statutory instruments or regulations made under this Act until amended or repealed by a statutory instrument or regulations made under this Act;
- (c) all officers or employees of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority appointed under the repealed Act shall be deemed to be officers and employees of the Authority under this Act on the terms and conditions no less favourable than those subsisting immediately prior to the coming into operation of this Act.

Transfer of assets

33.(1) As from the commencement of this Act, all immovable and moveable property vested in the Seychelles Qualifications Authority established under section 3 of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority, Act (Cap 323) immediately before that date and used and managed by the aforesaid and all assets, rights, interests, privileges, liabilities and obligations, shall, subject to subsection (2), be transferred to and vested in the Authority.

(2) If any question arises as to whether any particular immovable and moveable property or any particular asset, right, interest, liability or obligation has been transferred to or vested in the Authority under subsection (1), a certificate signed by the Minister shall be conclusive evidence that the property, asset, right, interest, liability or obligation was or was not so transferred or vested as the case may be.

I certify that this is a correct copy of the Bill which was passed by the National Assembly on 10th November, 2021.



Mrs. Tania Isaac
Clerk to the National Assembly

PHYSICAL PLANNING ACT, 2021

(Act 55 of 2021)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTIONS

PART I - PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement
2. Interpretation
3. Act to bind Republic

PART II - THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

Sub-Part I - Establishment of Planning Authority

4. Establishment of Planning Authority
5. Objects of Authority
6. Functions of Authority
7. Powers of Authority
8. Power of Minister to issue policy directives

Sub-Part II - Board of Authority

9. Board of Authority
10. Secretary
11. Co-opted person
12. Committees

Sub-Part III - Administration of Authority

13. Chief Executive Officer
14. Deputy Chief Executive Officer
15. Employees of Authority

Sub-Part IV - Funds and accounts of Authority

16. Funds of Authority
17. Financial year, accounts and audit
18. Annual report

Sub-Part V - Disclosure of interest, protection and confidentiality

19. Disclosure of interest
20. Protection of members and other persons
21. Confidentiality

PART III - LAND USE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN***Sub-Part I - Preparation and review of land use plans, development plan, scheme maps and scheme texts***

22. Land use plans for districts, zones and group of islands
23. National Land Use Plan
24. Update of land use plan
25. Review of land use plans and National Land Use Plan
26. Prohibition on development during review of land use plan
27. Development plan

Sub-Part II - Approval, publication and effect of land use plan and development plan

28. Approval and publication of land use plan, national land use plan and development plan
29. Validity of National Land Use Plan and development plan
30. Effect of approval and publication
31. Approval of development not in accordance with land use plan in cases of national security etc.
32. Declaration of no development zone in cases of natural disasters

PART IV - CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT OF LAND***Sub-Part I - Development of land***

33. Definition of development

Sub-Part II - Permission to develop land

34. Permission of Authority required to develop land
35. Application for permission to develop land
36. Verification of the Application
37. Conditions which may be imposed in respect of permission to develop land

38. References of applications to Minister
39. Appeals Board
40. Regularisation of development
41. Delegation of power to grant permission for small, limited and minor developments
42. Register
43. Revocation and modification of permission
44. Purpose for which building may be used
45. Permission not necessary for resumption of use of land

Sub-Part III - Development of Land adjacent to sea

46. Restriction on development of land adjacent to sea

Sub-Part IV - Preservation orders, measures as to waste land and ruinous and dilapidated buildings and control of advertisements

47. Preservation orders
48. Waste land and ruinous and dilapidated buildings
49. Control of advertisements
50. Permission for advertisements deemed to be granted

PART V - COMPENSATION

Sub-Part I - Compensation for refusal or grant of permission

51. Compensation for refusal or grant of permission subject to conditions
52. Compensation not payable in certain cases
53. No compensation if other development permitted

Sub-Part II - Compensation for revocation or modification of permission to develop land

54. Compensation for revocation or modification for reasons other than depreciation in value
55. Compensation for revocation or modification in cases of depreciation in value

PART VI - ENFORCEMENT

Sub-Part I Stop notice

56. Stop notice

Sub-Part II - Enforcement notice

57. Enforcement notice
58. Duty to inform
59. Where person served with enforcement notice ceases to be owner of land

Sub-Part III - Notice of immediate enforcement

60. Notice of Immediate Enforcement

Sub-Part IV - Powers of Authority to take steps required by a notice and appeal thereof.

61. Power of Authority to take steps required to be taken by enforcement notice
62. Power of Authority to take steps required to be taken by notice of immediate enforcement
63. Power of entry
64. Power to require information
65. Liability of person by whom development was carried out
66. Permission not required for lawful use of land
67. Operation of enforcement notice
68. Service of notices
69. Appeal

PART VII - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

70. Offences relating to contravention of stop notice
71. Offences relating to development without permission or in breach of conditions
72. Offence relating to preservation order
73. Offence relating to notice to abate injury
74. Offence relating to display of advertisement
75. Offences relating to stop notice, enforcement notice and notice of immediate enforcement
76. Offence contrary to section 62
77. Offence relating to duty to inform
78. Minister to specify fixed penalty
79. Compounding of offences

PART VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

80. Acquisition and disposal of land for planning purposes
81. Regulations
82. Repeal and savings
83. Transfer of assets and liabilities
84. Consequential amendment to Land Survey Act (Cap 109)

SCHEDULE



PHYSICAL PLANNING ACT, 2021

(Act 55 of 2021)



I assent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wavel'.

Wavel Ramkalawan
President

25th November, 2021

AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REPLACE THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT (CAP 237), TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLANNING AUTHORITY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND USE PLANS, THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

ENACTED by the President and the National Assembly.

PART I - PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Physical Planning Act, 2021 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“advertisement” means any word, letter, model, sign, placard, banner, board, notice, device or representation, whether illuminated or not, in the nature of and employed wholly or in part for the purpose of advertisement, announcement or direction, and includes any hoarding or similar structure, wall, pole or fence, used or adapted for the display of advertisements, and references to the display of advertisements are construed accordingly;

“agriculture” includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, the breeding and keeping of livestock including any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur, or for the purpose of its use in the farming of land, market gardens and nursery grounds, and the use of land for woodlands where that use is ancillary to the farming of land for other agricultural purposes, and “agricultural” shall be construed accordingly;

“Appeals Board” means the Appeals Board referred to in section 39.

“Authority” means the Planning Authority established under section 4(1);

“beacon” has the meaning assigned to it in the Land Survey Act (Cap. 109);

“Board” means the Board of the Planning Authority referred to in section 9(1);

“building” includes a structure or an erection or the part of such structure or erection but does not include plant or machinery comprised in a building;

“building operations” includes —

(a) construction of new buildings;

- (b) rebuilding operations;
- (c) structural alteration of or addition to buildings;
- (d) erection of retaining walls and boundary walls; and
- (e) any excavations below the ground or any road or other work or activity preliminary or incidental to the erection of buildings;

“Chief Executive Officer” means the Chief Executive Officer appointed under section 13(1);

“committees” means such committees appointed under section 12;

“committee member” means a member of a committee appointed under section 12.

“Deputy Chief Executive Officer” means the Deputy Chief Executive Officer appointed under section 14(1);

“developer” means a person who intends to effect or effects any development and may include a contractor;

“development” has the meaning given to it by section 33 and “develop” is construed accordingly;

“development plan” means the development plan prepared under section 27;

“dilapidated building” means a building fallen into a state of disrepair or deterioration or fallen into ruin, through neglect and aesthetically detrimental to the amenity of an area;

“enforcement notice” means a notice served under section 57;

“engineering operations” includes the formation or laying out of means of access to roads;

“erection” in relation to buildings, includes extension, alteration and re-erection;

“estate” means an aggregation of four or more parcels of land which are, or were prior to any subdivision, part of the same parent parcel whether in co-ownership or otherwise;

“estate developer” means any person who creates an estate by subdivision or undertakes any development on an existing estate;

“highway authority” means an authority responsible for the maintenance of a public road;

“land” includes land covered with water, the sea-bed and any building or other thing attached to land or permanently fastened to anything attached to land;

“land use plan” includes the land use plan, the associated scheme texts and scheme maps for every district, zone, island or group of islands in Seychelles, prepared pursuant to section 22;

“member” means a person appointed as member of the Board under section 9(2);

“mineral” includes all minerals and substances including oil in or under land of a kind ordinarily worked for removal by underground or by surface working;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for land use planning and development and “Ministry” is construed accordingly;

“National Land Use Plan” means the National Land Use Plan prepared pursuant to section 23;

“no development zone” means the land prescribed as such under section 22(2)(c) where no development shall be carried out, and includes the land declared as such under section 32(1);

“notice of immediate enforcement” means a notice served under section 60;

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made under this Act;

“road” means any road whether public or private and includes any street, square, court, alley, lane, bridge, footway, trace, bridle path, passage, or highway, whether a thoroughfare or not;

“statutory undertaker” means a person authorised by a written law to carry on a light railway, tramway, road transport, water transport, canal, inland navigation, dock, harbour, pier, lighthouse and includes a telecommunication undertaking, or any undertaking for the supply of electricity, gas, hydraulic power or water, and “statutory undertaking” is construed accordingly;

“secretary” means the secretary to the Board appointed under section 10(1);

“stop notice” means a notice served under section 56;

“subdivision”, means any sale, partition, lease or dealing in land which has the effect of dividing land under one title whether in co-ownership or otherwise, into two or more parcels of land; and

“use” in relation to land, does not include the use of land by the carrying out of any building or other operation thereon.

Act to bind Republic

3. This Act shall bind the Republic.

PART II - THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

Sub-Part I - Establishment of Planning Authority

Establishment of Planning Authority

4.(1) There is hereby established an Authority to be known as the Planning Authority.

- (2) The Authority shall be a body corporate.

Objects of Authority

5. The objects of the Authority shall be —
- (a) to promote and ensure orderly and sustainable use and development of land in Seychelles;
 - (b) to facilitate inter-agency co-operation in planning and development of land in Seychelles; and
 - (c) to safeguard the immediate and long-term public interest in the processes and effects of planning and development of land in Seychelles.

Functions of the Authority

6. The functions of the Authority shall be to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act, and in particular to —
- (a) prepare land use plans and development plans for, and manage and control the development of, all land in Seychelles;
 - (b) advise and make recommendations to the Minister on matters relating to land use planning and development with a view to promote sustainable land use planning and development of all land to which this Act applies; and
 - (c) perform such other functions, consistent with the objects of the Authority, as may be prescribed.

Powers of Authority

7. The Authority shall have the powers necessary for the performance of its functions or for facilitating the performance of those functions.

Power of Minister to issue policy directives

8. The Minister may issue administrative directives to the Authority on policy matters.

Sub-Part II - Board of Authority

Board of Authority

9.(1) The affairs of the Planning Authority shall be managed by a Board appointed by the President in consultation with the Minister.

(2) The Board shall consist of 9 members and the President shall appoint one of the members as Chairperson of the Board.

(3) The members of the Board shall consist of the following —

- (a) a representative of the Ministry responsible for Land Use Planning and Development;
- (b) a representative of the Ministry responsible for Environment;
- (c) a representative of the Public Health Authority;
- (d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for Transport;
- (e) four members having wide knowledge and experience in the field of land use planning and development; and
- (f) the Chief Executive Officer, *ex-officio*.

(4) The Minister shall select the members specified under subsection 3(e) and furnish a panel of qualified persons to the President.

(5) The Mayor of Victoria shall be co-opted as a member on matters relating to Victoria.

(6) The President shall cause a notice of the appointment of the members and the Chairperson to be published in the *Gazette*.

(7) The Chairperson and the members shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(8) The Chairperson and the members shall be paid such fees or remuneration as may be prescribed.

(9) The Chairperson or a member other than the Chief Executive Officer may resign from his or her office by giving three months' notice in writing to the President, in the case of a member transmitted through the Chairperson, and the resignation shall take effect upon the expiration of the period of notice.

(10) The President may remove the Chairperson or a member from office where the Chairperson or the member —

- (a) is unable to perform the functions of his or her office;
- (b) has been absent for three consecutive meetings of the Board without leave of the Board;
- (c) has neglected the duties of the member;
- (d) is guilty of misconduct; or
- (e) fails to disclose his or her interest in accordance with section 19(1) or (2).

(11) Where the Chairperson or a member resigns or is removed from office, the Board shall appoint a person to hold office for the unexpired term of appointment of the outgoing Chairperson or member until his or her successor in office is appointed under this section.

(12) The Board shall observe such rules of procedure (including quorum) in transaction of business in its meetings as may be prescribed.

Secretary

10.(1) The Board shall appoint, from among the staff of the Authority, a person to be the secretary of the Board.

(2) The secretary shall set the agenda and meetings of the Board, record the minutes of meetings, maintain all records relating to activities conducted by the Board and perform such other functions as may be assigned to him or her by the Board.

(3) The secretary shall be paid such fees or remuneration as the Board may determine.

Co-opted person

11.(1) The Board may co-opt any person with sufficient knowledge and experience to advise the Board on matters of a technical nature.

(2) A person co-opted under subsection (1) —

(a) shall not vote on any matter before the Board; and

(b) may be paid such fees or remuneration as the Board may determine.

Committees

12.(1) The Board may, after consultation with the Minister, appoint such committees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions and exercise of the powers by the Authority.

(2) The members of any committee appointed under subsection (1) shall be paid such fees or remuneration as the Board may determine.

(3) The composition and proceedings of any committee appointed under subsection (1) shall be such as may be prescribed.

