

Seychelles

NATION

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Main islands to mark Road Safety Week

By Mandy Bertin

A series of activities will be organised on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue to mark this year's Road Safety Week from November 19 to 25, under the theme 'Let's talk about speed'.

Details of the week-long programme were given yesterday during a press conference held at the land transport department at The Quadrant building in Victoria.

The activities have been compiled by a sub-committee of the Road Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC). The RSAC is a multi-sectoral committee that works to address issues related to road accidents.

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Seychelles' Aquaman Supplies makes waves at Bali blue economy forum



Ms Victor at her stand in the exhibition

From October 6-13, 2023, Nella Victor of Aquaman Supplies represented Seychelles at the Blue Start-Ups exhibition, a side event of the Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) forum in Bali, Indonesia. In an interview with Seychelles NATION, Ms Victor shared insights into her participation and the impact it had on her business.

Seychelles NATION: What motivated you to join the Blue Start-Ups exhibition?

NV: I learned about the event from the Division of Science Technology and Innovation, and the prospect of showcasing in Bali appealed to me. Given the 24-hour submission deadline, I seized the opportunity to spotlight Aquaman Supplies. Although the response was not immediate, I was later informed of my selection, which came as a surprise but offered significant exposure for my enterprise.

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CODE	DATE	TIME	MATCH	FINAL SCORE
				1 X 2
ENGLISH - PREMIER LEAGUE				
1140	11.11	18:00	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS NOTTINGHAM HOTSPUR	3.25 3.08 2.17
0544	11.11	20:30	CRYSTAL PALACE EVERTON FC	2.46 3.23 3.03
1650	11.11	20:30	MANCHESTER UNITED LUTON TOWN	1.32 5.77 8.75
1659	11.11	20:30	ARSENAL FC BURNLEY FC	1.18 7.36 14.9
0698	11.11	23:00	Bournemouth NEWCASTLE UNITED	4.87 4.08 1.67
1653	11.12	19:30	LIVERPOOL FC BRENTFORD FC	1.4 5.37 6.96
1654	11.12	19:30	ASTON VILLA FULHAM FC	1.59 4.08 5.37
1655	11.12	19:30	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION SHEFFIELD UNITED	1.22 6.96 11.9
1656	11.12	19:30	WEST HAM UNITED NOTTINGHAM FOREST	1.88 3.73 4.08
0537	11.12	22:00	CHELSEA FC MANCHESTER CITY	4.57 3.73 1.79

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Empowering African Sids

Seychelles engages at FAO's high-level event

Small island developing states (Sids) face monumental challenges due to geographic and economic constraints, heavily relying on distant markets for their food supplies. This reliance leads to substantial costs in energy, infrastructure, and transportation, posing significant obstacles to boosting local food production. Moreover, the fragile ecosystems of Sids are increasingly affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, resulting in erratic weather patterns and rising sea levels, which compromise their agricultural capabilities and ability to provide affordable, safe, and high-quality food to their citizens.

The vulnerabilities of African Sids, highly vulnerable globally, are compounded by intensified food security and nutrition challenges. With weak policies and mechanisms to address the effects of climate change, coupled with productivity issues in agriculture and multiple malnutrition burdens, these nations grapple with undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity, and chronic diseases stemming from the consumption of processed, imported foods.

In response, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) established the African Small Island Developing States Programme, aligning with sustainable development goals and striving to address these challenges.

A recent high-level event held in Mauritius focused on presenting the achievements of the FAO African Sids Programme and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, ministers, FAO officials, and potential donors. Seychelles was one of six countries participating in the programme, striving to transform agrifood systems for enhanced efficiency, inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability, with a core focus on improving production, nutrition, environment, and overall quality of life for all.

To tackle the vulnerabilities, the programme initiated comprehensive interventions, including the establishment of a technical network, mapping analyses, and priority area determination for a roadmap towards implementation.

This event brought together leaders through a ministerial conclave to discuss how innovation and networking can solve common challenges. Seychelles' Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change & Environment Flavien Joubert, who was heading the country's delegation, played a prominent role by presenting Seychelles' priorities and needs in terms of the Agrifood systems.

The overall priority areas agreed encompass governance, climate-resilient agriculture, fisheries, market access, youth and women empowerment, and innovation for knowledge sharing and technology transfer.



