

CEREMONIAL FOR STATE FUNERAL

1. *A State Funeral is an important public event that has to be planned down to the last detail. The deceased may have expressed some wishes to his/her family regarding his/her funeral and in every case those personal desires and those of the family must be given every possible consideration when arrangements are being made.*

2. PERSONS ENTITLED TO STATE FUNERAL

- (a) The President of the Republic of Seychelles;*
- (b) Former President of the Republic;*
- (c) The Vice President;*
- (d) Speaker of the National Assembly in office, chief Justice in office and the Presidents court of appeal in office.*
- (e) Cabinet Ministers in office.*

3. BURIAL GROUNDS

To be ascertained with members of the family. Normally, should be in a specific designated area of the cemetery.

4. NATIONAL MOURNING/HALF-MASTING OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

Upon receipt of the news of a person entitled to a State Funeral, the Seychellois authorities may order a period of national mourning and half-masting of the National Flag. (To be determined).

The authorities may also order the half-masting of the National Flag on the day and for the duration of the State Funeral if this is later than the period of national mourning.

5. PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Consideration may be given to announcing the death as early as convenient and keeping the Nation informed of arrangements.

6. FOREIGN INVITATIONS

These will normally be the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will also coordinate local transport and accommodation arrangements.

7. LYING IN STATE

This may be at State House or another designated place.

The placement of the coffin and Guard of Honour will be determined.

The family, Senior Government Officials, close friends and associates may pay their last respects.

Members of the public may also be allowed to file by and pay respects.

8. RELIGIOUS CEREMONY

This may be performed :

- a) *In Church; or*
- b) *In a designated location*

Seating arrangements will be determined.

9. FUNERAL CORTEGE

The coffin will be draped by the National Flag and surrounded by Pall Bearers.

10. PALL BEARERS

One representative from each Unit of the Armed Forces may be considered.

11. MEDICAL SUPPORT

Required in view of the exceptionally large number of people expected.

12. DISPOSITION AT THE CEMETERY

Suitable area to be cordoned off within which shall accommodate :

- a) *Guard of Honour*
- b) *Immediate Family Members*
- c) *Senior Government Officials*
- d) *Diplomatic and Consular Corps*
- e) *Foreign representations*
- f) *Representatives from each Ministry/Department (for wreath laying).*

Wreath-laying shall be according to the National Order of Precedence.

A Senior Government Official may wish to make an address (eulogy).

Public address system should be foreseen.

13. CONDOLENCE BOOK

May be made available at a convenient place before and after the funeral for three days.

With regards to Seychelles Diplomatic Missions overseas, the books may be kept open for one whole day.

14. DEATH OF FORMER CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHER PERSONALITIES OF SEYCHELLES OR AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PRESIDENT

When a former Cabinet Minister, any other personality of Seychelles or person recommended by the President passes away, Government shall be represented at the funeral service at the appropriate level. It shall designate one Minister as its Official representative.