Sub-Part III - Administration of Authority

Chief Executive Officer

13.(1) The President shall, upon the recommendation of the Board, and after consultation with the Minister, appoint a suitable person as Chief Executive Officer of the Authority on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) The Board shall, before making a recommendation under subsection (1), advertise the post of Chief Executive Officer specifying the qualifications for the post, and make its recommendation from persons who have so applied.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall, subject to the direction and control of the Board, be responsible for —

- (a) the implementation of the decisions of the Board;
- (b) the administration of the day to day affairs of the Authority and its staff;
- (c) authenticating all documents on behalf of the Authority; and
- (d) such other functions as the Board may assign to him or her.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

14.(1) The President shall, upon the recommendation of the Board, and after consultation with the Minister, appoint a Deputy Chief Executive Officer, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) The Board shall, before making a recommendation under subsection (1), advertise the post of Deputy Chief Executive Officer specifying the qualifications for the post, and make its recommendation from persons who have so applied.

(3) The Deputy Chief Executive Officer shall —

- (a) discharge the functions of the Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is absent, on leave or has delegated functions to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer; and
- (b) perform such other functions as the Board may assign to him or her.

Employees of Authority

15. The Authority may, on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit —

- (a) employ such officers and other members of staff; and
- (b) engage under contract for services, such other persons to provide professional, technical and other assistance,

as is necessary for the effective performance of the functions, exercise of the powers and attainment of the objects of the Authority.

Sub-Part IV - Funds and accounts of Authority

Funds of Authority

16.(1) The funds of the Authority shall consist of —

- (a) moneys appropriated by the National Assembly for the use of the Authority; and
- (b) moneys lawfully received by the Authority from any other source, including donations, gifts or grants for the purpose of discharging the functions of the Authority.

(2) The funds of the Authority shall be applied in —

- (a) the payment or discharge of expenses, debts and other obligations properly incurred in the performance of the functions of the Authority; and
- (b) the payment of fees and remuneration to the members, officers and other employees, and members of committees, or service contractors of the Authority.

Financial year, accounts and audit

17.(1) The financial year of the Authority shall be the calendar year.

(2) The Authority shall keep proper accounts and other relevant record of accounts, and prepare in respect of each financial year a statement in such form and manner as approved by the Auditor General.

(3) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited in accordance with Article 158 of the Constitution.

Annual Report

18. (1) The Authority shall, at the end of each financial year, prepare an

annual report of the activities and operations of the Authority during that year and submit such report for approval by the Board.

(2) The Authority shall, not later than three months after the end of the financial year to which the report relates, submit the annual report together with a copy of the report by the Auditor General on the statement of accounts or on the accounts of the Authority to the Minister.

(3) The Minister shall, not later than 3 months from the date of receipt, cause a copy of the report under subsection (2) to be submitted to the National Assembly.

(4) The Authority shall, in case of any activities that may have an impact on the Republic, make a special report to the Minister.

Sub-Part V - Disclosure of interest, protection and confidentiality

Disclosure of interest

19.(1) A member or committee member shall, upon his or her appointment, disclose to the Board in writing any direct or indirect interest that he or she has in any corporate or unincorporated body or otherwise which may constitute a conflict of interest with the functions of the member or committee member.

(2) A member or committee member who has a direct or indirect interest in a matter being dealt with by the Board or the committee, as the case may be, shall —

- (a) disclose such interest at the meeting at which the matter is being dealt with; and
- (b) not attend the deliberations or participate in the decision-making process of the Board or the committee in relation to that matter.

(3) A disclosure of interest made under this section shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is made.

(4) A member or a committee member who knowingly contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable to removal from office.

Protection of members and other persons

20.(1) The Authority shall be liable for any decision made by it.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), no civil or criminal liability shall attach to the Authority, a member, a committee member or an officer or employee of the Authority, as the case may be, in respect of any act done or omitted to be done in good faith in the performance of their functions.

(3) All members, committee members, officers and employees of the Authority shall be deemed to be employed in the public service for the purposes of sections 91 to 96 of the Penal Code.

Confidentiality

21. Members, committee members, officers or employees of the Authority shall not divulge or disclose any information acquired by reason of their membership of the Board or a committee, or holding of office or employment, except —

- (a) in the performance of a function or the discharge of a duty under or in connection with this Act; or
- (b) where disclosure is permitted by law or an order of the Court.

PART III - LAND USE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Sub-Part I - Preparation and review of land use plans, development plan, scheme maps and scheme texts

Land use plans for districts, zones and groups of islands

22.(1) The Authority shall, as soon as practicable, but not later than ten years after this Act comes into operation, prepare a land use plan for every district, zone, and island or group of islands in Seychelles.

(2) A land use plan prepared under subsection (1) shall indicate —

- (a) the use, state of development and protection status of land in the district, zone, island or group of islands;

- (b) the classification of land use in the district, zone, island or group of islands in accordance with the classification of land use as may be prescribed;
- (c) such land as may be prescribed on which no development may be carried out;
- (d) the public easement rights towards sea, land or otherwise which shall reflect on the relevant register kept by the Registrar General relating to the respective lands; and
- (e) such other matters as may be prescribed.

(3) The form and the manner for preparation of a land use plan shall be such as may be prescribed.

National land use plan

23.(1) The Authority shall, after completion of the land use plans for all districts, zones, islands and group of islands, prepare a National Land Use Plan.

(2) The National Land Use Plan shall consist of a compilation of all land use plans.

Update of land use plan

24.(1) The Authority shall, once in every five years after the date on which the land use plan for any district, zone, island or group of islands comes into operation, update the land use plan.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Authority shall assess all developments in the district, zone, island or group of islands to which the land use plan relates and shall indicate any new developments on the updated land use plan.

(3) Where a land use plan is updated under subsection (1), the classification of land use shall not be changed except on the grounds of —

- (a) national security, public welfare, health and safety;

(b) natural causes and disasters.

(4) Where, as a result of an update of a land use plan under subsection (1), any change is made to the land use plan, the National Land Use Plan shall be updated so as to reflect such change.

Review of land use plan and National Land Use Plan

25.(1) The Authority shall, once in every ten years after the date on which the National Land Use Plan comes into operation and thereafter once in every ten years or at such period as the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette* allow, review the land use plan for every district, zone, island or group of islands and the National Land Use Plan in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) The manner of preparation of a land use plan, its approval and publication shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) The Authority shall give notice in the *Gazette* and in at least one daily newspaper that the land use plan for any district, zone or group of islands or the National Land Use Plan is under review.

Prohibition on development during review of land use plan

26.(1) The Minister may, at any time during the review of a land use plan for any district, zone, island or group of islands, on the advice of the Authority, by order published in the *Gazette*, prohibit all development in the whole or part of the district, zone, island or group of islands under review.

(2) An order for prohibition of development under subsection (1) shall have effect for a period not exceeding six months or such other period as may be prescribed.

Development plan

27.(1) The Authority may, as soon as practicable, but not later than five years after completion of the National Land Use Plan, prepare a development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles indicating the manner in which the Authority proposes that land is to be developed and the stages in which any such development may be carried out.

(2) A development plan shall include such maps and descriptive matter as may be necessary to illustrate the proposal referred to in subsection (1) with such degree of particularity as may be appropriate for different parts of Seychelles, and may in particular define the sites of proposed roads, public and other buildings, works, airfields, reclamation areas, nature reserves, parks, pleasure grounds and other open spaces.

(3) The form and manner for preparation of a development plan shall be such as may be prescribed.

(4) The Authority shall, once in every ten years after the date on which a development plan comes into operation and thereafter once every five years or at such period as the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, allow the review of the development plan in the same manner as provided in subsections (1), (2) and (3).

(5) The Authority shall give notice in the *Gazette* and at least in one daily newspaper that the development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles, as the case may be, is under review.

Sub-Part II - Approval, publication and effect of land use plans and development plans

Approval and publication of land use plans, national land use plan and development plans

28.(1) A land use plan, National Land Use Plan or development plan and the update or review of such plans shall be approved by the Minister in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The approval of the Minister under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* and in at least one daily newspaper, and the Authority shall make available for inspection by the public copies of the plans as approved by the Minister.

Validity of National Land Use Plan and development plan

29.(1) Subject to subsection (2), a land use plan, National Land Use Plan or development plan made for the whole or part of Seychelles, as the case may

be, shall be valid for a period of ten years from the date on which the approval of the Minister is published under section 28(2).

(2) The Minister may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, extend the period of validity of a plan referred to in subsection (1) for a further period of two years.

Effect of approval and publication

30.(1) A land use plan, National Land Use Plan, the land use plans for the districts, zones, islands and groups of islands and a development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles, as the case may be, shall from the date of their publication under section 28(2), be binding.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the land use plan for any district, zone, island or group of islands and the development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles, as the case may be, prepared by the planning authority established under the Town and Country Planning Act (Cap 237) sections 22 and 27, respectively, shall continue to be in force until the publication of a land use or development plan under this Act.

(3) Subject to section 31, the Authority shall not approve an application for permission to carry out a development which is not in accordance with a National Land Use Plan, the land use plan for the district, zone, island or group of islands to which the application relates or the development plan for the whole or part of Seychelles, as applicable.

Approval of development not in accordance with land use plans in cases of national security, etc.

31.(1) Section 30(3) shall not apply to a development, where the Authority is satisfied that it is —

- (a) in the interest of national security, public welfare, health and safety;
- (b) in accordance with policy and development strategies of the Government; or
- (c) not of a significant scale in relation to the approved

development plan under the National Land Use Plan or the land use plan for the district, zone, island and group of islands.

(2) The Authority shall, prior to approving an application for permission to carry out a development under subsection (1), submit a report to the Minister stating the reasons for allowing the development in the circumstances referred to in subsection (1) (a), (b) or (c), as the case may be.

(3) The Minister may, on receipt of the report under subsection (2), grant approval for such development.

Declaration of no development zones in cases of natural disasters

32.(1) Notwithstanding anything in this Part, the Minister may, if he or she is satisfied, at any time, on the advice of the Authority, that it is necessary for national security, public safety or due to the occurrence of a natural disaster to do so, declare any land as a no development zone.

(2) A declaration under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into effect on the date on which it is published.

PART IV - CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT OF LAND

Sub-Part I - Development of land

Definition of development

33.(1) In this Part, “development” —

(a) means —

(i) the carrying out of any building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, under or over any land; or

(ii) the making of any material change in the use of any building or other land; and

(b) includes —

(i) the subdivision, combination or reparation of land;

- (ii) the carrying out of reclamation works;
- (iii) the carrying out of backfilling, stacking or earth cutting of any land;
- (iv) the re-roofing of any building which involves any change of colour, material or design of the roof;
- (v) the carrying out of works for the construction or modification of roads, pathways or bridges;
- (vi) the demolition of any building;
- (vii) the construction or erection of retaining walls and boundary walls; and
- (viii) the construction of sea walls or groynes, harbours or jetties and the carrying out of rock armouring works.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), “development” shall not include the following operations or uses of land —

- (a) the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of a building if the works —
 - (i) affect only the interior of the building or do not materially affect the external appearance of the building; and
 - (ii) do not result in any structural alterations to the building or alterations which may endanger health or safety;
- (b) the carrying out of works by a highway authority required for the maintenance or improvement of a road, if the works are carried out on land within the boundaries of the road;
- (c) the carrying out of works by statutory undertakers for the purpose of inspecting, repairing or renewing any sewers, mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus, including the breaking open of any street or other land for that purpose, where an emergency renders such breaking open necessary;

- (d) the use of any building or land within the curtilage of a dwelling house for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house;
- (e) the use of any land not involving building operations, for the purpose of agriculture and forestry, including afforestation;
- (f) subdivision of land solely for the partition of title between heirs and co-owners where such subdivision of land is not contrary to the applicable land use plan and development plan in force; and
- (g) any other operation or use of land as may be prescribed.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder relating to the control of advertisements, the use of any external part of a building for the display of advertisements that is not normally used for that purpose, shall be treated as involving a material change in the use of that part of the building for the purposes of this section.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(d), the material change of use of any buildings or other land within the curtilage of a dwelling house, even where such use is incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house, shall be subject to planning permission by the Authority.

Sub-Part II - Permission to develop land

Permission of Authority required to develop land

Physical accessibility for all

34. The Authority shall, in every decision that it makes, take into account all aspects of accessibility to persons living with a disability and, in particular shall —

- (a) develop standards and guidelines for the implementation of minimum standards for the provision of accessibility for everyone;
- (b) ensure that any development it approves provides, as far as g

practicable, access on an equal basis with others for persons living with a disability;

- (c) encourage signage to public and private areas where the public has access to be provided in Braille or in easy-to-read and easy-to-understand formats.

35.(1) A person shall not carry out development of any land without the prior written permission of the Authority.

(2) A person shall, while carrying out development of any land in accordance with this Act, take such precautionary or remedial measures as may be necessary or directed by the Authority, for the purpose of avoiding any damage or threat of damage to the adjoining land.

Application for permission to develop land

36.(1) An application for permission to develop land shall be made to the Authority in the prescribed form and manner.

(2) Where an application is made to the Authority for permission to develop land, the Authority may —

- (a) grant the permission, with or without conditions; or
- (b) refuse the permission for reasons to be recorded in writing and communicated to the applicant.

Verification of the Application

37.(1) The Authority shall, prior to considering an application for planning permission —

- (a) refer the application to the appropriate district or regional authorities for their consideration and comment, to be received within a prescribed period;
- (b) ensure that the application is in the form prescribed so as to provide relevant information, whilst respecting the privacy rights of the developer, and that it is displayed in the offices of

the appropriate district or regional authorities for public viewing and comment;

- (c) shall cause to inform the owners of adjoining properties of any proposed application for planning permission in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) Where, in respect of any application for commercial or industrial development, or for development on an outlying island, it is not possible to display the application with a specific district or regional authority, the application shall be displayed at the offices of the Authority for public viewing and comment.

(3) The Authority shall ensure that, in respect of any commercial or industrial development, information concerning the development, its promoter, contractor and other relevant information is displayed at the site of the development in the manner prescribed.

