

## ***VISIT TO SEYCHELLES BY FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS***

### **General**

1. *Naval vessels include auxiliary combat ships and craft flying the naval colours of the state to which they belong.*
2. *Naval vessels enjoy immunity in the open sea, territorial waters and in port.*

*The immunity of naval vessels means :*

- *Exemption from jurisdiction of foreign authorities and from application of any state laws (criminal, civil, administrative) but being subordinated to the laws of the state flag.*
- *Exemption from compulsion or any other forced action (detention, arrest, search, confiscation, requisition etc.)*
- *In cases of a serious offence committed by a foreign crew member, the Seychelles law will be applicable against that member.*

1. *In the territorial waters and ports of Seychelles, naval vessels enjoy certain privileges*

## Procedure and type of calls

4. *Visiting the territorial waters and port(s) of Seychelles shall only take place pursuant to a preliminary agreement between the Government of Seychelles and that of the relevant foreign state.*

*This shall not apply to naval vessels compelled to call in port or territorial waters in emergency.*

5. *Depending on the aims and purposes, the visits of the territorial waters and ports by foreign naval vessels may be :*

- *Official*
- *Unofficial*
- *Business*
- *Emergency*

6. **Official Visits** *shall take place for celebrations or special occasions of national or international significance to develop and strengthen friendly relations between Seychelles and the foreign state.*

*As a rule, official visits shall be mutual. The exchange of visits shall be performed in accordance with a prearranged programme, which may include various meetings, calls, depending on the aim of the visit.*

*The Programme of the visit shall be coordinated in advance through diplomatic channels and prepared with the assistance and advice of the foreign vessels' Resident Diplomatic Mission or Consular representative. By mutual agreement the visits may be commented on by the press, radio and TV.*

7. **Unofficial visits** may take place to develop relations between the Seychelles Coastguards and visiting foreign Navies.

*The organisation of ceremonies and other activities will be done through diplomatic channels, and arranged with the assistance and advice of the Commander of the Coastguards.*

*Unofficial visits may be made public by the written press, radio, and TV.*

8. **Business calls** may take place for the purposes of logistics support, repairs, transportation of persons, equipment, etc.

*Business calls do not, as a rule, require return calls.*

*All arrangements shall be coordinated by the Commanding Officer of the ship with the local naval command upon arrival in port, in the presence of a representative of the Embassy or Consulate of the State of the Ship.*

*During business calls naval ceremonies should be restricted to a minimum.*

*Saluting shall not be performed in this case.*

9. **Emergency calls** may take place without prior permission in cases of :

- *accident;*
- *natural calamity or heavy storms, hazardous for the ship*
- *towing of a damaged ship(s), ferrying rescued people, emergency medical care required by a member of the crew or a passenger, or in similar other cases.*

*The authorities of Seychelles should be informed, if possible, in advance of the emergency before a naval vessel enters the territorial waters.*

*If prior warning is not possible, the authorities should be informed upon arrival of the ship in port. In this case, they should be provided with all required data concerning the ship : nationality, flag, name, dimensions and size, purpose and cause of the call, military rank and name of the Commanding Officer, etc.*