Seychelles' delegation at the event

During the event, the Seychelles delegation had the opportunity to tour the Trou aux Biches Post Centre and witness the equipment provided through the REEFISH Project. This initiative, funded by FAO in collaboration with the government of Japan, included remarkable installations like a solar-powered ice plant and a patrol vessel. Besides Minister Joubert, the Seychelles delegation

comprised the principal secretary for agriculture and FAO national correspondent, Keven Nancy; director-general for fisheries, Sheriffa Morel; FAO national expert, Dr Nelson Charles; and the ITN representative, Nelson Renaud.

Contributed



Minister Joubert addressing other members of the FAO Sids programme

Seychelles' Aquaman Supplies makes waves at Bali blue economy forum

Continued from page 1

Seychelles NATION: Can you tell us about Aquaman Supplies?

NV: It is a venture born from our fishing experiences. We add value to our catch, catering to busy individuals who lack the time to shop for seafood. In modern Seychelles, with smaller family units, our ready-prepared seafood offers convenience. Moreover, it challenges local fishermen to rethink direct sales without middlemen, promoting value addition within their trade and encouraging sustainability.

Seychelles NATION: What products did you highlight at the exhibition?

NV: The exhibition's space constraints limited my display to salted fish and a new product, a jarred tuna with local coconut oil. Our focus was on fish, pivotal to Seychelles' blue economy, and on demonstrating to women, the sector's opportunities. The unique, less processed fish offerings were well-received, differentiating from the typical canned tuna and presenting a healthier alternative.

Seychelles NATION: Would you recommend international exhibitions to other entrepreneurs?

NV: Absolutely. Exposure is invaluable. It is a gateway to potential investors interested in your business ethos, seeking to foster



change. Such platforms provide networking opportunities, elevating Seychelles' visibility and facilitating potential partnerships and collaborations.

Seychelles NATION: What about the facilities provided for you at the exhibition, how were they?

NV: Before we went there, they would ask us what are some of the products that we would like to bring and I had a lot of products to showcase but there were no facilities such as freezers, because fish is delicate, and my transit was a little long. It took me two days to arrive. Once you arrive, there is just a small desk and you mainly have to use posters and pictures. When we

talk about the blue economy, it is vast, and it is not only things like recycle, there is fishery so there should be provisions made for things like that.

Seychelles NATION: What are the advantages of having local exhibitions for smaller businesses?

NV: Local exhibitions would be a boon for small businesses in Seychelles, easing the challenging process of market entry for startups. Such events could highlight those in the blue economy and related sectors, including fishermen and tourism students. They would attract external investors to local talent, potentially transforming innovative ideas into reality. The roots

of the AIS in Seychelles, before expanding internationally, suggest a fertile ground for such initiatives.

Seychelles NATION: What is the outlook for Aquaman Supplies in the wider market?

NV: While the exposure at the Bali forum was beneficial, it fell short of attracting investors. I hope for stronger ties between our business community and the Ministry of Blue Economy, leveraging their relationship with the AIS. Collaborations and agreements that provide reviews and funding from investors would be invaluable. It is important to note that support is not always financial – sometimes what is needed is equipment or other material assistance.



Ms Victor in the company of Seychelles' Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy

If there is more dialogue with the relevant ministries and small businesses, this is what can be a good change for us. I am grateful that we had this opportunity to get exposed worldwide, that people know that I am a woman and it is empowering to other women. There is a lot of roles that women can play in the blue economy.

Seychelles NATION: Can you elaborate on this a little bit?

NV: For example, when we were finished with the exhibition, we filled out a review based on the forum and what we would like to fix. In general, though, we did not get any reports based on things like if investors would like to invest in things like the



blue hub, small incubators, we have not received a report on that.

I did not go to just represent Aquaman Supplies, I went to represent my country and so if I reached there that means there is an importance for small businesses, and it means that we are having an impact locally. That being said, if there are local investors or local ministries that can approach and collaborate with us it would be a good thing. Lack of collaboration is what can make small businesses fall by the wayside but if you see us playing an important role overseas, we should be approached locally to see how we can be assisted.

Sunny Esparon

Health tips by Dr Naomi Adeline

When washing hands, remember to wash nails as well. The nails are common spots to find dirt, bacteria, lint, dead skin cells, and other unwanted material. Rub the tips of the fingers of one hand in soapy water held in the palm of the other hand.