Conditions which may be imposed in respect of grant of permission

38.(1) Where the Authority grants permission to develop land with conditions, the Authority may impose the following additional conditions, as it considers necessary, for —

- (a) regulating the development or use of any adjacent or abutting land under the control of the developer, whether or not it is land in respect of which the application was made, or requiring the carrying out of works on any such land, so far as it appears to the Authority to be expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the development authorised by the permission;
- (b) requiring —
 - (i) the removal of any building or work authorised by the permission; or
 - (ii) the discontinuance of any use of land authorised by the permission,

at the expiration of a specified period and the carrying out of any work required for the reinstatement of land at the expiration of that period;

- (c) requiring that the development to which the permission relates shall commence not later than a specified date or within a specified period;
- (d) requiring that the development to which the permission relates shall be completed not later than a specified date or within a specified period;
- (e) requiring a developer who effects a subdivision or a combination or reparation of land to ensure that any newly created parcel of land arising from the subdivision, combination or reparation, has —
 - (i) clearly established and demarcated by boundary beacons, a right of way, in accordance with the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder, relating to access in cases of a proposed subdivision or combination or reparation of land; and
 - (ii) access to public services appropriate to the use for which the subdivision or a combination or reparation of land is intended;
- (f) requiring an estate developer to undertake or provide for any matter or work relating to new or existing roads or rights of way which may be provided for in a land use plan or development plan for that area; and
- (g) requiring the person to whom permission is granted to provide a monetary deposit as bond or guarantee in a form acceptable to the Authority for due performance of the conditions imposed in respect of the permission, which deposit shall be refunded or any guarantee released upon the fulfillment, to the satisfaction of the Authority within the specified time, of the conditions so imposed;

- (h) providing that the planning permission, once granted, is valid for 5 years or, upon renewal, for a period which shall be determined by the period during which a valid land use plan or development plan is in force.

(2) Where permission to develop land includes a condition referred to in subsection (1)(b) or (c), the permission shall be for the period specified in the condition, and any development carried out after the date specified in the condition for the commencement or completion of the development shall be deemed to be development carried out without permission.

(3) The Authority may, at any time after the grant of permission to develop land, whether granted with or without conditions, impose such additional conditions as it considers necessary.

Reference of applications to Minister

39.(1) For the purpose of this section “national interest” means the public interest in relation to development of land to promote national security, public welfare, health and safety, and to address natural causes and disasters.

(2) The Minister may give directions to the Authority requiring that any application made to the Authority for permission to develop land, which involves or affects the national interest, be referred to the Minister for determination.

(3) Where an application for permission to develop land is referred to the Minister pursuant to subsection (2), the provisions of sections 35(2) and 36 shall apply, subject to any necessary modifications, in relation to the determination of the application by the Minister as they apply in relation to the determination of applications by the Authority.

(4) The Minister may, prior to exercising any of the powers conferred by this section, if he or she considers it necessary to do so, appoint one or more persons to inquire into and make recommendations on such matters as he or she may specify.

(5) Any person appointed under subsection (4), shall —

- (a) keep or cause to be kept a proper record of the evidence taken; and

(b) report the finding and make recommendations to the Minister.

(6) The Minister may, after considering the records, if any, and the report of findings and recommendations under subsection (5), refer back the matter with his or her recommendation to the Authority for its determination on the application.

Appeals Board

40.(1) Where an application for permission to develop land is refused or is granted subject to conditions, an applicant aggrieved by the decision of the Authority may appeal to the Appeals Board in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The Appeals Board shall consist of three members appointed by the President and the President shall appoint one of the members as the Chairperson of the Appeals Board.

(3) The Constitutional Appointments Authority shall advertise the vacancies and select suitable persons and furnish a panel of qualified persons to the President for appointment.

(4) The President shall cause the notice of appointment of the Chairperson and the members of the Appeals Board to be published in the *Gazette*.

(5) Two persons appointed as members of the Appeals Board shall have experience in land use planning and sustainable development and one member shall be a representative of the Ministry responsible for Environment.

(6) The appeals Board may co-opt a legal advisor to consult on legal issues.

(7) A member of the Appeals Board shall be appointed on such terms and conditions as the President may determine.

(8) The members of the Appeals Board shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(9) The President shall at any time terminate the appointment of a member of the Appeals Board who has been found guilty of —

- (a) any misconduct, default or breach of trust in the discharge of that member's duties; or
- (b) an offence of such nature which renders it desirable that the member's appointment be terminated.

(10) The Appeals Board shall observe such rules of procedure as may be prescribed.

(11) The Appeals Board may, after considering the appeal —

- (a) reject the appeal and confirm the Authority's decision;
- (b) allow the appeal in whole or in part and vary the Authority's decision;
- (c) set aside the Authority's decision and make a decision in substitution for it; or
- (d) direct the Authority to reconsider its decision,

and the appellant shall be notified in writing of the Appeals Board's decision on the appeal.

Regularisation of development

41.(1) Subject to section 70, the Authority may, on application made to it, regularise any development carried out or being carried out on land without permission or contrary to the permission granted, and grant permission for the development with or without conditions, on payment of such fee as may be prescribed.

(2) Where the Authority grants permission to develop land under subsection (1), permission may be granted so as to take effect —

- (a) from the date on which the development was carried out; or
- (b) from the expiration of the date on which the development was carried out.

Delegation of power to grant permission for small, limited or minor developments

42.(1) The Authority may delegate its powers to grant or refuse applications for permission to carry out such small, limited or minor developments on land as may be prescribed to a committee appointed under section 12.

(2) The committee appointed under section 12 for the purposes of subsection (1) shall consider applications for permission to carry out small, limited or minor developments on land in accordance with the provisions of this Act, regulations made thereunder for small, limited or minor developments and any directives, guidelines or conditions issued by the Authority.

(3) Where the committee refuses or grants an application for permission to carry out any small, limited or minor development on land subject to conditions, a developer aggrieved by the decision of the committee may appeal to the Authority in such form or manner as may be prescribed.

(4) Section 39 shall apply to a decision of the Authority taken under subsection (3).

Register

43.(1) The Authority shall keep a register of applications for permission to develop land in such form and manner as the Authority may deem fit.

(2) The register specified in subsection (1) shall be open and made available to the public free of cost in such manner, time and place as may be prescribed.

Revocation and modification of permission

44.(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the Authority may revoke or modify any permission granted to develop land where —

- (a) the permission was granted on the basis of information, data or document submitted by the developer which is false, in accurate or misleading;

- (b) the permission was granted on the basis of a circumstance, condition, or factual element that existed at the time of submission of the application and there has been a change in such circumstance, condition, or element which warrants revocation or modification of the permission;
- (c) the development to which the permission relates does not comply or no longer complies with a land use plan or a National Land Use Plan in force; or
- (d) in the opinion of the Authority, it is necessary to do so in the interest of national security, public welfare, health or safety.

(2) The power to revoke or modify any permission granted to develop land under subsection (1) may be exercised, where the permission relates to —

- (a) the carrying out of building or other operations, at any time before the operations have been completed; or
- (b) a change of the use of any land, at any time before the change of use has taken place:

Provided that the revocation or modification of permission for the carrying out of building or other operations shall not affect so much of those operations as have been completed.

(3) Subsection (2) shall not apply to a revocation or modification on grounds specified in —

- (a) subsection (1)(a);
- (b) subsection (1)(b), if the change in circumstance, condition, or factual element in existence at the time, and on the basis of which the application was granted is caused by the applicant; and
- (c) subsection (1)(d).

(4) A person aggrieved by a revocation or modification under subsection (1) may appeal to the Appeals Board in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

Purpose for which building may be used

45.(1) Where permission is granted under this Part for the erection of a building, the permission may specify the purposes for which the building may be used.

(2) Where no purpose is specified under sub-section (1), the permission shall be deemed to include permission to use the building for the purpose for which it is designed.

Permission not necessary for resumption of use of land

46.(1) Where the Authority grants permission to develop land for a specified period, nothing in this Part shall be construed as requiring permission to be obtained under this Part at the expiry of the specified period for the resumption of the use of the land for the purpose for which it was normally used prior to the grant of permission.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), purposes for which land was normally used prior to the grant of permission shall not include any use of the land commenced in contravention of this Part.

Sub-Part III - Development of Land adjacent to sea**Restriction on development of land adjacent to sea**

47.(1) A person shall not carry out development of any land adjacent to the sea without the prior written permission of the Authority.

(2) A person shall, while carrying out development of any land in accordance with this Act, take such precautionary or remedial measures as may be necessary as directed by the Authority for avoiding any damage or threat of damage to the sea shore or beach.

(3) No regularisation of any development carried out on land adjacent to the sea shall be allowed under section 40.

(4) The Authority may, upon application made to it, grant permission to develop land under this part subject to the provisions of subsections (5) to (10).

(2) Where there is no alternative public access to a beach, traditional public use of a private landward access through an existing private development shall be sufficient ground for establishing a public right of way over that access or another access of similar convenience for the purpose of access to the beach by the public.

(3) Where the only landward access to a beach is through an existing private development where traditional public use pursuant to subsection (5) has not been established, the Minister may acquire the right to the public use of that beach access by gift, negotiation, contract, purchase, lease or compulsory acquisition in exchange for other property, interest, or monetary exemption, or by such other means as the Minister may recommend, as a condition of issuance of any permit or licence required under the provisions of this Act or any written law.

(4) Where land is acquired by way of compulsory acquisition for a beach access, the provisions of the Acquisition of Land in the Public Interest Act (Cap 249) shall apply in respect of such acquisition.

(5) Where a proposed development is likely to adversely affect the public's ability to access a beach from the landward side, any development permit shall require, as a condition, a landward public access through the development at all times free of charge and the same shall be caused to be recorded in the relevant register maintained by the Registrar General.

(6) In this section “traditional public use” means peaceful, open, continuous and uninterrupted enjoyment of access by the public for a period in excess of twenty years.

(7) While the Authority grants permission for development under this section, it may impose all or any of the conditions specified in section 37.

(8) A person who fails to comply with the provisions of this section commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction for a fine of SCR1,000,000.

Sub-Part IV - Preservation Orders, measures as to waste land and ruinous and dilapidated buildings and control of advertisements

Preservation Orders

48.(1) The Authority may, where it considers it to be necessary —

- (a) in the interests of amenity or public safety, that any tree or woodland should be preserved, make a tree-preservation order for preservation of such tree or woodland;
- (b) that any natural feature, such as rock boulders, or feature of historic interest should be preserved, make a preservation order for the preservation of such feature; or
- (c) that any building of special architectural or historic interest should be preserved, make a building preservation order restricting the demolition, alteration or extension of that building,

in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) A person who is aggrieved by an order made under subsection (1) may appeal to the Appeals Board in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

Waste land and ruinous and dilapidated buildings

49.(1) If it appears to the Authority that the amenity of an area is seriously damaged by reason of any waste land or ruinous or dilapidated building, or there is a risk to the public health or safety by reason of any ruinous or dilapidated building, the Authority may, in the interest of amenity, by notice, require the owner or occupier of the land or the building, as the case may be, to take steps to —

- (a) abate the damage; or
- (b) in the case of a ruinous or dilapidated building, demolish the building, or any part thereof, and remove any rubbish or other material resulting from or exposed by the demolition.

(2) If it appears to the Authority that the amenity of an area is seriously damaged by any rubbish or other material resulting from or exposed by the demolition or collapse of a building lying on site or on any adjoining land, the Authority may, in the interest of amenity, by notice, require the owner or occupier of the site or land, as the case may be, to take steps for removing the rubbish or material followed immediately by the implementation of a landscaping scheme submitted to and approved by the Authority.

(3) Where the owner or occupier of the land or the building on whom a notice under subsection (1) or (2) has been served does not take action required by the notice, the Authority may take such steps as it may consider necessary in the circumstances and recover the cost of such action from the owner or occupier of the land or the building as a civil debt.

(4) The notice referred to in subsections (1) and (2) shall be in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

Control of advertisements

50.(1) The Authority shall, in the interests of amenity and public safety, regulate the display of advertisements in accordance with regulations made under this Act.

(2) A person shall not display any advertisement contrary to regulations made under this Act.

Permission for advertisements deemed to be granted

51. Where the Authority has granted permission to carry out development and such development involves the display of advertisements, or advertisements relating to the development being carried out are displayed in accordance with regulations made under this Act relating to the display of advertisements, it shall be deemed that the permission for the display of such advertisements has been granted by virtue of this section and no application for the permission to display such advertisements shall be necessary.

PART V - COMPENSATION

Sub-Part I - Compensation for refusal or conditional grant of planning permission

Compensation for refusal or grant of permission subject to conditions

52.(1) In this Part, “planning decision” means a refusal of permission under Part IV, or a grant of permission subject to conditions by the Authority or the Appeals Board.

(2) If on a claim made, it is shown that, as a result of a planning decision, the value of the interest of a person in the land to which the application relates is less than it would have been if the permission had been granted or had been granted without conditions, then, the Government shall, subject to the provisions of this section and the regulations made under this Act relating to compensation, be liable to pay compensation in an amount equal to the difference in the value.

(3) A claim for compensation under subsection (2) shall be made in the prescribed form, within 6 months of the date of the decision referred to in subsection (2), or such longer period as may be prescribed.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (2), in determining whether and to what extent the value of any interest in land is less than it would have been if permission to develop the land had been granted or had been granted without conditions —

- (a) it shall be assumed that any subsequent application for permission in respect of the land would be determined in the same way; and
- (b) any undertaking of the Authority, on the refusal of permission to develop the land or to grant permission for any other development of the land, in the event of an application being made in that behalf, shall be taken into consideration.

(5) The compensation payable under this section shall, in default of determination by agreement, be determined by a Court of competent jurisdiction.

