



**Remarks by Mr Christophe Edmond
Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Seychelles at the
Re-opening of the Barclays Bank Branch, Baie Ste Anne Praslin
24 April 2018
Venue: Baie Ste Anne, Praslin**

**Chairman of Barclays Bank Seychelles,
Chairman of SHTA,
Managing Director of Barclays Bank Seychelles,
Staff of Barclays Bank Seychelles
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon.

I am honoured to have been afforded the opportunity to say a few words, on behalf of the Central Bank, on the occasion of the official opening of the re-vamped Barclays Bank Branch here in Baie Ste Anne.

Barclays Bank has a long and historical presence in Seychelles, with a presence on this very island dating back to 1969. Needless to say, Barclays Bank has over the years built a large customer base here on Praslin, providing its customers with a level of service-delivery that is efficient and of a high quality.

Among the many areas that we can address when speaking about banks and the banking sector in general, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize on the role that banks play in the development of the economy, more particularly in the area of Small and Medium Enterprises.

Praslin has a lot of potential for business development and is home to many entrepreneurial Praslinois and Praslinoise who aspire to have their own businesses, in order to help towards the development of their island.

Opportunities for SME growth are many, especially in the tourism, hospitality and agricultural sector. However, access to funding to start and maintain a business, especially here on Praslin, remains a challenge as has been expressed in our previous discussions with representatives of the Praslin business community.

Hence, banks have a key role to play and should seize the opportunity to bring about the development of Small and Medium Enterprises, in the way that they support businesses through financing options that are not only competitive, but also flexible enough to cater to the particular challenges that are specific to the business environment here on Praslin.

With this new banking facility, we hope to see renewed opportunities being provided to the Praslin business community, as well as to the Praslinois population in general. Praslin deserves the best in what modern banking services can offer and as the key players in the banking sector, we need to ensure that the services we provide are on par with modern, international practices.

To conclude, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the Management of Barclays Bank and also the dedicated staff on their achievements and for positively responding to the needs of the customers which contribute to the development of the financial sector. I would like to wish the Barclays Bank Team here in Baie Ste Anne all the very best and wish them well in their quest of being of service to this island's community.

Thank you.