



SEYCHELLES LAW COMMISSION

Law Commission Act No. 16 of 2022

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEYCHELLES LAW COMMISSION; TO SET OUT THE PROCEDURES UNDER WHICH THE COMMISSION MAY REVISE, REVIEW AND REFORM THE LAWS OF SEYCHELLES; AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO”

- The main tasks of the Commission will be: (1) Law Reform; (2) Law Revision; and (3) Legislative Scrutiny

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► Law Reform Mandate (Section 21)

The Commission must ensure **systematic development and reform** of the laws, including:

- Codification of unwritten rules of law
- Elimination of anomalies
- Repeal of obsolete or unnecessary enactments
- Reduction of fragmented enactments
- Proposal of new laws
- Adoption of more effective and economical methods of administering justice
- General simplification, improvement, and modernisation of the law



► **Why Law Reform Matters in Small Jurisdictions**

- Small jurisdictions face capacity constraints and rapid socio-legal change
- Need for rational, modern, constitutionally aligned laws
- Importance of accessible, simplified legislation

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► **How Law Reform is Carried Out by SLC**

Under section 21 (2), the Commission may:

- Consider subjects referred by the National Assembly or Judiciary
- Receive proposals from members of the public
- Assist Ministers by examining specific laws and recommending reforms
- Produce reports, discussion papers, and draft Bills
- Review judicial decisions and propose legislative alignment

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► Approval of Work Programme (Section 22)

- Commission must seek **approval of the President**, in consultation with Cabinet
- Annual work programme is implemented according to priority set by the President
- Ensures alignment of law reform with national policy direction

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▶ Seychelles Law Commission Work Programme 2026

Seven priority areas identified for reform:

- ▶ Criminal Procedure Code
- ▶ Evidence Act
- ▶ Legal Aid Act
- ▶ Notaries Act
- ▶ Civil Code of Seychelles Act
- ▶ Legal Practitioners Act
- ▶ Legislation relating to the Judiciary

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► Key Issues Identified Across these Laws

- Outdated, obsolete, or constitutionally inconsistent provisions
- Lack of technological integration (digital evidence, electronic records)
- Gaps in human-rights protections
- Procedural inefficiencies and unclear institutional roles
- Need for harmonisation with modern judicial practice (Examples: CPC misalignment with Articles 18 & 19; Evidence Act colonial-era provisions; outdated Legal Aid thresholds)

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► **Strategic Reform Priorities for Seychelles**

- Modernise core legislation to reflect constitutional and technological realities
- Strengthen access to justice (legal aid, vulnerable groups, simplified procedures)
- Introduce clear licensing, oversight, and ethical standards (Notaries Act)
- Harmonise Civil Code procedures with new matrimonial framework
- Provide redress mechanisms in Legal Practitioners Act
- Update Judiciary Act and Courts Act to reflect modern judicial roles



Thank You