Compensation not payable in certain cases

53.(1) The compensation under section 51 shall not be payable in the following circumstances —

- (a) in respect of the refusal of permission for any development that consists of, or includes, the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or other land;
- (b) in respect of the refusal of permission to develop land, if the reason or one of the reasons stated for the refusal is that the proposed development is not in accordance with the land use plan or development plan in force;
- (c) in respect of the refusal of permission to develop land, where the refusal is —
 - (i) for the lack of environmental authorisation for the proposed development under the Environment Protection Act, 2016 (Act 18 of 2016); or
 - (ii) on the ground of non-compliance by the proposed development with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 2015 (Act 13 of 2015); or
 - (iii) on the ground of non-compliance by the proposed development with the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Seychelles Institute for Culture, Heritage and the Arts Act, 2021.
- (d) in respect of the refusal of permission to develop land, if the reason or one of the reasons stated for the refusal is that development of the kind proposed would be premature by reference to one or more of the following matters, that is —
 - (i) the order of priority for development in the area in which the land is situated, indicated in the development plan for that area;

-
- (ii) any existing deficiency in the provision of water supplies or other utility services;
 - (iii) any existing deficiency in the means of access from the nearest public road;
 - (iv) the suitability of the land for a particular development;
 - (v) the suitability of the land for agriculture or for continued use for agricultural purposes; or
 - (vi) the existence of other land which, in the opinion of the Authority, is more suitable for the proposed development in the land use plan or development plan in force;
- (e) in respect of the refusal of permission to develop land, if the reason or one of the reasons stated for the refusal is that the land is unsuitable for the proposed development on account of —
- (i) its excessive steepness; or
 - (ii) its likelihood to flooding;
- (f) in respect of the imposition, on the grant of permission to develop land, of any condition relating to —
- (i) the number or disposition of buildings on any land;
 - (ii) the dimensions, design, structure or external appearance of any building, or the materials to be used in its construction;
 - (iii) the manner in which any land is to be laid out for the purposes of the development, including the provision of facilities for the parking, loading or unloading or fuelling of vehicles on the land;

- (iv) the use of any buildings or other land; or
- (v) the location or design of any means of access to a road, or the materials to be used in the construction of such means of access;
- (g) in respect of the imposition, on the grant of permission to develop land, of any condition mentioned in section 37(1)(c) or (d);
- (h) in respect of any condition subject to which permission is granted for the mining and working of minerals; or
- (i) in respect of any planning decision on an application pursuant to regulations made under this Act for the regulation of the display of advertisements.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a planning decision whereby permission to develop land is granted subject to a condition prohibiting development of a specified part of that land shall be treated as a decision refusing permission with respect to that part of the land only.

No compensation if other development permitted

54.(1) Compensation under section 51 shall not be payable in respect of a planning decision whereby permission is refused for development of land if there is available, with respect to that land, permission for development of a residential, commercial or industrial character which consists wholly or mainly of the construction of houses, flats, shops or office premises, hotels, garages and petrol filling stations, cinemas or industrial buildings, including warehouses, or any combination thereof.

(2) Where permission for a development specified in subsection (1) is available with respect to only a part of the land, this section shall have effect insofar as the interest in respect of which a claim for compensation is made subsists in that part.

(3) Where a claim for compensation under section 51 is made in respect of an interest in any land, the permission for development referred to

in subsection (1) shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be available with respect to that land or a part thereof, if, immediately prior to the final determination of the claim for compensation, there is in force with respect to that land or part thereof, a permission or an undertaking by the Authority to grant permission for such development without conditions, other than the conditions mentioned in section 37(1)(c) or (d) or section 52(1)(d).

***Sub-Part II - Compensation for revocation or modification of
permission to develop land***

Compensation for revocation or modification for reasons other than depreciation in value

55.(1) Where a permission to develop land is revoked or modified under section 43, the Government may pay compensation to the person interested in the land, in respect of —

- (a) expenditure incurred by that person in carrying out work that is rendered unsuccessful pursuant to the revocation or modification of the permission; or
- (b) the loss or damage sustained by that person, otherwise than under paragraph (a), that is directly attributable to the revocation or modification of the permission,

but no compensation shall be payable under this section in respect of loss or damage consisting of the depreciation in value of any interest in the land by virtue of the revocation or modification.

(2) A claim for compensation under subsection (1) shall be made in writing to the Authority, in the prescribed form, within 6 months of the date of revocation or modification of the permission or such longer period as may be prescribed.

(3) The compensation under this section shall not be payable for a revocation or modification of permission to develop land on the grounds specified in —

- (a) section 43(1)(a);
- (b) section 43(1)(b) of the Act, if the change in circumstance, condition, or factual element in existence at the time, and on the basis of which, the application was granted is caused by the applicant; and
- (c) section 43(1)(d).

(4) For the purposes of this section, the expenditure incurred in the preparation of plans for the purposes of any work or for similar matters preparatory to the work shall be deemed to be included in the expenditure incurred in carrying out that work but compensation shall not be paid in respect of —

- (a) other work carried out prior to the grant of the permission that is revoked or modified; or
- (b) other loss or damage, not being loss or damage consisting of the depreciation in value of an interest in land, arising out of anything done or omitted to be done prior to the grant of the permission that is revoked or modified.

(5) Where compensation is payable under this section in respect of expenditure incurred in carrying out any work on land, the compensation shall be reduced by an amount equal to the value of the work, if —

- (a) the Government purchases any interest in that land; or
- (b) a claim for compensation is made in respect of an interest in that land under section 50.

Compensation for revocation or modification in cases of depreciation in value

56.(1) Where as a result of —

- (a) the revocation of permission to develop land; or
- (b) the modification of permission to develop land by the imposition of conditions,

the value of the interest of any person in the land is less than it would have been if the permission had not been revoked or had not been modified, the Government shall, subject to the provisions of this section, section 51 and regulations made under this Act relating to compensation, pay to that person compensation of an amount equal to the difference in value.

(2) A claim for compensation under subsection (1) shall be made in writing to the Authority, in the prescribed form, within 6 months of the date of the revocation or modification of permission or such longer period as may be prescribed.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), in determining whether and to what extent the value of any interest in land is less than it would have been if the permission had not been revoked or modified —

- (a) it is assumed that any subsequent application for permission in respect of the land would be determined in the same way; and
- (b) regard shall be had to an undertaking of the Authority, on the revocation of permission to develop land, to grant permission for any other development of the land, in the event of an application being made in that behalf.

(4) The compensation payable under this section shall, in default of determination by agreement, be determined by the Court.

PART VI - ENFORCEMENT

Sub-Part I Stop notice

Stop notice

57.(1) Where the Authority has reasonable grounds to believe that —

- (a) any development is being carried out on land without permission;
- (b) any development is being carried out on land contrary to permission granted; or

- (c) any condition of permission granted for the carrying out of any development on land is not or has not been complied with,

the Authority may, at any time, serve a stop notice in respect of the development in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Where the Authority has initiated any proceedings for the revocation or modification of any permission under section 43, it may serve a stop notice in respect of the development permitted under such permission in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(3) A stop notice may be served on —

- (a) the owner or occupier of the land;
- (b) the person representing the owner or occupier of the land for the purposes of making an application for permission to develop land;
- (c) the developer of the land; or
- (d) the contractor or any other person carrying out, performing or undertaking works involved in the carrying out of the development.

(4) A stop notice shall —

- (a) specify the development that is being carried out without permission or contrary to permission granted or the condition of permission granted that is not being or has not been complied with; and
- (b) require the person on whom the notice is served to discontinue the development in whole or in part.

(5) A stop notice served under subsections (1) or (2), shall come into force immediately upon service of the notice, and notwithstanding an appeal under section 39, shall remain in force until it is withdrawn by the Authority, the Minister or the Court in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Sub-Part II - Enforcement notice**Enforcement notice**

58.(1) The Authority may, —

- (a) at the time of service of a stop notice under section 56 or not later than 5 working days after service of such notice; or
- (b) where the Authority has reasonable grounds to believe that any development is being carried out without permission, contrary to permission granted, or that any condition of permission granted for the development is not being or has not been complied with, as the case may be, at any time, whether or not a stop notice has been served under section 56,

serve on the person referred to in section 56 (3) (a), (b), (c) or (d), a notice to show cause as to why an enforcement notice should not be served on that person, failing which an enforcement notice shall be so served.

(2) The show cause notice served under subsection (1) shall —

- (a) specify the development that is being carried out without permission, contrary to permission or the condition of the permission granted that is not being or has not been complied with, as the case may be, and the details of the non-compliance, as the case may be; and
- (b) require the person on whom it is served, not later than 5 working days after service of the notice, to show cause as to why an enforcement notice should not be served, requiring the steps —
 - (i) specified in the notice to be taken for restoring the land to its condition prior to the development or to comply with such condition as the Authority deems necessary in the circumstances or for securing compliance with the condition that has not been complied with, as the case may be; or

(ii) referred to in subparagraph (i) to be taken within the period specified in the notice.

(3) Where a show cause notice is served on a person under subsection (1), the person, within 5 working days after the service of such notice, —

- (a) satisfies the Authority that an enforcement notice should not be served on him or her, the Authority shall not serve an enforcement notice on that person; or
- (b) fails to satisfy the Authority that an enforcement notice should not be served on him or her, the Authority shall serve an enforcement notice on that person.

(4) The enforcement notice served under subsection (3)(b) shall specify —

- (a) the development that is being carried out without permission, contrary to permission granted or the condition of permission granted which is not being or has not been complied with, as the case may be;
- (b) the steps to be taken for restoring the land to its condition prior to the development or to comply with such condition as the Authority deems necessary in the circumstances or for securing compliance with the condition that is not being or has not been complied with; and
- (c) the period within which the steps referred to in paragraph (b) shall be taken.

(5) The steps for restoring the land to its condition prior to the development or for securing compliance with any condition of the permission granted referred to in subsection (2)(b)(i) or (3)(b) may, in particular, require the demolition or alteration of any buildings or works.

(6) An enforcement notice shall come into effect after 14 working days of the service of that notice or on the final determination of an appeal under section 39, whichever is the later, where the notice requires a person to —

- (a) restore any land to its condition prior to the development or use or comply with such condition as the Authority deems necessary in the circumstances; or
- (b) demolish or alter any building or works undertaken prior to service of the notice.

Duty to inform

58.(1) Where a stop notice or an enforcement notice is served on a person other than the owner or occupier of the land to which the notice relates, the person on whom the notice is served shall, immediately, inform the owner or occupier of the land of such service and the contents and requirements of the notice, as the case may be, and the stop notice or enforcement notice shall contain a direction to that effect.

(2) Where a stop notice or an enforcement notice is served on the owner or occupier of the land to which the notice relates, the owner or occupier shall immediately inform —

- (a) the person representing the owner or occupier of the land for the purposes of an application for permission to develop land;
- (b) the developer of the land; and
- (c) the contractor or any other person carrying out the development,

of such service, and the contents and requirements of the notice and the notice shall contain a direction to that effect.

Where person served with enforcement notice ceases to be owner of land

60.(1) Where an enforcement notice was served on a person who was the owner of the land prior to the expiry of the period specified in the enforcement notice or of such extended period as the Authority may allow for compliance with the notice and who subsequently ceased to be the owner

of the land, then the new owner of the land, on an application made by that person, or the new owner, shall be made a party in any proceedings instituted in relation to the enforcement notice.

(2) If it has been proved that any steps required by the enforcement notice have not been taken and the person against whom proceedings was brought, proves that —

- (a) the failure to take the steps is attributable, in whole or in part, to the default of the new owner of the land at the relevant time, the new owner of the land shall be liable for non-compliance with the enforcement notice; and
- (b) he or she took all reasonable steps to secure compliance with the enforcement notice, he or she shall be discharged from the proceedings and of any liability.

Sub-Part III - Notice of immediate enforcement

Notice of Immediate Enforcement

61.(1) Notwithstanding sections 56 and 57, where the Authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that any development is being carried out without permission or contrary to the permission granted or that any condition of the permission granted is not being complied with or on public land without permission and there exists a threat to national security, public health or safety or the development has an adverse effect on public amenities, the Authority may serve a notice of immediate enforcement in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) A notice of immediate enforcement under subsection (1) may be served on —

- (a) the owner or occupier of the land;
- (b) the person representing the owner or occupier of the land for the purposes of an application for permission to develop land;
- (c) the developer of the land; or

- (d) the contractor or any other person carrying out, performing or undertaking works involved in the carrying out of, the development.
- (3) A notice of immediate enforcement under subsection (1) shall —
- (a) specify the development carried out and the reasons and grounds on which notice is served; and
 - (b) give the person on whom it is served 24 hours or such shorter period as the circumstances may require to demolish or alter any building or work or take such other measures as the Authority deems necessary in the circumstances to eliminate the threat to the national security, public health or safety or adverse effect on public amenities.

Sub-Part IV - Powers of Authority to take steps required by a notice and appeals therefrom

Power of Authority to take steps required to be taken by enforcement notice

62.(1) Subject to subsection (2), if within the period specified in an enforcement notice, or within such extended period as the Authority may allow for compliance with the enforcement notice, any steps required to be taken by the enforcement notice have not been taken, the Authority may authorise a person to enter on the land and take the steps required by such notice.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply where the steps required to be taken by an enforcement notice consist in the discontinuance of any use of the land.

(3) The Authority may recover the expenses reasonably incurred by it in taking the steps under subsection (1) from the owner of the land as an ordinary civil debt by an action before a Court of competent jurisdiction.

Power of Authority to take steps required to be taken by notice of immediate enforcement

63.(1) If, within the period specified in a notice of immediate enforcement, any steps required to be taken by the notice have not been taken,

the Authority shall cause the authorised person to, immediately, enter on the land and take the steps required to be taken by the notice for the protection of national security, public health or safety or the preservation of public amenities, as the case may be.

(2) If the Authority is unable to serve a notice of immediate enforcement on any of the persons referred to in section 60(2) within the time specified in the notice for compliance therewith, the Authority shall cause the authorised person to, immediately, enter on the land and take the steps required to be taken by the notice for the protection of national security, public health or safety or the preservation of public amenities, as the case may be.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the Authority is unable to serve a notice of immediate enforcement if the details or whereabouts of the persons referred to under subsection (2) are unknown and cannot be ascertained by the Authority within the time specified for compliance with the notice.

