



**PRESS RELEASE
OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**Clarification on issue of lack of official response by the Electoral
Commission to the United Seychelles**

Thursday 23rd March 2023

On 22nd March 2023, in the National Assembly during the presentation of the Bill to the Elections Act, the Leader of the Opposition, stated that the United Seychelles has not received any response of a letter sent to the Electoral Commission on the 1st of February 2023 in relation to the Bill on the amendment to the Elections Act.

The Commission would like to state the following in regards to the above.

1. The Commission received a letter addressed to the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, dated 6th February 2023 (not dated 1st of February 2023 as referred to by the Leader of the Opposition) The letter was signed by the Secretary General of the United Seychelles Party, Mr. Wallace Cosgrow. (As attached).
2. On the 9th of February 2023, a response to the letter was provided to Mr. Cosgrow, on the official email of the United Seychelles, as provided in the letter issued by Mr. Cosgrow, with the following persons in copy:
 - The Party Leader: Mr. Patrick Herminie
 - The Liaison Person: Mr. Melval Dugasse
3. The Commission consequently has been made aware that a letter dated 1st of February 2023 by the United Seychelles is being circulated on a social media platform, namely Facebook. The Commission states that it never received any letter from the United Seychelles dated 1st February 2023, as being circulated on social media.

Attached are the following documents in relation to the above statement.

1. a copy of the letter issued to the United Seychelles Party dated 23rd March 2023 which clarifies its position with regards to the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition on letter sent on 1st February 2023.
2. a copy of the letter dated 6th February 2023 received from United Seychelles
3. the response of the Commission dated 9th February 2023 to the letter issued on 6th February 2023 by United Seychelles.

The End.

**For more information contact:
The Chief Electoral Officer
Tel: 4295555
Email: ceo@ecs.sc
Office of the Electoral Commission**



THE OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
P. O. Box 741, Victoria, Republic of Seychelles
Telephone: (248) 4295555 Fax: (248) 4324968



Please address all correspondence to the CEO of the Electoral Commission

23rd March, 2023

Mr. Wallace Cosgrow
Secretary General
United Seychelles

Dear Mr. Cosgrow

RE: Response to statement regarding the Commission's failure to answer letter from the United Seychelles

The Commission received the following letter "*United Seychelles Party on points discuss during the meeting with political parties*" dated 6th February 2023, signed by yourself, the Secretary General. The letter was addressed to the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission

Our record shows that a response was provided by email to the following address admin@unitedseychelles.net as provided in your letter issued to the Commission, with the following persons in copy:

1. Dr. Patrick Herminie, the Party Leader: patrickherminie@gmail.com
2. Mr. Melval Dugasse, the Liaison person of US: rdugasse@protonmail.com

In the Sitting of the National Assembly on 22nd March 2023, the Leader of the Opposition stated that the United Seychelles sent a letter to the Electoral Commission, on the 1st February 2023, to which the party is still awaiting a response. It is to note that the content of the letter, which he stated was sent on the 1st of February 2023 and which was read in the Assembly, had the same content as the one dated 6th February received by the Commission from the Secretary General of the United Seychelles.

The Commission is of the view that the reaction of the Leader of the Opposition vis a vis the letter is a result of a miscommunication, which is outside the scope of the Commission.

The Commission is submitting along with this letter a copy of the letter received from the United Seychelles dated 6th February 2023 and the response of the Commission dated 9th February 2023.

The Commission appreciates the collaborative relationship which exists between the Commission and political parties.

We hope that in future any matters, which the United Seychelles may feel affected by, can be resolved in an amicable manner.



Yours sincerely,

Manuella Amesbury (Mrs.)
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER (CEO)
ELECTORAL COMMISSION



Cc. Mr. Patrick Herminie

Cc. Mr. Melval Dugasse

Chairperson Electoral Commission
SACOS Tower
Victoria

06th February 2023

Dear Sir,

RE: United Seychelles Party position on points discuss during the meeting with political parties

Reference is made to the above mentioned subject and the meeting with political parties held on the 16th of January 2023 at the Headquarters of the Electoral Commission.

Firstly, we have taken note of the proposed Political Parties (Registration and Regulation) (Amendment Bill) in regards to amendments in relation to Business Tax obligations of political parties.

As regards to the Elections (Amendment Bill) 2022 and the accompanying subsidiary legislation establishing an advisory committee on delimitation of electoral boundaries, we would like to formally express our disappointment in the manner this has been handled. We are of the view that all political parties will be impacted by such amendments to the law and as such there should have been consultations prior to the formulation of the legislations. Furthermore, as stated by our delegation during the meeting, we are of the view that political parties should be represented on the committee and that the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission should not be the chairperson of the committee for reasons of conflict of interest in view that the final proposals will be presented for implementation to the Electoral Commission.

We also discussed on the very important issue of youth (first time voter) registration and as discussed we would like to propose the following for consideration of the Electoral Commission:

- Explore the possibility to re-introduce automatic registration
- Introduce electronic/online registration



Youth registration is one important matter we would like to further discuss with the Electoral Commission with the aim of ensuring that a significant segment of our population is not disenfranchised due to non-registration.

Lastly we are urging the Electoral Commission to ensure that political parties are duly consulted on matters relating to the electoral process in Seychelles and on any matters impacting on political parties.

We look forward to fruitful collaborations with the Commission.

Yours Faithfully,



W. Cosgrow

Secretary General



Stephanie Dixie

From: Chief Registration Officer
Sent: 09 February 2023 11:18
To: admin@unitedseychelles.net
Cc: Chief Electoral Officer; Chairperson ECS; Personal Assistant Electoral Commission; Stephanie Dixie; rdugasse; patrickherminie@gmail.com
Subject: Acknowledgment of letter

Dear Mr. Cosgrow

The Electoral Commission acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 06th February 2023 and thanks you for concerns raised.

We take note of content and same will be put to the attention of Commissioners.

You will be informed of any decisions and remarks that the Commission may have through correspondence or in the next Political party Meeting.

Thanking you

Kind regards



Sheena Boniface | Chief Registration Officer
Electoral Commission Seychelles | P.O Box 741, Victoria,
Mahe, Seychelles
Tel: +248 4295555 | Mob: +248 2582022 | Fax: +248 4324968
Email: outreach@ecs.sc | Web: www.ecs.sc

