



The happiness in foods See story on (P6-7)

Seychelles

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An independent monthly publication. Volume V. Issue 2. March 2007 Rs7

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ABSENT MNAs CAN LOSE SEATS

The eleven opposition MNAs who have been absent collectively from the National Assembly can lose their seats if they stay away for more than 90 days without permission, according to the Constitution.

It is stated clearly under Article 81 of the Constitution that a person ceases to be a member of the National Assembly and the seat occu-

ried by that person shall become vacant if the person is absent without the permission of the Speaker, "during a session of the Assembly, for

a continuous period in excess of ninety days during which time the Assembly has been summoned to meet and continues to meet".

One of the other reasons of absence without permission is being away from Seychelles for a continuous period in excess of 30 days without permission.

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Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Seychelles



● Hu (left) and Michel at the Barbarons

Michel's diplomatic coup

For the leader of a billion-people nation to come on a state visit to small Seychelles was indeed a great diplomatic achievement for President James Michel.

Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China is head of the most populated country on our planet, making him a very very important person on the world stage.

The inclusion of Mahe on his tour of eight African countries gave little Seychelles the same importance as other countries the size of South Africa.

Since becoming President in April 2004, Michel's government has been on a diplomatic drive "to ensure that the image of our country is well projected on the international scene".

"The reality of the world today is that each country looks after its national interest before all else and it does whatever it has to do to protect it. At the same time, all countries have to realize that their interests often depend on having good relations with others, and that there is still a place for international solidarity in times of difficulties," said Michel in his State-of-the-Nation address of February 2005.

In his State-of-the-Nation address in 2006 he pointed out that Seychelles was gaining more and more visibility in the international arena. Among the objectives for 2006 and beyond, he cited "to further strengthen our ties with our traditional partners as well as emerging powers".

Michel has been on a number of missions overseas including visits to Italy, the Vatican where he met Pope Benoit XVI, London where the 200 million-dollar-bond was signed, and Beijing to attend the Sino-African summit. There are now more visits to Seychelles by delegations from international

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Seychelles International Fishing Tournament

Italians coming to fish



It's dead calm around the Seychelles during the month of March. And fish is abundant.

March is also the month of fishing competitions.

This year's Seychelles International Fishing Tournament (SIFT), to be held in mid-March, will be a much bigger event than the one held in 2006, with more competitors and foreign journalists for international coverage.

The main organizers of the four-day event which will take place between March 14th and 18th are the Seychelles Tourism Board

(STB) and Paula Sala, the representative of the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) in Sardinia and San Remo Cap. Mason's Travel and Air Seychelles are also contributing towards the organization while Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Resort and Marine Charter are supporting the fishing tournament.

Last year's event was aimed at garnering expertise for the future. More teams will be participating in the 2007 edition.

This year nine teams from Italy have already registered, up by two from last year while four journalists and two television crews from overseas will cover the event for the international media.