(4) The Authority may recover any expenses reasonably incurred by it in taking the steps required to be taken by the notice of immediate enforcement from the owner of the land as an ordinary civil debt, by an action before a Court of competent jurisdiction.

Power of entry

64.(1) A person authorised, in writing by the Authority, may, at any reasonable time and with such assistance as the person considers necessary, enter upon any land for the purpose of surveying it in connection with —

- (a) the preparation, approval or making of a land use plan or development plan relating to the land, including the carrying out of any update or review of the plan under Part III;
- (b) any application under Part IV for any permission, consent or determination to be given or effected in relation to that or any other land;
- (c) the making or service of any notice, order or penalty;
- (d) determining whether the conditions subject to which

permission to develop land has been granted are being complied with;

- (e) determining whether any notice or order is being complied with;
- (f) determining whether the provisions of this Act are being contravened; or
- (g) any claim for compensation payable by the Government.

(2) A person authorised to enter upon any land under this section shall, if so required, produce evidence of that person's authority prior to so entering and, except in the circumstances specified in subsection (1)(b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g), shall not demand admission as of right to any land that is occupied unless 24 hours' notice of the intended entry has been given to the occupier of the land.

(3) Where any land is damaged —

- (a) in the exercise of the power of entry under this section; or
- (b) in the making of a survey for the purpose of which the power of entry under this section was conferred,

any person interested in the land may claim compensation in respect of that damage from the Government in the form and manner as may be prescribed.

(4) The power to survey any land under this section shall include the power to search, dig, conduct tests or take samples for testing for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the subsoil or the presence of minerals in the subsoil or the condition of a building.

(5) A person shall not carry out any works authorised by subsection (4) unless a notice of his or her intention to do so has been included in the notice required under subsection (2).

Power to require information

65. Where this Act authorises or requires an order to be made or a notice or other document to be given or served, the Authority may, to enable the

making of such order or the giving or service of such notice or document, require the occupier of any premises or any person who, directly or indirectly, receives rent in respect of the premises to state the nature of his or her interest in the premises and the name and address of any other known person having an interest therein, whether as owner, mortgagee, lessee or otherwise.

Liability of person by whom development was carried out

66. Any —

- (a) expenses incurred by the owner or occupier of any land or a contractor or other person carrying out development on the land for the purpose of complying with an enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement; and
- (b) the moneys paid by the owner of any land pursuant to sections 61(3) and 62(3),

shall be deemed to be incurred or paid, for the use and at the request of the person by whom the development was carried out.

Permission not required for lawful use of land

67. Where permission is not required for the use of any land for a particular purpose, but a stop notice or an enforcement notice or a notice of immediate enforcement is served in respect of development on that land, permission shall not be required to be obtained for the use of the land for the purpose for which it could have lawfully been used if the development in respect of which the stop notice or enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement is served had not been carried out.

Operation of enforcement notice

68. The compliance with a stop notice or an enforcement notice shall not preclude the Authority from —

- (a) imposing a penalty in the manner as may be prescribed; or
- (b) taking any proceedings to secure a conviction,

for any offence under this Act, committed prior to, or after, the service of the notice, including non-compliance with such notice.

Service of notices

69.(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a notice or other document required or authorised to be served or given under this Act, may be served or given —

- (a) by delivering it personally to the person on whom it is to be served or to whom it is to be given;
- (b) by leaving it at the usual or last known place of residence of the person referred to in paragraph (a), or at the address which has been furnished by that person for service;
- (c) by sending it by a prepaid recorded or registered letter addressed to the person referred to in paragraph (a) at that person's usual or last known place of residence, or where an address for service has been furnished by that person, at that address;
- (d) by sending it by facsimile transmission or email to the person referred to in paragraph (a), where details for such transmission have been furnished by that person; or
- (e) in the case of an incorporated company or body —
 - (i) by delivering it to the secretary or clerk of the company or body at its registered or principal office;
 - (ii) by sending it by a prepaid, recorded or registered letter addressed to the secretary or clerk of the company or body at their registered or principal office; or
 - (iii) by sending it by facsimile transmission or email at its registered or principal office.

(2) Where a notice or document referred to in subsection (1) is required or authorised to be served on or given to —

- (a) a person as an occupier of premises; or
- (b) a person who has an interest in the premises, and the name of that person cannot be ascertained after reasonable enquiry,

the notice or document shall be deemed to be duly served or given if it is addressed to that person, whether by name or by the description of “the owner” or “the occupier”, as the case may be, of the premises described in the notice or document and —

- (i) it is delivered or sent in the manner specified in subsection (1)(a), (b) or (d);
- (ii) it is marked in such manner that is plainly identifiable as a communication of importance and is sent by a prepaid recorded letter to the premises and it is not returned to the Authority sending it, or is delivered to some person on the premises or is affixed conspicuously to some object on the premises; or
- (iii) it is published in a daily newspaper on three consecutive days.

(3) Where a notice or document referred to in subsection (1) is required or authorised to be served on or given to all persons who have an interest in, or are owners or occupiers of premises comprised in any land, and it appears that any part of that land is unoccupied, the notice or document shall be deemed to be duly served if —

- (a) it is addressed to “the owners and any occupiers” of that part of the land specified in the notice or document;
- (b) it is affixed conspicuously to some object on the land; and
- (c) it is published in a daily newspaper on three consecutive days.

Appeal

70. A person aggrieved by a stop notice or an enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement served on him or her under this Part or by a

decision of the Authority to take steps required to be taken by an enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement, may appeal to the Appeals Board in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

PART VII - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Offences relating to contravention of stop notice

71. A person who continues the use of land or carries out any building or other operations on the land in contravention of a stop notice, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR5,000 or to an imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offences relating to development without permission or in breach of conditions

72.(1) A person who carries out development of any land without the prior written permission of the Authority or continues the development of any land where permission is revoked commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500, 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) A person who fails to comply with any condition imposed by the permission to develop land granted by the Authority commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) A person who continues any use of land or carries out any building or other operations on land in contravention of an enforcement notice or a notice of immediate enforcement or fails to comply with any directive set out in an enforcement notice or a notice of immediate enforcement, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding SCR500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment; and

- (b) where the offence is continued after service of the enforcement notice, to an additional fine not exceeding SCR5,000 for each day during which the offence is continued after the day following the service of the notice.

(4) A contractor or other person carrying out, performing or undertaking works involved in the development of a land commits an offence if he or she contravenes the approved plan for the development and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500,000 or suspension of his or her licence for such period as may be determined by the court for undertaking any new works, or to both such fine and suspension.

(5) The Court may, where a person is convicted of an offence under this section, in addition to any penalty provided for under this section, order —

- (a) the person to reinstate the land to which the development relates to its condition existing prior to the act or omission constituting the offence, including the demolition or alteration of any building or work; or
- (b) where the person is the holder of a permit or licence authorising him or her to carry out certain activities, and the act or omission constituting the offence was committed during the course of carrying out such activities, the revocation or suspension of the permit or licence, as the case may be.

Offence relating to preservation order

73. A person who contravenes the provisions of a preservation order made under section 45 commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR250,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offence relating to notice to abate injury

74. A person who fails to comply with the provisions of a notice to abate damage served on him or her under section 48 commits an offence and

shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500, 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offence relating to the display of advertisements

75.(1) A person who displays an advertisement in contravention of regulations made under this Act, regulating advertisements commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment and, in the case of a continuing offence, to an additional fine not exceeding SCR5,000 for every day after the first day during which the display is continued.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a person shall be deemed to display an advertisement if —

- (a) the advertisement is displayed on the land of which he or she is the owner or occupier; or
- (b) the advertisement gives publicity to his or her goods, trade, business or other concerns.

(3) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under subsection (1) by reason only that an advertisement is displayed on land of which that person is the owner or occupier or that his or her goods, trade, business or other concerns are given publicity by the advertisement, if he or she proves that it was displayed without his or her knowledge or consent.

Offence relating to stop notice, enforcement notice and notice of immediate enforcement

76.(1) A person who is served with stop notice or an enforcement notice and fails to inform another person as required by section 57(1) or (2), commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) The owner or occupier of land or the contractor or other person carrying out, performing or undertaking works involved in the carrying out

of a development on land, to which an enforcement notice relates, commits an offence if he or she fails to take the steps specified in the enforcement notice or notice of immediate enforcement within the period specified in such notice and he or she shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offences contrary to section 62

77.(1) The owner, occupier or developer of any land who fails without reasonable cause or excuse to render assistance to a person authorised to enter upon such land under section 63, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR5, 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) A person who willfully delays or obstructs a person authorised to enter upon any land under section 62 commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Offence relating to duty to inform

78. A person required to give information under section 57 who fails to give that information or knowingly makes any misstatement in respect of that information, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Minister to specify fixed penalty

79.(1) The Minister may make regulations for specifying the offences under this Act, or for creating offences for violation of regulations made thereunder, for which a fixed penalty may be imposed.

(2) The regulations made under subsection (1) may provide for the notices and forms, the officers authorised for imposition of fixed penalty, the manner of payment of fixed penalty and the consequence of non-payment of a fixed penalty imposed.

Compounding of offences

80.(1) Where the Authority is satisfied that an offence under this Act or any regulation made thereunder has been committed by any person, and the person admits to committing the offence, accepts liability for the commission of the offence and agrees in writing to the matter being dealt with under this section, the Authority, in consultation with the Attorney General, may compound the offence by accepting a sum of not less than two thirds of the maximum fine specified for the offence and not more than the maximum fine specified for the offence.

(2) Any sum of money received under this section shall be dealt with as though it were a fine imposed by a Court.

(3) The Minister shall determine the sum of money to be paid by the offender having due regard to the provisions of this Act, the nature, the circumstances, extent and gravity of the offence and the past behaviour of the offender.

(4) An *ad-hoc* compounding committee may be established by the Minister to advise the Minister in the determination of the sum of money to be paid by the offender in accordance with subsection (3).

(5) Upon determination of the sum of money to be paid by the offender by way of fine in accordance with subsection (3), the Minister shall sign the compounding agreement and serve it on the offender who shall pay the sum of money, within 14 days from the date of service or within such longer period that the Minister shall set in the compounding agreement.

(6) Subject to subsections (7) and (8), an acceptance by an offender to compound an offence shall be final and conclusive and shall be a civil debt to the Government.

(7) In the event that the offender fails to pay the sum of money within the period set out in subsection (5), the compounding agreement shall *ipso facto* be null and void and judicial proceedings in relation to the offence shall be instituted or continued as the case may be.

(8) Notwithstanding subsection (7), the Minister may institute a civil suit against a person who has accepted in writing to compound an offence by signing the compounding agreement and who has failed to pay the sum of money within the period set out in subsection (5) for the recovery of the sum of money *in lieu* of instituting criminal proceedings against the person for the commission of the offence.

(9) Where the offence is compounded during the course of judicial proceedings, on payment of the sum of money mentioned in this section, the compounding of any offence under subsection (1) shall be filed in court and thereupon the judicial proceedings in connection with the commission of the offence which is pending shall be noted as compounded and the offender may be absolutely discharged.

(10) In any proceedings brought against any person for an offence against this Act, it shall be a defence if the person proves that the offence has been compounded under this section.

(11) Where an offence is compounded under this section, no court proceedings shall be instituted or continued for that offence as the case may be.

(12) The Minister may make regulations in relation to compounding of offences.

(13) Where an offence is compounded under this section, no court proceedings shall be instituted for that offence.

PART VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

Acquisition and disposal of land for planning purposes

81.(1) Where the Authority is satisfied that it is necessary to acquire any land, immediately, in order to secure, promote or expedite the proper development of the land, or of any area in which the land is situated in accordance with the land use plan or development plan, such land may be acquired compulsorily under the Acquisition of Land in the Public Interest Act (Cap 249).

(2) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent the acquisition by agreement of any land.

(3) The Government may, by way of sale or lease or otherwise, dispose of land acquired by it under this section in accordance with the State Land and River Reserves Act (Cap 228) to any statutory undertaker or other body or person for development in accordance with —

- (a) permission granted under Part IV;
- (b) the land use plan or development plan in force at the time; and
- (c) regulations made under this Act.

Regulations

82.(1) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Board, make regulations for carrying out, or giving effect to, the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without limiting the generality of the powers under subsection (1), the regulations may provide for all or one of the following matters —

- (a) meetings and proceedings of the Board;
- (b) composition and proceedings of committees;
- (c) the form and manner of preparation, approval and publication of land use plans, National Land Use Plans or development plans;
- (d) specifying conditions for developments subject to planning approval to cater for people living with special needs or disabilities;
- (e) specifying land on which no development may be carried out as no development zone;
- (f) the form and manner in which an application for permission to develop land, including application for conceptual

approval of a proposed development or for small, limited and minor developments is to be made and the information or documents to be submitted with such applications and the fees to be paid with respect to the applications;

- (g) the procedure to be followed by the Authority in dealing with applications referred to in paragraph (e) and any other matter relating to such applications;
- (h) the procedure for the revocation and modification of planning permission granted;
- (i) the form and manner for appeals to, and the procedure to be followed by, the Appeals Board;
- (j) operations or uses of land for which planning permission is not required;
- (k) small, limited or minor developments;
- (l) the process of public consultation under this Act;
- (m) the circumstances in which compensation is payable for the refusal, or grant of permission with conditions, for development or for modification or revocation of permission, including —
 - (i) the form in which a claim for compensation may be made;
 - (ii) requirements for a claimant to provide evidence in support of the claim, and such information as to the interest of the claimant in the land to which the claim relates, and as to the interest of other persons therein that are known to the claimant; and
 - (iii) the formula for determining the value of interest in any land;

- (m) the control of advertisements, as may be expedient in the interest of amenity and public safety, including —
 - (i) the nature, dimensions, appearance and position of advertisements that may be displayed, the sites on which such advertisements may be displayed and the manner in which they are to be affixed to land;
 - (ii) the requirement of consent of the Authority to be obtained for the display of advertisements, or of advertisements of any specified class, the manner thereof and application of Part IV to such consent, with such adaptation or modifications as may be specified;
 - (iii) empowering the Authority to require the removal of any advertisement that is being displayed in contravention of regulations made under this Act, or the discontinuance of the use for the display of advertisements of any site that is being used for that purpose in contravention of such regulations, and for that purpose for applying any of the provisions of Part VI with respect to stop notices, enforcement notices and notices of immediate enforcement, subject to such adaptations and modifications as may be specified;
- (n) the form and contents of any notice, order or other document authorised or required by this Act;
- (o) controlling and regulating the subdivision of land into two or more parcels, whether the subdivision is effected for purposes of transfer, partition, sale, gift, lease, mortgage or any other purpose whatsoever;
- (p) the pooling and redistribution of plots of land, or the readjustment of the boundaries, areas, shapes and positions of any plots of land;
- (q) the form and manner in which a preservation order may be made including the provision of —

- (i) notice to be given to the owners or occupiers of land or buildings, as the case may be, affected by such order;
- (ii) objections and representations with respect to the proposed order to be considered before the order is made;
- (iii) copies of the order when it comes into operation to be served on the owners and occupiers of the land or building, as the case may be, to which the order relates and for publication of the order in the *Gazette*;
- (iv) contents and extent of application of a preservation order;
- (s) the form and content of a notice of abatement of injury;
- (t) any matter relating to buildings or any specified class of building;
- (u) any fees and charges to be payable or which may be levied under this Act;
- (v) the imposition of fines and penalties;
- (w) any other matter which is required or permitted to be prescribed under this Act.

(3) If any regulations made under subsection (2) (p) so direct, subject to any additions, omissions or modifications specified in such regulations, the provisions of this Act shall apply to the subdivision, combination or reparation of land as if it were included in the definition of “development” contained in section 33.

(4) The regulations made under this Act may provide that contravention of or failure to comply with any of the provisions of such regulations shall be an offence punishable with a fine not exceeding SCR100,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or with both such fine and imprisonment.

Repeal and savings

83.(1) The Town and Country Planning Act (Cap 237) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal under subsection (1) —

- (a) any acts done or commenced by the Planning Authority constituted under the repealed Act, where such act is within the powers of the Authority, shall be carried on and completed by or under the authority of the Authority under this Act;
- (b) all acts done, decisions taken, permissions or authorisations granted by the Authority or the Minister under the repealed Act, which were validly taken or granted under the repealed Act, shall continue to have effect in accordance with their terms or until amended, annulled or withdrawn in accordance with this Act;
- (c) all agreements, deeds, bonds or arrangements entered into by the Planning Authority under the repealed Act shall continue in force and be enforceable by or against the Authority as if the Authority had been a party to such agreements, deeds, bonds or arrangements;
- (d) any permission for development of land granted under the repealed Act shall have effect as if granted under this Act;
- (e) an application for permission to develop land made under the repealed Act, in respect of which no final determination has been made, shall be treated as if the application had been made under this Act;
- (f) any land use plan or development plan made under the repealed Act shall remain in force as if it was a land use plan or development plan made under this Act until repealed, amended or replaced by a land use plan or development plan made under this Act;

- (g) all statutory instruments made under the repealed Act shall, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this Act, continue in force as statutory instruments made under this Act until amended or repealed by a statutory instrument made under this Act;
- (h) any directions issued and notification made under the repealed Act shall continue to be in effect until they are amended or repealed under the provisions of this Act;
- (i) all suits, prosecutions and other legal proceedings pending or which could have been instituted under the repealed Act shall be continued or instituted under the provisions of the repealed Act as if this Act has not been enacted;
- (j) all officers or other employees of the Planning Authority as constituted under the repealed Act shall be deemed to be the officers and other employees of the Authority under this Act on terms and conditions no less favourable than those subsisting immediately prior to the date of repeal of the said Act.

Transfer of assets and liability

84.(1) All movable property vested in, and used and managed by, and all assets, rights, interests, privileges, liabilities and obligations of, the Planning Authority constituted under the repealed Act, immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall be transferred to and vest in the Authority, immediately, upon the commencement of this Act.

(2) Where a question arises as to whether a particular movable or immovable property, asset, right, interest, privilege, liability or obligation has been transferred to or vested in the Authority under subsection (1), a certificate under the hand of the Minister shall be conclusive evidence that the movable or immovable property, asset, right, interest, privilege, liability or obligation were or were not so transferred or vested.

Consequential amendments

85. The Land Survey Act, Cap 109, is amended to the extent specified in the Schedule to this Act.

SCHEDULE 1

(Section 84)

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Insertion of a new section 30A of the Land Survey Act, Cap 109

1. The Land Survey Act, Cap 109, is amended by inserting a new section 30A immediately after section 30 as follows —

“**30A.**(1) Notwithstanding any law, where an access, road reserve or right of way is created and demarcated on the diagram or plan of a parcel of land approved by the Director of Surveys upon a subdivision, combination or reparation of a parcel of land, the demarcated access, road reserve or right of way shall constitute a right of way or an easement burdening the servient parcel of land for the benefit of the parcel of land for which the right of way or easement is created;

(2) The diagram or plan shall state the parcel of land that shall enjoy the benefit of a right of way or easement on the parcel of land burdened by the right of way or easement.

(3) Where subsections (1) and (2) apply —

- (a) The Land Registrar shall register the right of way or easement as an encumbrance in the register of the parcel of land burdened by the right of way or easement and in the property section of the register of the parcel of land which enjoys the benefit of the right of way or easement, and shall file the diagram or plan of the parcel of land in the relative parcel file of the parcels of lands;
- (b) to land that is not registered under the Land Registration Act, the Registrar of Deeds shall upon application of the owner of the parcel of land burdened by the right of way or easement (*servient tenement*) or the owner of the parcel of land which

enjoys the benefit of the right of way or easement (*dominant tenement*), make an appropriate entry of such right of way or easement in the *repertoire* of the owner of the servient tenement and the dominant tenement.”

I certify that this is a correct copy of the Bill which was passed by the National Assembly on 3rd November, 2021.



Mrs. Tania Isaac
Clerk to the National Assembly

SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY ACT, 2021

(Act 56 of 2021)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title
2. Interpretation

PART 11 - SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY

3. Establishment of the Agency
4. Objects of the Agency
5. Functions of the Agency
6. Powers of the Minister

PART III - INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

7. Establishment and composition of the Committee
8. Functions of the Committee
9. Meetings of the Committee

PART IV - ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGENCY

10. Chief Executive Officer
11. Chief Operations Officers
12. Employment of staff

PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

13. Funds of the Agency
14. Delegated funds
15. Accounts and audit
16. Accountability
17. Annual operational plan
18. Annual report

PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS

19. Transfer of assets and liabilities
20. Transfer of staff and employees
21. Acquisition and disposal of land
22. Application of certain provisions of the Penal Code
23. Protection of acts done in good faith
24. Regulations



SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY ACT, 2021

(Act 56 of 2021)



I assent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wavel".

Wavel Ramkalawan
President

25th November, 2021

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

ENACTED by the President and the National Assembly.

PART I - PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Seychelles Infrastructure Agency Act, 2021.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Agency” means the Seychelles Infrastructure Agency established under section 3;

“Chief Executive Officer” means the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency appointed under section 10;

“Chief Operations Officer” means a Chief Operations Officer provided for under section 11;

“Committee” means the Inter- Ministerial Committee established under section 7;

“member” means a member of the Committee;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for lands and housing.

PART II - SEYCHELLES INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY**Establishment of the Agency**

3.(1) There is hereby established for the purpose of this Act, an agency known as the Seychelles Infrastructure Agency.

(2) The Agency is a body corporate.

Objects of the Agency

4. The objects of the Agency are —

(a) to provide technical services for civil engineering and construction projects to all government ministries, departments and agencies;

(b) to provide maintenance to government properties,

other than those specified in the Schedule.

Functions of the Agency

5. The functions of the Agency shall be to —
- (a) advise on strategic planning of infrastructure and physical development projects;
 - (b) advise on the financial and cost implications for infrastructure and physical development projects, and on maintenance and property management requirements;
 - (c) provide surveys and assessments of physical conditions for government infrastructure and buildings;
 - (d) provide project designs, procurement of construction services and supervision of project implementation;
 - (e) provide technical support for procurement and supervision of services for maintenance of government infrastructure and buildings;
 - (f) advise on quality standards and policies for government infrastructure and buildings, and for construction services utilised by the government;
 - (g) record and keep registers of ratings of performance by contractors providing construction services for government projects;
 - (h) outsource and manage consultancy contracts for any specialised services in the construction sector on behalf of the government; and
 - (i) perform such other functions as the Minister may deem necessary.

Powers of the Minister

6. The Minister shall exercise supervision over the Agency in the performance of its functions, and may issue policy directives to the Agency relating to planning of infrastructure and physical development in line with National development strategies and land use.

PART III - THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

Establishment and composition of the Committee

7.(1) The Agency shall be governed by an inter-ministerial committee consisting of the following members —

- (a) the Chairperson who shall be the Minister responsible for the parent Ministry of the Agency;
- (b) the Minister responsible for environment and climate change who shall be the Vice-Chairperson;
- (c) a representative of the Department responsible for lands;
- (d) a representative of the department responsible for economic planning;
- (e) a representative of the financial planning and control division of the department of finance;
- (f) a representative of the department of legal affairs;
- (g) a representative of the department of transport;
- (h) a person with extensive experience in auditing, accounting, engineering, or construction appointed by the Minister; and
- (i) the Chief Executive Officer who shall be an ex-officio member and the secretary to the Committee.

(2) A member of the Committee shall hold office for a term of 5 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(3) A member of the Committee shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as the President may determine in line with Government policies.

(4) A member of the Committee may resign from the member's office by letter addressed to the Minister and to the Committee giving not less than one month's notice of the member's resignation.

Functions of the Committee

8. The functions of the Committee shall be to —
- (a) review and approve development and project concept plans prepared by the Agency;
 - (b) review and determine work and project priorities for implementation by the Agency;
 - (c) review and recommend budget priorities for projects to the Government based on integrated national development strategies;
 - (d) mediate any disputes between the Agency and other ministries, departments or agencies;
 - (e) monitor the performance of the Agency on implementation of projects and services;
 - (f) review and approve policies and standards prepared by the Agency;
 - (g) monitor and oversee the management of the Agency by the Chief Executive Officer with the objective of ensuring that —
 - (i) the internal management and financial controls of the Agency are adequate;
 - (ii) the resources of the Agency are utilized economically and efficiently;
 - (iii) the Agency operates in accordance with the principles of good governance;
 - (iv) the Agency fulfils its statutory obligations and properly discharges its functions; and
 - (h) approving the Agency's accounts under section 15.

Meetings of the Committee

9.(1) A meeting of the Committee shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the Chairperson of the Committee.

(2) Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Committee.

(3) The decision of a majority of the Members present at a meeting shall constitute a decision of the Committee, and, in the event of an equality of votes on any matter, the person presiding at such meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her vote.

(4) Subject to the provisions of this Act and regulations made under this Act, the Committee may regulate its own proceedings.

PART IV - ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGENCY**Chief Executive Officer**

10.(1) The Minister shall appoint a person whom the Minister considers to be suitably qualified and experienced to be Chief Executive Officer of the Agency, on such terms and conditions of service as the Minister may determine in line with Government policies.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer is an employee of the Agency and shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Agency in accordance with this Act, policy directives by the Minister and directions of the Committee.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall be appointed for a term of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(4) The Chief Executive Officer may delegate any of his or her functions to a Chief Operations Officer or any other employee of the Agency.

Chief Operations Officer

11.(1) The Agency shall have a Chief Operations Officer who shall be appointed by the Committee.

(2) The Chief Operations Officer shall be in charge of a division of the Agency assigned to him or her and shall report to the Chief Executive Officer.

Employment of staff

12.(1) The Agency may employ officers and other members of staff necessary for the effective performance of its functions under this Act.

(2) Every employee of the Agency shall be under the administrative control of the Chief Executive Officer.

PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Funds of the Agency

13.(1) The funds of the Agency shall consist of moneys appropriated by the National Assembly under the Appropriation Act for the use of the Agency.

(2) The funds of the Agency shall be applied for —

- (a) the discharge of the expenses properly incurred by the Agency in the performance of its functions; and
- (b) the payment of remuneration of allowances to the members of the Committee and employees of the Agency.

Delegated funds

14.(1) Funds appropriated for projects involving the implementation and maintenance of Government properties shall be delegated to the Agency.

(2) The funds delegated under subsection (1) shall be under the control of the Agency and shall be solely utilised for purposes related to the projects for which they were appropriated.

Accounts and audit

15.(1) The financial year of the agency shall be the calendar year.

(2) The Agency shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare a statement of accounts in the form and manner approved by the Auditor General.

(3) The account of the Agency shall be audited by the Auditor General in accordance with Article 158 of the Constitution.

(4) Where the accounts and the statement of accounts of the Agency in respect of a financial year have been audited by the Auditor General, the Agency shall, not later than 3 months after the end of the financial year, submit to the Minister responsible for finance, a copy of the audited statement of the Agency.

Accountability

16.(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall be the accounting officer of the Agency.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall be charged with the responsibility of —

- (a) accounting for all moneys received and the utilisation thereof; and
- (b) the use and care of the assets of the Agency.

Annual operational plan

17.(1) The Agency shall prepare a draft annual operational plan at least 60 days before the commencement of each financial year and submit it to the Committee for approval and shall submit a final annual operational plan not later than 30 days after the commencement of the financial year.

(2) The operational plan shall —

- (a) include a statement of the short and medium term operational objectives;
- (b) outline the strategies that the Agency intends to employ in order to achieve its objectives; and

- (c) include, *inter alia*, a financial plan, a human resources plan and performance indicators.

(3) The financial plan referred to under subsection (2) (c) shall include estimates of expenditure and revenue for the financial year next following.

(4) The Agency may amend the operational plan with the approval of the Committee.

Annual report

18.(1) The Agency shall, after the expiration of each financial year and in any event not later than the 31st day of March in any year, submit to the Minister, and the Minister responsible for finance, an annual performance report, outlining the performance of the Agency and generally addressing the administration and activities of the Agency during the preceding financial year.

(2) The Minister shall, within 30 days of receiving the Agency's audited accounts and report, cause them to be laid before the National Assembly.

PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS

Transfer of assets and liabilities

19.(1) The Government may vest in or transfer to the Agency such —

- (a) movable and immovable properties vested in the Government immediately before the coming into force of this Act and used or managed by any Government Ministry, Department or Agency whose functions are being transferred to the Agency; and
- (b) assets, rights, interests, privileges, liabilities of the Government relating to any Ministry, Department or Agency for functions being transferred to the Agency.

(2) Where a question arises as to whether a particular movable or immovable property, asset, right, interest, privilege, liability or obligation

has been transferred to or vested in the Agency under subsection (1), a certificate under the hand of the Minister shall be conclusive evidence that the property, asset, right, interest, privilege liability or obligation was or was not transferred or vested.

(3) All agreements, deeds, bonds, agreements relating to matters which fall within the scope of the objects and functions of the Agency, to which the Government is a party, subsisting immediately before the coming into force of this Act, shall continue and shall be enforceable by or against the Agency as if the Agency had been a party to the deed, bond, agreement or arrangement.

Transfer of staff and employees

20.(1) All the persons employed in any Government Ministry, Department or Agency prior to the commencement of this Act, whose functions are being merged and transferred to the Agency, shall in accordance with their respective qualifications and competencies be transferred to the services of the Agency on terms and conditions not less favourable than those enjoyed by them before the transfer.

(2) Until such time as new terms and conditions of service are adopted, the terms and conditions of service as they exist presently shall continue to apply to every person transferred to the service of the Agency under subsection (1) as if the persons were still in the service of the Government.

Acquisition and disposal of land

21.(1) Where land is required by the Agency in connection with the performance of its functions, upon approval of the Committee, the Agency shall request the Minister responsible for lands to acquire such land for that purpose and thereafter transfer or allocate use of the land to the Agency.

(2) The Agency shall not sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of land or interest in land vested in the Agency without the consent of the Minister responsible for lands.

Application of certain provisions of the Penal Code

22. The members and employees of the Agency shall be deemed to be

employed in the public service and sections 91 to 96 of the Penal Code shall apply to them.

Protection of acts done in good faith

23. No civil or criminal liability shall attach to the Agency, an officer or employee of the Agency or a member of the Committee in respect of an act done or omission made in good faith in the performance of the functions of the Agency.

Regulations

24. The Minister may make regulations for the carrying into effect the principles and provisions of this Act.

SCHEDULE

(Section 4)

ORGANISATIONS EXCLUDED FROM APPLICATION OF THIS ACT

1. Department of Transport
2. Seychelles Land Transport Agency
3. Non- Budget-Dependent Commercial Public Entreprises
4. Public Utilities Corporation
5. Public Enterprises with specialist technical mandates which include provision of technical services offered by the Agency.
6. Any other Department or Agency as the President may determine.

I certify that this is a correct copy of the Bill which was passed by the National Assembly on 9th November, 2021.



Mrs. Tania Isaac
Clerk to the National Assembly

SEYCHELLES QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY ACT, 2021

(Act 57 of 2021)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Part 1 - Preliminary

1. Short title and commencement
2. Interpretation

Part 2 - Seychelles Qualifications Authority

3. Establishment of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority
4. Object and functions of the Authority
5. Powers of the Authority
6. Power to require information
7. Protection of terms

Part 3 - The Board of the Authority

8. Constitution of the Board
9. Tenure of office
10. Resignation
11. Vacation of office
12. Filling of vacancies
13. Meeting and proceedings of the Board
14. Establishment of Committees
15. Allowances of committee members
16. Secretary of the Board
17. Disclosure of interest
18. Confidentiality

Part 4 - Administration of the Authority

19. Chief Executive Officer
20. Responsibilities of Chief Executive Officer
21. Staff of the Authority
22. Reports by the Authority
23. Directions issued by the Minister

Part 5 - Financial Provision

24. Funds of the Authority
25. Accounts and audit
26. Annual Report
27. Application of certain Penal Code provisions
28. Protection of acts done in good faith

Part 6 - Miscellaneous Provisions

29. Regulations
30. Appeals
31. Compliance
32. Repeal and savings
33. Transfer of assets



SEYCHELLES QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY ACT, 2021

(Act 57 of 2021)



I assent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wavel".

Wavel Ramkalawan
President

25th November, 2021

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK AND THE QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

ENACTED by the President and the National Assembly.

Part I - Preliminary

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Seychelles Qualifications Authority Act, 2021 and shall come into operation on such date as the President may, by notice in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation**2.** In this Act —

“accreditation” means a process of assessment and review which enables a person, a tertiary education and training provider, or a programme of education and training to be recognised and certified for a specified period of time by the Authority as meeting and conforming to appropriate standards of quality set by the Authority;

“Authority” means the Seychelles Qualifications Authority established under section 3;

“Board” means the Board of the Authority constituted under section 8;

“certification” means the formal recognition of a learner's achievement of the required number and range of credits or other requirements at a specified level of the National Qualifications Framework;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Board appointed under section 8;

“Chief Executive Officer” means the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority appointed under section 20;

“committee” means a committee established under section 14;

“competence” means the knowledge, skills, attitudes and personal attributes combined with the underlying understanding to perform all or some of the functions of an occupation or a profession;

“course” means a self-contained teaching or learning component of a programme that is integral to that programme, representing a discrete part of the learning to be achieved and is based on an overall clear aim, specific learning outcomes, content and assessment procedures;

“credit accumulation” means the totalling of relevant credits required to complete a qualification or a part-qualification;

“credit transfer” means the vertical, horizontal or diagonal relocation of credits towards a qualification or part-qualification on the same or different level, usually between different programmes, departments or institutions;

“enrolled learner” means a learner who has enrolled in a programme or a course of education and training and registered as such by a provider;

“entity” means a person or a partnership, organisation, or business that has a legal and separately identifiable existence;

“equivalence of qualifications” means a process of formally establishing that two qualifications are of comparable standard or level;

“evaluation of foreign qualifications” means the process followed by the Authority to verify the authenticity of foreign qualifications and to compare foreign qualifications with national and international qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework;

“institutional accreditation” means recognition status granted to a provider by the Authority for a stipulated period of time after an evaluation through self-assessment and external review indicates that it meets or exceeds established standards for educational quality set by the Authority;

“international learner” means a learner with a foreign nationality who, on the basis of appropriate permission granted for the purpose by the Department of Immigration, desires to continue, continues or has continued his or her education at a tertiary education institution in Seychelles;

“learner” means a person who is acquiring or has acquired knowledge, skills, attitudes, personal attributes or competencies;

“member” means a member of the Board appointed under section 8;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for education;

“National Qualifications Framework” means a comprehensive system approved by the Minister for the development, classification, registration, publication, evaluation and articulation of quality-assured qualifications;

“part qualification” means an assessed unit of learning that is registered by the Authority as part of a qualification, including a course and a unit standard;

“post compulsory education and training” means education and training after compulsory education;

“programme” means a planned combination of a coherent set of courses designed to meet the requirements of a qualification;

“programme accreditation” means recognition status granted to a programme by the Authority for a stipulated period of time after an evaluation by the Authority indicates that it meets standards of quality;

“programme of education and training” means a process by which learners acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes, personal attributes and competence;

“provider” means an entity that intends to offer or is offering education and training in Seychelles, whether public or private, and registered as such by the ministry responsible for education or the Seychelles Qualifications Authority;

“qualification” means a registered national qualification;

“quality assurance” means an ongoing process of evaluating and enhancing the quality of the education system, providers or programme, for ensuring that the required standards as determined by the Authority are maintained and enhanced;

“recognition of foreign qualifications” means the formal acceptance of the appropriateness of a foreign qualification for a specific purpose;

“Recognition of Prior Learning” means principles and processes through which the prior knowledge and skills of a person are made visible, mediated and assessed for the purposes of alternative access and admission, recognition and certification, or further learning and development;

“school” means a provider of general education established by its owner, whether public or private, and in the case of a private provider, also registered by the ministry responsible for education;

“school inspection” means the formal exercise of critically examining and evaluating a provider of general education as a place for teaching and learning in order to ensure that high standards are maintained through improving the quality of the schools' self-evaluation processes and setting up of standards to enhance the quality of education;

“standard scale” means the standard scale of fines for offences established under the Criminal Offences (Standard Scale of Fines) Act, 2021;

“tertiary education” means learning programmes or courses provided by tertiary education and training providers leading to qualifications or part qualifications from level 3 to level 10 of the National Qualifications Framework;

“tertiary education and training provider” means an entity that provides or organises a programme or course of tertiary education and training including the provision of professional development services;

“unit standard” means a statement of the outcome of any learning assessed, the type and quality of evidence that represents performance worthy of an award of credits and the context in which that evidence should be demonstrated;

“Vice Chairperson” means the person appointed as Vice Chairperson of the Board under section 8.

Part 2 - Seychelles Qualifications Authority

Establishment of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority

3. There is hereby established the Seychelles Qualifications Authority which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, capable of suing and being sued in its corporate name.

Object and functions of the Authority

4.(1) The object of the Authority shall be to develop, implement and maintain a national qualifications framework and to provide for quality assurance of the education and training system nationally.

(2) In pursuing the object, the Authority shall have the following functions —

- (a) recognise, evaluate and register national qualifications and part qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework;
- (b) generate and register national unit standards and qualifications for occupations and professions and ensure their relevance to social and economic needs;
- (c) maintain a national database of registered and accredited providers, programmes, qualifications and part qualifications, as prescribed;
- (d) design, develop and implement a common quality assurance system, and regulate compliance therewith;
- (e) develop and review quality standards and ensure compliance by providers through a monitoring system;
- (f) accredit tertiary education and training providers and other providers of post compulsory education and training and

- monitor that such providers continue to comply with prescribed standards and criteria;
- (g) accredit programmes and courses of education and training and monitor that such programmes and courses continue to comply with prescribed standards and criteria;
 - (h) conduct inspection of established and registered schools to ensure national education quality and standards are maintained;
 - (i) review the policies and criteria on which the National Qualifications Framework is based;
 - (j) establish policy, criteria and procedures for, and monitor the process of evaluation and recognition of, competencies acquired formally, informally and non-formally through Recognition of Prior Learning;
 - (k) establish policy and criteria for credit accumulation and credit transfer;
 - (l) recognise, evaluate and establish equivalence of foreign qualifications to the levels of the National Qualifications Framework and record the decisions made;
 - (m) develop a policy and criteria for the recognition of foreign programmes leading to the award of qualifications and part qualifications delivered by or through local tertiary education and training providers;
 - (n) develop a policy for recognition by the Authority of any foreign qualification before the qualification bearer may be entitled to enter into an occupation or a profession;
 - (o) promote international recognition of the national qualifications and the international comparability of national qualifications;

-
- (p) register tertiary education and training providers and other providers of post compulsory education and training and maintain a register to this effect;
 - (q) establish criteria for classification of providers and for the transitioning from one category of provider to another in accordance with this Act and made hereunder;
 - (r) establish criteria and procedures for the protection of the interests of enrolled learners, which include arrangements for the protection of learners where learners have begun but not completed a programme of education and training where a provider ceases to provide the programme before completion, or ceases to operate;
 - (s) establish standards and criteria for teachers and lecturers of providers to deliver programmes and courses to ensure learners are protected;
 - (t) provide a national advisory service on foreign qualifications and foreign providers of education and training;
 - (u) collaborate with international counterparts on all matters of mutual interest concerning national qualifications frameworks;
 - (v) advise the Minister on matters relating to the functions of the Authority and perform any function consistent with this Act that the Minister may, by regulations, determine;
 - (w) do all such things and perform all such functions as may be necessary or conducive for the achievement of the purposes of this Act.
- (3) The Authority, in the performance of its functions shall —
- (a) inform itself of the needs of commerce, industry, the professions and the public service pertaining to education,

- training, skills and qualifications and promote practices in education and training to meet those needs;
- (b) inform itself of practices outside the Republic in respect of matters relevant to its object and functions;
 - (c) consult, as it considers appropriate, with providers, professional bodies, and any other entities the Authority considers appropriate in making decisions;
 - (d) give effect to such policies of the Government relating to education and training as are notified in writing to the Authority by the Minister; and
 - (e) collect any information it considers appropriate relating to the performance of its functions.

Powers of the Authority

5.(1) The Authority shall have all powers necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions including the power to —

- (a) liaise or enter into agreements with any entity within or outside Seychelles;
- (b) enforce compliance with the provisions of this Act and the elements of the National Qualifications Framework; and
- (c) charge such fees as may be prescribed in respect of any service provided by the Authority.

Power to require information

6.(1) The Authority may, by notice in writing require, from any person, provider, or any other entity such information as the Authority deems necessary, for the purposes of the performance of its functions under this Act.

(2) Where any person or other entity is required to furnish any information to the Authority under subsection (1), it shall be the duty of such person or entity to comply with the request.

(3) A person or other entity who or which contravenes subsection (2) commits an offence and shall on conviction to a fine of level 2 of the standard scale.

(4) A person who obtains any information for the Authority under this provision shall take every reasonable step to ensure that such information is kept in such manner as to ensure that the contents of the information are kept confidential and used only for the purposes of performing the functions of the Authority.

Protection of terms

7.(1) The term “National” when used in conjunction with a qualification type on the National Qualifications Framework shall apply to a local qualification recognised by the Authority.

(2) The generic terms “Certificate”, “Diploma” and “Degree” shall refer to qualifications accredited or recognised by the Authority.

Part 3 - The Board of the Authority

Constitution of the Board

8.(1) There shall be a Board of the Authority, which shall be the governing body of the Authority.

(2) The Board shall consist of 7 members appointed by the President by notice in the *Gazette* on such terms and conditions as the President may determine.

(3) There shall be paid to the members of the Board such remuneration or allowances as the Government may from time to time determine.

(4) Appointments shall be made on the recommendation of the Minister.

(5) In recommending members to the Board for appointment, the Minister shall give due consideration for representation from ministries, agencies, civil society and the private sector whose operations have implications for, or may be affected by, the National Qualifications Framework.

(6) The Minister shall have regard to the need for its members to collectively have a breadth of experience and expertise, and depth of knowledge, to be able to effectively contribute to the development of the National Qualifications Framework and quality assurance in education and training in Seychelles.

(7) Staff of providers shall not be eligible to be appointed as members of the Board.

(8) The President shall appoint a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from among the members of the Board.

(9) The Chief Executive Officer of the Authority shall be an *ex officio* member of the Board and shall not have right to vote.

Tenure of office

9. A member of the Board shall hold office for a period of 3 years and shall be eligible for reappointment on completion of the term of appointment.

Resignation

10. A member may resign from his or her office by giving one month's notice in writing, to the President and to the Board.

Vacation of office

11. The office of a member shall become vacant —

- (a) if the member has been absent without leave of the Board from three consecutive meetings of the Board;
- (b) on the member ceasing to hold the office by virtue of which the member was appointed;
- (c) if the member is convicted of an offence under any written law and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 3 months or more without the option of fine;

- (d) upon expiry of one month's notice under section 10;
- (e) if the member is mentally or physically incapable of carrying out his or her functions under this act.

Filling of vacancies

12.(1) Where the office of a member becomes vacant before the expiry of the member's term of office, the President shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term for which that member was appointed.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply where the remaining period of the term of office of the member whose office has become vacant is less than six months.

(3) Where the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson vacates office, a new Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, as the case may be, shall be appointed by the President.

(4) The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may vacate his or her office whilst remaining a member of the Board.

(5) The Vice-Chairperson shall exercise the functions of the Chairperson during any period the Chairperson is absent or unable to act as Chairperson.

Meetings and proceedings of the Board

13.(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board shall regulate its own proceedings.

(2) The Board shall meet at such times and places as the Chairperson may determine provided that at least four meetings shall be held in a year.

(3) The Chairperson may convene a meeting of the Board after giving notice, in writing, of not less than 14 working days, but if the urgency of the matter does not permit the giving of such notice, a special meeting may be convened after giving of a shorter notice.

(4) Where 4 members request the Chairperson, by notice in writing to convene a meeting of the Board for any purpose specified in the notice, the Chairperson shall, within 10 working days from the receipt of the notice, convene a meeting for that purpose.

(5) The Board may invite any person whose presence it deems necessary to attend and participate in the deliberations of a meeting of the Board, but such person shall have no right to vote.

(6) The Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Board and if, for any reason, he or she is unable to attend any meeting, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside and in the absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson any other member elected by the members present at such meeting shall preside over the meeting of the Board.

(7) The Board shall cause to be kept minutes of the proceedings of every meeting of the Board and every meeting of any committee established by the Board.

(8) Five members shall constitute a quorum for a meeting.

Establishment of Committees

14.(1) The Board may, for the purpose of discharging any of its functions under this Act, constitute committees as it considers appropriate.

(2) A committee constituted under subsection (1) may consist of one or more members of the Board and one or more other persons with specialised skills as the Board may consider necessary.

(3) The persons with specialised skills shall be appointed as members of the committee for a term as the Board may determine.

(4) The Board shall appoint one of the members of the committee who is a member of the Board as Chairperson of the committee.

(5) An officer of the Authority appointed in writing by the Chief Executive Officer shall be the secretary to the committee and shall, on the instruction of the Chairperson of the committee, convene meetings of the committee.

(6) The meetings of a committee shall be held at such times and place as the committee may determine, or as the Board may direct.

(7) Subject to any specific or general directions of the Board, a committee established under subsection (1) may regulate its own procedure.

Allowances of committee members

15. A member of a committee of the Board shall be paid such allowances as the Authority may, with the approval of the Board, determine.

Secretary of the Board

16.(1) An officer of the Authority appointed in writing by the Chief Executive Officer shall be secretary to the Board, or the Board shall appoint a secretary from among the Board members.

(2) The secretary of the Board, if not a member of the Board, shall attend meetings of the Board but shall have no right to vote.

(3) The secretary shall be responsible for recording the Board's proceedings and decisions.

(4) There shall be paid to the secretary of the Board, if not a member of the Board, such remuneration or allowances as the Government may from time to time determine.

Disclosure of interest

17.(1) A member of the Board who has a direct or indirect interest in any of the matters to be decided by the Board shall disclose the nature of his or her interest at the meeting of the Board and shall not vote on the matter nor take part in any discussion in respect of that matter.

(2) A disclosure of interest made under subsection (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is made.

Confidentiality

18.(1) A member or any other person assisting the Board shall observe and preserve the confidentiality of all matters coming before the Board, and

such confidentiality shall subsist even after the termination of their terms of office or their mandates.

(2) Any member or any person to whom confidential information is revealed through working with the Board or committee of the Board shall not disclose that information to any other person unless he or she is required to do so in terms of any written law or for purposes of any judicial proceedings.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (2) commits an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale.

Part 4 - Administration of the Authority

Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer

19.(1) The President may, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint a Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.

(2) The Minister shall invite applications for the post of Chief Executive Officer and constitute an interview panel to consider the applications.

(3) The interview panel shall prepare and submit a list of qualified candidates to the Minister and as far as practicable the Minister shall make a recommendation of not less than 3 candidates to the President for consideration and appointment.

Responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer

20. The Chief Executive Officer shall —

- (a) be responsible for the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Authority subject to such directions on matters of policy as may be given by the Board;
- (b) be accountable to the Board for the discharge of the functions delegated by the Board;
- (c) be the chief accounting officer of the Authority;
- (d) be responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of the National Qualifications Framework;

- (e) be responsible for the organisation, control and management of all staff of the Authority.

Staff of the Authority

21.(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall appoint staff of the Authority as the Chief Executive Officer deems necessary for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Authority.

(2) Where a person is transferred to the Authority from the public service, the terms and conditions applicable to that person shall not be less favourable than those enjoyed by that person immediately before the transfer.

Reports by the Authority

22. The Authority shall furnish the Minister with such information on its activities as the Minister may from time to time require.

Directions issued by the Minister

23. The Minister may issue directions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, to the Authority as to the exercise of its powers or performance of its duties and the Authority shall give effect to such directions.

Part 5 - Financial Provision

Funds of the Authority

24.(1) The funds of the Authority shall consist of —

- (a) such monies appropriated by the National Assembly under the Appropriation Act for purposes of the Authority;
- (b) such grants and donations as the Authority may receive.

(2) The Authority shall use the funds acquired under subsection (1) to meet the costs incurred for its operations and the discharge of its functions.

Accounts and audit

25.(1) The financial year of the Authority shall be the period of 12 months ending on 31st December of each year.

(2) The Authority shall keep proper books of account of its income, receipts and expenditure.

(3) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited by the Auditor General in accordance with Article 158 of the Constitution.

(4) Where the accounts and the statement of accounts of the Authority in respect of a financial year have been audited by the Auditor General, the Authority shall, not later than 3 months after the end of the financial year, submit to the Minister responsible for finance, a copy of the audited statement of the Authority.

Annual Report

26.(1) The Authority shall within three months of completion of the audit of its accounts in respect of any financial year, submit to the Minister —

(a) a copy of its audited accounts; and

(b) a written report of its operations and activities for that financial year.

(2) The Minister shall, within 30 days of receiving the Authority's audited accounts, and report, cause them to be laid before the National Assembly.

Application of certain Penal Code provisions

27. All employees of the Authority shall be deemed to be employed in the public service for the purpose of sections 91 to 96 of the Penal Code.

Protection of acts done in good faith

28. No liability, civil or criminal, shall lie against the Authority, the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or a member of the Board or committee of

the Board, employee of the Authority or any person acting under any authority conferred by the Authority, in respect of an act done or omitted to be done in good faith in the exercise or performance or purported exercise or performance of any of the powers, functions or duties conferred by or under this Act or any regulations made thereunder.

Part 6 - Miscellaneous Provisions

Regulations

29.(1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Authority, make regulations for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the regulations may provide for —

- (a) the establishment of the National Qualifications Framework;
- (b) the structure of the National Qualifications Framework;
- (c) the qualification types;
- (d) unit standard types;
- (e) the structure of qualifications;
- (f) standards setting;
- (g) quality assurance, including —
 - (i) institutional accreditation and monitoring of tertiary education and training providers and other providers of post compulsory education and training;
 - (ii) school inspection;
 - (iii) accrediting and monitoring of programmes and courses;
- (h) the form and manner of the Statement of Attainment, Academic Transcript and Award;
- (i) fees and charges payable under this Act;

- (j) information management system;
- (k) recognition and evaluation, and determination of equivalences of qualifications and part qualifications within the National Qualifications Framework;
- (l) protection of learners, including international learners;
- (m) appeals;
- (n) withdrawal of recognition or accreditation of a provider or a programme accredited or recognised under this Act; and
- (o) registration and revocation of registration of providers.

Appeals

30.(1) There shall be established an Appeals Committee appointed by the Minister to hear appeals from providers, persons including learners, and any other entity in relation to the decisions of the Authority.

(2) Decisions of the Authority shall comprise any decision of the Authority in relation to the functions of the Authority as set in section 4 (2) that may affect providers, persons and any other entity.

(3) The Appeals Committee shall consist of a maximum of 5 members, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairperson by the Minister, with expertise in, or knowledge of, education and training or the functions of the Authority, other than members of the Board or staff of the Authority.

(4) The Chairperson and two other members of the Appeals Committee shall form a quorum for a meeting of the Appeals Committee.

(5) A member of the Appeals Committee shall hold office for a period of 3 years and shall be eligible for reappointment on completion of the term of appointment.

(6) A member of the Appeals Committee may at any time resign from his or her office by giving a notice in writing to the Chairperson of the Board.

(7) A member of the Appeals Committee shall be paid such allowances as the Authority may, with the approval of the Board, determine.

(8) Subject to this Act, the Appeals Committee shall regulate its proceedings.

Compliance

31.(1) Providers, employers, and other entities shall comply with the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Authority shall hold providers to account for breach of their responsibilities under this law.

(3) It shall be incumbent upon any tertiary education and training provider once registered to apply to the Authority for institutional accreditation and accreditation or recognition of programmes and courses that it intends to offer.

(4) It shall be incumbent upon any school once established or registered to submit an annual self-evaluation report to the Authority as evidence of adherence to prescribed quality standards and in preparation for inspection by the Authority.

(5) The Authority shall issue a compliance notice to a provider where the Authority is satisfied that the provider is not complying with any prescribed requirements for maintaining its accreditation or recognition status, and accreditation or recognition of its programmes and courses.

(6) Subject to subsection (5), the Authority shall cancel or suspend the accreditation or recognition of a programme or course, or the accreditation or recognition of a provider where that provider does not comply with a compliance notice.

(7) Nothing in subsection (6) prohibits the right of a provider to re-apply for institutional accreditation or recognition, or re-accreditation or recognition of its programmes and courses, once accreditation or recognition requirements have been complied with.

(8) The Authority shall issue a compliance notice to a provider of education and training where the Authority is satisfied that the provider is offering a programme or course that is not accredited or recognised, or its accreditation or recognition status is not recognised by the Authority.

(9) Subject to subsection (8), the Authority shall cause to discontinue or suspend the offering of a non-accredited or non-recognised programme or course where that provider does not comply with a compliance notice.

(10) Nothing in subsection (9) prohibits the right of a provider to offer the programme or course once accreditation or recognition requirements have been complied with.

(11) A provider that fails to comply with the provisions of this Act for which a specific penalty has not been provided commits an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of level 3 on the standard scale.

Repeal and savings

32.(1) The Seychelles Qualifications Authority Act (Cap 323) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority Act —

- (a) any act done or commenced under the repealed Act, where such act is within the powers of the Authority, shall be carried on and completed by or under the authority of the Authority under this Act;
- (b) any statutory instrument or regulations made under the repealed Act shall to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this Act, continue in force as statutory instruments or regulations made under this Act until amended or repealed by a statutory instrument or regulations made under this Act;
- (c) all officers or employees of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority appointed under the repealed Act shall be deemed to be officers and employees of the Authority under this Act on the terms and conditions no less favourable than those subsisting immediately prior to the coming into operation of this Act.

Transfer of assets

33.(1) As from the commencement of this Act, all immovable and moveable property vested in the Seychelles Qualifications Authority established under section 3 of the Seychelles Qualifications Authority, Act (Cap 323) immediately before that date and used and managed by the aforesaid and all assets, rights, interests, privileges, liabilities and obligations, shall, subject to subsection (2), be transferred to and vested in the Authority.

(2) If any question arises as to whether any particular immovable and moveable property or any particular asset, right, interest, liability or obligation has been transferred to or vested in the Authority under subsection (1), a certificate signed by the Minister shall be conclusive evidence that the property, asset, right, interest, liability or obligation was or was not so transferred or vested as the case may be.

I certify that this is a correct copy of the Bill which was passed by the National Assembly on 10th November, 2021.



Mrs. Tania Isaac
Clerk to the National Assembly